



Child Care Needs Assessment Report

WARREN and WASHINGTON COUNTIES

2023

Child care continues to be in short supply and unable to meet the needs of many working families in our area; however, there is evidence that the overall supply of child care is beginning to grow, albeit slowly. Fewer closings, a few new program openings, re-openings of previously inactive programs and expanded capacity of a couple of existing programs, all indicate a stabilization of the supply of child care since the first few years of COVID and even a slightly upward trend in some numbers.

Supply of Licensed/Registered Child Care

Warren County				
Town	Family Child Care	Center	School Age	Totals
Bolton Landing	0	0	1	1
Glens Falls	3	1	2	6
Lake George	2	0	0	2
Queensbury	10	6	2	18
Warrensburg	2	1	0	3
Totals	17	8	5	30

Note: 5 Head Start Sites and Prospect Center are not included in these numbers.

OPENED: 1 group family child care program opened in Warrensburg and 1 center in Queensbury. 2 programs that had become inactive during COVID reopened this year.

CLOSED: 4 programs closed during this period in Queensbury, Warrensburg and Glens Falls.

Note: 1 group family child care program in Warrensburg became licensed recently but is outside the data range of this report.

Washington County				
Town	Family Child Care	Center	School Age	Total
Argyle	2	0	0	2
Buskirk	1	0	0	1
Cambridge	0	1	1	2
Comstock	1	0	0	1
Hudson Falls	16	0	0	16
Granville	6	0	0	6
Greenwich	3	0	1	4
Salem	2	0	0	2
Totals	31	1	2	34

Note: 4 Head Start Sites and New Meadow School are not included in these numbers.

OPENED: 3 group/family child care programs opened in the towns of Comstock, Granville and Buskirk.

EXPANDED PROGRAMS: A program in Granville and another in Buskirk increased capacity by changing modalities from family child care to group family child care.

CLOSED: 4 family child care programs closed in Greenwich, Cambridge, Clemons, and Hudson Falls.

Changes in Numbers of Facilities Since 2019

COUNTY	2019	2021	2022
Warren	50	26	30
Washington	54	36	34

Families Struggle to Find Child Care

60% of surveyed parents in Warren County and 46% in Washington County stated that the registered and licensed child care providers whom they called did not have openings for their child (ren) and there was a wait of several months in many programs especially for infant care.

Although the likelihood of finding licensed care may have risen slightly since last year's report, 44% of parents surveyed in Warren County following child care searches, reported not finding care; in Washington County 53% of families did not find child care. Note that for those families who did find care, sometimes the provider was informal, such as a relative or a friend, even though the parent may have preferred to have found a licensed/registered provider.

The High Cost of Child Care

The cost of child care is higher than most families can afford. As with the lack of availability, the high cost of child care is not new, but has been increasingly out of reach since the Pandemic.

Annual Child Care Rates

Age Group	Type of Care	
	Center	Family Child Care
Infant	\$12,610	\$8,944
Preschool	\$11,466	\$8,476

Parents struggle to pay for child care, yet unlike most other businesses that raise costs to ensure a profit once overhead is covered, with the child care model of business, the cost paid by consumers (working parents) pays mostly for the overhead expenses. It should be noted that the staff whose wages consume most of the budget, are some of New York State's lowest paid employees.

This dysfunctional business model helps to explain, at least in part, the child care dilemma in our country today, one that has become strikingly more evident since the start of the pandemic. Major long-term solutions are needed to resolve this dilemma, but in the meantime, several important projects are being implemented at the federal, state and local levels to stabilize the field and to mitigate the child care crisis at least for the short term.

Addressing Child Care Challenges

To address the many challenges confronting the child care world at this time, various grant funded projects have been and continue to be implemented. These efforts are intended to support families in need of affordable child care and to build child care supply by working with current providers to sustain and expand their programs and also by recruiting new providers to the field.

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), along with several local organizations including our local Departments of Social Services and The Southern Adirondack Child Care Network have collaborated on several major projects during the past year to help address the many immediate needs of working families and the child care community.

In August of 2022, eligibility requirements for child care assistance were dramatically adjusted by the NYS OCFS in order for more families to be eligible to receive assistance paying for child care. The eligibility standard increased from 200% to 300% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL).

Grants initiated by the State to support the sustainability of child care programs have included an increase in the market rate for child care assistance payments, as well as other financial supports to incentivize and support the start-up of new programs in our area. Now that the rate of program closures and declining slots since 2020 is minimally stabilizing, the need for more child care providers and more capacity overall, continues to be a pressing concern. The efforts to increase the supply of child care will be a central focus today and for many years to come.

With so much of our attention on the availability and affordability of child care, it is critically important, more than ever, that we continue to fund and address the issue of **Quality** child care-- that we keep our "eyes on the prize"- **our children**. High quality child care supports the healthy growth and development of all children, now and for the future.

High quality, affordable child care, pre-K and afterschool programs strengthen families and communities in myriad ways, including boosting women's workforce participation, cutting childhood poverty, reducing racial inequities in academic achievement and preventing child welfare involvement. (Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, 2023)

Please direct questions and/or comments to Lynn Sickles, 518.798.7972, Ext. 204 sicklesl@saccn.org.

The following databases were used to complete this report: NYS OCFS Child Care Facility Database (CCFS) 3/22-2/23, Empire State Child Care Match database (ESCCM), 3/22-2/23