



# Child Care in Clallam County

September 2006

## Child Care Resource & Referral Across Washington State

Since established by state statute in 1989, the Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network (Network) has been a key component of the child care infrastructure. The Network's mission is: to support families and caregivers, shape policy, and build communities that promote the learning and development of children and youth throughout Washington State through a strong statewide network of local child care resource and referral programs. The Parent Line is one of 18 local programs.

During 2005, the Network's 18 member agencies:

- Handled 95,445 calls;
- Processed 33,998 public referral calls;
- Served 24,011 families and 34,736 children; and
- Assisted 13,342 low-income families find child care.

## Child Care Resource & Referral Supports Communities by:

- Helping parents find child care and financing options;
- Improving the quality of child care, early learning and after school programs;
- Advocating for children, parents, and child care providers;
- Increasing the availability of child care;
- Bridging child care and K-12 education; and
- Supporting families to raise healthy children.

## Child Care Resource & Referral In Clallam County

The Parent Line of Lutheran Community Services Northwest hosts the child care resource and referral (R&R) program serving Clallam County. In 2005, staff responded to over 2,900 calls from parents, providers and community members seeking information and assistance navigating the child care system. R&R staff and consultants are also out in the field: conducting training, collaborating with community partners, and reaching out to families across income levels, geographic barriers, and ethnic identities to provide them with vital child care consumer education.



### Notable highlights of this report:

- The overall number of licensed facilities continued to decline in 2005, with a net loss of three family child care businesses.
- Infant care continues to be the most difficult care to find and the most expensive, with a median cost of \$7,000 per year.
- For a family with an infant and a preschooler in full-time care, the cost of child care represents a third of the county's median household income for 2005.
- Families count on the Parent Line for help finding child care: 100% of those surveyed would share their phone number with a friend or family member looking for care.

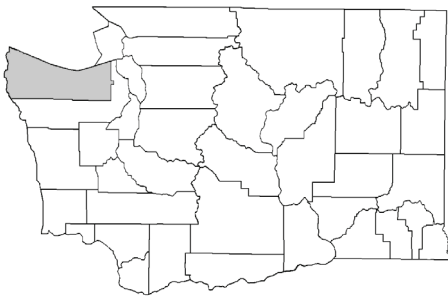
### Local Resource & Referral Contact Information:

**The Parent Line /  
Lutheran Community Services Northwest  
301 Lopez St.  
Port Angeles, WA 98362  
(360) 452-5437  
<http://lcsnw.org/parentline/>**

*Lutheran Community Services Northwest partners with individuals, families and communities for health, justice and hope.*

*A Member in Good Standing of the:*





**People**

Population	<b>66,800</b>
Change since 2001	<b>2,346</b>
Children under 5 years	<b>3,284</b>
% of Children under 5 living in poverty	<b>25%</b>
Children under 13 years	<b>9,286</b>
% of Children under 13 living in poverty	<b>18%</b>
Ranking among WA Counties in rate of child poverty	<b>20</b>
K-12 enrollment	<b>10,364</b>
Children in Care Zone <sup>1</sup>	<b>5,935</b>
Average number children on child care subsidy	<b>695/month</b>
Head Start/ECEAP Slots	<b>140</b>

**Economics**

Living Wage <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$38,700</b>
Median Household Income	<b>\$42,367/yr</b>
Unemployment Rate	<b>5.8%</b>

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> The Care Zone is defined as the number of children who live in a single-parent or two-parent home where the parent or both parents are working.

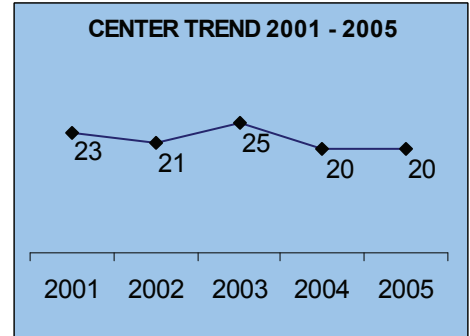
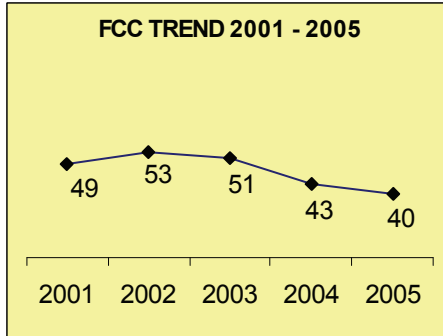
<sup>2</sup> The living wage measure is based on a family of four and represents twice the federal poverty level income. Twice the federal poverty level is the income cut off for families receiving child care subsidies.

