Child Care in Cowlitz County

Child Care Aware of Washington

Our mission is to support families and caregivers, shape policy, and build communities that promote the learning and development of children and youth throughout Washington State through a strong statewide network of local child care resource and referral programs.

Since 1989, our regional member programs and statewide Family Center have enhanced the quality of child care and helped families by:

- Delivering training, technical assistance, & consultation to child care providers
- Supplying families with consumer education & referrals for child care

(Formerly the Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network)

Cowlitz County is served locally by Child Care Aware of Southwest Washington

a program of Educational Service District 112

2500 NE 65th Ave

Vancouver, WA 98661

http://web3.esd112.org/ccfs

877.414.0071

Trends in Child Care

In most parts of Washington, the number of child care providers has dropped over the past few years while the total capacity for children has been relatively stable since June 2014.

In Cowlitz County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 85 with capacity for 2842 children in 2008, to 50 providers with capacity for 1817 children in June of 2015.*

Child Care Provider Type

- 36% Child Care Centers
- 46% Family Child Care
- 18% School Age Only

Acceptance of State Subsidy

- 80% Accept
- 20% Do not accept

Early Achievers

Early Achievers is Washington’s Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), which gives training, technical assistance, coaching, awards, scholarships, and other benefits to child care providers to improve the quality of their care.

Statewide, 2,758 child care providers have joined since July 2012.

Approximately 54% of licensed child care providers in Cowlitz County are enrolled in Early Achievers. Early Achievers will provide families with valuable child care program quality information so they can make informed child care choices.

Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start &amp; State Preschool Sites</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start Date</td>
<td>7/1/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment as of</td>
<td>8/26/15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Demographics**

**Population**

- Total Population in 2014: 103,700
- Change since 2010: 1,290
- Children under 5 yrs: 6,081
- Children under 15 yrs: 19,689
- K-12 Enrollment: 16,543

**Economics**

- % of children under 18 living in poverty: 23.1%
- % of children under 6 w/ all parents working: 52.9 to 63.1%
- Median Household Income: $45,403
- Unemployment Rate: 7.7%

**Compensation in 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salary/Income</th>
<th>Child Care Center Teacher</th>
<th>Child Care Center Director</th>
<th>Family Child Care Provider</th>
<th>K-12 Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Cost</td>
<td>$23,580</td>
<td>$27,288</td>
<td>$32,951</td>
<td>$52,931</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact Child Care Aware of Washington**

1551 Broadway, Ste 300
Tacoma, WA 98402
866.416.4321

**Helping Families Find Child Care in 2015**

In FY2015, Child Care Aware of Washington programs helped 16,027 families find child care providers matching their unique needs.

In Cowlitz County alone, we helped 139 families with 230 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 196 times.

### Children Using Subsidies

- **79%** using financial aid

### Referral Demand by Child Age

- Infants: 15%
- Toddlers: 20%
- Pre-schoolers: 36%
- School-Age: 29%

### Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centers</th>
<th>Median Cost</th>
<th>75th Percentile Cost</th>
<th>State Subsidy Rate</th>
<th>Median Cost as a % of Median Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$789</td>
<td>$902</td>
<td>$765</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$644</td>
<td>$713</td>
<td>$657</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$602</td>
<td>$657</td>
<td>$574</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$559</td>
<td>$635</td>
<td>$561</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Child Care</th>
<th>Median Cost</th>
<th>75th Percentile Cost</th>
<th>State Subsidy Rate</th>
<th>Median Cost as a % of Median Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$645</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$596</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$561</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$553</td>
<td>$618</td>
<td>$561</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$542</td>
<td>$563</td>
<td>$533</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Sources:

- Most data is from Child Care Aware of Washington. More data and full citations are available at [http://wa.childcareaware.org](http://wa.childcareaware.org).
- *Includes licensed child care (centers and family child care) and exempt school-age programs only
- 2 Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, October Enrollment Report, 2014-2015
- 3 U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2013
- 4 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2013
- 6 Department of Early Learning & Washington State University, Washington State 2012 Child Care Survey
- 7 Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, K-12 Data and Reports Builder, 2012-2013

For more information, go to [http://wa.childcareaware.org](http://wa.childcareaware.org)