

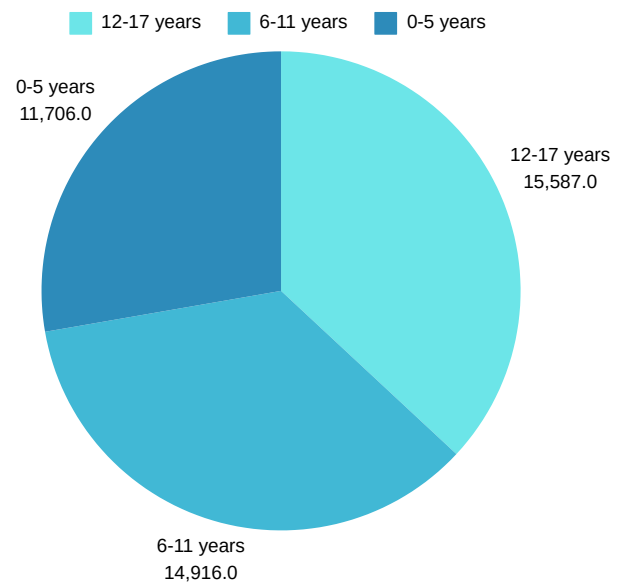


2024 Supply & Demand Report: Child Care in Iredell County

2024 Supply & Demand Report: Child Care in Iredell County

A report on child care need, cost, and availability.

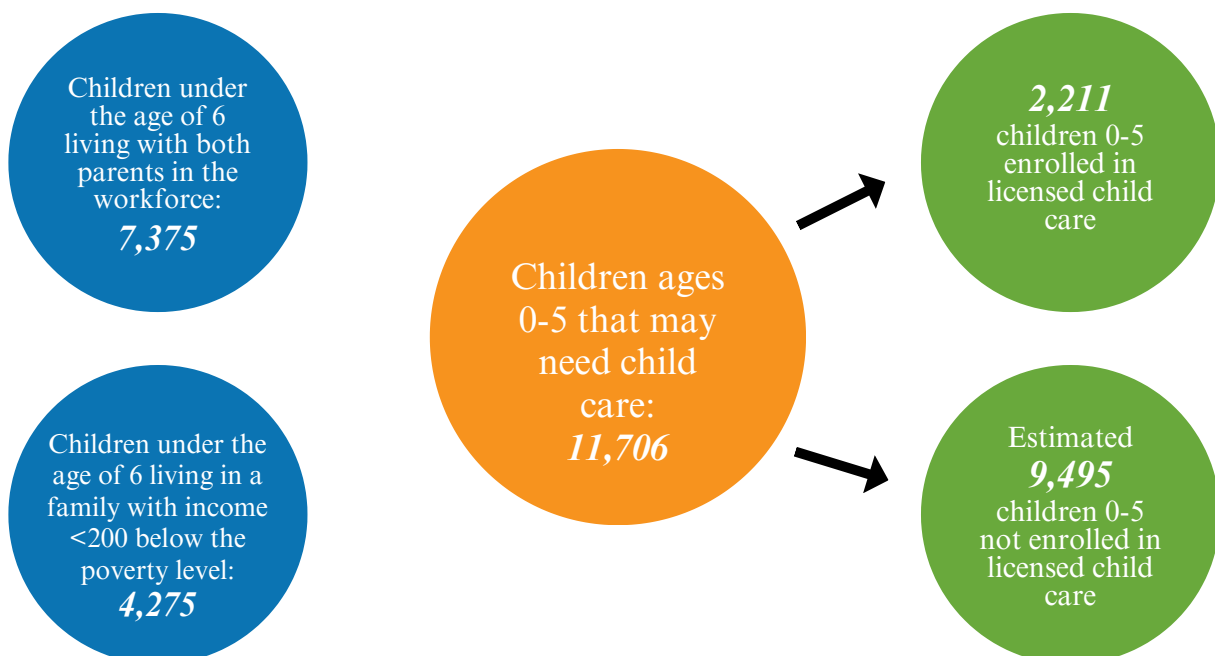
Iredell County Child Population



How many children live in Iredell County?

In Iredell County, there are an estimated **11,706** children between the ages of 0-5. **7,375** children under the age of 6 live in a family with parents and/or caregivers that are in the workforce. **4,275** children under the age of 6 live in a family **<200%** below the poverty level. To attract workers, many companies have raised their wages, but the child care sector continues to struggle financially to increase wages and regain the jobs lost during the pandemic. The child care staff shortage continues to decrease the number of child care slots available to working parents, which reduces the probability of parents finding care and returning to the workforce. This increases the number of children who enter kindergarten without the skills needed to be successful in school and in their lives outside of school.

