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 Cowlitz County, the number of child care providers has increased from 46 with capacity for 1,962 children in 2018, to 47 providers with capacity for 2,390 children in December of 2022.*

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**Child Care in Cowlitz County**

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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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**Cowlitz County**

is served locally by
Child Care Aware of Southwest Washington
a program of
Educational Service District 112
2500 NE 65th Ave
www.esd112.org/ece/
877.414.0071

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**Early Achievers**

Early Achievers is Washington’s **Quality Recognition 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, 4,225 child care providers participate in Early Achievers.

Approximately 70% of licensed child care providers in Cowlitz 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>43</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start &amp; State</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Sites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment as of 1/5/2023
**Demographics**

**Population**
- Total Population in 2020: 110,500
- Change since 2015: 6,220

**Children under 5 yrs**: 6,395
**Children under 15 yrs**: 21,227
**K-12 Enrollment**: 16,461
**Pre-K-5th Enrollment**: 7,525

**Economics**
- % of children under 18 living in poverty: 15.9%
- % of children under 6 w/ all parents working: 58.7 to 65.3%
- Median Household Income: $64,357
- Unemployment Rate: 5.7%

**Compensation in 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison of Average Annual Salary/Income</th>
<th>Child Care Center Teacher</th>
<th>Child Care Center Director</th>
<th>Family Child Care Provider</th>
<th>K-12 Teacher (Statewide)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant Median Cost</td>
<td>$1,218</td>
<td>$1,142</td>
<td>$1,286</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler Median Cost</td>
<td>$1,079</td>
<td>$1,142</td>
<td>$1,286</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Median Cost</td>
<td>$987</td>
<td>$1,059</td>
<td>$1,181</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age Median Cost</td>
<td>$401</td>
<td>$542</td>
<td>$903</td>
<td>$1,020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Family Child Care**

<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>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,083</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$925</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>$936</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$825</td>
<td>$935</td>
<td>$823</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>No Rates Av</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$704</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact Child Care Aware of Washington**

1001 Pacific Avenue Suite 400
Tacoma, WA 98402
253.383.1735

**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 Cowlitz County alone, we helped 121 families with 169 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 155 times.

**Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2022**

**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, 2022
2 Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Report Card Enrollment, 2021-2022
3 U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2021
4 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2021
6 Prenatal to Five Fiscal Strategies, Cost of Quality Survey, 2022
7 For more information, go to https://www.childcareawarewa.org