**Data Sources for the Report:**

American Federation of Teachers, Children's Defense Fund, Department of Social and Health Services, Head Start State Collaboration Office, Office of Financial Management, Federal Registry, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, U.S. Census Bureau and the Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network.

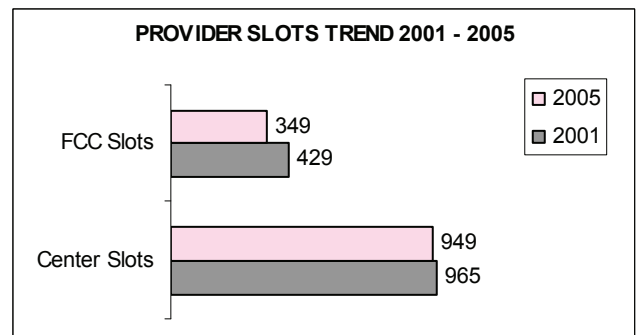
**Licensed Child Care in Our Community**  
**How many providers are there in my area by type?**

Family child care (FCC) businesses account for 67% of the 60 licensed facilities in Clallam County. In the past 5 years, the overall number of licensed facilities has declined by a net 12, or 17%.



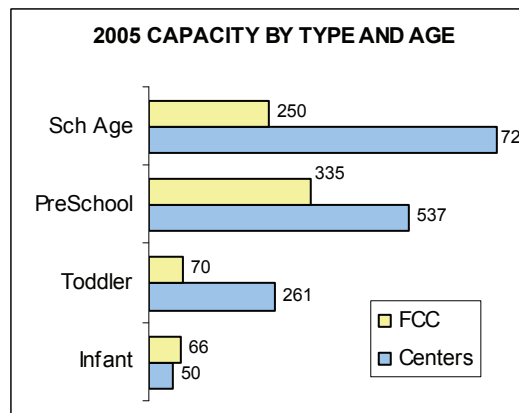
Since 2001, there has been an 18% decline in the number of family child care businesses, with a net loss of 9 facilities. In 2005, there were 3 fewer centers than in 2001.

**How has the number of child care slots changed over the last five years?**



Over the past five years, the county has experienced a net loss of 9 family child care businesses, or 80 potential slots. The overall number of center facilities has declined as well, leading to a net loss of 16 potential center slots. Overall, the county has experienced a net loss of 96 potential slots.

**What is the distribution of slots by type of care and by age?**



Because of a higher required ratio of adults to children under 2 years old in licensed care, there are fewer slots for infants and toddlers than for other age groups. In centers, the ratio is highest (1 adult to 4 infants) and the potential number of infants are the lowest, making family child care a critical option for working parents of our youngest children.

*Note: The number of slots for all children is overstated in this comparison. It shows each age group filled as if there were no other children in the other age group. If a slot is filled for one age group it cancels out the potential slot for the other age group. This chart does not represent actual enrollment of children in care.*

## What languages are spoken?

All providers speak English, but 23% indicate they also speak American Sign Language. The largest additional language group speaks Spanish.

Languages Spoken by Providers	
English	100%
Sign Language	23%
Spanish	5%

## How much non-standard care is available in my community?

Most providers offer full- and part-time care during weekdays only. A few regularly offer care past 6:30 PM, overnight, or on the weekend. For providers reporting regular nonstandard hour care, most offer weekends (13%) and evenings (12%); and fewest offer overnight (7%).

## Economics of Child Care Providers

### What do child care providers earn compared to kindergarten teachers?

2004 Average Salary Comparisons: Kindergarten Teachers and Child Care Providers			
Public School Kindergarten Teacher	Director Child Care Center	Teacher Child Care Center	Family Child Care Provider Business Gross Income
\$40,330/yr \$3,361/mo	\$26,436/yr \$2,203/mo	\$18,845/yr \$1,570/mo	\$28,889/yr \$2,407/mo

Washington's kindergarten teachers earn 53% more than center directors, 52% more than child care teachers, and 40% more than family child care providers' gross earnings in the region. The substantial wage differential can be attributed to higher educational requirements for kindergarten teachers and relatively low turnover in public schools. The lack of competitive wages makes it difficult to recruit and retain educated child care workers and can have a negative impact on the quality of care.

### How does the child care subsidy reimbursement rate affect provider profitability?

Current state child care subsidy reimbursement rates are one constraint on wages, quality, and financial solvency for providers.

2004 Ranges: Monthly Full-Time Subsidy Reimbursement Rates			
	Infant	Toddler	Preschool
Centers	\$600	\$515	\$450
Family Child Care Homes	\$484	\$440	\$440

To support the average salary of a teacher, aide and part of the cost of the director for an infant classroom in a center, a program would need to enroll at least 6 subsidized full-time infants. Income generated from the other 2 infants would have to cover all other classroom costs including benefits, training, rent and supplies.

