

Early Learning and Child Care in Washington

Presented by

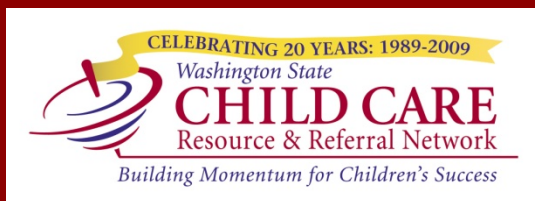
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WA State Child Care Resource & Referral Network

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Child Care Resources



What is Resource & Referral?

- **Services for all families: consumer education, child care referrals and links to community resources and subsidies**
- **Training, technical assistance, onsite consultation and access to resources for licensed providers and family, friend and neighbor (FFN) caregivers**
- **Community collaboration; systems and policy development to support child care, early learning and afterschool care**
- **Data collection and dissemination: child care supply and demand, trend analysis, rates providers charge**

Service Delivery

11 Local Programs & R&R Network

- 1 City Government
- 1 Multi-focus Non-Profit
- 1 Educational Service District
- 1 Family Support Center
- 1 R&R Stand-alone Agency
- 1 Community Action Agency
- 5 Faith-Based Organizations
- 1 Resource & Referral Network Stand-Alone Agency

Where are the children?

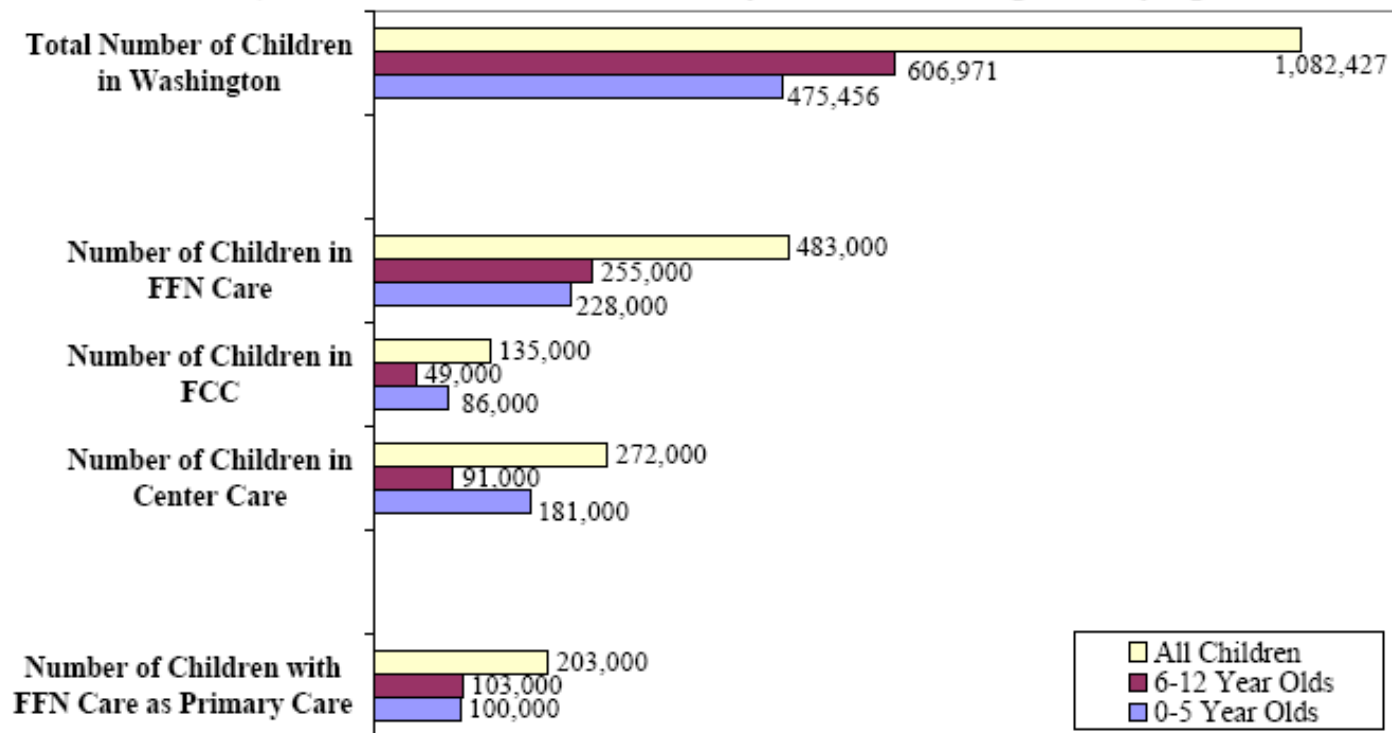
- **Parents**
- **Relatives, friends or neighbors**
- **Private preschool, coop preschool, Head Start, ECEAP**
- **Licensed care: centers and family homes for birth to 12 years old**
- **Regulated school-age, military and tribal settings**
- **Combination of the above**

