Child Care in Washington State

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 Washington State, the number of child care providers has dropped from 6,300 with capacity for 166,805 children in 2013, to 5,488 providers with capacity for 169,464 children in December of 2017.*

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.

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

(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

Child Care Provider Type

- Centers
- Family Child Care
- School Age Only

State Subsidy

- Accept all ages
- Do not accept
- Accept school age only

Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
<td>1,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>2,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start &amp; State</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preschool Sites

Enrollment: 3/8/2018
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 Washington State, we helped 14,456 families with 20,497 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 20,302 times.

Children Using Subsidies

Referral Demand by Child Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referral Demand by Child Age</th>
<th>21%</th>
<th>17%</th>
<th>27%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants</td>
<td>Toddlers</td>
<td>Preschoolers</td>
<td>School-Age</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2017

<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>$1,101</td>
<td>$1,387</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$936</td>
<td>$1,205</td>
<td></td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$832</td>
<td>$1,049</td>
<td></td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$507</td>
<td>$637</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>$867</td>
<td>$997</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$780</td>
<td>$949</td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$676</td>
<td>$845</td>
<td></td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$433</td>
<td>$585</td>
<td></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, 2016-2016
3 U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2015
4 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2015
5 Washington State Employment Security Department; U.S. BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2016 (not seasonally-adjusted)
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)