

## Maryland Report

How much do Maryland families spend on child care? If you said, “a lot,” you’re correct. However, where you live, your children’s ages, your family income, type of care, population size, and other factors impact how much a parent spends on care. Some Maryland families are spending upwards of 30% of their income on child care.

Families need child care to be able to go to work. It is essential to Maryland’s economy. Experts have proven that children with access to quality early learning experiences do better in school, are healthier, and even earn more over a lifetime. Yet a growing cohort of economists has concluded that child care is a market failure. Parents can’t afford to pay and providers can’t afford to stay. Despite this, lawmakers in Maryland have shown a dedication to making our state a national leader when it comes to fixing child care. That is why Maryland Family Network (MFN) publishes *Child Care Demographics* annually to help policymakers understand the complexities facing families and propose common sense solutions.

Child Care Demographics is a desktop reference that provides data on population, income, workforce participation, and child care for the state of Maryland and for each of the local jurisdictions. MFN’s *Trends in Child Care* is a companion publication that offers a history of and predictions about the demand, supply, and cost of child care. Download *Trends in Child Care* here.

Maryland Family Network has also created a real-time map of Maryland’s child care landscape to identify deserts by county, legislative, and congressional districts. Viewing this map will significantly enhance your Child Care Demographics experience.

If you have questions about the information on these pages, don’t hesitate to contact Beth Morrow, Director of Public Policy, at [bmorrow@marylandfamilynetwork.org](mailto:bmorrow@marylandfamilynetwork.org).

Access to quality child care is a major determinant of children’s success. Nobel Laureate James Heckman famously found a 13% return on investment when children lacking the advantages of their well-resourced peers have access to high-quality birth-to-five programs. Yet, child care is not equitable in Maryland. Many factors impact a family’s ability to afford and access care, but income is among the greatest.

The Maryland General Assembly expanded access to the Maryland Child Care Scholarship Program in recent years. Also, in 2024, the Moore Administration committed new State funds in the amounts of \$218 million for FY 2024 and \$270 million for FY 2025 for the Child Care Scholarship Program (CCSP).

These have proven to be a significant step in removing barriers to families’ access to child care. We encourage you to reach out to your local Child Care Resource Center. MFN is the State Coordinating Entity of these centers which make up the Maryland Child Care Resource Network. Each center provides leadership, professional development, coaching, and other services to improve the quality, availability, and affordability of child care in communities across the state.

We hope the following demographic information is helpful as we continue to make improvements for Maryland’s youngest children and those who care for them.

*Maryland Family Network, as the State Coordinating Entity of the Maryland Child Care Resource Network, publishes this Maryland 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

Maryland has approximately 433,208 children from birth through age five, and 12.1 percent of them live in households below the poverty line. Meanwhile, the average weekly cost for full-time child care in Maryland is \$24,657 per year.

No one would suggest that public school teachers are paid what they deserve. However, child care providers, based on average gross income, earn far less than their public school counterparts, who earn \$79,420 on average. Meanwhile, in the same location, a family child care providers makes \$42,135 and a child care center teacher earns only \$25,777. Many educators who we entrust to teach and care for our children are forced to rely on public assistance to make ends meet.

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#### Child Population 2023

Age Group	Number in age group
0-2 years	207,705
3-4 years	151,635
5 years	73,868
6-8 years	224,060
9-11 years	235,994
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>893,262</b>

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2013, 2023

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

County	Estimated Child Care Cost <sup>1</sup>	Median Family Income <sup>2</sup>	% of Median Income Spent On Child Care	Child Care Cost Ranked w/Other Major Household Exp <sup>3</sup>
Allegany	\$14,643	\$ 90,334	20.4%	1
Anne Arundel	\$24,925	\$96,307	17.7%	2
Baltimore City	\$22,968	\$48,651	31.2%	1
Baltimore County	\$21,538	\$73,060	19.0%	2
Calvert	\$19,822	\$105,556	13.2%	3
Caroline	\$14,796	\$67,252	18.5%	2
Carroll	\$21,815	\$93,010	15.6%	2
Cecil	\$20,089	\$71,306	18.6%	2
Charles	\$22,816	\$100,853	16.8%	3
Dorchester	\$15,900	\$52,326	19.7%	2
Frederick	\$23,808	\$96,109	16.9%	2
Garrett	\$13,234	\$50,929	15.7%	2
Harford	\$24,919	\$85,088	19.0%	2
Howard	\$29,250	\$119,780	16.8%	2
Kent	\$18,093	\$55,059	17.3%	2
Montgomery	\$33,317	\$111,240	21.0%	2
Prince George's	\$23,735	\$79,842	20.0%	2
Queen Anne's	\$17,321	\$97,520	13.3%	2
St. Mary's	\$20,001	\$94,279	15.0%	3
Somerset	\$14,255	\$45,003	20.3%	2
Talbot	\$16,161	\$76,553	15.2%	3
Washington	\$16,585	\$58,769	17.9%	2
Wicomico	\$16,752	\$57,865	18.5%	2
Worcester	\$18,078	\$65,147	20.0%	2
Maryland	\$24,657	\$73,538	27.8%	2

