



MARYLAND CHILD CARE  
RESOURCE NETWORK

## CHILD CARE DEMOGRAPHICS • 2023

### Cecil County Report

*The Maryland Child Care Resource Network and Maryland Family Network, Inc. are co-publishers of this Cecil County Report for the Network's Maryland Child Care Demographics Report series. The series includes reports for the State, for each of Maryland's 23 counties and the City of Baltimore.*



MARYLAND  
FAMILY  
NETWORK

### Frequently Requested Child Care Information

Cecil County's Mid-Atlantic location on the I-95 corridor in north-eastern Maryland has made it one of the region's sought-after business locations. Cecil is situated equidistant between the metropolitan areas of Baltimore and Philadelphia. The county is split by the C&D Canal, the third busiest shipping canal in the world, providing access to major seaports. This prime location allows Cecil County businesses to have overnight access to vast markets of over 90 million people. The county also falls near two international airports, Amtrak commuter lines, and main lines for CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads.

Cecil County's private sector industries generate \$2.8 billion in economic output. The county's top employers include world-class companies such as General Electric, IKEA, Medline Industries Inc, Terumo Medical Corporation, and W.L. Gore and Associates. Cecil County's workforce is rapidly growing due to the introduction of large corporations including Amazon, Lidl, Medline, and TruAire. These companies have introduced 1,800 new jobs to Cecil County's already skilled, capable, and available workforce.

<http://commerce.maryland.gov/Documents/ResearchDocument/CecilBef.pdf> Source: Maryland Department of Commerce, Brief Economic Facts, 2019.

<https://www.dllr.state.md.us/lmi/emplists/cecil.shtml>

<https://www.ccgov.org/government/economic-development>

### Child Population 2021

| Age Group                              | Number in age group |
|--|---------------------|
| 0-2 years                              | 3,404               |
| 3-4 years                              | 2,334               |
| 5 years                                | 1,175               |
| 6-8 years                              | 3,738               |
| 9-11 years                             | 4,336               |
| Total Children in Households Aged 0-11 | 14,987              |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2021

### Child Care Costs as Compared to Other Major Household Expenses

The estimated current median family income in Cecil is \$93,589<sup>6</sup>. A family of four that included a couple and two children ages 0-23 months and 2-4 years can be expected to have the following yearly household expenses:

| Expense                  | Cost     | % of Income |
|--------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Child Care               | \$20,467 | 21.90%      |
| Infant <sup>1</sup>      | \$9,325  |             |
| Preschooler <sup>2</sup> | \$11,142 |             |
| Food <sup>3</sup>        | \$12,612 | 13.50%      |
| Housing <sup>4</sup>     | \$21,036 | 22.50%      |
| Taxes <sup>5</sup>       | \$10,520 | 11.20%      |
| Total                    | \$64,634 | 69.10%      |

<sup>1</sup> Average cost of full-time care in a family child care home (LOCATE, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> Average cost of full-time care in a child care center (LOCATE, 2022). <sup>3</sup> National average cost of food at home based on a moderate cost plan (Cost of Food at Home Estimated for Food Plans at Four Cost Level, July 2022), U.S. Average, United States Department of Agriculture). <sup>4</sup> Based on U.S. Bureau of the Census 2020 median selected owner costs with a mortgage; included mortgage, taxes, insurance and utilities. <sup>5</sup> State and local taxes per Comptroller of Maryland (2022), Medicare and FICA taxes per moneychimp.com (2022). Taxes do not reflect Earned Income Credit. <sup>6</sup> Current income as shown in the Geolytics Report dated July 2022. This data cannot be compared to previous data.

### Average Weekly Cost of Full-time Child Care

| Cecil County                 | Family Child Care Programs | Child Care Centers |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 0-23 months                  | \$179.33                   | \$ 277.50          |
| 2-4 years                    | \$159.66                   | \$ 214.26          |
| 5 years <sup>1</sup>         | \$150.16                   | \$ 208.71          |
| School Age Full <sup>2</sup> | \$140.78                   | \$ 191.53          |
| School Age B/A <sup>3</sup>  | \$106.13                   | \$ 164.88          |

Source: MFN/LOCATE: Child Care, 6/22.

