

# *Child Care*

---

In the past decade, the landscape of child care in Westchester County has changed significantly. Costs have risen sharply; the average market price for enrolling one child in preschool can exceed tuition rates at public colleges in New York State. Child care choices have increased as well. Westchester now has many full- and part-day early care and education options for parents in community-based organizations, schools and homes. Parents also appear to have grown increasingly sophisticated in their assessment of and demand for quality in child care programs, and more cautious about leaving their children with persons they do not know.

## **Child Care Council of Westchester**

The Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc. is one of the largest child care resource and referral agencies in the state of New York. The mission of the Council is to champion the healthy development of children, families and communities by promoting quality early care and education. The Council accomplishes this mission by linking parents and businesses to child care; implementing quality improvement strategies for child care; and advocating for policies and resources that strengthen child care. The Council plays a unique role within the County, delivering a variety of unique services, including: child care referrals and financial assistance, including scholarships for parents; enrollment of families in health care; training and technical assistance for child care businesses to improve quality and marketability; workplace seminars and guidance to employers on dependent care issues; and child advocacy at the local, state and national levels.

## **Cost of Child Care**

Child care, along with housing, food and taxes, is a major family expense. A two parent household with a median family income of \$52,645 could spend up to 30% of their income on child care. In 2007, according to the Child Care Council of Westchester's referral database, the average weekly cost of child care in a licensed center was \$300 for infants (6 weeks to 18 months); \$280 for toddlers (19 months to 3 years); and \$250 for preschoolers (3 years to 5 years).

## **Financial Assistance**

Many families need help paying for the high cost of child care. The Child Care Council of Westchester offers a mix of publicly and privately funded scholarships for families with modest incomes who do not qualify for public subsidies, but still struggle with the cost of care. Go to [www.ChildCareWestchester.org](http://www.ChildCareWestchester.org) or call (914) 761-3456 for up to date information on the scholarship process. In addition, some child care programs offer private scholarships to enrolled families.

Many low income working families are eligible for public assistance to pay for child care. The Council provides Subsidy Support Services which include: assistance applying for child care subsidies; completing an application; obtaining the required documentation; understanding the rules and regulations of the subsidy program; and much more. Go to [www.ChildCareWestchester.org](http://www.ChildCareWestchester.org) or call (914) 761-3456 ext. 122 to learn about the Subsidy Support Services.

Information on public subsidies is also available by calling the Westchester County Department of Social Services at (914) 995-6521.

### **Professional Services**

The Council supports child care professionals working in child care centers, family or group child care homes, school age programs, summer day camps, pre-Kindergarten programs, and nursery schools. Professional development, start-up help for new programs, financial grants for infant/toddler expansion, free health and safety items, support for attaining national accreditation, fingerprinting, assistance finding program staff, conferences and technical assistance are among the many ways the Council works to promote quality child care.

### **Employer Services**

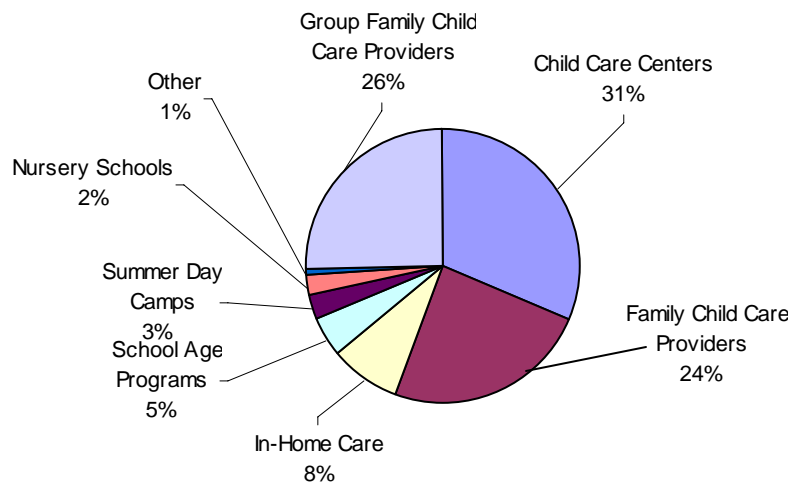
The Child Care Council of Westchester helps employers recruit and retain valued employees. The Council will custom design a low-cost dependent care referral benefit that meets the specific needs of your business.

