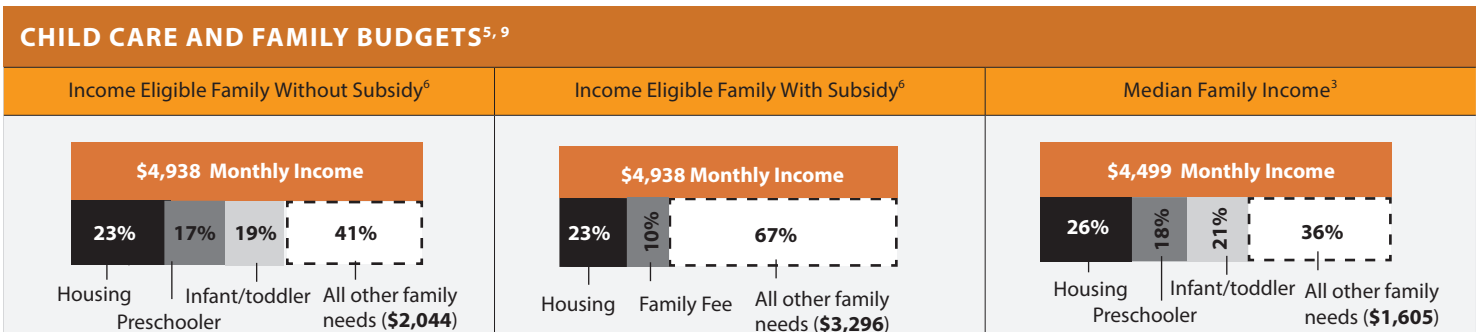


The 2021 California Child Care Portfolio, the 13th edition of a biennial report, presents a unique portrait of child care supply, demand, and cost statewide and county by county, as well as data regarding employment, poverty, and family budgets. The child care data in this report was gathered with the assistance of local child care resource and referral programs (R&Rs). R&Rs work daily to help parents find child care that best suits their family and economic needs. They also work to build and support the delivery of high-quality child care services in diverse settings throughout the state. To access the full report summary and county pages, go to our website at [www.rnetwork.org](http://www.rnetwork.org).

PEOPLE <sup>1</sup>	COUNTY			STATE		
	2018	2021	CHANGE	2018	2021	CHANGE
Total number of residents	280,772	285,801	2%	39,864,538	39,142,991	-2%
Number of children 0-12	57,080	55,348	-3%	6,578,476	6,288,604	-4%
Under 2 years	8,290	8,161	-2%	941,215	876,608	-7%
2 years	4,115	4,047	-2%	489,567	443,635	-9%
3 years	4,171	3,985	-4%	503,509	457,604	-9%
4 years	4,285	4,310	1%	503,657	481,746	-4%
5 years	4,302	4,130	-4%	506,494	489,879	-3%
6-10 years	22,357	21,806	-2%	2,576,958	2,525,335	-2%
11-12 years	9,560	8,909	-7%	1,057,076	1,013,797	-4%

CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY <sup>2</sup>	COUNTY			STATE		
	2019	2021	CHANGE	2019	2021	CHANGE
Children age 0-12 with parents in the labor force for whom a licensed child care space is available	18%	17%	-1%	25%	25%	0%

POVERTY <sup>3</sup>	COUNTY			STATE			FAMILIES IN POVERTY IN 2021 <sup>3</sup>	
	2018	2021	CHANGE	2018	2021	CHANGE	COUNTY	STATE
Number of people living in poverty	59,283	65,716	11%	4,969,326	4,733,036	-5%	<b>28%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Children 0-5 living in poverty	9,000	7,812	-13%	499,726	406,369	-19%		
Children in subsidized care <sup>4</sup>	4,015	4,373	9%	337,264	372,938	11%		



### AGE/TYPE

CHILD CARE	LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS			LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES			CHILD CARE REQUESTS <sup>8</sup>	
	2019	2021	CHANGE	2019	2021	CHANGE		
Total number of spaces	3,979	3,868	-3%	2,014	1,942	-4%	Under 2 years	29%
Under 2 years	238	235	-1%				2-5 years	40%
2-5 years	3,447	3,196	-7%				6 years and older	31%
6 years and older	294	437	49%					
Total number of sites	80	75	-6%	194	177	-9%		

**72%**

Child care programs participating in the Child Care Food Program

**88%**

Child care centers with one or more federal/state/local contracts

### SCHEDULE AND COST

CHILD CARE SUPPLY	LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS	LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES	CHILD CARE REQUESTS	
			AGES	FULL-TIME
Full-time and part-time spaces	43%	63%	Under 2 years	84%
Only full-time spaces	28%	37%	2 years	96%
Only part-time spaces	29%	0%	3 years	92%
Sites offering evening, weekend or overnight care	0%	53%	4 years	81%
Monthly full-time infant care <sup>9</sup>	\$1,234	\$926	5 years	91%
Monthly full-time preschool care <sup>9</sup>	\$818	\$777	<b>REQUESTS FOR CARE DURING NONTRADITIONAL HOURS</b>	
<b>MAJOR REASONS FAMILIES SEEK CHILD CARE<sup>10</sup></b>				
<b>71%</b> Employment	<b>18%</b> Parent seeking employment	<b>11%</b> Parent in school or training	Evening / weekend / overnight care	4%

### LANGUAGE

CENTERS WITH AT LEAST ONE STAFF SPEAKING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGES <sup>10</sup>	LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME	
English 100%, Spanish 85%, Hmong 14%, Portuguese 1%	English only	47%
<b>FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS SPEAKING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGES<sup>10</sup></b>	Spanish	45%
English 85%, Spanish 68%, Tagalog 1%	Asian/Pacific Island language	5%
	Another language	0%

1. CA Department of Finance Population Projections 2021  
 2. American Community Survey Microdata and R&R databases 2021, calculated by KidsData  
 3. American Community Survey 2021 1-year estimates. Poverty is defined using the federal poverty guidelines.  
 4. CA Dept of Social Services CDD 801-A, CW115 July 2021; CA Dept of Education CSPP Enrollment  
 5. U.S. Housing and Urban Development rent for 2-bedroom 50th percentile  
 6. 85% of 2021 State Median Income for a family of three  
 7. Resource and referral (R&R) databases 2021  
 8. R&R child care referrals April/May/June 2021  
 9. 2021 Regional Market Rate Survey, Network estimate  
 10. Percentages may exceed 100% when multiple options are chosen

**For more information about child care in MERCED COUNTY:**

**Resource and Referral Program**  
**209-381-6793**  
**[www.mcoe.org](http://www.mcoe.org)**