<sup>1</sup> Average cost of full time care for a 5 year old. Defined as child being in full time child care or being in kindergarten and out-of-school child care, i.e., holidays, school closures and summers. <sup>2</sup> Average cost of full time care for a 6+ school age child (out-of-school child care, i.e., holidays, school closures and summers).

<sup>3</sup> Average cost of before and after school child care.

### Population Information

#### Child Population<sup>1</sup>

|            | 2011   |          | 2021   |          |
|------------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
|            | Cecil  | Maryland | Cecil  | Maryland |
| 0-2 years  | 3,853  | 215,677  | 3,404  | 210,211  |
| 3-4 years  | 2,610  | 149,276  | 2,334  | 153,201  |
| 5 years    | 1,209  | 73,189   | 1,175  | 73,309   |
| 6-8 years  | 3,985  | 216,607  | 3,738  | 226,304  |
| 9-11 years | 4,605  | 224,348  | 4,336  | 235,320  |
| Total      | 16,262 | 879,097  | 14,987 | 898,345  |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2011, 2021

#### Female Population (selected ages)

| Age Group        | 2011  | 2021  |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| Aged 20-24       | 2,900 | 2,827 |
| Aged 25-29       | 2,849 | 3,305 |
| Aged 30-34       | 2,886 | 3,214 |
| Total Aged 20-34 | 8,635 | 9,346 |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2011, 2021

#### Work Force Information

##### Total Population Ages 16+ in Work Force

|               | Cecil  | Maryland  |
|---------------|--------|-----------|
| <b>2011</b>   |        |           |
| Females       | 27,373 | 1,706,926 |
| Males         | 30,736 | 1,772,418 |
| <b>2021</b>   |        |           |
| Females       | 24,534 | 1,624,157 |
| Males         | 28,466 | 1,706,122 |
| <b>Change</b> |        |           |
| Females       | -10.4% | -4.8%     |
| Males         | -7.4%  | -3.7%     |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2011, 2021

\* Does not include the population Not in the Labor Force

#### Females Aged 16+ with Children Under 18

| Age Group   | 2011   | 2021   | Change |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Children Under 6 years old                    | 7,334  | 6,524  | -11.0% |
| Children Under 6 with all custodial parents working | 4,873  | 3,735  | -23.4% |
| Total Children 6-17 years old                       | 16,854 | 15,426 | -8.5%  |
| Children 6-17 with all custodial parents working    | 11,949 | 11,535 | -3.5%  |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2011, 2021

#### Total Population

|      | Cecil   | Maryland  |
|------|---------|-----------|
| 2021 | 103,370 | 6,148,545 |
| 2011 | 100,716 | 5,736,545 |
| 2000 | 85,951  | 5,296,486 |
| 1990 | 71,347  | 4,780,753 |
| 1980 | 60,430  | 4,216,975 |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, 1980, 1990, 2000; American community Survey 2011, 2021

#### Male Population (selected ages)

| Age Group        | 2011  | 2021  |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| Aged 20-24       | 3,125 | 2,974 |
| Aged 25-29       | 2,703 | 3,184 |
| Aged 30-34       | 2,765 | 3,158 |
| Total Aged 20-34 | 8,593 | 9,316 |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2011, 2021

#### Households

|                            | 2011   | 2021    |
|----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Total household population | 99,097 | 102,102 |
| Total number of households | 35,943 | 38,672  |
| Average household size     | 2.76   | 2.64    |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2011, 2021

### Census Information

#### Families and Poverty

|  | 2011   | % in Poverty | 2021   | % in Poverty | % Change |
|--|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|----------|
| All Families   | 26,182 |              | 27,191 |              | 3.9%     |
| Families Below Poverty Level                         | 1,635  | 6.2%         | 1,879  | 6.9%         | 14.9%    |
| All Families with Children Under 5                   | 4,581  |              | 4,195  |              | -8.4%    |
| All Families w Children Under 5 Below Poverty Level  | 843    | 18.4%        | 744    | 17.7%        | -11.7%   |
| All Families w Children Under 18                     | 13,155 |              | 11,826 |              | -10.1%   |
| All Families w Children Under 18 Below Poverty Level | 1,455  | 11.1%        | 1,303  | 11.0%        | -10.4%   |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2011, 2021