What are families looking for?

- **R&R Network Parent Survey results:**
 - #1 Clean and safe
 - #2 Provider really likes children
- **DEL Parent Needs Assessment:** a clean and safe environment and the ways in which providers talk and play with children are "very important" factors
- **Thrive by Five Washington Opinion Research:** nearly 1 in 4 parents surveyed said they'd prefer a different child care situation than what they currently have if it were available and they could afford it

What do families find?

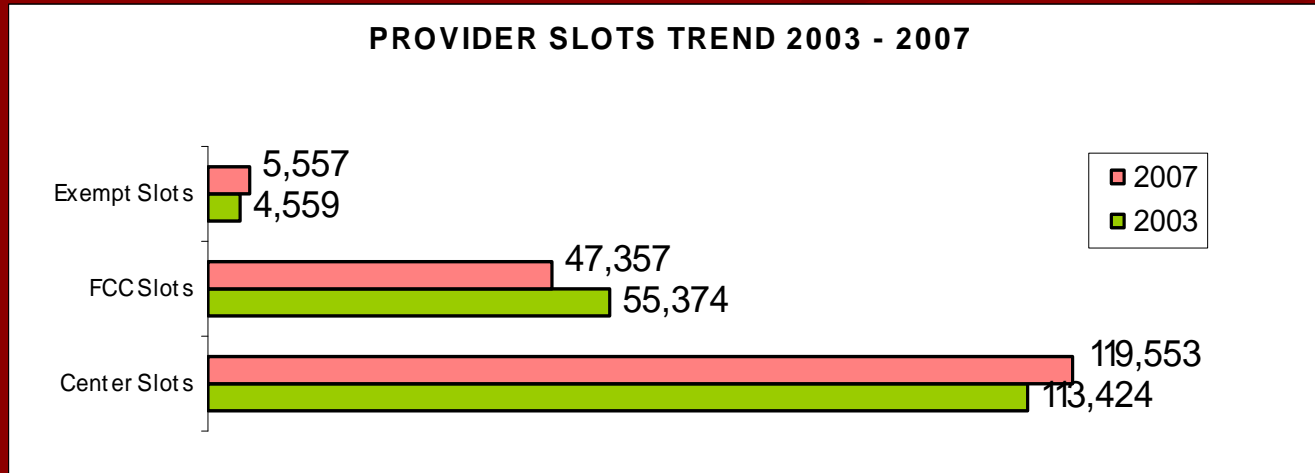
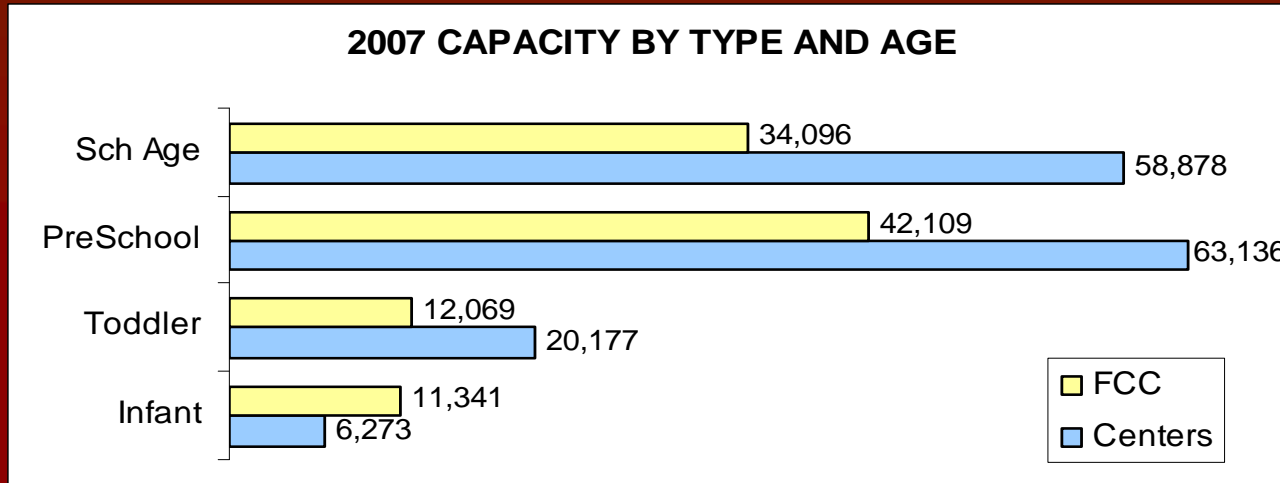
Chart 1c: Population Totals for the Number of Children in Center Care, FCC, and FFN Care and with a Primary FFN Care Arrangement by Age



