

# Pro Action Child Care Council

*Steuben & Schuyler's most trusted child care resource.*

## 2022 Schuyler County Child Care Report



### ***Our Mission:***

***Pro Action Child Care Council empowers the development of high-quality environments for children, ensuring families have access to affordable and secure child care.***

***The 2022 Schuyler County Child Care Report is funded by the Office of Children and Family Services.***



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**Dear Reader:**

For as long as I can remember, child care advocates have been working tirelessly to expand access to high quality child care, and to make it more affordable for families. During 2022, unprecedented Federal and New York State investments in child care programs and in the Child Care Assistance Program (formerly Subsidy) brought us closer to the aspiration of accessible, affordable care.

- For starters, as 2021 came to a close, 113 existing child care providers in Steuben and Schuyler Counties applied for and were awarded more than \$4.5 Million in Child Care Stabilization grant dollars. In addition, NYS instituted 12-month eligibility for families receiving Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). With this change, families no longer face the disappointment and stress of losing their child care assistance in less than a year because of receiving a small raise that pushes them slightly over-income for eligibility. Pro Action Child Care Council had a role in facilitating both of these changes with local providers.
- By June of 2022, two State initiatives helped bring even more vital funding to child care providers. One new Family Child Care provider, one Group Family provider, one School Aged Program and one Day Care Center in our area were awarded Child Care Desert Grants, which provided funding to support opening a new business and sustaining it for two years. A second round of Desert Grant funding for existing child care providers saw one School Aged Program in our community receive awards for two expansion sites. Many, many providers saw their incomes go up as they raised fees to come in line with new market rates to reimburse programs for care provided to children receiving the Child Care Assistance Program. In 2022, providers as a group received 26.1% more in payments from CCAP than in 2021.
- As of August 1, 2022, the eligibility thresholds for families to receive CCAP for their children was raised to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), from 200% of FPL. This change expands the program to serve many more working families. As a result of this change, and in partnership with Steuben County Department of Social Services, Pro Action enrolled and provided Child Care Assistance to 19% more children and 33% more families than in 2021.

The year 2022 will go down as a turning point for child care. It was a year when policy makers recognized the value of child care, and invested at levels to expand access to it, and to better compensate those who provide it. Our challenge going forward is to sustain and grow that investment long-term.

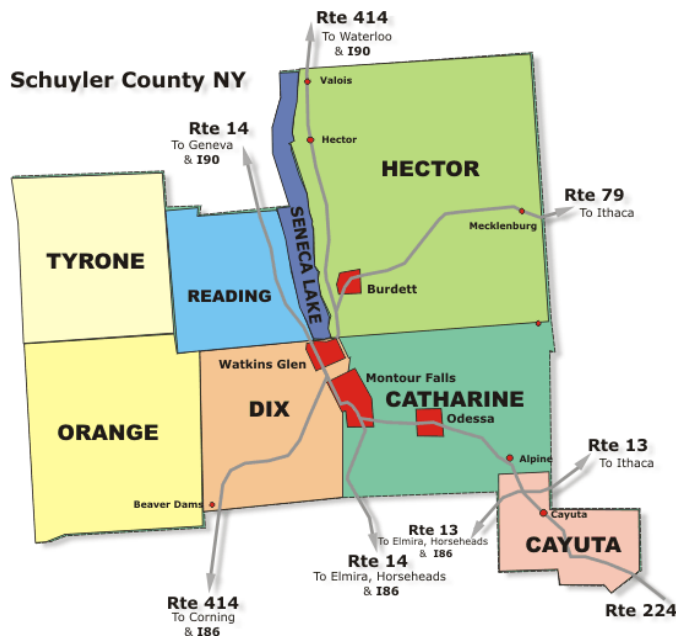


Margie Lawlor, Associate Director  
Resilient Children & Families Community Based Services

**Introduction**

Pro Action Child Care Council is pleased to present this report detailing the state of child care in Schuyler County. Due to the constantly changing environment, provider data for this report is not a year-long cumulative total; rather it is a snapshot from the months of September 2022. For example, data presented regarding the number of child care programs and capacity for each changes on a regular basis. This is caused, in part, by opening and closing of programs, as well as business decisions made by the owners of the programs for various reasons.

**Schuyler County Facts**



**Square Miles**

- Square miles= 342.33

**Total Population /Households**

- Total Population = 17,845
- The total number of estimated children 14 years old and younger in Schuyler County = 2,768

**Levels of Education:**

- Population 25 years and older no high school diploma = 6.4%
- Population 25 years and older high school graduate or equivalent = 34.6%
- Population 25 years and older some college, no degree = 21.9%
- Population 25 years and older associates Degree = 11.3%
- Population 25 years and older bachelor’s degree = 12.7%
- Population 25 years and older graduate degree or professional degree= 10.4%

Source: ACSDP5Y2020.DP05 Table

### Child Care Types and Definitions

#### **Registered/Licensed Programs as defined by the Social Services Law 390**

1. (c) "Child day care center" shall mean any program or facility caring for children for more than three hours per day per child in which child day care is provided by a child day care provider except those programs operating as a group family day care home as such term is defined in paragraph (d) of this subdivision, a family day care home, as such term is defined in paragraph (e) of this subdivision, and a school-age child care program, as such term is defined in paragraph (f) of this subdivision.

(d) "Group family day care home" shall mean a program caring for children for more than three hours per day per child in which child day care is provided in a family home for seven to twelve children of all ages, except for those programs operating as a family day care home, as such term is defined in paragraph (e) of this subdivision, which care for seven or eight children. A group family day care provider may provide child day care services to four additional children if such additional children are of school-age and such children receive services only before or after the period such children are ordinarily in school or during school lunch periods, or school holidays, or during those periods of the year in which school is not in session. There shall be one caregiver for every two children under two years of age in the group family home. A group family day care home must have at least one assistant to the operator present when child day care is being provided to seven or more children when none of the children are school-age, or nine or more children when at least two of the children are school-age and such children receive services only before or after the period such children are ordinarily in school or during school lunch periods, or school holidays, or during those periods of the year in which school is not in session. This assistant shall be selected by the group family day care operator and shall meet the qualifications established for such position by the regulations of the Office of Children and Family Services.