#### Children and Poverty

|   | 2011   | % in Poverty | 2021   | % in Poverty | % Change |
|---|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|----------|
| Total Related Children Under 18             | 25,222 |              | 23,064 |              | -8.6%    |
| Total Children Under 18 Below Poverty Level | 3,312  | 13.1%        | 3,225  | 14.0%        | -2.6%    |
| Total Children Under 5 Below Poverty Level  | 1,083  | 17.4%        | 1,111  | 19.5%        | 2.6%     |
| Children 5-17 Below Poverty Level           | 2,229  | 11.7%        | 2,114  | 12.2%        | -5.2%    |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2011, 2021

#### Educational Attainment for Adults over 25 Years

|                                | Cecil  | % of Adults | Maryland  | % of Adults |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Total Adults Aged 25 or More   | 71,840 |             | 4,240,795 |             |
| High School Graduate or Higher | 65,245 | 90.8%       | 3,849,442 | 90.8%       |
| Bachelors Degree or Higher     | 18,437 | 25.7%       | 1,762,482 | 41.6%       |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2011, 2021

#### Families

| Cecil  | 2011   | 2021   | % Change |
|--|--------|--------|----------|
| Total Families   | 26,182 | 27,191 | 3.9%     |
| Total # of All Families with Related Children Under Age 6* | 4,383  | 3,915  | -10.7%   |
| Total # of All Families with Related Children Under Age 18 | 11,873 | 10,225 | -13.9%   |

| Maryland   | 2011      | 2021      | % Change |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Total Families   | 1,428,101 | 1,516,689 | 6.2%     |
| Total # of All Families with Related Children Under Age 6* | 269,284   | 260,117   | -3.4%    |
| Total # of All Families with Related Children Under Age 18 | 656,740   | 638,539   | -2.8%    |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2011, 2021

\*Includes Families with children under 6 AND Families with children under 6 and aged 6-17

### Income, Unemployment and Housing Information

#### Annual Wage Rate Information

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Public School Teacher Salary (Cecil County) <sup>1</sup> | \$86,724 |
| Public School Teacher Salary Average (MD) <sup>1</sup>   | \$64,259 |
| Nonpublic School Teacher Average (Maryland)              | \$60,500 |
| Family Child Care Provider (Maryland)                    | \$41,753 |
| Child Care Center Director (Maryland)                    | \$41,372 |
| Center Senior Staff/Teacher (Maryland)                   | \$25,905 |
| Center Aide (Maryland)                                   | \$17,491 |

<sup>1</sup>Maximum teacher salary with Bachelor's and Standard Professional Certificate (SPC). Sources: MSDE, Sept 2022, Association of Independent Maryland Schools (AIMS), 2021-22 school year, and MFN's 2022 Statewide Survey of Family Child Care Providers and Child Care Centers.

#### Family Income

##### Median Family Income, 2021

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Cecil    | \$96,571  |
| Maryland | \$111,378 |

U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000, 2010 American Community Survey (ACS).

##### Median Household Income<sup>1</sup>:

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| Cecil    | \$81,817 |
| Maryland | \$91,431 |

#### Income Distribution

#### Percent Households

|                   | Cecil  | Maryland  |
|-------------------|--------|-----------|
| Under \$25,000    | 13%    | 12.3%     |
| \$25,000-\$49,999 | 17%    | 14.6%     |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 15%    | 14.7%     |
| \$75,000 +        | 54%    | 58.5%     |
| Total Households  | 38,672 | 2,294,270 |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2011, 2021

NOTE: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding

#### Housing Information

|   | Cecil     | %     | Maryland  | %     |
|---|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Owner-Occupied housing                              | 29,284    | 75.7% | 1,543,719 | 67.3% |
| Renter-Occupied housing                             | 9,388     | 24.3% | 750,551   | 32.7% |
| Mean Value of Owner-Occupied Housing                | \$264,500 |       | \$338,500 |       |
| Median Selected Monthly Owner Costs with a Mortgage | \$1,797   |       | \$2,111   |       |
| Median Gross Residential Monthly Rent               | \$1,202   |       | \$1,485   |       |