NOTE: Child Care and other household expenses are based on a family of 4 that included a couple and two children ages 0-23 months and 2-4 years. The household expenses considered include housing, income taxes, and food. <sup>1</sup>Combined average of full-time care for an infant in a family child care home and a preschooler in a child care center (LOCATE, 2023). <sup>2</sup>Current income as shown in the American Community Survey 2022. <sup>3</sup>Housing costs based on U.S. Bureau of the Census ACS 2022 median selected owner costs with a mortgage; ACS 2021 iTax from smartassess.com

### Population Information

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

	2013	2023
0-2 years	214,524	207,705
3-4 years	151,773	151,635
5 years	75,351	73,868
6-8 years	217,506	224,060
9-11 years	225,975	235,994
<b>Total</b>	<b>885,129</b>	<b>893,262</b>

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2013, 2023  
Age breakouts in the ACS are slightly different instead of ages 0-1; 2-4; 5-9; and 10-11 they are 0-2; 3-4; 5; 6-8; and 9-11

#### Female Population (selected ages)

Age Group	2013	2023
Aged 20-24	194,740	182,496
Aged 25-29	202,198	197,342
Aged 30-34	195,269	215,239
<b>Total Aged 20-34</b>	<b>592,207</b>	<b>595,077</b>

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2013, 2023

#### Work Force Information

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

	Maryland
<b>2023</b>	
Females	1,622,793
Males	1,726,909
<b>2013</b>	
Females	1,581,677
Males	1,650,181
<b>Change</b>	
Females	2.6%
Males	4.6%

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2013, 2023  
\* Does not include the population Not in the Labor Force

#### Females (16+) with Children

Age Group	2013	2023	Change
Total Children Under 6 years old	425,593	415,037	-2.5%
Children Under 6 with all custodial parents working	303,745	305,213	0.5%
Total Children 6-17 years old	860,985	893,571	3.8%
Children 6-17 with all custodial parents working	667,916	699,578	4.7%

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2013, 2023

#### Total Population

	Maryland
2023	6,170,738
2022	6,161,707
2021	6,148,545
2013	5,834,299
2011	5,736,545
2000	5,296,486
1990	4,780,753
1980	4,216,975

Source: US Bureau of the Census, 1980, 1990, 2000; American community Survey 2011, 2013, 2021, 2022, 2023

#### Male Population (selected ages)

Age Group	2013	2023
Aged 20-24	203,366	185,091
Aged 25-29	199,163	195,565
Aged 30-34	187,216	210,307
<b>Total Aged 20-34</b>	<b>589,745</b>	<b>590,963</b>

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2013, 2023

#### Households

	2013	2023
Total household population	5,694,032	6,045,148
Total number of households	2,146,240	2,339,510
Average household size	2.65	2.58

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2013, 2023

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

Age Group	2013	2023	Change
Females (16+) with children under 18	587,102	600,567	2.3%
Females (16+) with children under 18, in the workforce	453,276	446,618	-1.5%

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2013, 2023

### Census Information

#### Families and Poverty

	2013	% in Poverty	2023	% in Poverty	% Change
All Families	1,438,269		1,529,098		6.3%
Families Below Poverty Level	97,433	6.8%	96,111	6.3%	-1.4%
All Families with Children Under 5	270,735		253,400		-6.4%
All Families w Children Under 5 Below Poverty Level	37,086	13.7%	28,791	11.4%	-22.4%
All Families w Children Under 18	719,431		715,525		-0.5%
All Families w Children Under 18 Below Poverty Level	75,188	10.5%	67,492	9.4%	-10.2%

