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 increased from 5,542 with capacity for 175,124 children in 2018, to 5,597 providers with capacity for 193,079 children in December of 2022.*

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start &amp; State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment as of</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Child Care Aware of Washington County Profiles March 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 Washington State, we helped 13,579 families with 17,801 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 19,226 times.

Children Using Subsidies

Referral Demand by Child Age

Children Using Financial Aid

36%

Infants

19%

School-Age

24%

Pre-schoolers

24%

Toddlers

33%

Compensation in 2022

Comparison of Average Annual Salary/Income

<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>$1,592</td>
<td>$1,949</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$1,365</td>
<td>$1,724</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$1,213</td>
<td>$1,516</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$433</td>
<td>$607</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>6%</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>$1,192</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$1,083</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>$1,280</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$451</td>
<td>$635</td>
<td>Varies by Region</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Economics

% of children under 18 living in poverty

% of children under 6 w/ all parents working

Median Household Income

Unemployment Rate

Median Households Income:

$80,319

4.2% of children under 18 living in poverty

58.9 to 65% of children under 6 with all parents working

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

7Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Historical Comparison of Statewide School District Personnel, 2022-23

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253.383.1735

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