(e) "Family day care home" shall mean a program caring for children for more than three hours per day per child in which child day care is provided in a family home for three to six children. There shall be one caregiver for every two children under two years of age in the family day care home. A family day care provider may, however, care for seven or eight children at any one time if no more than six of the children are less than school-age and the school-age children receive care primarily before or after the period such children are ordinarily in school, during school lunch periods, on school holidays, or during those periods of the year in which school is not in session in accordance with the regulations of the office of children and family services and the office inspects such home to determine whether the provider can care adequately for seven or eight children.

(f) "School-age child care" shall mean a program caring for more than six school-age children who are under thirteen years of age or who are incapable of caring for themselves. Such programs shall be in operation consistent with the local school calendar. School-age child care programs shall offer care during the school year to an enrolled group of children at a permanent site before or after the period children enrolled in such program are ordinarily in school or during school lunch periods and may also provide such care on school holidays and those periods of the year in which school is not in session.

Head Start is a federally funded, comprehensive program for 3-5 year old children from income-eligible families. All services are provided at no cost to the family. All Head Start programs operate in classrooms licensed by the Office of Children and Family Services.

Pre-Kindergarten State funding is available through the New York State Department of Education for pre-kindergarten programs which are known as Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK). Children must be 4 years old and attend the UPK program located in the school district where the child resides.

### **Legally-Exempt (L.E.) Care**

Legally-Exempt Family Child Care is child care provided outside the child's own home in a residence and is not regulated but must meet all state and local health and safety requirements. This caregiver is chosen and monitored by the child's parent/guardian. This type of care includes relative care, which by Federal definition is a grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt/uncle, and sibling (if living in a separate residence), and non-relative care for up to 2 children. The maximum capacity for Legally-Exempt care is 8 children, including the provider's own children.

Legally-Exempt In-Home Child Care is child care provided in the child's own home by a caregiver who is chosen and monitored by the child's parent/guardian and is not regulated but must meet all state and local health and safety requirements. This type of care requires the child's parent/guardian to provide the caregiver with all employee benefits required by the State and Federal law and pay the caregiver at least minimum wage.

### **Legally-Exempt Group Child Care Settings**

Nursery Schools/ Pre-School Programs serve children ages 3-5 years old in a variety of settings including: public and private schools, churches, community centers and home residences. Programs meet anywhere from one to five days per week for less than three hours per session and often follow the school year calendar.

Camp Programs are day or overnight recreational programs that operate when school is not in session. Camp programs are regulated to some degree by New York State Department of Health.

The Legally-Exempt programs above are encouraged to accept child care subsidies. If serving at least one child whose care is subsidized by the county, the program must adhere to Social Services Law 415; Legally Exempt Health and Safety Requirements.

## Illegal Programs

The Social Services Law 390 states that an individual may not watch more than 2 children in the individual's home, for more than 3 consecutive hours, if the children are not related to them in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree of consanguinity, without being registered or licensed.

In addition, if an unregistered program is operating and meets all the criteria listed below, it is considered a School-age Child Care Program (SACC) and must be registered in the State of New York with the Office of Children and Family Services. If it fails to meet even one of the criteria below, it is not a SACC program. These criteria are:

- a. The program provides care on a regular scheduled basis.
- b. The program serves an enrolled group of children.
- c. The program provides care to seven or more children under 13 years of age.
- d. The program only serves school-age children. School-age children includes: (1) those enrolled in school, including kindergarten or a higher grade; and (2) those at least six years of age. A program caring for younger children may be required to be licensed with the Office of Child and Family Services as a child day care center. (See policy 16-2: *Enrollment of Prekindergarten Child in School-Age Child Care Programs*).
- e. The program is located at a non-residence.
- f. The program operates only during non-school hours (i.e., before and/or after school, during school lunch periods, on school holidays, and/or during summer vacations).
- g. The program operates for more than one purpose.

*To view the entire Policy Statement 16-1 What Constitutes a School-age Child Care Program, please visit the Office of Children and Family Services website: [www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/)*



**Child Care Demand**

**Parent Requests Per Child**

A review of the requests Pro Action Child Care Council received in the last year reveals some interesting statistics regarding local demand for child care. The Empire State Child Care Match (referral) database is only for regulated providers and does not include legally exempt provider requests. *Note: This data does not include consultations for subsidy. Parent seeking subsidy may not want referrals, as they may already have child care secured.*

**Referrals by Provider Type (82 Requests)**

*Numbers indicate what type of care parents are seeking for each child.*

*\*Note: Figures below reflect multiple preferences selected by parents.*

Day Care Center	25
Family Child Care	26
Group Family Child Care	24
School-age Child Care	7

**Requests by Age of Child (67 requests)**

*Numbers indicate the ages of children for whom parents are seeking care.*

Infants	17
Toddlers	11
Pre-School	18
School-age	21

**Schedule Type Requests (26 requests)**

*Numbers indicate the schedule for which parent needs care per child.*

Full-time	22
Part-time	3
Both	1

**Extra Care Requests (8 requests)**

*Numbers indicate the times for which parents need care per child.*

*\*Note: Figures below reflect multiple preferences selected by parents.*

Before School	4
After School	4



**Request Preference for Medical Administration (0 requests)**

NYS  
 Approved to Administer Medication 0

**Special Needs (1 request)**

*Numbers indicate what type of special needs a child may have.*

*\*Note: Figures below reflect multiple preferences selected by parents.*

Speech or Language Impairment 1

**Additional Care Services (4 requests)**

*Numbers indicate the schedule for which parents need care per child.*

*\*Note: Figures below reflect multiple preferences selected by parents.*

Evening 1  
 Flexible Hours 1  
 Snow Days 1  
 Weekend 1

**Location of Care (27 Requests)**

*Numbers indicate the location for which parents need care per child.*

*\*Note: Figures below reflect the cities where parents are living and looking for care near home.*

*Parents living in cities outside of Schuyler County, but using our services, are not reflected below.*