*References: Iredell County NC Child Care Fact Sheet: Child Care Resources, Inc. (2024)
NC DHHS, DCDEE Child Care Analysis Summary: Iredell County (December 2023)*

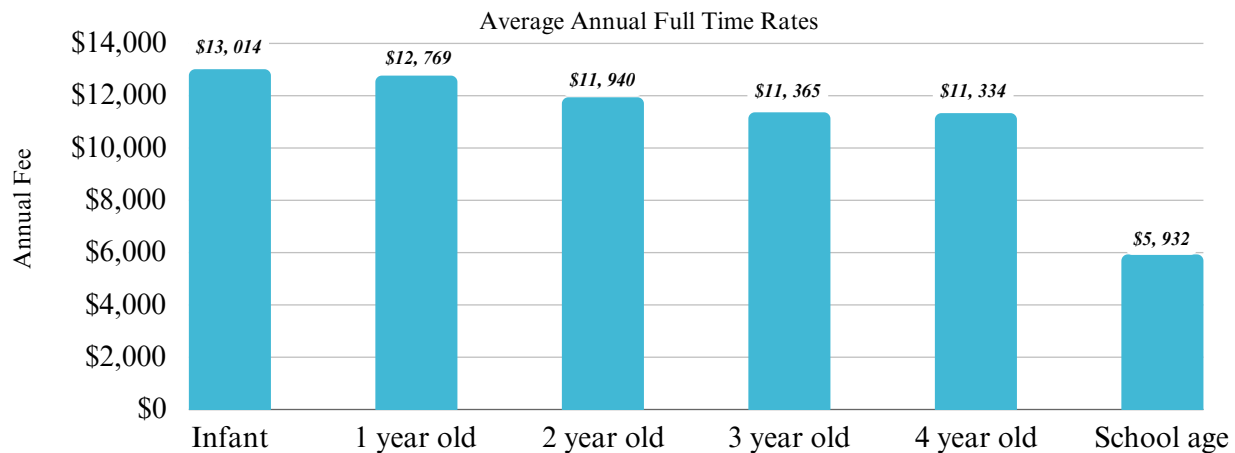


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A report on child care need, cost, and availability.

The average annual cost of child care in Iredell County is **\$11,059**. Families that make the annual median income of **\$71,943** use **15%** of their annual income to pay for child care; while families that make an annual minimum wage income of **\$15,080** use **73%** of their income to pay for child care. This means that after paying for child care, families that make a minimum wage income have **\$4,021 left** annually to support their families.

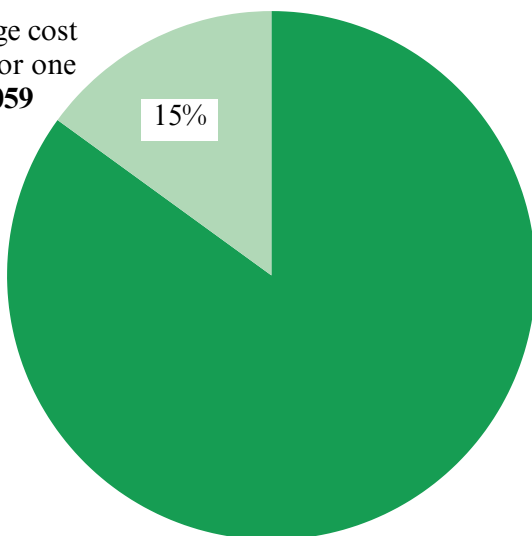
Reference: Child Care Resources, Inc.: Iredell County Child Care Fact Sheet (2024)



Child Care Cost as Portion of Median Wage Income

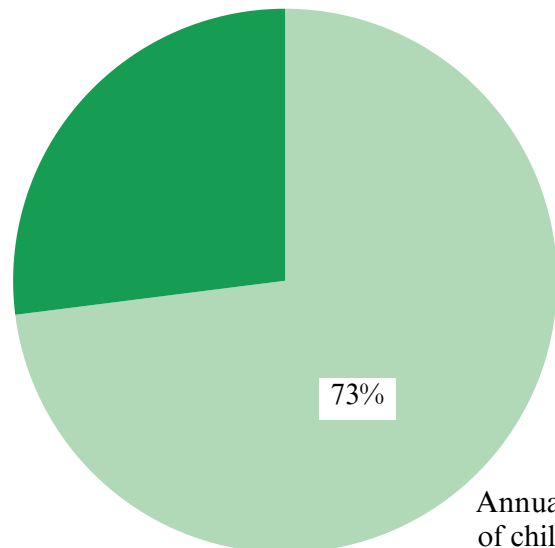
Iredell County Median Income **\$71,943**

