Licensed Child Care Supply

In California more than 10,800 center-based programs and 27,500 family child care homes are licensed to serve over 1 million children ages birth to 12 years. However, this supply only meets the need of 1 in 4 children with working parents.¹

Type of Licensed Care

A majority of center-based programs are licensed to serve children 2-5 years. Family child care homes represent a third of supply and are more likely to care for infants and toddlers².

Changes in Supply

Between 2014 and 2017, counties have experienced a decrease in the supply of licensed child care. If current trends continue, access for working families will be at risk.

Schedules of Care Available

The cost of infant care in California is higher than the cost of tuition at a four-year public university. Average annual cost for an infant in a center is $16,452 and in a family child care home is $10,609,² while public college tuition is $9,680.⁵


¹ California Child Care Resource & Referral Network estimate based on the total number of licensed slots and the estimated number of children with parents in the labor force.
² Breakdown of age is not available for homes because they are licensed to serve all ages.