Alpine 3  
 Beaver Dams 3  
 Burdett 1  
 Cayuta 1  
 Dundee 3  
 Hector 1  
 Millport 1  
 Montour Falls 6  
 Odessa 1  
 Trumansburg 3  
 Watkins Glen 4

**Based on the parent referral requests, the information below is a summary of the data collected:**

- a preference for Family Day Care setting
- a high demand for pre-school care
- a high need for full-time care
- a need for before and after school care
- a high demand for care in these locations: Montour Falls, Watkins Glen, Alpine, Beaver Dams, Dundee and Trumansburg

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**NYS Office of Children and Family Services**

**NYS Department of Health Child Adult Care Food Program**

**Schuyler County Department of Social Services**

**Child Care Supply**

**Current Child Care Slots by Type**

The following chart reflects the maximum capacity for regulated child care programs

**Family Day Care and Group Family Day Care**

Type of Care (Schuyler County)	# of Providers	Total Slots
Family Day Care	4	31
Group Family Day Care	4	64

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of September 2022

*Disclaimer: A typical Family Day Care can care for a total of 8 children depending on the ages of the children in care. Refer to page 5, Social Services Law 390 1(e) for more information on Child Care Types and definitions regarding capacity.*

*Note: While typically registered Family Day Care can care for to 8 children, there may be cases where the Office of Children and Family Services has deemed a lower capacity because of space issues.*

*Disclaimer: A typical Group Family Day Care can care for a total of 16 children, depending on the ages of the children in care. Refer to page 5, Social Services Law 390 1(d) for more information on Child Care Types and definitions regarding capacity.*

*Note: While typically licensed Group Family Day Care can care for to 16 children, there may be cases where the Office of Children and Family Services has deemed a lower capacity because of space issues.*

**Day Care Center and School-aged Child Care**

*Though Head Start programs are licensed, Head Start numbers are not included in these numbers. (Please see Head Start data on page 14.)*

Type of Care (Schuyler County)	# of Providers	Age (0-up to 2)	Age (2-up to 3)	Age (3-up to 5)	School-aged Child Care (5 – 12)	Total Slots
Day Care Center	1	6	24	18	15	63
School-aged Child Care	2	0	0	0	162	162

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of September 2022

**Legally-exempt Providers by Type**

Type of Legally-exempt	Providers = 12	# of children served = 35
LE Family Child Care	6	16
LE In-home	6	19
LE Group	0	0

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of December 2022.

**Child Care Slots Offered by Type and Geography**

Below is information on the availability of child care in different regions of Schuyler County by type of care. It presents the number of slots provided in the different types of regulated care, categorized by the age of the child. The information was collected as of September 2022 and is subject to change. Child care providers of all types below have the option of enrolling any number of children into their programs as long as they do not exceed their maximum capacity. The following chart reflects regulated providers’ total capacity of slots. Head Start and other Pre-Kindergarten figures are included directly following this chart.

**Family Child Care and Group Family Child Care Slots by Location**

Disclaimer: Refer to page 5 Social Service Law 390 1(e) and 1(d) for more information on child care types and definition regarding capacity.

Town Name	Type of Care	# of Providers	6 Weeks-12 Years
Alpine	Family Day Care	1	8
	Group Family Day Care	0	0
Burdett	Family Day Care	0	0
	Group Family Day Care	1	16
Dundee	Family Day Care	1	7
	Group Family Day Care	0	0
Montour Falls	Family Day Care	0	0
	Group Family Day Care	1	16
Odessa	Family Day Care	1	8
	Group Family Day Care	2	32
Trumansburg	Family Day Care	1	8
	Group Family Day Care	0	0

Town Name	Type of Care	# of Providers	6 Weeks-12 Years
<b>Schuyler County (Totals)</b>	Family Day Care	4	31
	Group Family Day Care	4	64

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of as of September 2022

The following towns do not currently have Family Day Care or Group Family Day Care:

Beaver Dams, Catharine, Cayuta, Dix, Hector, Orange, Reading, Tyrone, and Watkins Glen.

**Day Care Centers and School-aged Child Care Slots by Location**

Disclaimer: Refer to page 5 Social Service Law 390 1(c) and 1(f) for more information on child care types and definitions regarding capacity.

Town Name	Type of Care	# of Providers	Age (0-up to 2)	Age (2-up to 3)	Age (3-up to 5)	School-aged Child Care (5-12)	Totals
Odessa	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	0	0
	School-age Child Care	1	0	0	0	44	44
Watkins Glen	Day Care Center	1	6	24	18	15	63
	School-age Child Care	1	0	0	0	118	118
<b>Schuyler County (Totals)</b>	<b>Day Care Center</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>63</b>
	<b>School-age Child Care</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>162</b>

Source: Child Care Facility System (CCFS) as of September 2022.

The following towns do not currently have Day Care Centers or School-aged Child Care:

Alpine, Beaver Dams, Catharine, Cayuta, Dix, Hector, Montour Falls, Orange, Reading, and Tyrone.

**Schuyler Head Start** (1 Head Start serves all of Schuyler County)

40 children are 3-year-olds, 32 children are 4-year-olds.

Note- Schuyler Head Start, is a Community Collaborator, with the Watkins Glen and Odessa-Montour school districts to serve a percentage of their UPK slots. Neither of the districts have responded with their UPK enrollment numbers.

## Child Care Resources

### Child Care Resource and Referral

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies all over America, Canada and Europe assist parents in finding child care that meets their family's unique and complex needs. Referral agencies, such as Pro Action Child Care Council, help parents with their search for child care by:

- Providing consumer education on a variety of child care options and informing parents about what constitutes quality care, enabling parents to make the best child care choice;
- Customizing referrals from a continually updated provider database;
- Working with community stakeholders and businesses to develop more care options to meet traditional and non-traditional demands for child care in every community;
- Providing counseling and resource materials that enable parents to raise healthy children and maintain positive child care relationships, and
- Directly linking parents to child care assistance which helps eligible families pay child care fees when funds are available.

### Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

The high cost of child care forces many families to make difficult choices. Parents bear the majority of expenditures for child care (and families with lower incomes spend a significantly larger fraction of their income on child care). To assist parents with child care costs, New York State, through the Federal Child Care Development Block Grant, offers Child Care Assistance to low-income families whose income is less than 300% of the State Income Standards, those who are TANF eligible, and those transitioning from TANF to work. Counties can set the income guidelines up to 300% based on their allocation. In Schuyler County, Child Care Assistance reimbursement is paid directly to child care providers. Families with low income receiving Child Care Assistance are required to pay a portion of their child care, which is considered a parent fee. The parent fee is based on 1% of the parent's income. Child Care Assistance payment amounts are established by the state, at a market rate, based on the age of the child, type of provider, and a statewide market survey of child care fee rates. This is performed every two years; a survey was completed in 2021 and implemented in June of 2022. Schuyler County encourages child care providers to assess the actual cost of doing business and set their fees accordingly, up to the maximum allowable state market rate.

According to 20-OCFS-LCM-12 Schuyler County's Child Care Assistance allocation for **4/1/22 to 3/31/23** is **\$507,264**. These funds paid portions of child care for **88** children on behalf of **53** families. Child Care Assistance reimbursement payments were paid on average to **11 regulated** and **26 legally-exempt providers**.

**Average Weekly Full-time Fees for Child Care in Schuyler County**

The figures below are the average weekly fees parents pay for child care in Schuyler County.

<b>Modality</b>	<b>Ages: 6 weeks- 23 mos.</b>	<b>Ages: 24-35 mos.</b>	<b>Ages: 3-4 yrs.</b>	<b>Ages: 5-12 yrs.</b>
Family Day Care	\$226	\$252	\$250	\$225
Group Family Day Care	\$195	\$193	\$191	\$190
Child Day Care Center	\$311	\$296	\$278	\$0
School-age Child Care	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$180



**Child Care Program Quality**

“High-quality early care and education requires secure and nurturing relationships with adults who know how to support children’s development and learning. Children who have these relationships with adults tend to be more self-confident, better at interacting with others, and more effective learners. Neither nurturing children nor teaching them is enough by itself for optimal learning. The two work in tandem.”(National Academy of Sciences, 2020) These facts have been proven in studies over the years and continue to ring true. Quality early education is the foundation of children’s future success.

At Pro Action Child Care Council, we consistently focus on providing professional development opportunities that focus on the whole child. We expose child care programs to the tools and education to meet the diverse needs of each child while preparing them to be on track for school.

**Professional Development**

All registered and licensed child care programs are required to meet and remain in compliance with the New York State Child Day Care Regulations that requires all staff to take 30 hours of training every two years. The 10 topics include:

1. Principles of child development
2. Nutrition and health needs of infants and children
3. Child day care program development
4. Safety and security procedures
5. Business record and maintenance management
6. Child abuse and maltreatment identification and prevention
7. Statutes and regulations pertaining to child day care
8. Statutes and regulations pertaining to child abuse and maltreatment
9. Education and information on the identification, diagnosis and prevention of shaken baby syndrome/abusive head trauma (SACC programs are excluded from this training)
10. Adverse childhood experiences, focused on understanding trauma and on nurturing resiliency

Schuyler County providers reported participation as follows in 2022:

<b>6</b>	Child Development Associate coursework assistance/participation
<b>52</b>	Onsite intensive technical assistance reported implementation of new knowledge gained
<b>99</b>	Professional development plan assistance
<b>10</b>	Professional development opportunities conducted
<b>97</b>	Participants at professional development opportunities
<b>52</b>	Quality Improvement Plan development
<b>2</b>	Achieved/Renewed the Child Development Associate Credential

### Effective Workforce Development

The New York State Training and Technical Assistance Professional Credential provides a standard to assure the quality of Early Learning Trainers. Additionally, it represents a level of professional achievement for trainers. The title of “trainer” is the field-accepted term used to indicate a person who educates, instructs, coaches, and/or mentors other adults in knowledge and quality practices for professional development.

The T-TAP Credential formally recognizes the value and specialized knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for those who provide community-based training to early care and education programs and providers. The trainer’s education, experience and competencies are categorized by four knowledge base areas including: knowledge of content, instructional design and development, presentation skills, and professionalism. These are reviewed and verified by New York Association for the Education of Young Children (NYAEYC). If an individual meets all criteria, the credential is awarded and requires ongoing professional development to meet the renewal requirement. In 2022, Pro Action Child Care Council had 2 credentialed trainers and 3 verified trainers on staff. For more information on the credentialing process, visit <http://nyaeyc.org/ttap-credential/> or The Aspire Registry, New York State’s Registry for early childhood and school-age professionals at <https://nyworksforchildren.org/professional-growth/pd-providers/>.

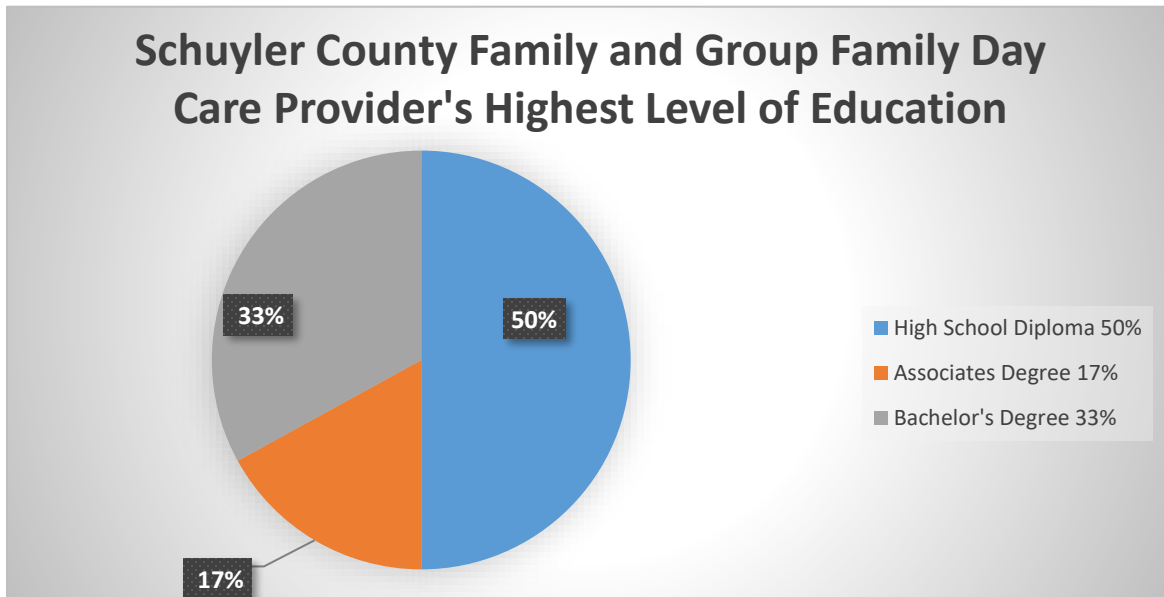
NYAEYC coaching credential is a designation one can achieve in the field of Early Care and Learning. This designation is for individuals who provide coaching, which is defined as a relationship-based process led by an expert with specialized adult learning knowledge and skills, who often serves in a different professional role than the recipient(s). PACCC had 2 credentialed coaches in 2022 that served as additional resources for quality programming (<http://nyaeyc.org/coach/>).