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2011, 2021

#### Unemployment Rate

|      | Cecil | Maryland |
|------|-------|----------|
| 2001 | 4.2%  | 4.0%     |
| 2002 | 4.9%  | 3.9%     |
| 2003 | 6.1%  | 4.1%     |
| 2004 | 7.5%  | 3.9%     |
| 2005 | 4.1%  | 3.9%     |
| 2006 | 4.4%  | 3.7%     |
| 2007 | 4.2%  | 3.6%     |
| 2008 | 5.3%  | 4.5%     |
| 2009 | 8.6%  | 7.1%     |
| 2010 | 9.0%  | 7.3%     |
| 2011 | 8.2%  | 7.2%     |
| 2012 | 7.6%  | 6.5%     |
| 2013 | 6.9%  | 6.2%     |
| 2014 | 5.2%  | 5.6%     |
| 2015 | 5.6%  | 5.0%     |
| 2016 | 5.2%  | 4.5%     |
| 2017 | 4.9%  | 4.3%     |
| 2018 | 4.8%  | 4.5%     |
| 2019 | 4.3%  | 3.9%     |
| 2020 | 7.1%  | 8.3%     |
| 2021 | 6.0%  | 6.7%     |
| 2022 | 3.6%  | 3.7%     |

Maryland Department of Labor, 6/2022.



### Supply of Regulated Early Childhood Programs and Education

#### Children's Programs by Type with Capacity/ Enrollment

|   | # of Programs | Capacity <sup>1</sup> |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|
| Family Child Care Providers                 | 64            | 504                   |
| *OCC Licensed Group Programs                | 35            | 1,793                 |
| 8-12 Hour Child Care Centers                | 24            | 1,280                 |
| Infant/Toddler                              | 12            | 67                    |
| Part-Day                                    | 6             | N/A                   |
| Before/after School (School & Center-Based) | 25            | 1,116                 |
| Employer-Sponsored Centers                  | 0             | 0                     |
| Nursery Schools                             | 4             | N/A                   |
| Private Kindergarten                        | 1             | N/A                   |
| **Head Start                                | 1             | 144                   |
| ***Public Pre-Kindergarten Sites            | 16            | N/A                   |
| Total Infant/Toddler                        | 73            | 193                   |

<sup>1</sup>Some providers may still be closed due to COVID-19 considerations.

\* Note: Numbers do not total because facilities may have more than one type of program. Unless otherwise indicated, all programs are privately funded.

\*\* Federally funded programs which include Head Start, Early Head Start and Home-based Head Start.

\*\*\*State funded.

Source: MFN/LOCATE Child Care, 6/22; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

#### Density of Family Providers and Center Programs by Community/Zip Code

The following chart shows the number of registered family child care providers and licensed full-day child care centers in Cecil as of June 30, 2022.

| Community/ Zip Code   | Family Providers | %      | 8-12 Hour Centers | %      |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| Cecilton 21913        | 0                | 0.0%   | 1                 | 4.2%   |
| Charlestown 21914     | 1                | 1.6%   | 0                 | 0.0%   |
| Chesapeake City 21915 | 1                | 1.6%   | 2                 | 8.3%   |
| Childs 21916          | 0                | 0.0%   | 0                 | 0.0%   |
| Colora 21917          | 2                | 3.1%   | 2                 | 8.3%   |
| Conowingo 21918       | 0                | 0.0%   | 0                 | 0.0%   |
| Elkton 21921          | 38               | 59.4%  | 10                | 41.7%  |
| North East 21901      | 6                | 9.4%   | 5                 | 20.8%  |
| Perryville 21903      | 5                | 7.8%   | 2                 | 8.3%   |
| Port Deposit 21904    | 4                | 6.3%   | 0                 | 0.0%   |
| Rising Sun 21911      | 6                | 9.4%   | 2                 | 8.3%   |
| Warwick 21912         | 1                | 1.6%   | 0                 | 0.0%   |
| Totals                | 64               | 100.0% | 24                | 100.0% |