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2013, 2023

#### Children and Poverty

	2013	% in Poverty	2023	% in Poverty	% Change
Total Related Children Under 18	1,328,595		1,353,842		1.9%
Total Children Under 18 Below Poverty Level	171,260	12.9%	156,046	11.5%	-8.9%
Total Children Under 5 Below Poverty Level	55,257	15.3%	42,656	12.1%	-22.8%
Children 5-17 Below Poverty Level	116,003	12.0%	113,390	11.3%	-2.3%

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2013, 2023

#### Educational Attainment for Adults over 25 Years

	Maryland	% of Adults
Total Adults Aged 25 or More	3,922,827	
High School Graduate or Higher	3,479,996	88.7%
Bachelors Degree or Higher	1,443,918	36.8%

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2023

#### Families

Maryland	2013	2023	% Change
Total Families	1,529,098	1,438,269	-5.9%
Total # of All Families with Related Children Under Age 6*	259,293	265,044	2.2%
Total # of All Families with Related Children Under Age 18	643,591	646,709	0.5%

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2013, 2023

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

#### Housing Information

	2023	%
Owner-Occupied housing	1,578,702	67.5%
Renter-Occupied housing	\$760,808	32.5%
Mean Value of Owner-Occupied Housing	\$397,700	
Median Selected Monthly Owner Costs with a Mortgage	\$2,301	
Median Gross Residential Monthly Rent	\$1,662	

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2013, 2023

### Income, Unemployment and Housing Information

#### Annual Wage Rate Information

Public School Teacher Average Salary (Maryland) <sup>1</sup>	\$79,420
Family Child Care Provider Gross Income (Maryland) <sup>2</sup>	\$31,040
Child Care Center Director (Maryland) <sup>3</sup>	\$41,131
Center Senior Staff/Teacher (Maryland) <sup>3</sup>	\$26,877
Center Aide (Maryland) <sup>3</sup>	\$17,854

<sup>1</sup>Average Teacher Salary, MSDE. <sup>2</sup>Gross pay based on average cost of care, as reported to LOCATE by child care providers. <sup>3</sup>Salary as reported to LOCATE: Child Care by center directors.

#### Family Income

Median Family Income	2023
Maryland	\$88,738

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2023

Median Household Income <sup>1</sup> :	2023
Maryland	\$73,538

Income Distribution	Percent Households Maryland
Under \$25,000	11.3%
\$25,000-\$49,999	12.7%
\$50,000-\$74,999	13.2%
\$75,000 +	62.9%
Total Households	2,339,510

Source: US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2023

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

Programs	Family Child Care	Child Care Centers
0-23 Months	\$293.85	\$438.61
2-4 Years	\$257.01	\$314.16
5 years <sup>1</sup>	\$237.17	\$293.54
School Age Full <sup>2</sup>	\$210.86	\$251.68
School Age B/A <sup>3</sup>	\$149.90	\$167.94

Source: MFN/LOCATE: Child Care, 6/24.

<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.

#### Unemployment Rate

Maryland	
2000	3.4%
2001	4.0%
2002	3.9%
2003	4.1%
2004	3.9%
2005	3.9%
2006	3.7%
2007	3.6%
2008	4.5%
2009	7.1%
2010	7.3%
2011	7.2%
2012	6.5%
2013	6.2%
2014	5.6%
2015	5.0%
2016	4.5%
2017	4.3%
2018	4.5%
2019	3.9%
2020	8.3%
2021	6.2%
2022	3.7%
2023	1.7%
2024	3.2%

MD Department of Labor Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) June 2024.

### Supply of Regulated Early Childhood Programs and Education

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

	# of Programs	Capacity
Registered Family Child Care Providers and Large Family Child Care Homes	4,110	32,220
Licensed and Letter of Compliance Child Care Centers	2,608	172,592
Public Pre-Kindergarten"	377	N/A
Head Start	124	4,503
Early Head Start	17	1,421

#### Of the child care providers in the Maryland\*\*

- 4,403 are licensed to accept infants with 16,602 total infant capacity
- 29 are Head Start programs\*\*\*
- 147 are Early Head Start programs\*\*\*
- 413 are nursery schools
- 287 offer Part Day
- 1,710 offer before and/or after school care with a capacity of 117,754

\* State Funded

\*\* The programs in this section do not total because a program may offer more than one of these options

\*\*\* Federally Funded. MSDE

Source Maryland Family Network, LOCATE Child Care and Maryland State Department of Education, and HHS Office of Head Start.

