

Child Care Factsheet for Columbia County

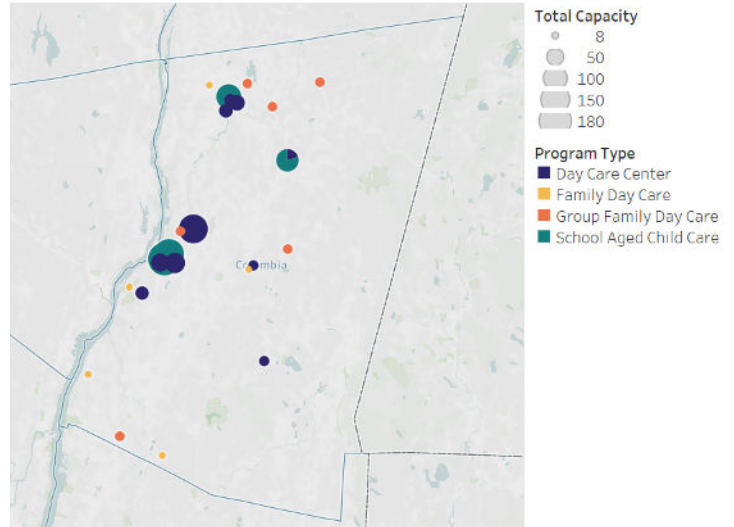
January 2024

Child care is a critical support for families with young children, employers, and New York state's economy. New York has made substantial investments in the child care system over the past few years, but more is needed to help the sector thrive. The supply of child care is not large enough to meet the needs of families, care is too expensive for many families to afford out-of-pocket, and the child care workforce is underpaid.

Columbia County has 2,352 children under the age of 5 and 4,289 children between 5 and 12 years old out of a total population of 61,469. In the county, 75% of families with children under 18 have all adults in the workforce, and 77% of mothers with children under 18 are in the workforce across the county.

In Columbia County, there were 38 child care programs in 2020 and 28 programs in 2024, a change of -26% over four years.

Columbia County Child Care Programs by Modality and Capacity

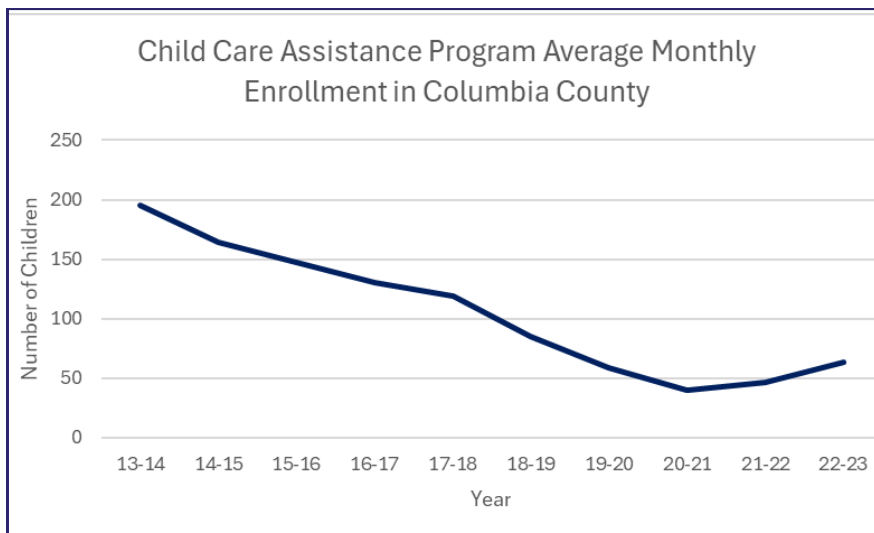


Capacity Change by Setting

Year	Day Care Center	Family Day Care	Group Family Day Care	School Aged Child Care
2020	525	56	186	768
2024	476	56	96	506
Change	-49	0	-90	-262

Capacity by Age

Age	# Children	Capacity	Ratio of Children-per-Slot
0-5	2,352	522	4.5 - 1
6-12	4,289	612	7.0 - 1



100
child care workers in Columbia County
earn an average of
\$16/hour
or
\$32,642
annually
95.4%
of all jobs earn more than the average
child care provider

Child Care in Columbia County

Child Care Assistance program reimbursements in Columbia County have decreased 2% from 2020-2024, from \$1,386,810 to \$1,353,177.

Over 66% of children living in Columbia County qualify for some form of child care assistance. However, **only 1.7%** of eligible families were in enrolled in 2022-2023.

The annual copayment for a family of 4 making \$50,000 a year enrolled in the child care assistance program **decreased** from **\$4,000** a year to **\$200** a year **from 2020 to 2024**.

Annual Child Care Assistance Program Rates for Toddlers

Modality	2020	2024	% Change
Day Care Center	\$13,728	\$16,640	18%
Family Day Care	\$9,620	\$14,820	35%

Child Care Assistance Eligibility Level by Family Size

Family Size	Income Level (85% of State Median Income)
2	\$67,490.17
3	\$83,370.21
4	\$99,250.25
5	\$115,130.29

Average Cost of Infant Care

Day care center **\$18,574**
Family day care **\$15,776**

SUNY Tuition
\$7,070

In New York, it is cheaper to go to college than to pay for child care.

Notes and References

Data to inform this fact sheet was derived a number of different sources, including the US Census Bureau, the Office of Children and Family Services, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the Department of Labor, and from national child care researchers. All references and methodologies are available upon request.

To learn more about child care in your region and statewide, visit: <https://thechildrensagenda.org/reports/> or scan the QR code