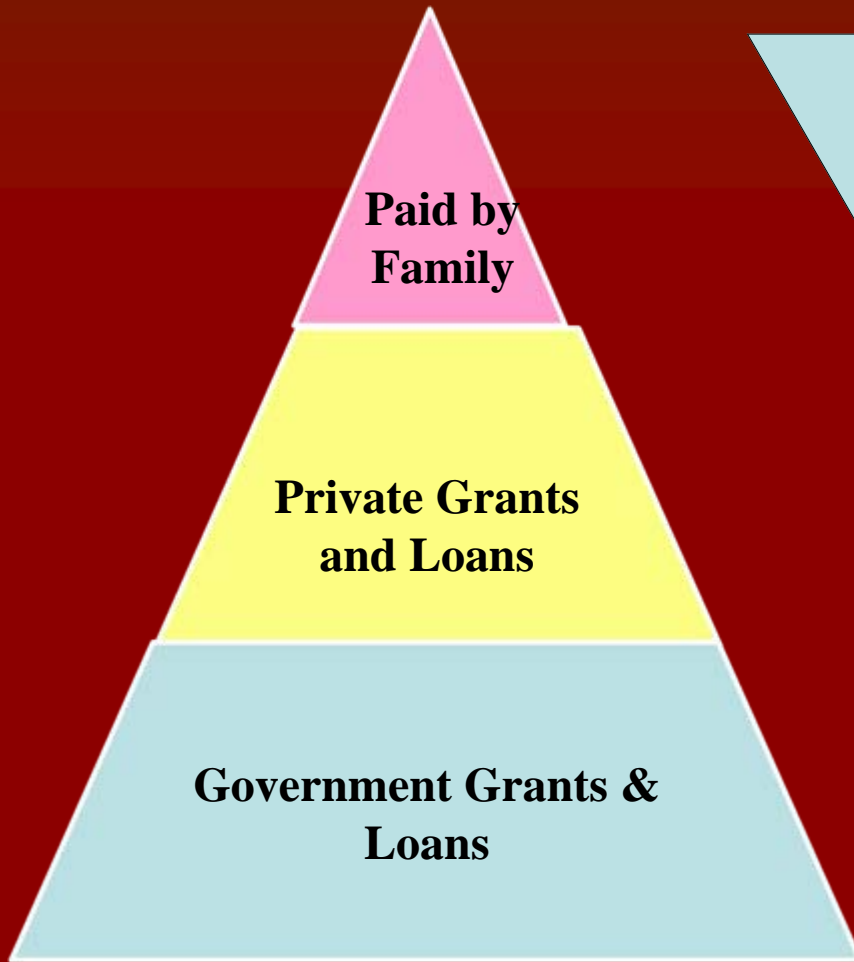
Note: Care categories are not mutually exclusive.

Brandon, R., Maher, E., Joesch-Btatelle, J., Doyle, S. (2002). *Understanding Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care in Washington State: Developing Appropriate Training and Support*. Seattle, WA: Human Services Policy Center, Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington.

