

COMMUNITY CHILD CARE SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Completed by the Community Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara
Niagara County's Child Care Resource and Referral Program

Service Area/ County: Niagara 2018

The purpose of the Child Care Community Needs Assessment is to create a snapshot of child care demand/supply in the service area/county. Part of this assessment was achieved through utilization surveys of registered or licensed providers/programs rates and referral follow-up data.

The needs assessment will be used to identify the types of child care that is needed and/or the locations within the service area that are in most need of care. In addition, this assessment will be useful for the setting of target numbers for subsequent CCR&R contracts.

Outline of Assessment

- Part I** What is the supply of regulated child care? What is the estimated utilization of this regulated care? What are the other forms of care that are available?
- Part II** Based on Population statistics, what is the potential demand of child care?
- Part III** What does client follow-up information reveal?
- Part IV** Conclusion

PART I - SUPPLY OF CHILD CARE

Regulated Child Care

The following captures the number of regulated child care programs/providers and slots for each age group (as reported in the Child Care Facilities System) and the approximate utilization rate. This rate was achieved by a random survey of programs and providers as the number of slots filled for each age group.

Survey Area: Niagara County

Date: 07/10/2018

A) Center Based Programs (operating full time/full day)

Number of Licensed Centers running full time/full day: 23	Number of Potential Slots (as reported in CCFS)	% of Potential Slots Available by age group	Utilization Rate (as determined by random sample*)
Infant Slots (6 wks.-18mos)	321	15%	98%
Toddler Slots (18mos.-3yrs.)	492	23%	90%
Preschool Slots (3yrs.-5yrs)	926	44%	93%
School Age Slots (5yrs.-12yrs.)	395	19%	68%
TOTAL SLOTS	2134	100%	

*Number of Licensed Day Care Providers surveyed: 15

B) Family Child Care

Age Categories for Family Child Care may need to be lumped into total slots if information is not available through CCFS or CCR&R provider records.

Number of Registered Family Child Care Homes: 44	Number of Potential Slots (as reported in CCFS)	Utilization Rate (as determined by random sample*)
Age 0-5 Total Slots	222	90%
School-Age Total Slots	74	90%

*Number of Registered Family Child Care Providers surveyed: 26

C) Group Family Child Care

Age Categories for Family Child Care may need to be lumped into total slots in information is not available through CCFS or CCR&R provider records.

Number of Licensed Group Family Child Care Homes: 27	Number of Potential Slots (as reported in CCFS)	Utilization Rate (as determined by random sample*)
Age 0-5 Total Slots	262	87%
School-Age Total Slots	78	90%

*Number of Licensed Group Family Child Care Providers surveyed: 18

D) School- Age Child Care

Number of Registered School Age Programs: 29 (excludes holiday care only programs)	Number of potential slots (as reported in CCFS)	Utilization Rate (as determined by random sample*)
TOTAL SLOTS	1519	96%

*Number of Registered School Age Programs surveyed: 28

E) Other types of care available for preschool children.

Type of Program	# of Programs	Number of Slots	Number of Slots Offering Before and after school arrangements
Head Start Pre-K	5	258	0
Early Head Start	3	33	0
NYSED UPK (community based)	11	434	129
NYSED UPK (District run)	15	280	0
Special Ed	2	149	149

F) Other types of non-regulated care available.

Type of Program	# of Programs	TOTAL SLOTS
Nursery	4	60
Drop-In Programs (School-age)	4	unknown
Legally Exempt Family Child Care ("legal 2")	141	unknown

PART II – POTENTIAL DEMAND OF CHILD CARE

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHILDREN IN Niagara County

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2016-2017 and NYSED Data 2017 and Niagara County birth rates

Age of Children	Number of Children
Under 2	4320
2 to 5	6480
Children enrolled in NYSED UPK	1015
Children enrolled in kindergarten (full day)	2022
Children enrolled in elementary school (1 to grade 6)	12,376
Children enrolled in grades 7 and 8	4347

METHODOLOGY FOR CALCULATING THE POTENTIAL DEMAND FOR CHILD CARE

One methodology for calculating the potential number of children who are likely to need childcare is based upon the number of parents who are in the labor force. Per U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for 2016, **57% of children under 2 years old, 68% of children under 6 and 73% of children over 6 years old have both parents in the labor force.**

Simple multiplication can produce a potential demand for each age group (see formulas below).

Total # of children age 0-2 x 57% = potential demand for infant/toddler care.

Total # of children age 2-5 x 68% = potential demand for full time care.

AND

Total # of children age 6-12 x 73% = potential demand for before and after-school, holiday and vacation care.

Total # of children enrolled in school run UPK x 68% = 690 potential demand for before and after school, holiday and vacation care for UPK children.