# of Programs: MFN LOCATE: Child Care 2024

#### Education

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

	Public	Private*
Elementary Schools	783	68
Middle Schools	213	N/A
Combined Elementary and Middle	94	435

##### Elementary School Enrollment

	Public	Private*
Pre-kindergarten	31,381	13,407
Kindergarten	60,514	8,187
Grades 1-6	388,458	45,817
Total	480,353	67,411

Source: MSDE 2023-2024 school year. Enrollment figures are for September 2023.

\* Self reported data from Maryland nonpublic schools to MSDE.

#### Density of Family Providers and Center Programs by Jurisdiction

The following chart shows the number of registered family child care providers and licensed full-day child care centers in Maryland as of June 30, 2024.

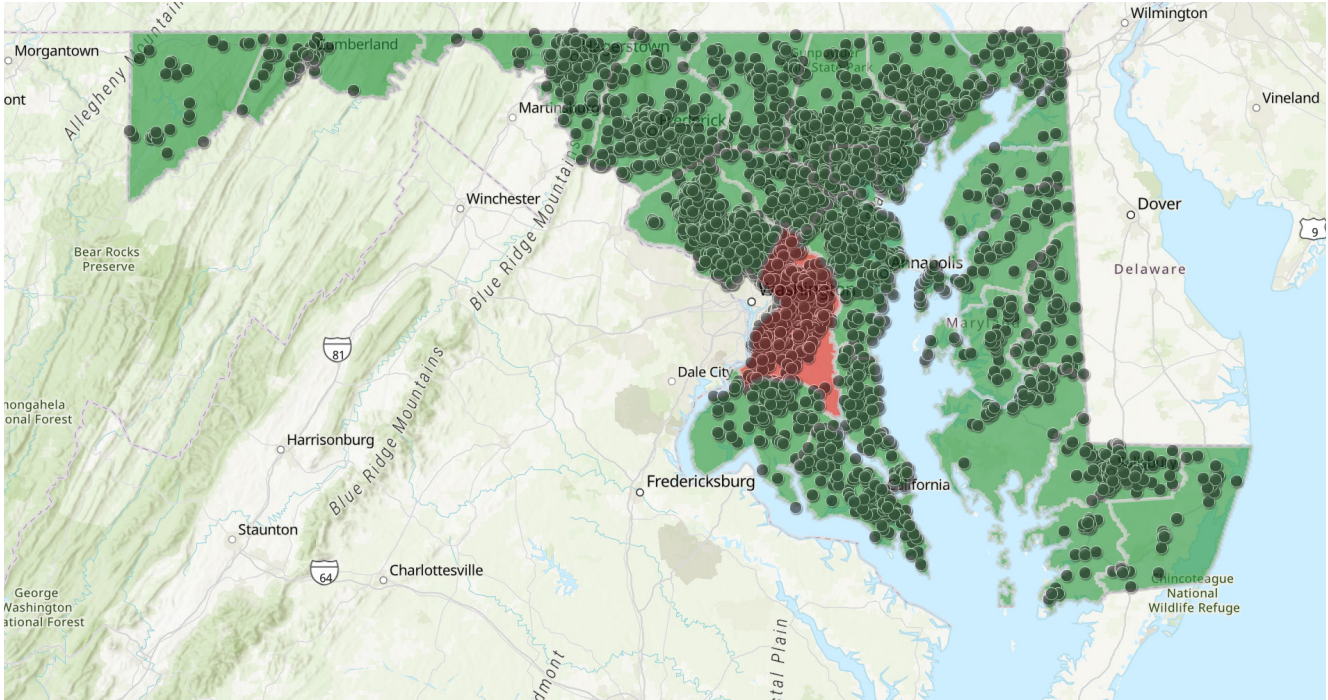
Jurisdiction	Family Child Care Providers	Child Care Centers
Allegany	37	18
Anne Arundel	307	238
Baltimore City	383	276
Baltimore Co.	510	373
Calvert	70	47
Caroline	47	8
Carroll	85	88
Cecil	59	36
Charles	147	73
Dorchester	41	13
Frederick	260	116
Garrett	13	11
Harford	189	97
Howard	247	185
Kent	13	7
Montgomery	698	489
Prince George's	569	347
Queen Anne's	55	16
St. Mary's	109	36
Somerset	20	8
Talbot	29	20
Washington	118	56
Wicomico	85	32
Worcester	19	18
Totals	4,110	2,608

Source: MFN/LOCATE: Child Care, 6/24.



