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 Pierce County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 512 with capacity for 17,934 children in 2017, to 472 providers with capacity for 20,290 children in December of 2021.*

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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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**Pierce County**

is served locally by
Child Care Aware of Tacoma-Pierce County
a program of
Child Care Resources
1501 Pacific Ave Ste 305
http://www.childcare.org/
253.272.8000

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**Child Care Provider Type**

18% Centers
36% Family Child Care
46% School Age Only

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**State Subsidy**

33% Accept all ages
13% Do not accept
54% Accept school age only

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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 73% of licensed child care providers in Pierce 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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**Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>340</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start &amp; State</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Sites</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment as of 12/1/21
### Demographics

**Population**

- Total Population in 2020: 900,700
- Change since 2015: 70,580
- Children under 5 yrs: 60,030
- Children under 15 yrs: 182,109
- K-12 Enrollment: 134,387

### Economics

- % of children under 18 living in poverty: 11.8%
- % of children under 6 w/ all parents working: 55.0 to 61.8%
- Median Household Income: $74,774
- Unemployment Rate: 5.4%

### Compensation in 2018

<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>$29,292</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
<td>$1,484</td>
<td>$1,355</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Director</td>
<td>$37,032</td>
<td>$1,077</td>
<td>$1,270</td>
<td>$1,173</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Provider (Gross Earnings)</td>
<td>$27,372</td>
<td>$953</td>
<td>$1,111</td>
<td>$1,042</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Teacher (Statewide)</td>
<td>$79,524</td>
<td>$542</td>
<td>$622</td>
<td>$758</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>$1,171</td>
<td>$1,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$867</td>
<td>$1,030</td>
<td>$910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$823</td>
<td>$963</td>
<td>$847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$433</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$774</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, go to [https://www.childcareawarewa.org](https://www.childcareawarewa.org)