

Child Care Factsheet for Orange County

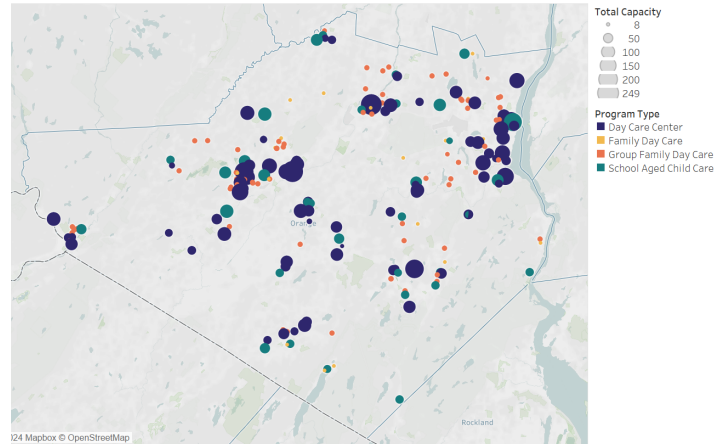
January 2024

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.

Orange County has 26,514 children under the age of 5 and 44,871 children between 5 and 12 years old out of a total population of 401,237. In the county, 68% of families with children under 18 have all adults in the workforce, and 72% of mothers with children under 18 are in the workforce across the county.

In Orange County, there were 229 child care programs in 2020 and 213 programs in 2024, a change of -7% over four years.

Orange County Child Care Programs by Modality and Capacity



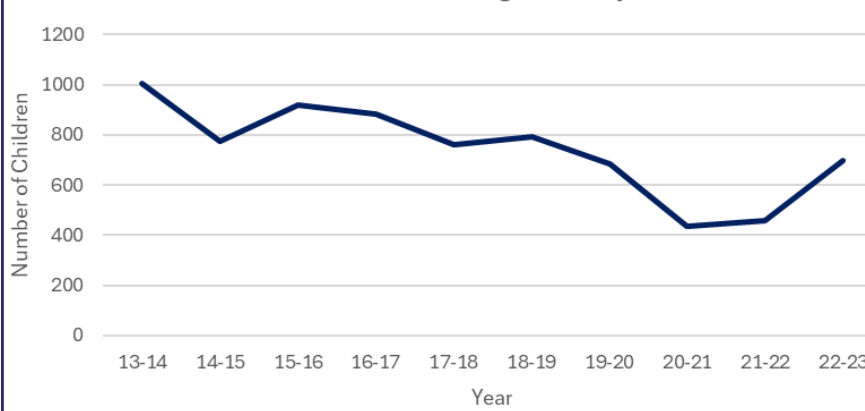
Capacity Change by Setting

Year	Day Care Center	Family Day Care	Group Family Day Care	School Aged Child Care
2020	5,438	285	1,320	2,520
2024	6,329	160	1,242	1,963
Change	+891	-125	-78	-557

Capacity by Age

Age	# Children	Capacity	Ratio of Children-per-Slot
0-5	26,514	6,594	4.0 - 1
6-12	44,871	3,099	14.5 - 1

Child Care Assistance Program Average Monthly Enrollment in Orange County



1,281
child care workers in Orange County
earn an average of
\$17.98/hour
or
\$36,684
annually
95.1%
of all jobs earn more than the average
child care provider

Child Care in Orange County

Child Care Assistance program reimbursements in Orange County have increased 10% from 2020-2024, from \$7,170,256 to \$7,935,308.

Annual Child Care Assistance Program Rates for Toddlers

Modality	2020	2024	% Change
Day Care Center	\$13,780	\$16,328	16%
Family Day Care	\$10,920	\$13,936	22%

Over 60% of children living in Orange County qualify for some form of child care assistance. However, **only 1.8%** of eligible families were 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 **\$4,000** 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