Annual average cost of child care for one child **\$11,059**



Child Care Cost as Portion of Minimum Wage Income

Full Time Minimum Wage Income **\$15,080**



Annual average cost of child care for one child **\$11,059**

Reference: United States Census Bureau (2024). Iredell County, North Carolina Data Profile

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What kinds of child care are available and where?

Type of Care	Number of programs by area					
	Statesville	Mooresville	Troutman	Harmony	Union Grove	Total
Child care centers (private, licensed)	16	16	2	0	0	34
Public preschools (licensed)	9	6	0	1	2	18
Family child care homes (licensed)	8	4	0	0	0	12
School-age programs (licensed)	10	9	1	1	0	21
Total						85

How many children can these programs serve?

Type of Care	Number of daytime slots by area					
	Statesville	Mooresville	Troutman	Harmony	Union Grove	Total
Child care centers (private, licensed)	1,073	1,849	175	0	0	3,097
Public preschools (licensed)	205	210	0	30	36	481
Family child care homes (licensed)	56	32	0	0	0	88
School-age programs (licensed)	710	1,117	75	45	0	1,947
Total Slots						5,613

Are special services available everywhere? (Transportation and before/after school care)

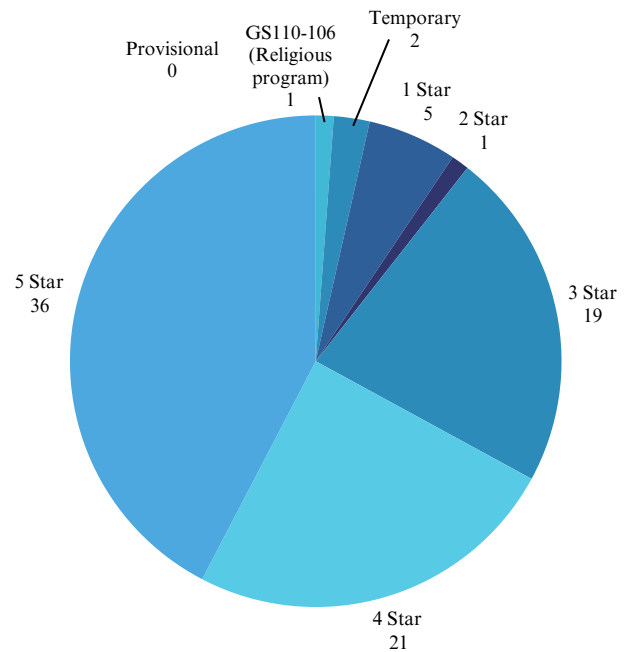
Service	Number of licensed child care programs offering additional services					
	Statesville	Mooresville	Troutman	Harmony	Union Grove	
Child care centers (private, licensed)	0	0	0	0	0	
Public preschools (licensed)	7	4	0	0	0	
Family child care homes (licensed)	4	3	0	0	0	
School-age programs (licensed)	1	8	0	0	0	
Total						

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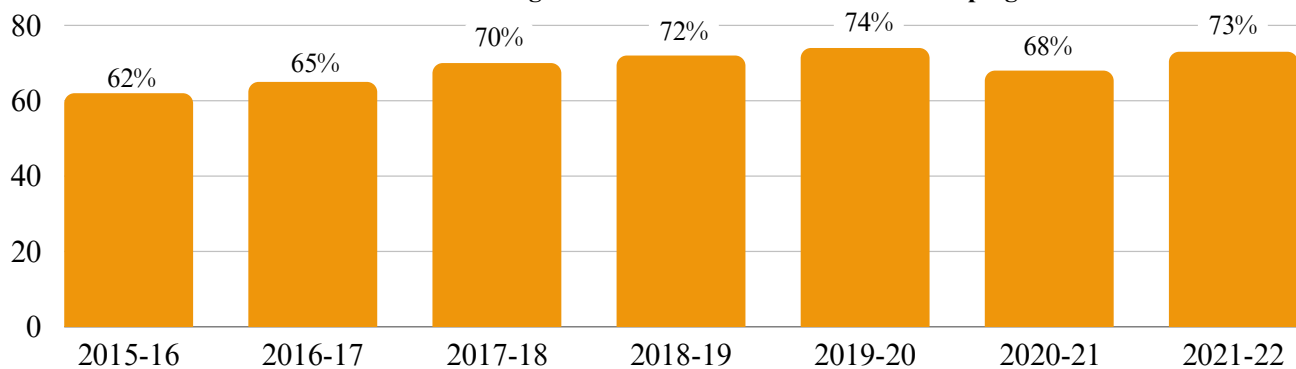
Licensed Daytime Slots Available by License Type