Source: MFN/LOCATE: Child Care, 6/22. NOTE: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

#### Education

##### Public and Private Schools (Elementary and Middle)

|                    | Public | Private* |
|--------------------|--------|----------|
| Elementary Schools | 17     | 1        |
| Middle Schools     | 6      | 0        |
| Combined           | 0      | 9        |

##### Elementary School Enrollment

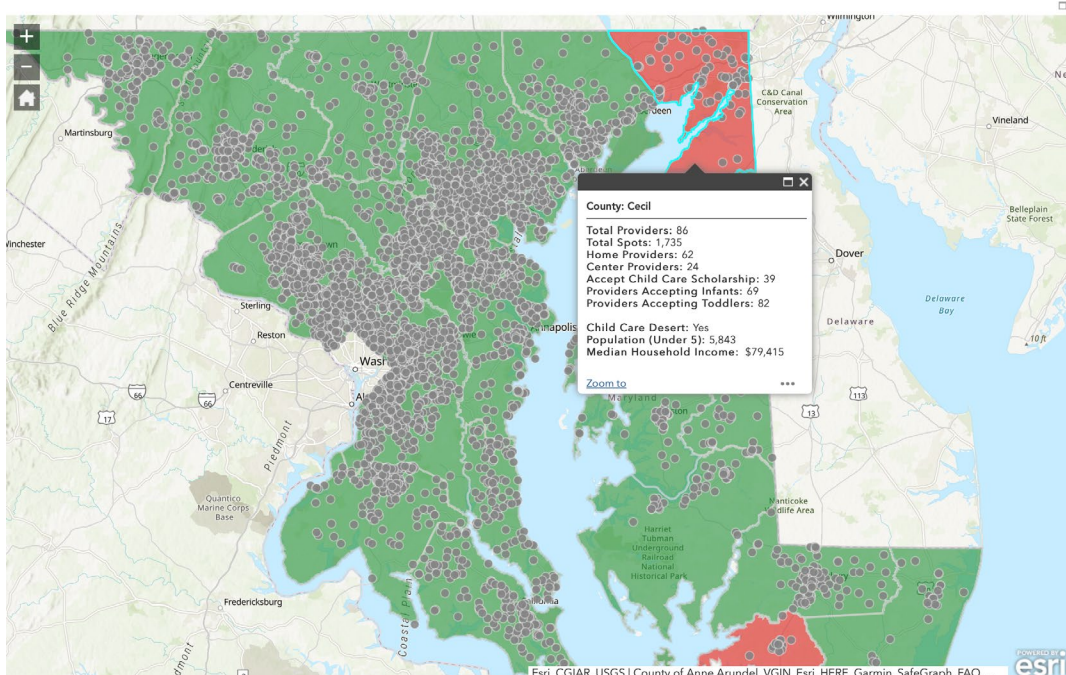
|                  | Public | Private* |
|------------------|--------|----------|
| Pre-Kindergarten | 618    | 66       |
| Kindergarten     | 972    | 96       |
| Grades 1 - 6     | 6,147  | 576      |
| Total            | 7,764  | 738      |

Source: MSDE, 2021-22 school year. Enrollment figures are for September 30, 2021. Private schools include MSDE approved schools and those operated by a tax-exempt religious organization which hold a letter of exemption from approval in accordance with State law.

\*Self reported data from Maryland Nonpublic Schools as reported to MSDE.\*Self reported data from Maryland Nonpublic Schools as reported to MSDE.

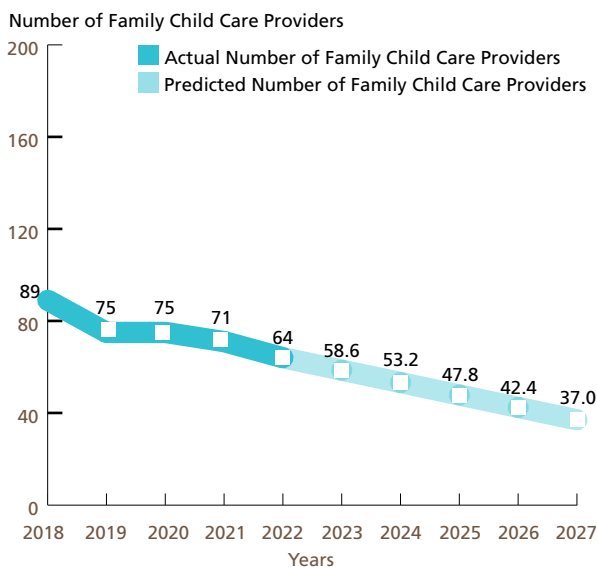
### Supply of Regulated Early Childhood Programs and Education