In 2022, child care providers invested in their professional development by utilizing the SUNY Early Childhood Education and Training Program (ECETP) Educational Incentive Program (EIP) and CSEA/VOICE to assist with their associated cost of enrollment and attendance. Both of these programs require trainers to be credentialed, verified, or employed by an approved training agency that has an active agreement with their organization. Due to COVID-19, virtual instruction continued to be approved to satisfy training requirements and the above funding sources continued to provide financial assistance to participants.

### QUALITYstarsNY

*QUALITYstarsNY (QSNY)* is New York State’s 5-star Quality Rating Improvement System for child care programs. Currently, this is a voluntary program designed to provide supports to programs to help them achieve a 5-star rating, as well as communicate quality options to the families exploring enriching environments. QSNY has been rolled out in various areas of NYS. In 2017, Schuyler County child care programs were provided the opportunity to participate in the Quality Rating Improvement System. Through recruitment efforts by the local QSNY Quality Improvement Specialist and Pro Action Child Care Council, 2 Schuyler County child care programs/classrooms were recruited and/or continued to be active participants in 2022. Participation in QSNY is a requirement or recipients of NYS Child Care Desert Grants. This is a substantial increase in participation. If you would like to learn

more about QSNY, visit their webpage at <http://qualitystarsny.org/> or contact PACCC at 607-776-2125 ext. 7107.



**Infant and Toddler Services**

Pro Action Child Care Council, is a member of The Office of Children and Family Services Region II Infant and Toddler Network. The network provides support services to child care programs based on the Ten Components of Quality Infant Toddler Care through Florida State University, WestEd’s Program for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC), Pyramid Model and PACCC *Early Literacy Connections*® curriculum.

PACCC continued to provide Infant and Toddler Mental Health Consultant services through a state and regionally managed project. PACCC Consultant engaged in a variety of training experience to ensure they had professional tools to assist programs in providing an environment that supports positive mental health strategies for all children present. Two child care center programs and one Early Head Start classroom utilized the services of the mental health consultant to support staff with implementing programming that met the identified needs of individual children.

Schuyler County providers reported participation in infant and toddler specialized services in 2022. (may represent participation in multiple programs)

18	<p>Participated in Specialized Training in the following topic areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundations of Healthy Sexual Development</li> <li>• NY ACTS Early</li> <li>• Inclusion of IT with Disabilities</li> <li>• ACE Institute 201</li> <li>• Story time success</li> </ul>
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10	Participated in basic and intensive technical assistance related to Infant and Toddler care.
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**Additional Resources:**

Office of Children and Family Services: [www.ocfs.ny.gov](http://www.ocfs.ny.gov)

Professional Development Program: [www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu](http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu)

Corning Community College: [www.corning-cc.edu](http://www.corning-cc.edu)

Empire State College: [www.esc.edu](http://www.esc.edu)

Head Start/Early Head Start/Universal Pre-K: <https://schuylerheadstart.org/>

Zero to Three: <http://nyztt.org>

Early Care and Learning Council: <http://www.earlycareandlearning.org/>

Region II Infant and Toddler Technical Assistance Center: <https://childcarecouncil.com/professional-development/infanttoddler/>

Early Childhood Trainer Credential: [www.nyaeyc.org](http://www.nyaeyc.org)

Program for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC): [www.pitc.org](http://www.pitc.org)

Council for Professional Recognition: [www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org)

**Child Care Health Consultant Services**

Pro Action Child Care Council employs a Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) that is a NYS Registered Professional Nurse. The CCHC’s basic function is to prevent harm and promote optimal health in child care programs, in compliance with all NYS child care regulations. The health consultant works with child caregivers to identify, implement, and evaluate strategies to achieve high quality childcare. In addition, the health care consultant establishes basic health and safety operational guidelines and plans for the child care program and provider; and serves in a liaison capacity to other health professionals and community organizations.

**Health Consultant Services include the following:**

- Medication Administration Training (MAT). The MAT course is a skill-based training to teach providers how to administer medications safely in their programs. The course is 8 hours long (with a skills demonstration) and gives an overview of medication effects and ways to give medication safely for both over-the-counter and prescription medications. Providers are taught how to handle, store and safely dispose of medications. Instruction also includes how to obtain proper consent and what the requirements are for preparation and administration of medications. Emergency care and special situations like asthma, seizures and severe allergic reactions are also covered in the course.
- Assist programs in complying with regulations pertaining to child health and the administration of medications.
- Regulatory requirements necessary for the administration of inhalers, nebulizers and emergency epinephrine auto-injectors (Epi-pens) by **non-MAT** approved providers.
- Trainings on the care and medications of children with specific health needs, such as seizure care, asthma, diabetes, g-tubes, etc.
- Ensure a system for communication among the child care provider, parent, and primary health care provider and consult when health issues arise.

