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 Whitman County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 26 with capacity for 1,227 children in 2017, to 15 providers with capacity for 1,004 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 69% of licensed child care providers in Whitman 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.
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 Whitman County alone, we helped 37 families with 48 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 43 times.

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. Whitman County is in DEL Region 1 which includes: Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Or., Spokane, Stevens, Whitman.
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