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. Since the pandemic there has been a net loss of nearly 150 providers and around 1,500 slots. This decline has disproportionately impacted communities based on location. In the net loss of providers, nearly 40% are center-based, representing 60% of the capacity lost.

In Benton County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 144 with capacity for 4,019 children in 2017, to 119 providers with capacity for 4,254 children in December of 2021.*

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**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, 3,926 child care providers participate in Early Achievers.

Approximately 69% of licensed child care providers in Benton 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.

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**Benton County**

is served locally by

**Child Care Aware of Eastern Washington**

a program of

Community-Minded Enterprises

3307 E. 55th Ave., Ste. B

http://community-minded.org/child-

800.446.2229

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**Child Care Provider Type**

- 20% Centers
- 28% Family Child Care
- 52% School Age Only

**State Subsidy**

- 25% Accept all ages
- 47% Do not accept
- 28% Accept school age only

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**Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start &amp; State</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Sites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment as of 12/21

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**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

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**Number of Child Care Providers**

- Jun 2017: 119
- Dec 2017: 119
- Jun 2018: 119
- Dec 2018: 119
- Jun 2019: 119
- Dec 2019: 119
- Jun 2020: 119
- Dec 2020: 119
- Jun 2021: 119
- Dec 2021: 119

**Total Child Care Capacity**

- Jun 2017: 5,000
- Dec 2017: 4,900
- Jun 2018: 4,800
- Dec 2018: 4,700
- Jun 2019: 4,600
- Dec 2019: 4,500
- Jun 2020: 4,400
- Dec 2020: 4,300
- Jun 2021: 4,200
- Dec 2021: 4,100
Helping Families Find Child Care in 2021

In 2021, Child Care Aware of Washington programs helped 12,580 families find child care providers matching their unique needs.

In Benton County alone, we helped 300 families with 467 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 436 times.

Children Using Subsidies

Referral Demand by Child Age

Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2021

<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>$1,221</td>
<td>$1,325</td>
<td>$1,235</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$1,062</td>
<td>$1,125</td>
<td>$1,105</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$889</td>
<td>$999</td>
<td>$1,018</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$595</td>
<td>$801</td>
<td>$778</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>$880</td>
<td>$1,083</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$775</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>$813</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$737</td>
<td>$842</td>
<td>$758</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$303</td>
<td>$477</td>
<td>$693</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Sources:
Most data is from Child Care Aware of Washington. More data and full citations are available at https://www.childcareawarewa.org.

*Includes licensed child care (centers and family child care) and exempt school-age programs only

1 Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2020
2 Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, October Enrollment Report, 2017-2018
3 U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2019
4 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2019
6 Department of Early Learning Washington State 2018 Child Care Survey
Note: Child care provider income is regional data, not county-specific. Benton County is in DEL Region 2 which includes: Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Kittitas, Walla Walla, Yakima.

7 Office of the Superintendent Public Instruction, Historical Comparison of Statewide School District Personnel, 2017-2018

For more information, go to https://www.childcareawarewa.org