Maryland Family Network and Upfront partnered to create a real-time map of Maryland's child care landscape to identify deserts by county, legislative, and congressional districts. <https://locatesearch.marylandfamilynetwork.org/map>

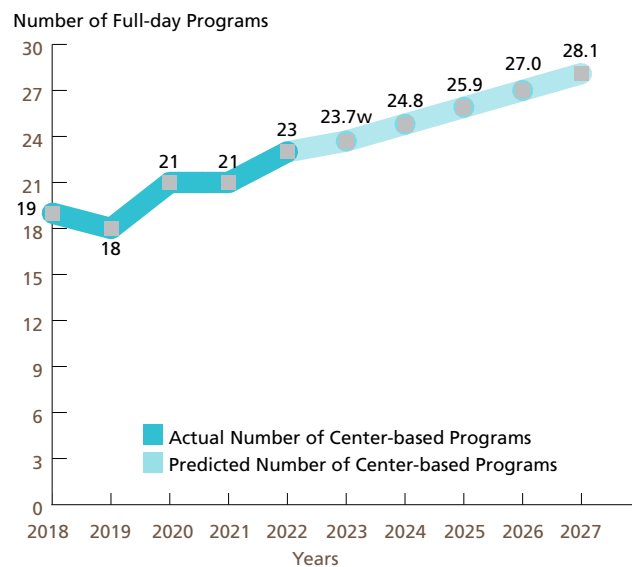


### Past and Anticipated Growth Patterns for Family/Center Providers

#### Family Child Care Providers in Cecil 2018-2027



#### Center-based Programs in Cecil 2018-2027 Full-day (8 to 12 hours)



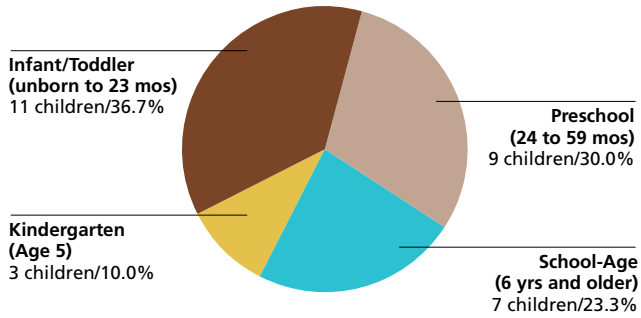
These predictions were generated with the use of the Multiple Regression Analysis and Forecasting template. The predictions generated by the Model do not reflect the effects of current changes to social programs affecting child care.

Source: MFN/LOCATE: Child Care, 6/22.

### Demand for Child Care

#### Children Served by Age

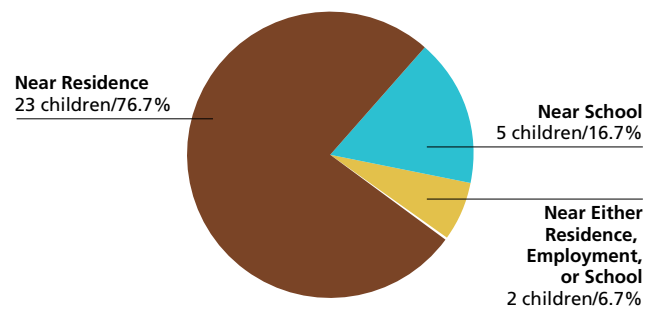
N=30



Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/21-6/30/22).

