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 Whatcom County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 120 with capacity for 3235 children in 2015, to 115 providers with capacity for 3708 children in June of 2020.*

### Child Care Provider Type

- 21% Centers
- 36% Family Child Care
- 43% School Age Only

### State Subsidy

- 23% Accept all ages
- 25% Do not accept
- 52% 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, 3,831 child care providers participate in Early Achievers.

Approximately 63% 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.
Child Care Aware of Washington County Profiles

**Demographics**

Population:
- Total Population in 2019: 225,300
- Change since 2015: 15,510
- Children under 5 yrs: 11,546
- Children under 15 yrs: 38,700
- K-12 Enrollment: 27,577

**Economics**

- % of children under 18 living in poverty: 14.4%
- % of children under 6 w/ all parents working: 58.6 to 66.6%
- Median Household Income: $64,681
- Unemployment Rate: 10.3%

**Compensation in 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison of Average Annual Salary/Income</th>
<th>Infant</th>
<th>Toddler</th>
<th>Preschool</th>
<th>School Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Teacher</td>
<td>$27,096</td>
<td>$1,117</td>
<td>$937</td>
<td>$455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Director</td>
<td>$40,956</td>
<td>$1,062</td>
<td>$1,099</td>
<td>$1,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Provider (Gross Earnings)</td>
<td>$32,580</td>
<td>$1,155</td>
<td>$1,008</td>
<td>$550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Teacher (Statewide)</td>
<td>$72,915</td>
<td>$1,271</td>
<td>$923</td>
<td>$689</td>
</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 2019**

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

In Whatcom County alone, we helped 394 families with 544 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 479 times.

**Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>Infant</td>
<td>$1,117</td>
<td>$1,155</td>
<td>$1,271</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$1,062</td>
<td>$1,099</td>
<td>$1,072</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$937</td>
<td>$1,008</td>
<td>$923</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$455</td>
<td>$550</td>
<td>$689</td>
<td>8%</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>$975</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$929</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$867</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>$929</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$832</td>
<td>$867</td>
<td>$785</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$412</td>
<td>$507</td>
<td>$637</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
- *Includes licensed child care (centers and family child care) and exempt school-age programs only
- ¹ Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2019
- ² Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, October Enrollment Report, 2017-2018
- ³ U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2018
- ⁴ U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2018
- ⁶ Department of Early Learning & Washington State University, Washington State 2018 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.
- ⁷ Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, Historical Comparison of Statewide School District Personnel, 2017-2018

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