In a typical family child care home, one provider might have two infants and four preschoolers. A provider's gross earnings if all the children are on subsidy would be **\$2,728 per month**. Out of these earnings, the provider must pay all expenses, including salaries, benefits, taxes, meals, training, equipment and supplies.

## Professional Development for the Child Care Workforce

### Training and Scholarships

The Parent Line provides state-mandated training for providers. **In 2005, the R&R offered 33 trainings averaging 8 students each.**

**Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals (formerly T.E.A.C.H.)** is a scholarship program that provides financial support for center and school-age staff and family child care providers to enroll in community and technical college degree programs. In Clallam County, **one** scholarship was awarded in 2005.

### National Standards for Quality

Training, education, experience and applied knowledge are important to child care quality. Accreditation recognizes facilities who have achieved national quality standards:

**Center-based Accredited Programs 0**  
*National Association for the Education of Young Children*

**School-Age Accredited Programs 0**  
*National After School Association*

**Accredited Family Child Care Homes 0**  
*National Association for Family Child Care*

**Accredited Montessori Programs 0**  
*American Montessori Society*

### Professional Associations

**Association for the Education of Young Children Chapter:** Olympic Peninsula

**Family Child Care Association Chapter(s):** None

### Feedback from Providers What percentage of providers...

Read the R&R newsletter	100%
Indicate that referrals help sustain their child care business	78%
Are satisfied with service received from R&R	91%

## About the Families

Callers to the referral line are regularly surveyed by R&R in order to better understand what they want and need for children in their care. Often families have difficulty locating child care that meets their basic needs: an accessible location, available the hours needed, affordable, and safe – not to mention a quality program.

### How do parents find their child care arrangements?

- 57% through The Parent Line
- 43% through friends or family

### What are the top three challenges that parents have in finding child care?

- 1) Openings
- 2) Affordability
- 3) Quality of care



100% of families surveyed would share **The Parent Line's** local contact information with a friend or family member.

## Affordability for Families

### How much does child care cost in my community?

Countywide, the annual median household income in 2005 was **\$42,367**. The tables below indicate the annual median price of full-time care for one child by age group and type of care. The median price indicates that half the providers in the area charge more and half charge less than the prices quoted here.

Centers	2005 Median Annual Cost for 1 Child	% of 2005 Med. Household Inc.
Infant	\$7,020	17%
Toddler	\$7,020	17%
Preschool	\$7,410	17%
School Age	\$3,380	8%

Family Child Care	2005 Median Annual Cost for 1 Child	% of 2005 Med. Household Inc.
Infant	\$7,020	17%
Toddler	\$7,020	17%
Preschool	\$6,890	16%
School Age	\$3,120	7%

Child care continues to represent a substantial cost for families, with very little differential between family child care and centers. The cost of full-time care for an infant represents about 17% of the median income. Care for an infant and a preschool child would represent 33% to 34% of median income in the county.

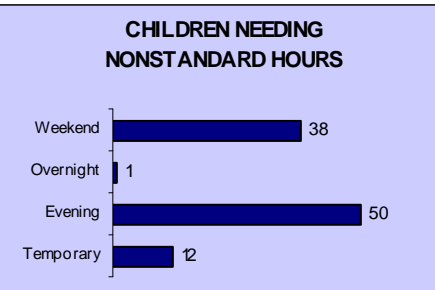
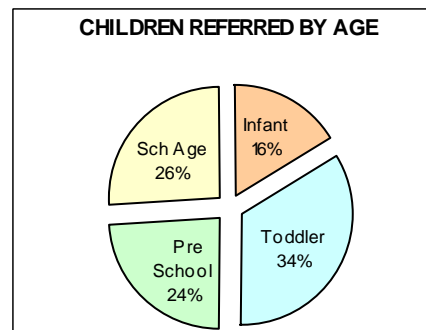
## FAMILIES USING R&R SERVICES

### Who are families that call the R&R Line?

In 2005, 355 families received referrals. Over half (59%) of the families served are low income. About half (47%) of the families are headed by single parents.

### What ages of children are referred?

There is a relatively even distribution of children served across age groups. However, though the largest population of children *eligible* for licensed care are school age (5-12 years old), about three-fourths (74%) of the children *referred* are birth through four years old.



### How many children need non-standard care?

Parents of 101 children requested referrals to licensed facilities offering non-standard hour care. Half of the requests were for evening care (extending past 6:30 PM).