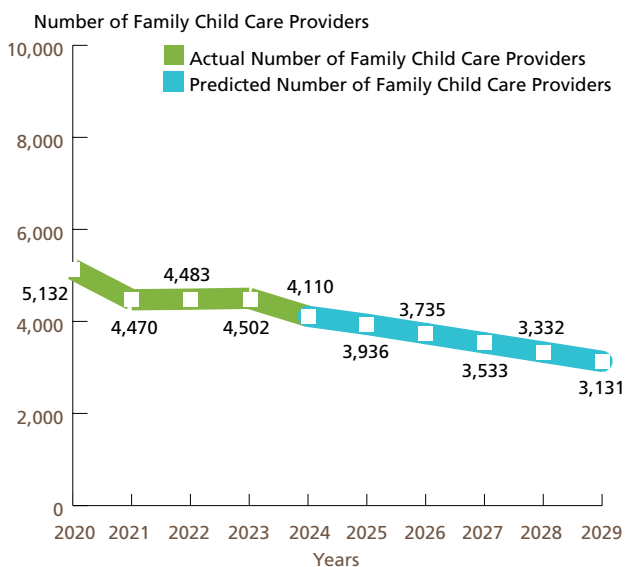
### Supply of Regulated Early Childhood Programs and Education

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.

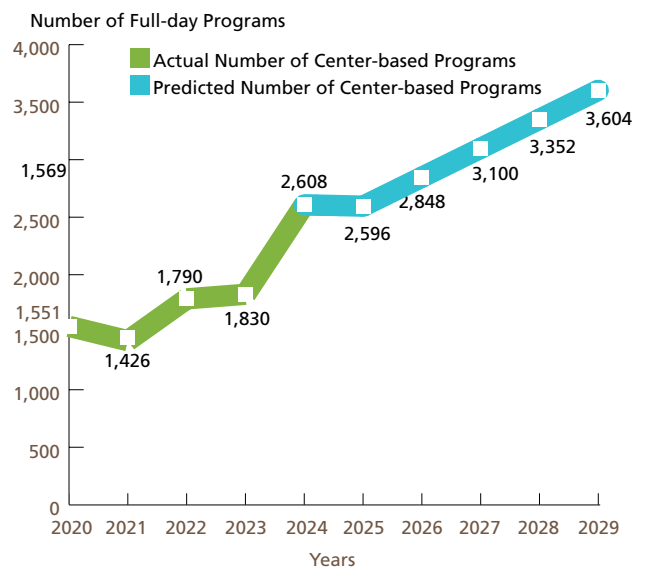


### Past and Anticipated Growth Patterns for Family/Center Providers

Family Child Care Providers in Maryland 2020-2029



Center-based Programs in Maryland 2020-2029 Full-day (8 to 12 hours)

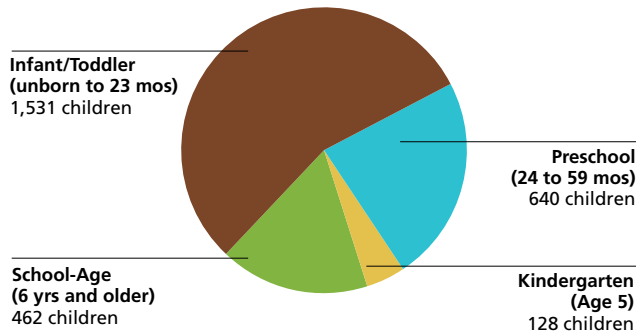


Source: Maryland Family Network, LOCATE: Child Care (June 2024)

### Demand for Child Care

#### Children Served by Age

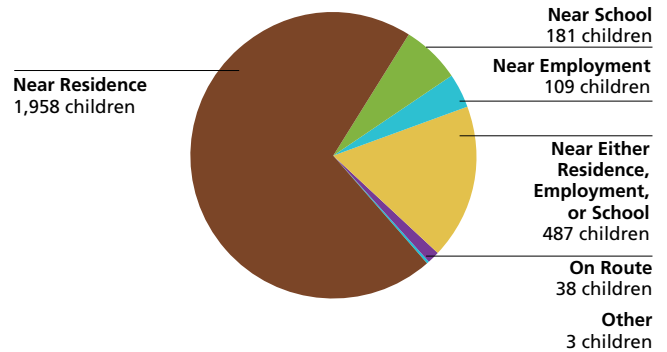
N=2,776



Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/23-6/30/24).

