Child Care in Cowlitz County

January 2018

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 Cowlitz County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 67 with capacity for 2010 children in 2013, to 47 providers with capacity for 1970 children in December of 2017.*

![Graph showing number of child care providers and capacity changes over time]

Child Care Provider Type

- 19% Centers
- 43% Family Child Care
- 38% School Age Only

State Subsidy

- 23% Accept all ages
- 13% Do not accept
- 64% Accept school age only

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 65% of licensed child care providers in Cowlitz County are enrolled in Early Achievers. Early Achievers provides families with valuable child care program quality information so they can make informed child care choices.

Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation

- Total: 38
- Child Care Centers: 16
- Family Child Care: 12
- Head Start & State Preschool Sites: 10
- Enrollment as of: 3/8/18

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)

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

www.esd112.org/ece/
877.414.0071
Demographics

Population
- Total Population in 2017: 105,900
- Change since 2013: 2,600
- Children under 5 yrs: 6,246
- Children under 15 yrs: 19,891
- K-12 Enrollment: 17,211

Economics

- % of children under 18 living in poverty: 20.2%
- % of children under 6 with all parents working: 54.5 to 67.1%
- Median Household Income: $49,997
- Unemployment Rate: 5.4%

Compensation in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison of Average Annual Salary/Income</th>
<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>Child Care Center Teacher</td>
<td>$24,900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Director</td>
<td>$30,288</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Provider (Gross Earnings)</td>
<td>$42,191</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Teacher (Statewide)</td>
<td>$58,821</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact Child Care Aware of Washington

1001 Pacific Avenue Suite 400
Tacoma, WA 98402
253.533.6805

Helping Families Find Child Care in 2017

In 2017, Child Care Aware of Washington programs helped 14,456 families find child care providers matching their unique needs.

In Cowlitz County alone, we helped 108 families with 133 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 139 times.

Children Using Subsidies

Referral Demand by Child Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infant</th>
<th>Toddler</th>
<th>Preschool</th>
<th>School Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$845</td>
<td>$737</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$900</td>
<td>$823</td>
<td>$737</td>
<td>$544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$827</td>
<td>$710</td>
<td>$620</td>
<td>$607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$639</td>
<td>$607</td>
<td>$531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$758</td>
<td>$699</td>
<td>$715</td>
<td>$601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$722</td>
<td>$628</td>
<td>$589</td>
<td>$555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</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


2Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, October Enrollment Report, 2016-2017

3U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2015

4U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2015

5Washington State Employment Security Department; U.S. BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2016 (not seasonally-adjusted)

6Department of Early Learning & Washington State University, Washington State 2015 Child Care Survey

Note: Child care provider income is regional data, not county-specific. Cowlitz County is in DEL Region 6 which includes: Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Hbr, Jefferson, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum.

7Office 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)