311 families in Iredell County received a referral for child care in **2023**. **92** of the **311** families completed a child care referral follow-up survey. **33** of the **92** families indicated that they were able to find child care from the child care referral. When parents can't find adequate child care, they may miss work, lose employment, or choose to leave the workforce entirely. To assist child care providers with the child care staff shortage in Iredell County, the Iredell County Partnership for Young Children operates an online job board to serve as a public service to allow local legally operating child care programs to post current job vacancies. **28** of the **85** child care programs in Iredell County have job vacancies posted on the online ICPYC job board.



Reference: NCDHHS Division of Child Development and Early Education (2024) Iredell County Child Care Facility Search

Percent of children in regulated child care enrolled in 4 & 5 star programs



North Carolina Partnership for Children: Community Early Childhood Profile—Iredell County (2021-2022)

The Iredell County Partnership for Young Children (ICPYC) is a 501 (c) (3), public/private organization dedicated to measurably increasing learning and healthy development of children birth to age five in Iredell County. ICPYC provides services focused on raising the quality of early care and education, supporting families, advancing child health, and expanding literacy. ICPYC is the Smart Start affiliate for Iredell County. Our agency serves children birth to age 5 and their families and the early childhood workforce in Iredell County.



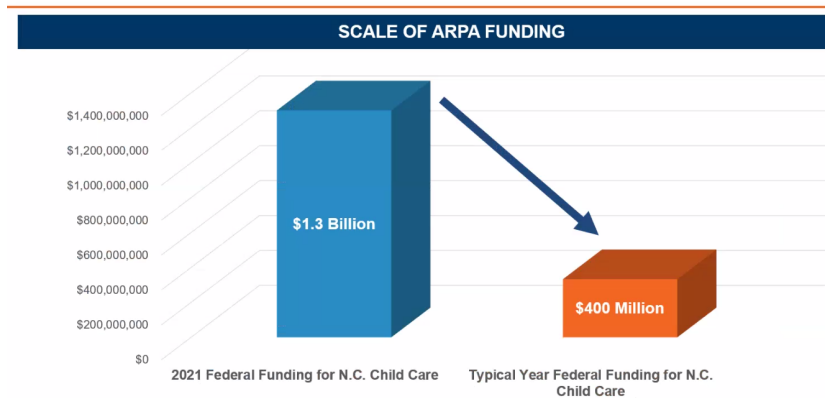
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Child Care Worker Compensation & Wages

Child care workers are the workforce behind the workforce, but they are significantly underpaid, earning an average of \$12 an hour. Working parents need child care and the turnover among child care staff will continue to reduce families' ability to return to the workforce and find high quality learning opportunities for their children.

2024 North Carolina Child Care Pandemic Relief Funding Cliff



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education

The North Carolina Child Care Stabilization Grants, a one-time federal \$805 million investment in early care and education programs, has helped increase compensation for many child care workers without increasing cost for parents who already struggle to afford child care. Low wages and lack of benefits have pushed many child care workers to leave the child care field for higher-paying jobs in fast food, retail, and other businesses that are able to pay \$15 or more an hour. When federal grant funding ends in June 2024, we will see more turnover in the child care workforce, which will further reduce families' ability to return to the workforce.

According to Henkel (2024) the median annual salary for child care worker's in North Carolina is \$21,450, one-third of child care workers are receiving some form of public assistance despite working full-time, and more than half receive no employee-sponsored health insurance. Without an investment in the child care workforce, once stabilization grants end, child

Child Care Wages Lag Behind



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education

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care programs will not be able to afford to pay child care staff to stay. The child care workforce is facing a disastrous funding cliff, steering towards higher child care staff turnover rates, child care program closures, and more working parents unable to find child care. The Iredell County Partnership for Young Children will continue to advocate to increase compensation and wages for child care workers and provide support and resources to child care programs and child care workers in Iredell County to ensure that the young children in our community receive high quality care and education.