

# Child Care Factsheet for Ulster County

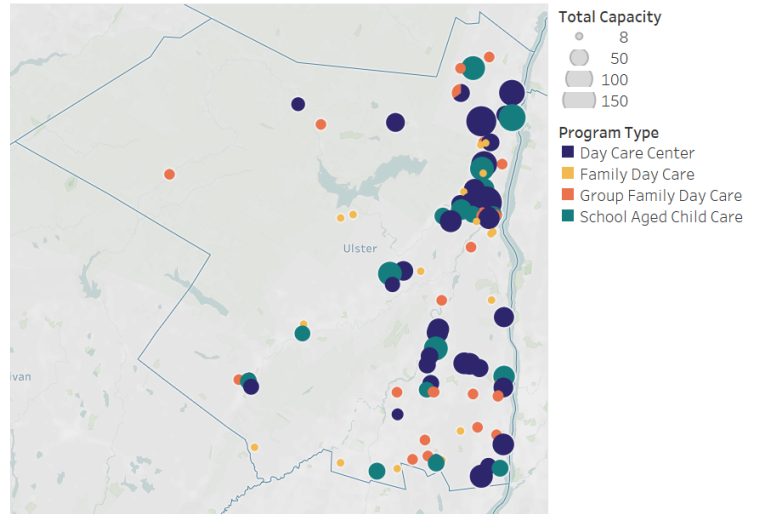
January 2024

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.

Ulster County has 7,786 children under the age of 5 and 14,151 children between 5 and 12 years old out of a total population of 182,153. In the county, 81% of families with children under 18 have all adults in the workforce, and 82% of mothers with children under 18 are in the workforce across the county.

In Ulster County, there were 153 child care programs in 2020 and 129 programs in 2024, a change of -16% over four years.

Ulster County Child Care Programs by Modality and Capacity



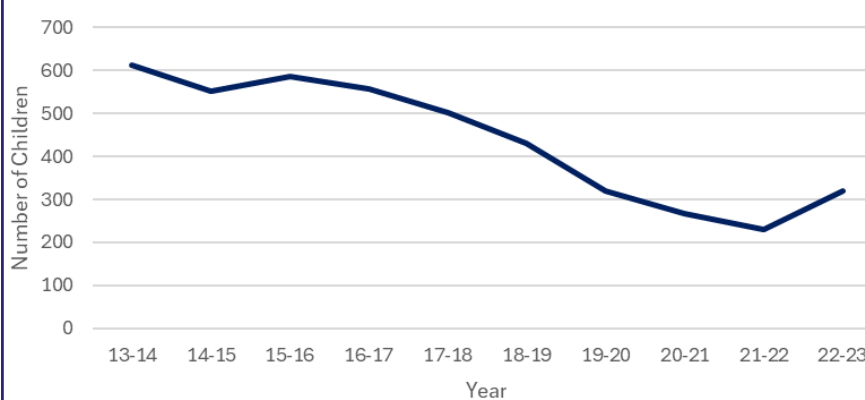
Capacity Change by Setting

| Year   | Day Care Center | Family Day Care | Group Family Day Care | School Aged Child Care |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 2020   | 2,379           | 407             | 574                   | 1,124                  |
| 2024   | 2,331           | 264             | 496                   | 1,049                  |
| Change | -48             | -143            | -78                   | -75                    |

Capacity by Age

| Age  | # Children | Capacity | Ratio of Children-per-Slot |
|------|------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 0-5  | 7,786      | 2,762    | 2.8 - 1                    |
| 6-12 | 14,151     | 1,386    | 10.2 - 1                   |

Child Care Assistance Program Average Monthly Enrollment in Ulster County



**420**

child care workers in Ulster 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 Ulster County



**Child Care Assistance program reimbursements** in Ulster County have decreased 5% from 2020-2024, from \$4,401,600 to \$4,198,045.



**Over 51% of children living in Ulster County qualify** for some form of child care assistance. However, **only 3.3%** 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 **\$7,000** 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 | \$13,780 | \$16,328 | 16%      |
| Family Day Care | \$10,920 | \$13,936 | 22%      |

Child Care Assistance Eligibility Level by Family Size

| Family Size | Income Level<br>(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