#### Children Served by Locational Preferences for Care

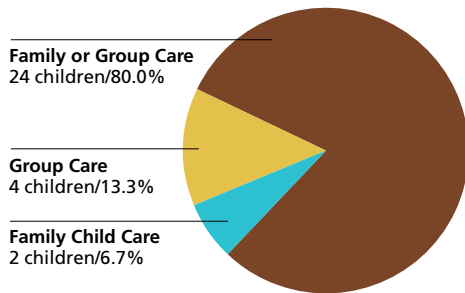
N=30



Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/21-6/30/22).

#### Children Served by Type of Care Preferred

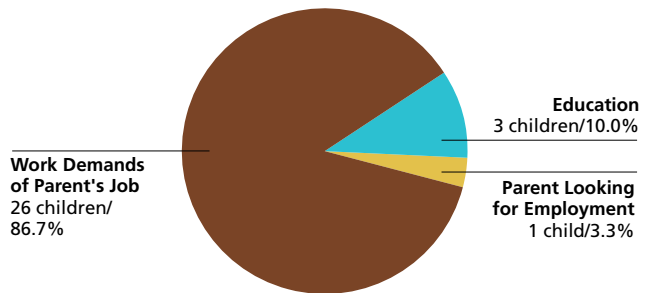
N=30



Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/21-6/30/22).

#### Reason Child Care is Needed

N=30



Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/21-6/30/22).



### Demand for Child Care

**Number of Children Served by LOCATE: Child Care**  
30 children (7/1/21-6/30/22)

#### Full-time or Part-time Care Needs of Children Served N=30

Full-time: 19 children (63.3%)

Part-time: 10 children (33.3%)

Other\*: 1 child (3.3%)

\* Includes requests for sick, backup and temporary care.

Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/21-6/30/22)

NOTE: Percentages may not total 100% because of rounding.

#### Child Care Scholarship Program (CCS)\*

**LOCATE Calls received from parents with children eligible for Child Care Scholarship**  
12 (44.4% of all calls)

**LOCATE Calls received from parents with children receiving Child Care Scholarship**  
3 (11.1% of all calls)

Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/21-6/30/22).

\* Formerly Child Care Subsidy Program

#### Major Reasons Parents Could Not Find Child Care in Cecil County

| Reason                     | Count |
|----------------------------|-------|
| No Vacancies for Infant    | 1     |
| No Vacancies for Preschool | 1     |
| Other                      | 1     |

Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/21-6/30/22).

#### Major Factors Important to Parents Who Found Care in Cecil County

| Factor                          | Count |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Cost                            | 1     |
| Environment                     | 1     |
| Proximity to home, work, school | 1     |

Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/21-6/30/22).

### Supply of Child Care

#### Child Care Scholarship Program (CCS)\*

**Family Child Care Providers willing to care for CCS children in Cecil County**  
23 (35.9% of total family child care providers)

**Child Care Centers willing to care for CCS children in Cecil County**  
17 (73.9% of total child care centers)

LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network Baltimore, June 2022.

\* Formerly Child Care Subsidy Program

**Cecil County FY22 Allocation (estimated)**  
\$1,901,405 = 269 full-time children enrolled

Source: Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care.

#### Special Needs Child Care

**Family providers who serve/have served children with special needs**  
44 (68.8% of total family child care providers in Cecil)

**Centers who serve/have served children with special needs**  
12 (52.2% of total child care centers in Cecil)

Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/21-6/30/22).

### Definitions

**The American Community Survey (ACS):** An ongoing survey that provides vital information on a yearly basis about our nation and its people. Information from the survey generates data that help determine how more than \$675 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year. (Census.gov)

**Before/After-School Care:** School-Age child care offers care to children enrolled in Kindergarten or above. Care is provided before and/or after school and during school holidays/vacations. Programs are licensed by the Office of Child Care. Programs may operate from a school building or other licensed facility.

**Census of Population and Housing:** There are two versions of the Census questionnaire: a short form which asks a limited number of population and housing questions of all households, and a long form questionnaire which asks additional social and economic questions of a sample of all households. The user should note that data obtained from a sample are subject to sampling variability, and that there are limitations to many of these data.

**Child Care:** The care or supervision of a child when the child's parent has given the child's care over to another for some portion of a 24-hour-day as a supplement to the parent's primary care of the child. (OCC)

**Child Care Center:** Child care provided in a facility that, for part or all of the day, provides care to children in the absence of the parent. Centers are licensed by the Office of Child Care.