#### Children Served by Locational Preferences for Care

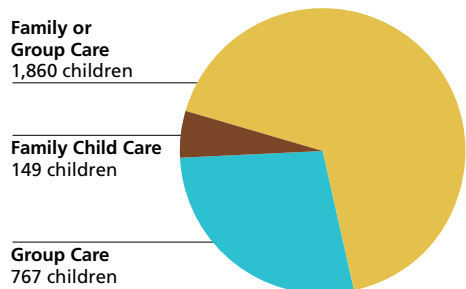
N=2,776



Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/23-6/30/24).

#### Children Served by Type of Care Preferred

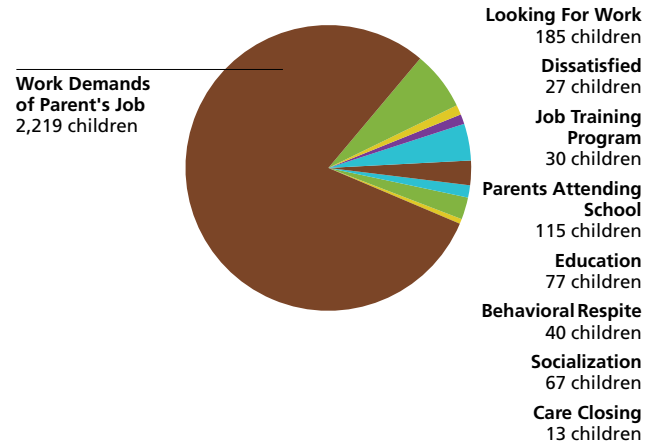
N=2,776



Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/23-6/30/24).

#### Reason Child Care is Needed

N=2,776



Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/23-6/30/24).



### Demand for Child Care

**Number of Children Served by LOCATE: Child Care**  
2,776 children (7/1/23-6/30/24)

**Full-time or Part-time Care Needs of Children Served** N=2,776

Full-time: 2,221 children

Part-time: 482 children

Other\*: 73 children

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

Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/23-6/30/24).

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

**LOCATE Calls received from parents with children eligible for Child Care Scholarship**  
1,008 (36% of all calls)

**LOCATE Calls received from parents with children receiving Child Care Scholarship**  
829 (30% of all calls)

Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/23-6/30/24).

\* Formerly Child Care Subsidy Program\* Formerly Child Care Subsidy Program

### Supply of Child Care

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

**Family Child Care Providers willing to care for CCS children in Maryland**  
1,666 (41% of all family providers in Maryland)

**Child Care Centers willing to care for CCS children in Maryland**  
1,040 (40% of all 8-12 hour centers in Maryland)

LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network Baltimore, June 2023.

\* Formerly Child Care Subsidy Program

**FY 24 CCS Expenditure**  
\$414,733,772

**CCS Children Served**  
51,175

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

#### Special Needs Child Care

**Family providers who serve/have served children with special needs<sup>1</sup>**  
1,972 (48% of all family providers in Maryland)

**Centers who serve/have served children with special needs**  
1,021 (39% of all 8-12 hour centers in Maryland)

Source: LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network, Baltimore (7/1/23-6/30/24).

<sup>1</sup>In 2023, LOCATE: Child Care changed the method of tracking providers with Special Needs Experience. Providers now are able to indicate experience with individual special needs. In 2024 and future years, this number will increase as we identify those providers. This number cannot be compared to earlier Demographics.

### Definitions

**The American Community Survey (ACS):** is 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 inform how trillions of dollars in federal 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 2022.

**Current Population Estimates:** Current Population Estimates are based on the American Community Survey 2022.

**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 Household 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.

**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 \$31,200 in 2023. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Jan 2022)

**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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