PART III - RESULTS OF FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION

Follow- up information

By child	Subsidy Eligible 120%	Non-subsidy Eligible	Total Children
Referred	446	117	563

Follow-up information obtained from 200 families

As reported in follow-up, the total number of families who did not find care: 94 (47%)

Report the reasons why care was not located:

Cost of childcare too high: 5

No openings: 22

Location of care: 2

No transportation: 2

Dissatisfied with the quality:

Type of care desired was not available:

Scheduling difficulty, hours needed not provided: 4

Spoken language of provider not same as parent

Have not completed search for care: 66

Made different choices to accommodate family needs:

Other: 16

Referrals per child requesting evening care: 159 (28%)

Referrals per child requesting weekend care: 172 (31%)

Referrals per child requesting overnight care: 19 (3%)

Referrals per child with special needs: 90 (16%)

Referrals per child requesting transportation service: 142 (25%)

CONCLUSION:

Data indicates that the utilization rate for all modalities of child care is at 90% except for Day Care Center's school-age child care slots, which is at 68%. Although the number of school-age slots potentially available in center-based programs has risen by 35 slots in the last year, these slots may not be utilized due to the cost and limitation of transportation to and from schools. Only the Niagara Falls school district provides transportation to any registered or licensed facility within the district. The remaining districts in the county limit transportation within school-zones. In addition, the cost of center-based care for school-age children can be up to 50% higher than in home-based and school-age child care programs.

Data indicates that 73% of children enrolled in grades K-6th (5-12 years old) have both parents in the workforce, pushing the demand for before and/or after school, vacation and holiday care up to 10,000 children. There are presently 3 programs that provide vacation and holiday care servicing only three communities (Lockport, North Tonawanda and Wheatfield) and providing 120 slots. Family day care and group family day care programs have a potential for accommodating up to another 150 children. Day care center programs have 395 slots, bringing the total to 665 slots which is less than 10% of the potential demand. The number of school-age children who may require child care indicates a great need for low cost school-age child care programs that are easily accessible and offer care during times when school is not in session.

There are less than 500 potential slots available for children under 18 months old which is less than 25% of the potential demand. Group family day care and family day care programs can accommodate additional children under 2 years of age if there are additional approved caregivers present at the program. It is difficult for these providers to secure these additional caregivers without passing the cost on to the parents. The cost of infant and early toddler care often discourages full time employment for at least one of the parents. Of the families seeking referrals 80% are single parents and 30% of those parents were seeking care for children under 2 years of age.

Referral statistics indicate that 30% of parents requested evening care and 31% requested weekend care. Presently less than 30% of home-based programs offer evening care and 22% offer weekend care. In addition, there are no providers in North Tonawanda or rural areas of the county that offer evening or weekend care. There are no center-based or school-age child care programs that offer care beyond 6:00 P.M. or on weekends. Per the National Women's Law Center 1:4 mothers living in low-income households work in positions that require flexible schedules, including non-traditional hours and on weekends. The Office of Children and Family Services require regional office approval for providers to offer more than one shift of care, making it difficult for providers to accommodate these parents on an as needed basis. There are presently 166 slots available in Niagara Falls with 42 of those slots available for children under 2 years of age and 16 slots in Lockport with 4 of those slots available for children under 2 years of age that accommodate evening shifts. There are 112 slots available in Niagara Falls with 30 of those slots available for children under 2 years of age and 8 slots in Lockport with 2 of those slots available for children under 2 years of age that accommodate weekend shifts. There is a need in all parts of Niagara County for non-traditional care and 70% of referrals requested are from parents living in low-income households.

Referral statistics also indicate that there is a shortage of child care programs that offer transportation. More than 25% of parents seeking care requested transportation to and from the child care location. Presently less than 10% of child care providers offer this service. Licensed and registered programs must meet certain requirements to offer transportation services and insurance rates providing transportation increases the cost of child care. Head Start programs and community based Universal

Pre-K programs do not offer transportation, leaving low income parents/guardians to find a way to get their children to these valuable programs.

In addition, some Head Start and community-based Universal Pre-K programs do not offer full day child care. There are 129 Universal Pre-K slots that offer care before and/or after program hour's child care services. Based on the Niagara County birth rate data there are approximately 4,000 pre-school aged children living in Nagara County. Success in school has been linked to structured pre-school programs such as Universal Pre-K and Head Start, therefore there is a need for these programs to consider providing care before and/or after program hour's child care. Community based Universal Pre-K and Head Start are licensed day care center programs and are free to offer extended hours. Day care centers without community-based Universal Pre-K programs should be encouraged to incorporate Universal Pre-K into their 926 pre-school slots, thereby increasing the availability of options.

In 2017-2018, 12% of child care referrals provided to parents by the Community Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara included requests for specialized care for children and 5% of parents reported that their child was expelled from care due to the program's inability to meet the child's behavioral needs. Home-based providers reportedly do not have the appropriate training, skills and resources to care for these children. Parents report that they are unable to secure permanent placement for their children with special needs, making it difficult to work full time. By offering and encouraging child care providers to attend specialized training in developmentally appropriate health, social and emotional needs of children, the Community Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara will encourage more providers to enroll and continue to care for children with special needs.

In conclusion, Niagara County needs to sustain school-age child care providers and encourage present and new providers to offer non-traditional hours and transportation. In addition, there remains a need for full-time care for pre-school children enrolled in Universal Pre-K and Head Start programs as well as an increase in Universal Per-K programs offered through licensed day care centers. The Community Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara offers technical assistance and training to support child care providers in maintaining their child care programs and assists new child care programs to become licensed and registered. Through communication and advocacy with stakeholders and policy makers, the Child Care Resource & Referral program can encourage additional funding for infant and toddler care. The Child Care Resource & Referral program through collaboration with agencies who train and support providers who care for children with special needs will work to ensure that more programs have the resources necessary to offer and continue to care for special needs children.