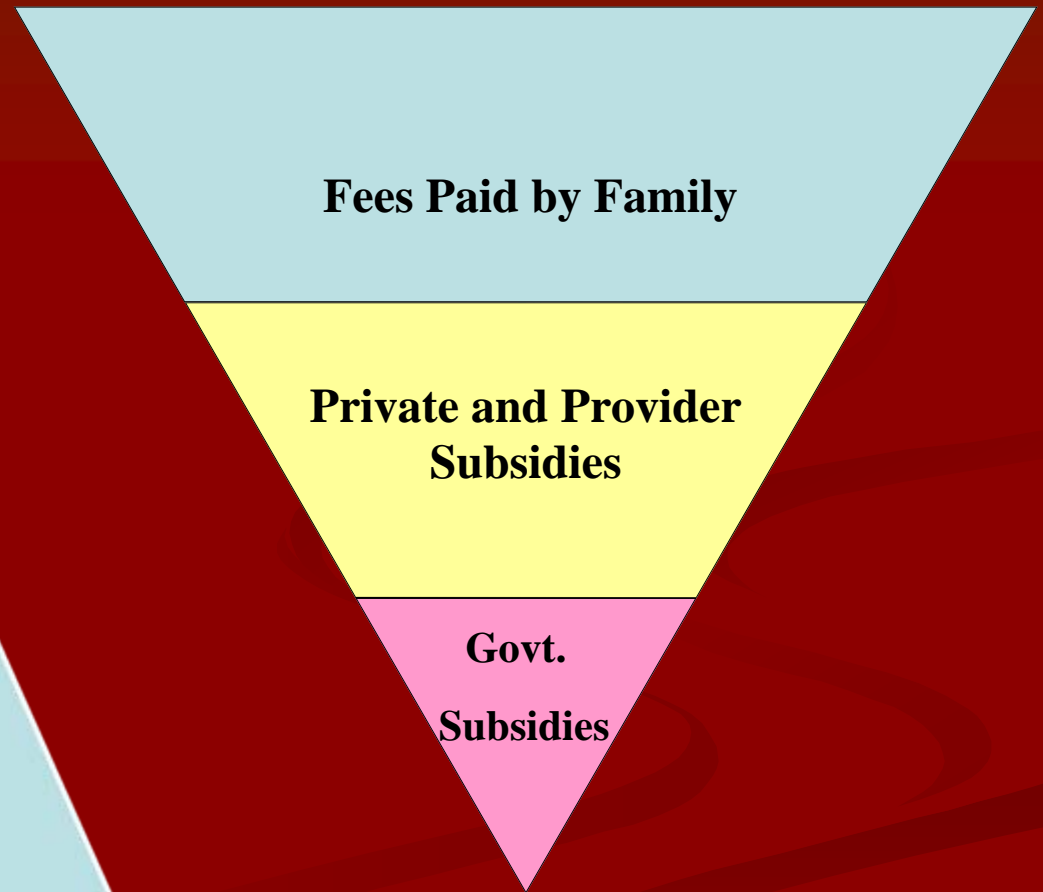
Licensed/exempt facility care trends



How is child care funded?



Higher Education Funding



Child Care Funding

What does child care cost?

- WA is third least affordable state for infant center care (NACCRRA)
- Median annual cost of licensed infant care ranges from \$7,280 - \$9,620 – nearly twice the cost of one year's tuition at a state university
- Significant amount of income spent on child care

The child care workforce

- An estimated 35,000 people care for children in licensed settings in WA State
- Family child care businesses represent an estimated 72% of licensed/exempt facilities available to families
- Since 2003, 17% of family child care business have closed.
- Center directors earn 35% less than kindergarten teachers. Teachers and aides make less and some qualify for subsidies for their own children.
- Turnover is high (35 percent or more)

Looking Ahead

People who work in early learning do so because they are passionate about kids – about loving them, about teaching them and about creating wonderful places for them to grow and flourish.

Looking Ahead

- Parents, providers and advocates are all interested in quality early learning
- Business leaders and educators are beginning to recognize the benefits
- Infrastructure is in place
- Public support is growing

Thank You!

