Child Care in Columbia County

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 Columbia County, the number of child care providers has increased from 3 with capacity for 30 children in 2013, to 4 providers with capacity for 38 children in December of 2017.*

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)

Columbia County is served locally by Child Care Aware of Eastern Washington, a program of Community-Minded Enterprises

3307 E. 55th Ave.
Spokane, WA 99223
800.446.2229

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, 3,921 child care providers participate in Early Achievers.

Approximately 70% of licensed child care providers in WA are enrolled in Early Achievers, serving 73,000 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

| Total | 2 |
| Child Care Centers | 0 |
| Family Child Care | 1 |
| Head Start & State Preschool Sites | 1 |

Enrollment as of 3/8/18
**Demographics**

**Population**

- Total Population in 2017: 4,100
- Change since 2013: -
- Children under 5 yrs: 199
- Children under 15 yrs: 638
- K-12 Enrollment\(^2\): 416

**Economics**

- % of children under 18 living in poverty\(^3\): 23.8%
- % of children under 6 w/ all parents working\(^4\): 26.5 to 56.1%
- Median Household Income\(^1\): $39,807
- Unemployment Rate\(^5\): 4.8%

**Compensation in 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</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>Child Care Center Teacher</td>
<td>$24,900</td>
<td></td>
<td>$745</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Director</td>
<td>$32,604</td>
<td></td>
<td>$621</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Provider (Gross Earnings)</td>
<td>$30,022</td>
<td></td>
<td>$577</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Teacher (Statewide)(^7)</td>
<td>$58,821</td>
<td></td>
<td>$510</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Children Using Subsidies**

- 100% of children using financial aid

**Referral Demand by Child Age**

- Toddlers: 34%
- Preschoolers: 33%
- School-Age: 33%

**Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Age</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>$542</td>
<td>$607</td>
<td>$678</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$542</td>
<td>$607</td>
<td>$589</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$542</td>
<td>$631</td>
<td>$540</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$282</td>
<td>$282</td>
<td>$496</td>
<td>8%</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, 2016-2017
- \(^3\)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 Personnel, 2016-2017

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