January 2017

Child Care in Washington State

Trends in Child Care
In most parts of Washington, the number of child care providers and capacity for children declined several years ago, but since 2013 the number of providers has become more stable.

In Washington State, the number of child care providers has dropped from 6,974 with capacity for 173,715 children in 2012, to 5,542 providers with capacity for 165,404 children in December of 2016.*

Child Care Aware of Washington

Child Care Aware of Washington provides thorough and independent information and support:
- For families seeking quality child care
- For child care programs seeking to improve quality and
- For effective policymaking

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)

Washington State

is served locally by six regions

Child Care Aware of:
Central WA
Eastern WA
King & Pierce Counties
Northwest WA
Olympic Peninsula
Southwest WA

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, 3,998 child care providers participate in Early Achievers.

Approximately 71% of licensed child care providers in WA are enrolled in Early Achievers, serving 74,000 children*. Early Achievers provides families with valuable child care program quality rating information so they can make informed child care choices.

Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
<td>1,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>2,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start &amp; State</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Sites</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment: 2/28/2017
Demographics

Population\(^1\)
- Total Population in 2016: 7,183,700
- Change since 2012: 365,930
- Children under 5 yrs: 447,765
- Children under 15 yrs: 1,353,835
- K-12 Enrollment\(^2\): 1,103,269

Economics

- % of children under 18 living in poverty\(^3\): 15.7%
- % of children under 6 w/ all parents working\(^4\): 58.9 to 60.1%
- Median Household Income\(^1\): $60,153
- Unemployment Rate\(^5\): 5.2%

Compensation in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison of Average Annual Salary/Income(^6)</th>
<th>Centers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Teacher</td>
<td>$26,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Director</td>
<td>$35,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Provider (Gross Earnings)</td>
<td>$37,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Teacher(^7)</td>
<td>$57,822</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 2016

In 2016, Child Care Aware of Washington programs helped 15,753 families find child care providers matching their unique needs.

In Washington State, we helped 15,753 families with 22,408 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 22,087 times.

Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centers</th>
<th>Median Cost</th>
<th>75th Percentile Cost</th>
<th>State Subsidy</th>
<th>Median Cost as a % of Median Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$1,053</td>
<td>$1,335</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$884</td>
<td>$1,131</td>
<td></td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$797</td>
<td>$997</td>
<td></td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$520</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</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>$802</td>
<td>$958</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$758</td>
<td>$880</td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$758</td>
<td></td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$466</td>
<td>$624</td>
<td></td>
<td>9%</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, 2016-2016
\(^3\)U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2015
\(^4\)U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2015
\(^6\)Department of Early Learning & Washington State University, Washington State 2015 Child Care Survey
\(^7\)Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, Historical Comparison of Statewide School District Personelle, 2015-2016

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