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 137 with capacity for 4,153 children in 2018, to 130 providers with capacity for 4,378 children in December of 2022.*

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**Early Achievers**

Early Achievers is Washington's [Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS)](https://qualityrecognition.org), which gives training, technical assistance, coaching, awards, scholarships, and other benefits to child care providers to improve the quality of their care.

Statewide, 4,225 child care providers participate in Early Achievers.

Approximately 72% 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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**Child Care Provider Type**

- **Centers**: 26%
- **Family Child Care**: 56%
- **School Age Only**: 18%

**State Subsidy**

- **Accept all ages**: 50%
- **Do not accept**: 22%
- **Accept school age only**: 28%

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**Benton County**

is served locally by

Child Care Aware of Eastern Washington

a program of

Community-Minded Enterprises

2001 N Division, St Ste 130

http://community-minded.org/800.446.2229

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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
- 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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**Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>99</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>58</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 1/5/2023
Helping Families Find Child Care in 2022

In 2022, Child Care Aware of Washington programs helped 13,579 families find child care providers matching their unique needs.

In Benton County alone, we helped 382 families with 534 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 573 times.

Children Using Subsidies

Referral Demand by Child Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Infants</th>
<th>Toddlers</th>
<th>Preschoolers</th>
<th>24%</th>
<th>35%</th>
<th>25%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddlers</td>
<td></td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschoolers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2022

<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>$1,450</td>
<td>$1,476</td>
<td>$1,433</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
<td>$1,347</td>
<td>$1,282</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$1,092</td>
<td>$1,203</td>
<td>$1,181</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$514</td>
<td>$609</td>
<td>$903</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>$1,125</td>
<td>$1,284</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$1,083</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>$813</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$953</td>
<td>$1,083</td>
<td>$758</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$433</td>
<td>$565</td>
<td>$693</td>
<td>7%</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

1Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2022
2Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Report Card Enrollment, 2021-2022
3U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2021
4U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2021
6Prenatal to Five Fiscal Strategies, Cost of Quality Survey, 2022

Note: Child care provider income is regional data, not county-specific. Benton County is in Eastern Washington which includes: Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman.

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Historical Comparison of Statewide School District Personnel, 2022-23

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