Statewide during the past 12 years, Washington has gained over 15,000 slots and decreased by 2,300 providers. The increases in capacity are a result of more family child care closures and larger centers opening. Since 2022, Washington has seen an increase of 400 family child care programs and 70 centers. Current gains in providers are encouraging, however we have significantly less providers than 12 years ago. The trend of less providers and more capacity being available at large centers has contributed to child care deserts, as the number of child care locations has decreased. Moreover, communities across the state have experienced differential outcomes in child care availability as some areas experienced greater child care decreases and in some cases lowered capacity.

In Pierce County, the number of child care providers has dropped from 537 with capacity for 19,496 children in 2018, to 498 providers with capacity for 21,225 children in June of 2023.*

### Child Care Provider Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centers</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age Only</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### State Subsidy

- 33% Accept all ages
- 13% Do not accept
- 54% Accept school age only

### 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, 4,416 child care providers participate in Early Achievers.

Approximately 74% of licensed child care providers in Pierce 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: 367
- Child Care Centers: 143
- Family Child Care: 158
- Head Start & State: 66
- Preschool Sites: 66

Enrollment as of: 7/19/2023

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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, and consultation to child care providers
- Supplying families with consumer education and referrals for child care

**Pierce County**

is served locally by

**Child Care Aware of Tacoma-Pierce County**

a program of

BrightSpark

1501 Pacific Ave. Ste. 305

http://www.brightspark.org

253.272.8000
Helping Families Find Child Care in 2023

So far in 2023, Child Care Aware of Washington programs have helped 7,613 families find child care providers matching their unique needs.

In Pierce County alone, we helped 1265 families with 1707 children in need of child care to search for matching providers 1741 times.

### Demographics

**Population**
- Total Population in 2020: 900,700
- Change since 2015: 70,580
- Children under 5 yrs: 60,030
- Children under 15 yrs: 182,109
- K-12 Enrollment: 133,541
- Pre-K-5th Enrollment: 64,677

**Economics**
- % of children under 18 living in poverty: 10%
- % of children under 6 w/ all parents working: 67.9 to 73.6%
- Median Household Income: $85,492
- Unemployment Rate: 4.3%

### Compensation in 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison of Average Annual Salary/Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Center Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Teacher (Statewide)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Monthly Cost of Child Care in 2023

<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>$1,430</td>
<td>$1,653</td>
<td>$1,572</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>$1,425</td>
<td>$1,387</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$1,030</td>
<td>$1,220</td>
<td>$1,208</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$542</td>
<td>$673</td>
<td>$1,174</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>$1,050</td>
<td>$1,270</td>
<td>$1,280</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$950</td>
<td>$1,120</td>
<td>$1,280</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$867</td>
<td>$1,040</td>
<td>$1,067</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age</td>
<td>$455</td>
<td>$622</td>
<td>$960</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contact Child Care Aware of Washington

1001 Pacific Avenue Suite 400  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
253.383.1735

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

Note: Child care provider income is regional data, not county-specific. Pierce County is in King/Pierce which includes: King, Pierce.

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