Child Care in
Wahkiakum County

March 2023

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 Wahkiakum County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 2 with capacity for 54 children in 2018, to 1 provider with capacity for 56 children in December of 2022.*

---

**Number of Child Care Providers**

- Jun 2018: 2
- Dec 2018: 1
- Jun 2019: 1
- Dec 2019: 1
- Jun 2020: 1
- Dec 2020: 1
- Jun 2021: 1
- Dec 2021: 1
- Jun 2022: 1
- Dec 2022: 1

---

**Total Child Care Capacity**

- Jun 2018: 1
- Dec 2018: 1
- Jun 2019: 1
- Dec 2019: 1
- Jun 2020: 1
- Dec 2020: 1
- Jun 2021: 1
- Dec 2021: 1
- Jun 2022: 1
- Dec 2022: 1

---

**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 100% of licensed child care providers in Wahkiakum 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.

---

**Early Achievers (QRIS) Participation**

- Total: 1
- Child Care Centers: 1
- Family Child Care: 0
- Head Start & State: 0
- Preschool Sites: 0

Enrollment as of 1/5/2023
Demographics

Population

- Total Population in 2020: 4,210
- Change since 2015: 230
- Children under 5 yrs: 144
- Children under 15 yrs: 663
- K-12 Enrollment: 461
- Pre-K-5th Enrollment: 191

Economics

- % of children under 18 living in poverty: 21.6%
- % of children under 6 w/ all parents working: 26 to 28.4%
- Median Household Income: $62,099
- Unemployment Rate: 7.3%

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 Wahkiakum County alone, we helped 2 families with 2 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 2 times.

Children Using Subsidies

- Children Using Financial Aid: 0%

Referral Demand by Child Age

- Infants: 50%
- Preschoolers: 50%

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>No Rates Av</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,433</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>No Rates Av</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,282</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>No Rates Av</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,181</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>No Rates Av</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$903</td>
<td>N/A</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>No Family Ch</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$975</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>No Family Ch</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$936</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>No Family Ch</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$823</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>No Family Ch</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$704</td>
<td>N/A</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. Wahkiakum County is in Southwest Washington which includes: Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Lewis, Pacific, Skamania, Wahkiakum.

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

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