- Perform on-site assessments of the child care environment and/or program operations.
- Assist child care providers in developing health related policy statements and an annual plan for the child care program (e.g., management of infectious diseases, fevers, and use of medications, and exclusion policies).
- Help child care providers obtain, understand, and use information about the health status of individual children and staff.
- Educate child care providers about child development, mental and physical health, safety, nutrition, and oral health issues.
- Link staff, families, and children with community health resources.
- Help identify and implement improvement plans.
- Educate and collaborate with licensing staff and policy makers to improve regulations, inspections, resources, and policies that promote safe and healthy child care.
- Phone and/or email consultation for all programs on matters related to health and wellness.
- Informal and/or formal training on topics like immunizations and infection control.
- Resource for other CCHC's (and their programs) who may or may not be employed by a CCR&R in order to help promote safety and wellness in the child care setting.

In 2022, the Child Care Health Consultant provided the following services:

- 2 Initial Health Care Plan Consultations for child care programs

Total number of MAT approved programs or sites that utilize a Health Care Consultant for additional support to ensure health and safety for infants and toddlers in 2022:

- 1 Group Family Day Care Program
- 1 Child Day Care Center
- 1 Head Start Program

**Additional Resources:**

*Pro Action Child Care Council Website: <https://proactioninc.org/programs/rcf/about-us/>*

*WebMD: [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com)*

*Healthy Child Care America: [www.healthychildcare.org](http://www.healthychildcare.org)*

*Steuben County Public Health <https://www.steubencountyny.gov/273/Public-Health>*

*Mayo Clinic: [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com)*

*NYS Department of Health: [www.health.ny.gov](http://www.health.ny.gov)*

*National Resource Center for Health & Safety in Child Care: [nrckids.org](http://nrckids.org)*

*NYS Office of Children and Family Services <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/default.asp>*

**Children’s Nutrition Services**

**Eat Well Play Hard in Child Care Settings**

Pro Action Child Care Council was awarded the Eat Well Play Hard in Child Care Settings grant for an eighth year. Through this grant, a Registered Dietitian addresses the challenge of childhood obesity in the counties of Steuben, Schuyler, Allegany, Chemung, Tompkins, Yates, Seneca and Ontario. Refer to the graph below for the specific data for childhood obesity rates in the counties served. The childhood obesity rates of the eight counties served under this project as of the 2017-2019 data reports are still the most updated data sets available.

<b>County</b>	<b>Percentage of Overweight or Obese Elementary Students</b> (reported to the NYS Health Connector)
<b>Allegany</b>	<b>13.2</b>
<b>Ontario</b>	<b>14.4</b>
<b>Tompkins</b>	<b>15.7</b>
<b>Schuyler</b>	<b>21.9</b>
<b>Steuben</b>	<b>17.8</b>
<b>Chemung</b>	<b>18.7</b>
<b>Seneca</b>	<b>19.9</b>
<b>Yates</b>	<b>15.9</b>
<b>Averages</b>	
<b>NY State average (excluding NYC)</b>	<b>16.2</b>
<b>8-county average</b>	<b>17.2</b>

Source: <https://nyshc.health.ny.gov/web/nyapd/student-weight-data-explorer>

Eat Well Play Hard was developed to help prevent childhood obesity and reduce long-term risks for chronic disease through the promotion of targeted dietary practices and increased physical activity. Poor nutrition and inadequate physical activity are the main causes of obesity, which is an epidemic in the United States. Being active builds healthy muscles, strengthens bones and helps maintain a healthy weight. It also reduces the risk of diabetes, heart attack and high blood pressure.

Lesson plans to reinforce the Eat Well Play Hard objectives include the following:

- Increase developmentally appropriate physical activity
- Decrease exposure to television and recreational screen time
- Increase consumption of vegetables and fruits
- Increase consumption of low-fat or fat-free milk for children over age 2
- Increase the initiation and duration of exclusive breastfeeding

Most restrictions were lifted for in-person services with EWPH in 2022. DOH left the decision to the program receiving services whether they wanted in-person or virtual service. Accommodations were

made as necessary. Several sites were still hesitant with allowing any outside non-essential visitors which did lead to reduced participation. In addition, the EWPB program came to an end in September of 2022.

In 2022:

- Programming was conducted with 6 classrooms: 2 in Steuben, 2 in Schuyler and 2 in Chemung
- 138 students were exposed to the nutrition education programming
- 28 staff were trained on sustainability of the program

This program is a 16-week center-wide intervention that includes lessons for children, parents and staff, as well as environmental changes that support healthy lifestyle practices. Objectives of the EWPB Champion program include:

- Adding nutrition and physical activity lessons as a part of a child's daily routine
- Nutrition, physical activity, reduced screen time, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and cost saving education messages are communicated to parents
- Child care center menus increase the number of times fresh fruit and vegetables and low fat dairy are offered at snack time
- Child care centers create nutrition and physical activity policies and communicate policies to parents/families
- Encouraging family style dining

### **Farm to Preschool (F2P)**

Pro Action Child Care Council completed its third year of the Farm to Preschool Program. This program connected preschool children, their parents and caregivers with local farmers and their fresh produce. The program is designed to address the obstacles and barriers that are related to poor nutrition and allow access to locally grown fresh produce. The Farm to Preschool Coordinator addresses these obstacles by engaging children, parents and staff in seed-to-table education, food demonstrations, and the establishment of farm stands.

Phase One of the F2P program was implemented during the months of January through June. The F2P Coordinator works in classroom settings and delivers a curriculum that teaches children about different fruits and vegetables, how to make different recipes using those fruits and vegetables, and how to grow them. This phase includes an introduction to classroom container gardens that the children actively plant and harvest. The curriculum activities engage the child care program staff with facilitating behavior change related to increased consumption of fruits and vegetables.

Within that program, the following individuals participated:

- 54 children
- 18 Staff
- 12 parents

The second phase of the F2P occurs during the months of June through September. Phase Two includes the establishment of the farm stands at the participating centers. The establishment of the

farm stands is intentional in order to make the accessibility convenient for the families. In addition, this gives the children a chance to interact with the farmer and meet the individual who grew the produce they sample. The farmer typically provides fresh produce at a lower price to families who do not have the time to buy, or could not afford to buy at the store. The farmers accept multiple methods of payments for the produce, such as: cash, credit/debit, EBT, Fresh Connect checks, FMNP checks, Senior FMNP checks and WIC fruit and vegetable benefits.

