Washington’s Workforce Today and Tomorrow
The State of Child Care in Eastern Washington

Approximately 23% of children under age 18 are living in poverty.\(^1\)

Approximately 56% of children under age 6 live in homes where all adults work.\(^1\)

Are young children in Eastern WA ready for kindergarten when they enter?

Only 35% of children in Eastern WA demonstrate characteristics of entering kindergartners in 6 of 6 domains.\(^2\)

Only 22% of low-income children in Eastern WA demonstrate characteristics of entering kindergartners in 6 of 6 domains.\(^2\)

Child care supply in Eastern WA

In Eastern WA, the number of child care providers has dropped from 487 with capacity for 15,811 children in 2012, to 399 providers with capacity for 15,246 children in December 2016.\(^*\)

Notes:
\(^*\) Licensed child care and exempt school-age programs only in Ferry, Stevens Pend Oreille, Lincoln, Spokane, Whitman, Garfield, Asotin, Columbia and Walla Walla counties
\(^1\) U.S. Census Bureau, 2015
\(^2\) Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, WA State Report Card, WaKIDS data, 2016-17 school year, Spokane, Central Valley, Mead, Walla Wall, Pullman, Clarkston, Reardan-Edwall school districts.
\(^3\) WA State Office of Financial Management, 2016

More than 705,000 people call Eastern WA home.
More than 41,000 are children younger than 5 years old.\(^3\)