

Child Care Factsheet for Cortland County

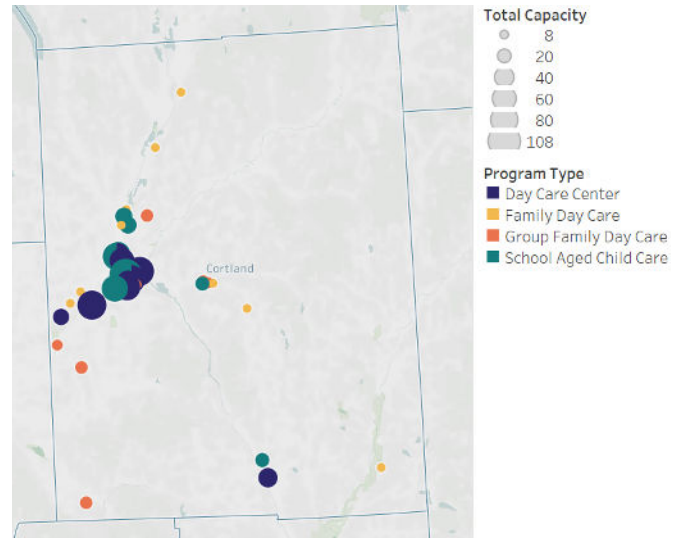
January 2024

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.

Cortland County has 2,222 children under the age of 5 and 4,022 children between 5 and 12 years old out of a total population of 46,755. In the county, 80% of families with children under 18 have all adults in the workforce, and 81% of mothers with children under 18 are in the workforce across the county.

In Cortland County, there were 50 child care programs in 2020 and 39 programs in 2024, a change of -22% over four years.

Cortland County Child Care Programs by Modality and Capacity



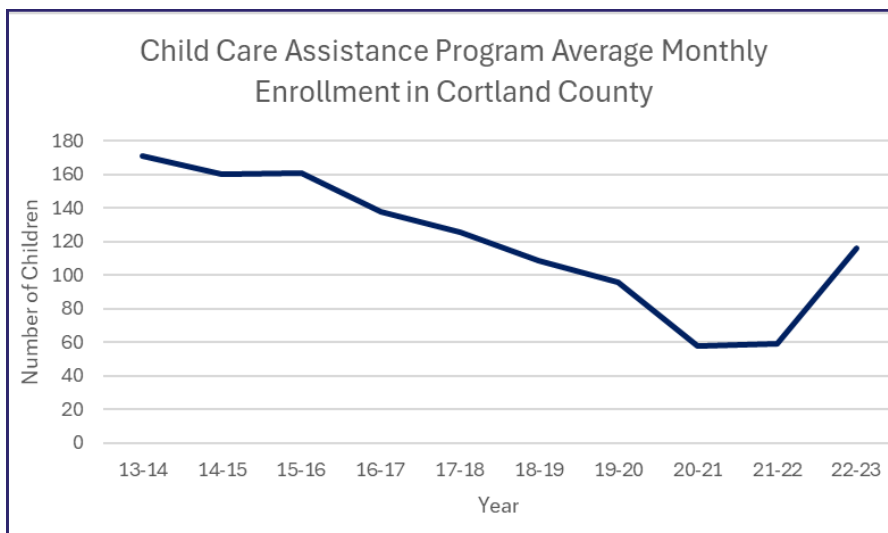
Capacity Change by Setting

Year	Day Care Center	Family Day Care	Group Family Day Care	School Aged Child Care
2020	689	104	145	550
2024	623	80	117	413
Change	-66	-24	-28	-137

Capacity by Age

Age	# Children	Capacity	Ratio of Children-per-Slot
0-5	2,222	777	2.9 - 1
6-12	4,022	456	8.8 - 1

Child Care Assistance Program Average Monthly Enrollment in Cortland County



187

child care workers in Cortland County earn an average of

\$15.36/hour

or

\$31,337

annually

97.8%

of all jobs earn more than the average child care provider

Child Care in Cortland County

Child Care Assistance program reimbursements in Cortland County have increased 19% from 2020-2024, from \$788,367 to \$973,624.

Annual Child Care Assistance Program Rates for Toddlers

Modality	2020	2024	% Change
Day Care Center	\$10,712	\$14,300	25%
Family Day Care	\$7,800	\$13,104	40%

Over 68% of children living in Cortland County qualify for some form of child care assistance. However, **only 3.1%** of eligible families were in enrolled in 2022-2023.

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

The annual copayment for a family of 4 making \$50,000 a year enrolled in the child care assistance program **decreased** from **\$7,000** a year to **\$200** a year **from 2020 to 2024**.

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

