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 Washington State, the number of child care providers has dropped from 5,488 with capacity for 169,464 children in 2017, to 5,211 providers with capacity for 183,816 children in December of 2021.*

### 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 71% of licensed child care providers in WA are enrolled in Early Achievers, serving 73,000 children*. Early Achievers provides families with valuable child care program quality rating information so they can make informed child care choices.

### Washington State

is served locally by six regions:
- Child Care Aware of:
  - Central WA
  - Eastern WA
  - King & Pierce Counties
  - Northwest WA
  - Olympic Peninsula
  - Southwest WA

### 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

### Child Care Provider Type

- **Centers**: 10%
- **Family Child Care**: 32%
- **School Age Only**: 58%

### State Subsidy

- **Accept all ages**: 30%
- **Do not accept**: 12%
- **Accept school age only**: 58%

### Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>3,923</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
<td>1,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>2,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start &amp; State Preschool Sites</td>
<td>436</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment as of 12/1/2021
### Demographics
#### Population
- Total Population in 2020: 7,656,200
- Change since 2015: 594,790
- Children under 5 yrs: 449,128
- Children under 15 yrs: 1,422,217
- K-12 Enrollment\(^2\): 1,116,599

#### Economics
- % of children under 18 living in poverty\(^3\): 12%
- % of children under 6 w/ all parents working\(^4\): 56.9 to 64%
- Median Household Income\(^1\): $76,840
- Unemployment Rate\(^5\): 5.0%

### Compensations in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison of Average Annual Salary/Income(^6)</th>
<th>Centers</th>
<th>Median Cost</th>
<th>75th Percentile Cost</th>
<th>State Subsidy</th>
<th>Median Cost as a % of Median Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Teacher</td>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$1,450</td>
<td>$1,713</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$1,240</td>
<td>$1,548</td>
<td></td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$1,085</td>
<td>$1,352</td>
<td></td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$546</td>
<td>$711</td>
<td></td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Director</td>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$1,083</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>$1,206</td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$867</td>
<td>$1,083</td>
<td></td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$433</td>
<td>$607</td>
<td></td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Provider (Gross Earnings)</td>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$1,083</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>$1,206</td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$867</td>
<td>$1,083</td>
<td></td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$433</td>
<td>$607</td>
<td></td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2021

<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>$1,083</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>$1,206</td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$867</td>
<td>$1,083</td>
<td></td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$433</td>
<td>$607</td>
<td></td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contact Child Care Aware of Washington

1001 Pacific Avenue Suite 400  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
253.383.1735

### Data Sources:
- Most data is from Child Care Aware of Washington. More data and full citations are available at https://www.childcareawarewa.org.
- \(^1\) 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

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