

# Child Care Factsheet for Essex County

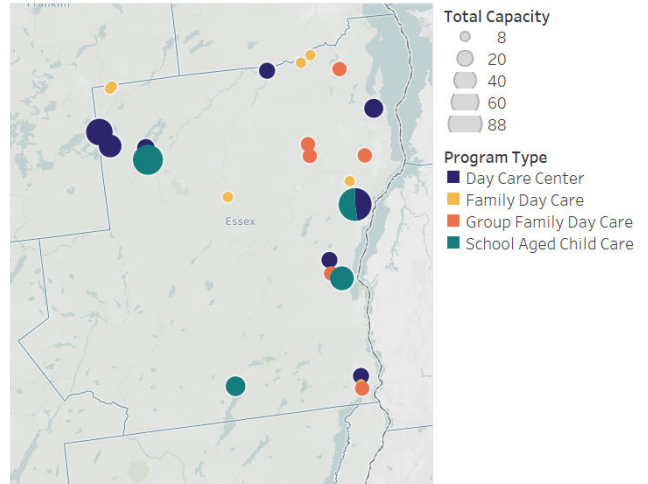
January 2024

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.

Essex County has 1,459 children under the age of 5 and 37,314 children between 5 and 12 years old out of a total population of 37,314. In the county, 82% of families with children under 18 have all adults in the workforce, and 85% of mothers with children under 18 are in the workforce across the county.

In Essex County, there were 47 child care programs in 2020 and 35 programs in 2024, a change of -26% over four years.

Essex County Child Care Programs by Modality and Capacity

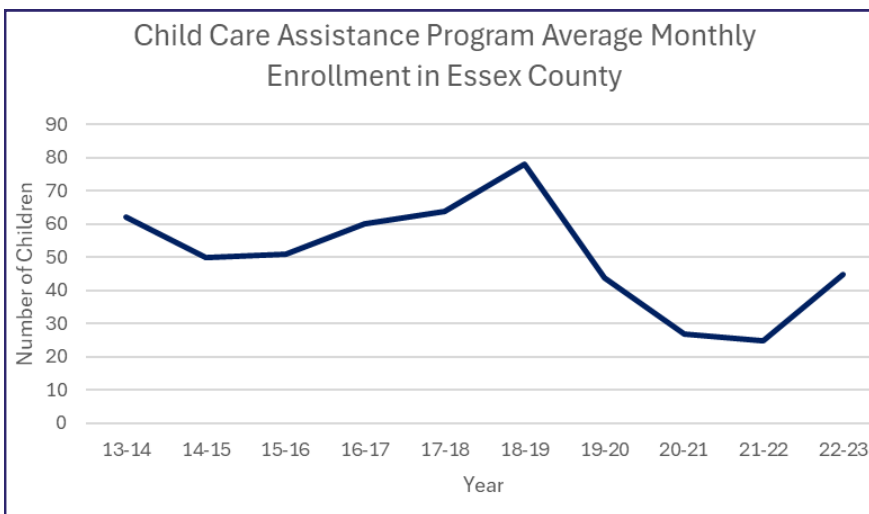


Capacity Change by Setting

Year	Day Care Center	Family Day Care	Group Family Day Care	School Aged Child Care
2020	297	128	232	237
2024	311	88	154	188
Change	+14	-40	-78	-49

Capacity by Age

Age	# Children	Capacity	Ratio of Children-per-Slot
0-5	1,459	466	3.1 - 1
6-12	2,574	268	9.6 - 1



**100**  
child care workers in Essex County earn an average of  
**\$14.54/hour**  
or  
**\$29,657**  
annually  
**99.6%**  
of all jobs earn more than the average child care provider

# Child Care in Essex County



**Child Care Assistance program reimbursements** in Essex County have decreased 3% from 2020-2024, from \$493,539 to \$478,738.



**Over 71% of children living in Essex County qualify** for some form of child care assistance. However, **only 2%** of eligible families were 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	\$10,712	\$14,300	25%
Family Day Care	\$7,800	\$13,104	40%

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