### **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally funded program that provides child care providers a meal reimbursement for healthy meals and snacks served to children. Since CACFP participants' nutritional needs are supported on a daily basis, the program plays a vital role in improving the quality of child care and making it more affordable for families. Participation is open to all licensed and registered child care programs, as well as enrolled legally-exempt FCC programs who provide child care in their home.

In 2022, there were an average of **6** participating programs: **4** were regulated child care and **2** were legally-exempt programs. These programs provided CACFP approved meals and snacks to **43** children in Schuyler County. Child care centers and school-age child care (SACC) programs are sponsored directly through the NYS Department of Health.

### ***Additional Resources:***

*NYS DOH Nutrition Website: [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/)*

*NYS DOH Eat Well Play Hard Website: [www.health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/cacfp/ewphccs.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/nutrition/cacfp/ewphccs.htm)*



**Registration and Resource Development****Development of New Programs**

The Registration and Resource Development Department is responsible for building the supply of child care providers in Schuyler County. When someone expresses the desire to become a registered family day care provider or to open a school-age child care program, technical support is offered to assist in this process. Once a program is registered, continued support is given. Inspections are conducted to assist providers in maintaining compliance with the New York State Child Day Care Regulations.

In addition, we act as a consultant for persons wanting to develop centers and group family day care homes that are licensed by the Office of Children & Family Services through the Rochester Regional Office.

**Complaints**

The Registration Department is also responsible for complaints on registered programs. When a complaint is made, a Registrar investigates the program to determine if they are in conformity with the regulations. If the program is considered out of compliance, we assist them in making the necessary changes to bring their program back into compliance. If you have concerns about family day care or school-age programs, call: (607) 776 -2126 and your call will be transferred to the Manager of Resource and Development.

If you have concerns about licensed programs (Group Family Day Care or Centers) New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) maintains a toll-free complaint line regarding day care programs in NYS. Call (800) 732-5207, normal business hours: M – F, 8:30am – 5:00pm, and a staff person will take the information. The Office is required to investigate any possible violation of child care regulations.

If you think a program is operating without the proper license or registration certificate, this is also basis for making a complaint. Please call (607) 776-2126 and your call will be transferred to the Manager of Resource and Development.

**Executive Updates:**

On January 18, 2022, OCFS announced that they are partnering with local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies to distribute more than 214,000 at-home COVID-19 test kits to licensed/registered child care programs.

The number of test kits provided was based on program modality:

Day Care Center: 22 test kits per program

School Age Child Care: 22 test kits per program

Group Family Day Care: 12 test kits per program

Family Day Care: 6 test kits per program

Steuben County delivered 1,624 among all modalities listed above.

On January 28, 2022, OCFS announced a grant opportunity for applicants interested in opening a new child care program called Invest in New York-Child Care Deserts Grant.

On March 1, 2022, Powdered Infant Formula Recall-FDA warns consumers not to use certain powdered infant formula produced in Abbott Nutrition's facility in Sturgis, Michigan. Abbott Nutrition initiated a voluntary recall of certain powder formulas (Similac, Alimentum, and Elecare) manufactured in the Sturgis, Michigan manufacturing facility due to consumer complaints of Cronobacter sakazakii and Salmonella Newport infections.

On June 2, 2022, OCFS shared updated guidance clarification on COVID-19 of some confusion surrounding one bullet of information that is included in the revised COVID-19 guidance issued on May 31, 2022.

The bullet in question reads:

- Pursuant to DOH guidance, those under 2 and those who cannot wear a well-fitted mask must continue to isolate as otherwise required outside of the child care setting for days 6-10.

This bullet is being interpreted by some to mean that children under two and those who are unable to tolerate a face covering must continue to quarantine/isolate for days 6-10 and are not allowed to return to their child care program. **This is not accurate.** These children may return to child care on days 6-10, as outlined in the guidance document.

On June 2, 2022, OCFS emailed to advise districts that OCFS has issued emergency regulations effective June 1, 2022. The emergency regulations can be found at this link:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/legal/regulatory/er/>. **An Administrative Directive (ADM) outlining the regulations will be issued in the near future and a Local Commissioner Memorandum (LCM) will also be issued detailing new child care market rates.**

On October 19, 2022, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) announced the opportunity for eligible child care providers to apply for the Grant for Payment of Retroactive Absences. This announcement was posted on our website at [ocfs.ny.gov/cc-rabsence](https://ocfs.ny.gov/cc-rabsence). The 2022 Enacted Budget authorized OCFS to issue payments for absences to child care providers that served at least one child in receipt of child care assistance for care provided on or after April 1, 2020, and prior to December 1, 2021. This is a one-time grant opportunity for licensed, registered, and enrolled legally exempt providers who are currently open and in good standing

On November 14, 2022, OCFS issued a Dear Provider letter regarding respiratory virus infections such as COVID-19, seasonal influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Governor Hochul launched a public awareness campaign warning of the triple threat posed by these respiratory illnesses. The letter provided important reminders on how to prevent and respond to illness in child care programs by handwashing, sanitizing, and completing daily health checks. For the most up to date information on respiratory virus infections visit: [DOH RSV](#).

### Continuation of Career Pipeline

Begun in 2019, the Child Care Career Pipeline Project provides an opportunity to increase child care slots and enhance the quality of care provided to children in Steuben and Schuyler counties. The program also aimed to help individuals start-up their own business and establish a steady income. This initiative has been made possible through the following funding streams:

- Infant/Toddler
- Kay Hodge Memorial Fund
- Fund for Women
- United Way

In 2022, this initiative had shown to be successful, and was granted more funding for 2023.

Continued funding will help individuals overcome the financial barriers of opening their own child care business.

### Legally Exempt Services

On January 18, 2022, OCFS emailed Legally Exempt providers to inform them of Free at home COVID-19 tests that were available by visiting <https://www.covidtests.gov/>. In addition to the free COVID tests, the email shared a \$30/ month discount with the Federal Affordable Connectivity Program for eligible New Yorkers for internet. The email included information on finding vaccine clinics.

