

# Child Care Factsheet for Seneca County

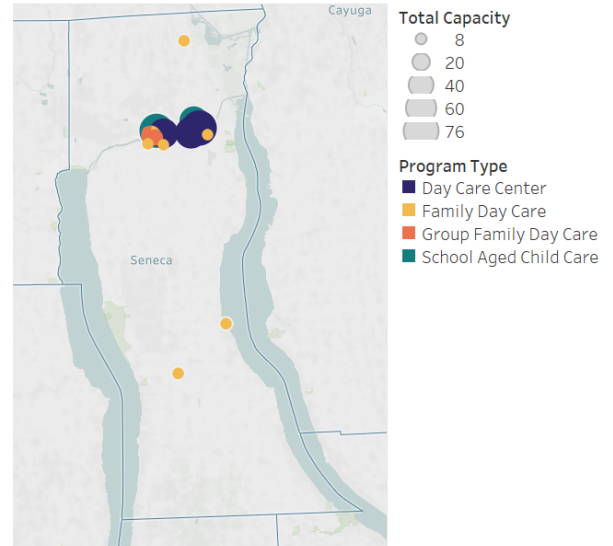
January 2024

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.

Seneca County has 1,819 children under the age of 5 and 3,024 children between 5 and 12 years old out of a total population of 33,651. In the county, 71% of families with children under 18 have all adults in the workforce, and 71% of mothers with children under 18 are in the workforce across the county.

In Seneca County, there were 22 child care programs in 2020 and 18 programs in 2024, a change of -18% over four years.

Seneca County Child Care Programs by Modality and Capacity

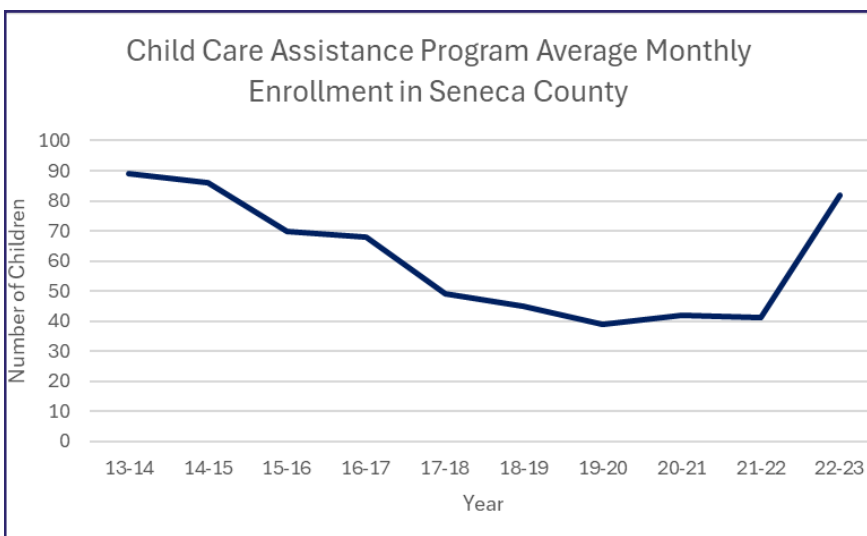


Capacity Change by Setting

Year	Day Care Center	Family Day Care	Group Family Day Care	School Aged Child Care
2020	205	104	48	175
2024	191	88	32	121
Change	-14	-16	-16	-54

Capacity by Age

Age	# Children	Capacity	Ratio of Children-per-Slot
0-5	1,819	261	7.0 - 1
6-12	3,024	171	17.7 - 1



**55**  
child care workers in Seneca County  
earn an average of  
**\$14.93/hour**  
or  
**\$30,464**  
annually  
**98.3%**  
of all jobs earn more than the average  
child care provider

# Child Care in Seneca County

**Child Care Assistance program reimbursements** in Seneca County have increased 21% from 2020-2024, from \$427,131 to \$539,338.

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 72% of children living in Seneca County qualify** for some form of child care assistance. However, **only 2.6%** 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 **\$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

