In most parts of Washington, the number of child care providers declined from 2008-2013, becoming more stable from 2014-2020 although still in decline at a lesser rate. Capacity for children declined from 2008-2013, however due to more family child care closures than center-based care, capacity has risen from 2014-2019. There is a dip in number of providers and capacity in 2020. This may be understated because as of June 2020, 27% of child care capacity was temporarily closed due to COVID and based on our surveys of child care providers, some of these sites will not re-open.

In Walla Walla County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 50 with capacity for 1183 children in 2015, to 42 providers with capacity for 1192 children in June of 2020.*

![Number of Child Care Providers](chart1)

![Total Child Care Capacity](chart2)

**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, 3,831 child care providers participate in Early Achievers.

Approximately 78% of licensed child care providers in Walla Walla 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>36</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start &amp; State</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Sites</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment as of 9/14/20
**Demographics**

### Population
- Total Population in 2019: 62,200
- Change since 2015: 1,550
- Children under 5 yrs: 3,377
- Children under 15 yrs: 11,068
- K-12 Enrollment: 8,702

### Economics
- % of children under 18 living in poverty: 15.1%
- % of children under 6 w/ all parents working: 57.9 to 62.5%
- Median Household Income: $53,356
- Unemployment Rate: 6.7%

**Compensation in 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison of Average Annual Salary/Income</th>
<th>Child Care Center Teacher</th>
<th>Child Care Center Director</th>
<th>Family Child Care Provider (Gross Earnings)</th>
<th>K-12 Teacher (Statewide)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Cost</td>
<td>$25,800</td>
<td>$35,616</td>
<td>$23,796</td>
<td>$72,915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact Child Care Aware of Washington**

1001 Pacific Avenue Suite 400  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
253.533.6805

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**Helping Families Find Child Care in 2019**

In 2019, Child Care Aware of Washington programs helped 9,759 families find child care providers matching their unique needs.

In Walla Walla County alone, we helped 102 families with 145 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 113 times.

**Children Using Subsidies**

- Children Using Financial Aid: 55%

**Referral Demand by Child Age**

- Infants: 28%
- Toddlers: 36%
- Preschoolers: 17%

**Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centers</th>
<th>Infant</th>
<th>Toddler</th>
<th>Preschool</th>
<th>School Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Cost</td>
<td>$1,275</td>
<td>$1,023</td>
<td>$869</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75th Percentile Cost</td>
<td>$1,275</td>
<td>$1,218</td>
<td>$1,005</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Subsidy Rate</td>
<td>$1,005</td>
<td>$884</td>
<td>$770</td>
<td>$607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Cost as a % of Median Income</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Child Care</th>
<th>Infant</th>
<th>Toddler</th>
<th>Preschool</th>
<th>School Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Cost</td>
<td>$758</td>
<td>$758</td>
<td>$655</td>
<td>$489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75th Percentile Cost</td>
<td>$868</td>
<td>$793</td>
<td>$758</td>
<td>$623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Subsidy Rate</td>
<td>$696</td>
<td>$696</td>
<td>$580</td>
<td>$542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Cost as a % of Median Income</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Data Sources:

- Most data is from Child Care Aware of Washington. More data and full citations are available at http://wa.childcareaware.org.
- *Includes licensed child care (centers and family child care) and exempt school-age programs only
- ¹Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2019
- ²Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, October Enrollment Report, 2017-2018
- ³U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2018
- ⁴U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2018
- ⁶Department of Early Learning & Washington State University, Washington State 2018 Child Care Survey
- Note: Child care provider income is regional data, not county-specific. Walla Walla County is in DEL Region 2 which includes: Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Kittitas, Walla Walla, Yakima.
- ⁷Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, Historical Comparison of Statewide School District Personnel, 2017-2018

For more information, go to http://wa.childcareaware.org