### **Advocacy and Community Outreach**

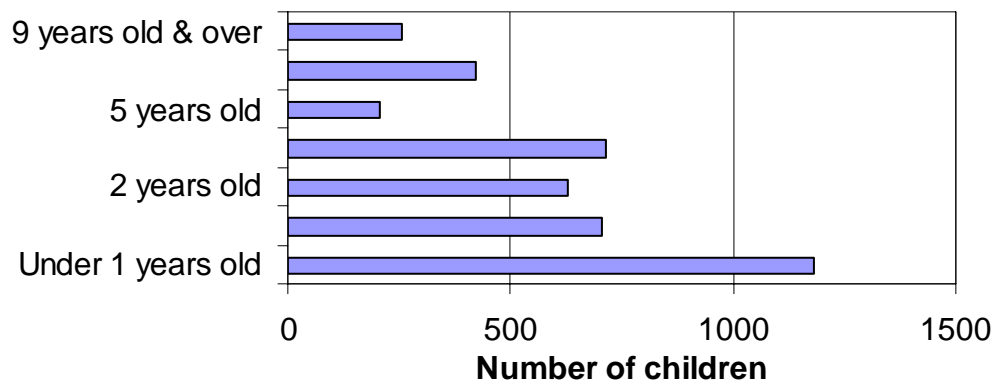
The Child Care Council of Westchester advocates on behalf of the child care needs of Westchester's children and families. Providing a coordinated voice for families and child care providers alike, the Council positively affects child care in Westchester County through: community outreach efforts to assist in the expansion and enhancement of child care resources, advocating on the Federal, State and County levels for pressing issues affecting child care, producing a wide variety of publications on topics relating to child care, and by conducting and distributing industry research.

For more detailed information about the Child Care Council of Westchester, visit their website at [www.ChildCareWestchester.org](http://www.ChildCareWestchester.org) or call (914) 761-3456.

