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 Whatcom County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 133 with capacity for 3373 children in 2013, to 109 providers with capacity for 3260 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)

Child Care Aware of Washington is served locally by Child Care Aware of Northwest Washington, a program of The Opportunity Council

1111 Cornwall Ave, Ste 200
Bellingham, WA 98225

https://www.oppco.org/basic-needs/child-care-resources/ 888.444.1862 x227

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 71% of licensed child care providers in Whatcom 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>79</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start &amp; State</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment as of 3/8/18
Demographics

Population

- Total Population in 2017: 216,300
- Change since 2013: 10,500
- Children under 5 yrs: 11,638
- Children under 15 yrs: 35,949
- K-12 Enrollment: 27,577

Economics

- % of children under 18 living in poverty: 12.3%
- % of children under 6 with all parents working: 57.3 to 64.5%
- Median Household Income: $54,522
- Unemployment Rate: 4.3%

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></td>
<td>$26,316</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Director</td>
<td></td>
<td>$35,964</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Provider (Gross Earnings)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$41,154</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Teacher (Statewide)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$58,821</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2017

<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>$910</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>$928</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$823</td>
<td>$878</td>
<td>$785</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$771</td>
<td>$823</td>
<td>$785</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$386</td>
<td>$482</td>
<td>$637</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Whatcom County alone, we helped 387 families with 541 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 497 times.

Children Using Subsidies

- 68% of children using financial aid

Referral Demand by Child Age

- Infants: 21%
- Toddlers: 33%
- Pre-schoolers: 24%
- School Age: 22%

Contact Child Care Aware of Washington

1001 Pacific Avenue Suite 400
Tacoma, WA 98402
253.533.6805

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. Whatcom County is in DEL Region 3 which includes: Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom.

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)