

The State of Child Care in Kentucky

Types of Child Care



Licensed child care facility – Facility licensed to care for 4 or more children in a non-residential setting.



Licensed family child care home – Child care program in the home of the primary licensee that typically cares for 7 to 12 children, including those related to the licensee.

Certified family child care home – The provider cares for up to six children, including those related to the provider, in his/her own home.



Registered family child care provider – A family member, friend or neighbor who can care for up to three children in the provider's home or in the home of the child.

Number of Child Care Centers – 1,698

Number of Licensed or Certified Family Child Care Homes – 243

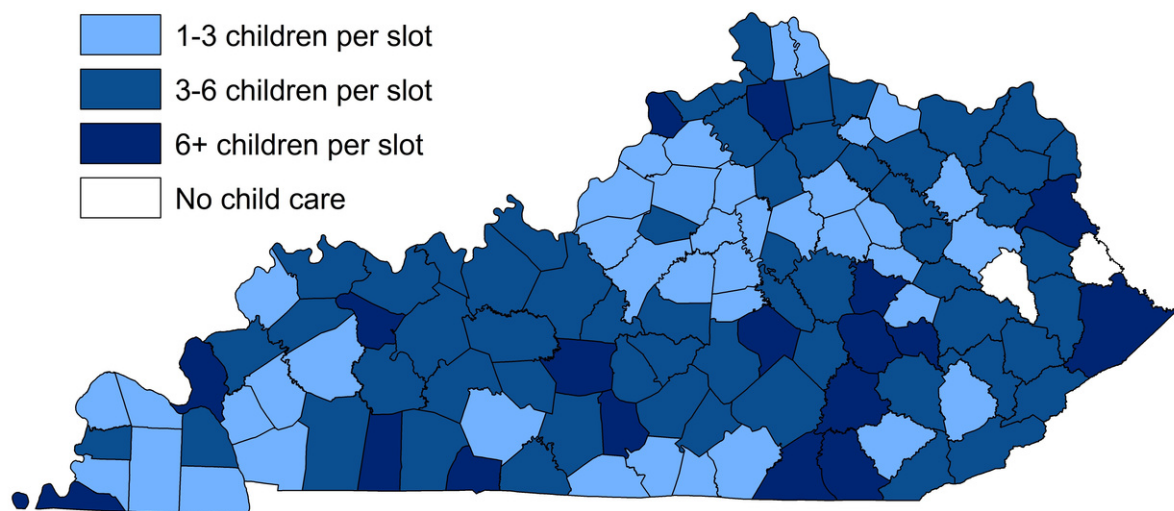
Number of Registered Family Child Care Providers – 38

Maximum Capacity for State – 158,264 (compared to 165,314 pre-pandemic)

NOTE: Capacity does not equal availability.

Half of all Kentuckians live in a child care desert

A child care desert is a community that contains either no child care providers or an insufficient number of child care slots. Child care deserts affect large proportions of both rural and urban families and those in both lower and higher-income neighborhoods.



The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides support to help families within 85% of State Median Income (SMI) pay for child care.

Number of Children receiving CCAP Per Year:

- 2022 (current) – 23,082
- 2021 – 20,351
- 2020 – 26,612
- 2019 – 30,229



Number of Providers with CCAP enrollees (2021) – 1,521

Despite how vital CCAP is, very few eligible families are participating in the program and applying for and participating in the program can be confusing.

- Percentage of Capacity of CCAP – 15%
- Percentage of Capacity Using Private Pay – Up to 85%

The KY All STARS system is a quality rating system for child care programs.

Kentucky rates child care programs on a 1 to 5 system to depict the highest quality programs in the state. Level 1 is the entry point and those centers are meeting the minimum state regulatory requirements. A Level-0 means the center has opted out of the program and is not eligible for state or federal funding.

All-STAR Rated Child Care Facilities:

0 – 70	3 – 332
1 – 993	4 – 262
2 – 144	5 – 183

The child care industry was fragile long before the onset of the pandemic due to low wages, staff turnover, and limited investments in child care centers.

Average Wages of Child Care Providers:

- Child Care Program Teacher: \$7.68/hour to \$15.14/hour (\$15,685 to \$31,415 annual) ←-----→ Median annual income: \$22,620
- Family Child Care Teacher & Administrator: \$5.50/hour to \$22.10/hour (\$15,374 to \$36,821 annual) ←-----→ Median annual income: \$27,560
- Child Care Center Director: \$8.28/hour to \$25.12/hour (\$16,245 to \$57,727 annual) ←-----→ Median annual income: \$31,828

Number of Child Care Providers with a second job:

- Teachers – 19.7%
- Family Child Care Providers – 12.5%
- Directors – 18.7%

Source: University of Kentucky
2019 Child Care Workforce Survey