### Type of Child Care Requested, 2007

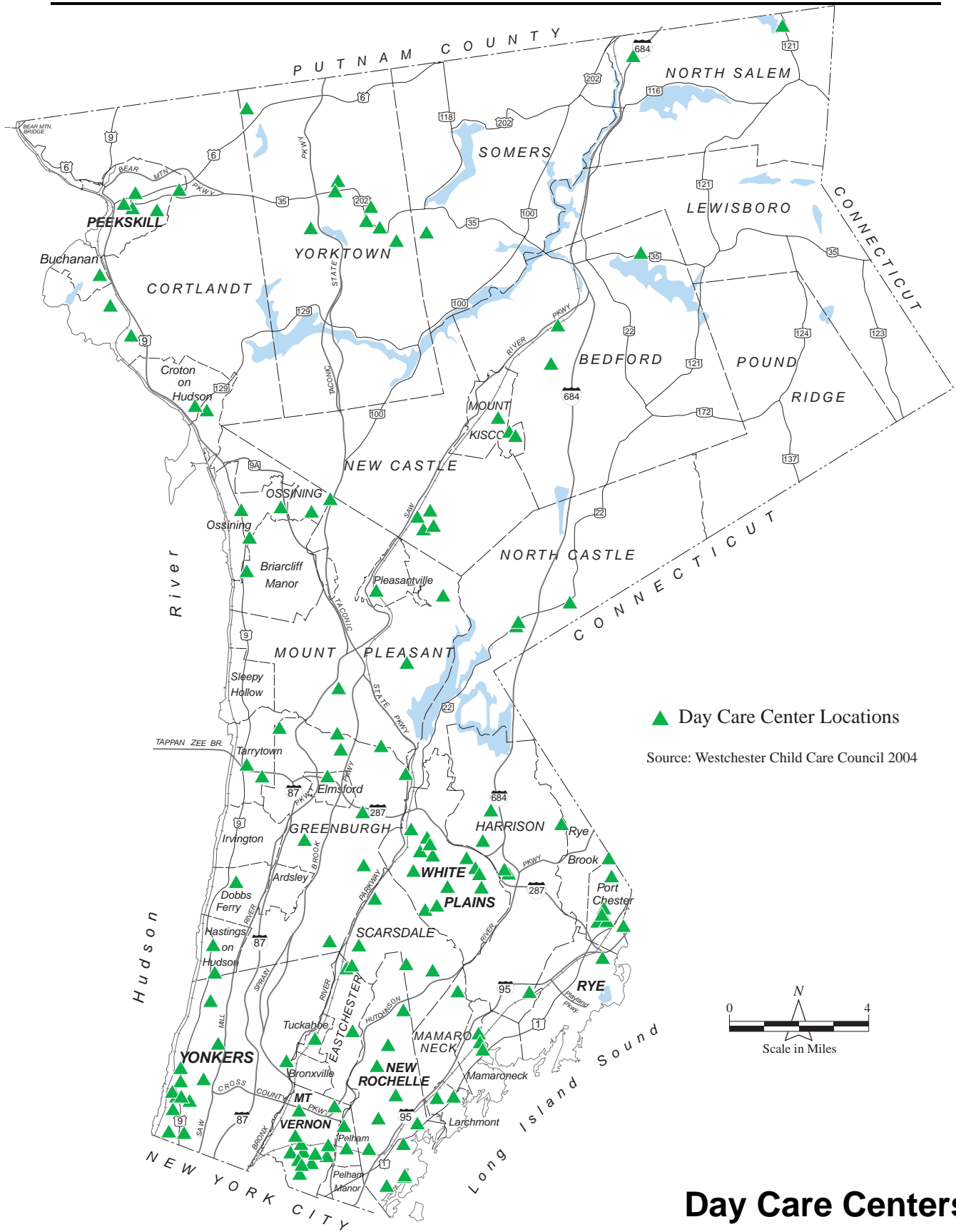


### Child Care Request by Age of Child, 2007



Source: Child Care Council of Westchester.

<b>Regulated Capacity for Child Care Programs by Municipality, 2008</b>						
<b>Westchester County, NY</b>						
	<b>Number of programs</b>	<b>Regulated Capacity Slots</b>				<b>Total</b>
		<b>Infant (6 weeks to 18 months)</b>	<b>Toddler (18 Months to 3 years old)</b>	<b>Preschool (3 &amp; 4 years old)</b>	<b>School Age (5 to 12 years old)</b>	
Bedford	15	57	101	336	180	674
Cortlandt	33	74	75	342	320	811
Eastchester	10	8	43	157	168	376
Greenburgh	46	94	230	653	1299	2276
Harrison	12	6	37	341	126	510
Lewisboro	4	2	2	6	113	123
Mamaroneck	23	34	39	398	186	657
Mount Kisco	7	43	73	220	138	474
Mount Pleasant	33	171	194	619	395	1379
Mount Vernon	100	165	214	797	903	2079
New Castle	7	4	65	226	242	537
New Rochelle	49	77	268	811	233	1389
North Castle	6	69	108	320	106	603
North Salem	2	N/A	10	24	129	163
Ossining	23	122	161	391	751	1425
Peekskill	25	58	94	309	56	517
Pelham	5	N/A	15	109	121	245
Port Chester	13	21	69	348	286	724
Pound Ridge	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	35	35
Rye	11	46	87	153	150	436
Scarsdale	15	8	111	706	96	921
Somers	9	9	9	103	237	358
White Plains	58	155	391	1299	1400	3245
Yonkers	135	191	325	1123	3194	4833
Yorktown	40	78	180	563	1296	2117
<b>Total</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>1492</b>	<b>2901</b>	<b>10354</b>	<b>12160</b>	<b>26907</b>
Source: Child Care Council of Westchester						
Note: The regulated capacity slots include all NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) regulated child care program: Child Care Centers, Family Child Care Providers, Group Family Child Care Providers, and School Age Child Care Programs. Registered Family Child Care Providers and licensed Group Family Child Care Providers are permitted under OCFS regulations to care for mixed age groups of children. Based on our experience, we used formulas in calculating the slots for those two modalities.						



# Day Care Centers