**Child Care Scholarship Program (CCS)\*:** Provides financial assistance to eligible families in securing care for their children in registered family child care homes or licensed child care centers while parents/guardians are attending school, working, or in job training.

**Children with Special Needs:** Children who, because of a disability or other special educational, developmental, physical, emotional, behavioral, or medical condition, require additional care, or whose activities are restricted by a certain condition. (OCC)

**Current Median Family Income:** Current, median family income is from the American Community Survey 2017 to 2021.

**Current Population Estimates:** Current Population Estimates are based on the American Community Survey 2017 to 2021.

**Educational Attainment:** The highest level of school completed or the highest degree received. Educational attainment figures were used for persons over 25 years of age. (U.S. Bureau of the Census)

**Employer-Sponsored Centers:** A child care center located on-site or off-site which is sponsored by a corporation, business, or other employer. Employees are given priority for enrollment slots.

**Family Child Care:** The care given to a child younger than 13 years old or to a developmentally disabled person younger than 21 years old, in place of parental care for less than 24 hours a day, in a residence other than the child's residence and for which the provider is paid. Regulations allow a family child care provider to care for as many as eight children at any time. (OCC)

**Family Income:** Family includes a householder and one or more persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. A household can contain only one family for purposes of census tabulations. (U.S. Bureau of the Census)

**Head Start:** Project Head Start provides comprehensive developmental services for children from low-income families. Head Start is comprised of four components including Education, Health, Parent Involvement, and Social Services. Head Start Centers serve children from age 3 to school entry age from income eligible families.

**Income of Households –** This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income.

**Infant/Toddler:** In the State of Maryland, "infant" means a child under 18 months old. "Toddler" means a child 18 months old or older but younger than 2 years old. (OCC) MFN reports "infant" as a child birth through 23 months of age.

**Kindergarten:** An instructional program for children who are 5 years old by September 1st of each academic year. Programs may be operated by a private or public school. Kindergarten is the year of school which precedes entrance to first grade.

**Nursery Schools:** An instructional program approved or exempted by the Maryland State Department of Education for children who are two through four years old. The maximum length of the program is 6 hours per day, however most operate only a few hours per day and may meet only two or three times per week for a nine month period.

**Owner Costs with Mortgage (Selected Monthly):** The sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property; real estate taxes; fire hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities; and fuels. It also includes, where appropriate, the monthly condominium fees or mobile home costs. A housing unit is owner-occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. (U.S. Bureau of the Census)

### Definitions

**Part Day:** A program regulated by OCC with an educational focus for children one or two years before entering kindergarten. These programs are usually 2-3 hrs/day, 2-3 days/week, nine months/year.

**Pre-Kindergarten:** These are publicly funded pre-kindergarten programs for eligible 4-year-old children administered by local boards of education or qualified vendors. The programs have the overall goal of providing learning experiences to help children develop and maintain school readiness skills necessary for successful school performance. Local school systems shall enroll all 4-year-old applicants from economically disadvantaged or homeless families.

**Poverty Level:** The poverty guideline for a family of four persons was \$27,750 in 2022. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Jan 2021)

**Renter Occupied Gross Monthly Rent:** Monthly contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities and fuels, if these are paid by the renter. All occupied housing units which are not owner-occupied, whether they are rented for cash rent or occupied without payment of cash rent, are classified as renter-occupied. (U.S. Bureau of the Census)

**Unemployment Rate:** Civilians 16 years old and over are classified unemployed if they (1) were neither “at work” nor “with a job but not at work” during the reference week, and (2) were looking for work during the last four weeks, and (3) were available to accept a job. Also included were civilians who did not work at all during the reference week and were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off. (U.S. Bureau of the Census)

The Maryland Child Care Resource Network is a public/private partnership designed to expand and improve child care delivery in Maryland. Maryland Family Network manages the Network and operates as its Statewide Coordinating Entity. Funding for this publication was made available by Maryland Family Network, the Maryland State Department of Education, and Maryland's business community.

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