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Summary

Pro Action Child Care Council has issued this report for many years. Employers, child care providers, elected officials, economic development and other community leaders can and should use this report to plan for the vital economy and thriving society that are our shared goals. As Steuben and Schuyler Counties’ most trusted child care resource, Pro Action Child Care Council is always ready to collect, compile and interpret data to assist decision makers, whether they are prospective child care programs, employers or elected officials. We continually keep our finger on the pulse of child care trends affecting parents, providers and employers.

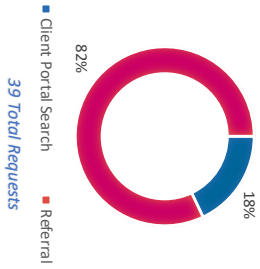
This year’s Child Care report shows a continued unmet need for Infant & Toddler care and for School-aged care. Parents express a preference for family child care. These needs and preferences emerge consistently in our data, and are used to inform our work to expand child care supply and address challenges in access to child care.

As we predicted in last year’s report, society has come to a turning point in recognizing the value of high quality child care for young children and school-aged children. Thankfully, public investment in child care is starting to reflect that recognition. There is more work to do, and our team continually keeps its focus on expanding access to high quality, affordable child care for all.

The tides of child care policy in the past year are shifting us ever closer to a cohesive early childhood system that supports the full potential of the caregiving profession and the children it serves. We look forward to seeing this potential become a reality evidenced by children developing in healthy ways, caregivers being properly compensated, and families feeling a healthy balance between work and child-rearing. It’s within our grasp.

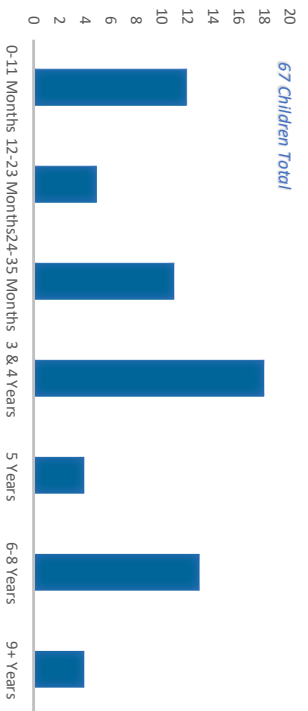


### REQUEST FOR SERVICES

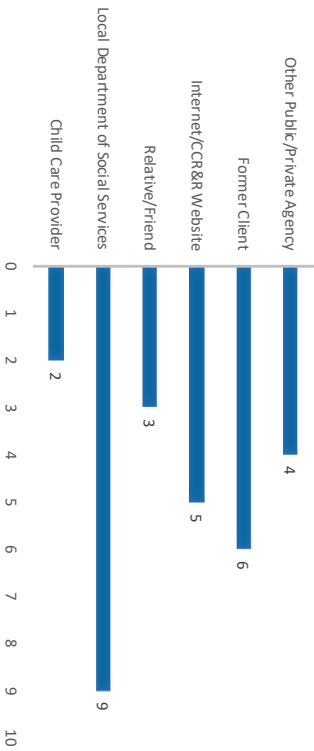


65% of parents were seeking care for employment purposes

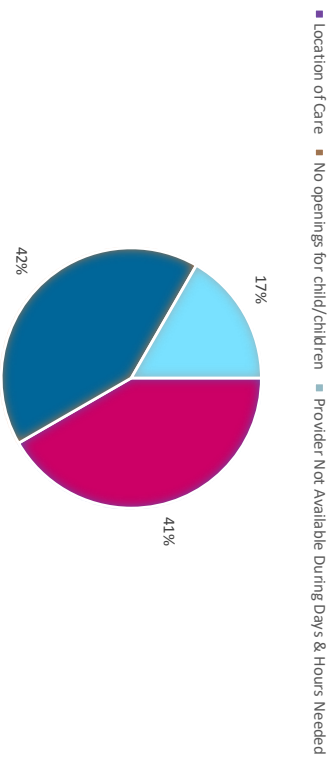
### AGES OF CHILDREN SERVED



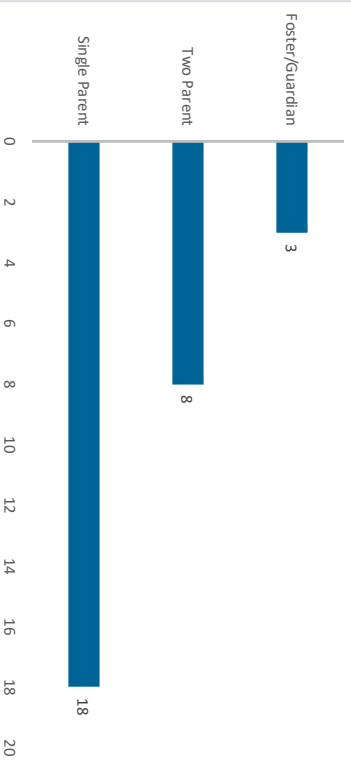
### HOW CLIENTS WERE REFERRED TO OUR SERVICES



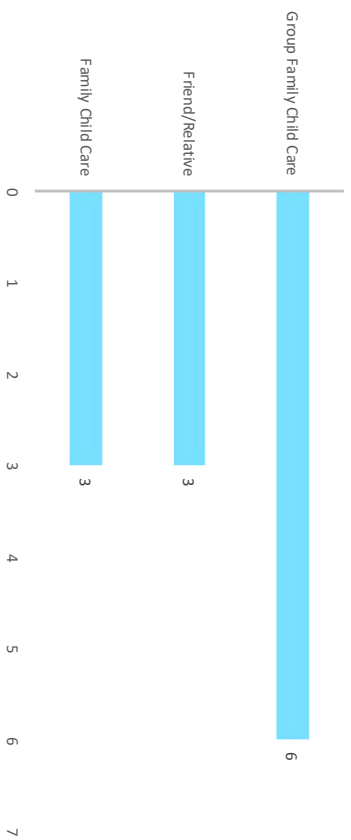
### PROBLEMS FINDING CHILD CARE



### FAMILY COMPOSITION



### TYPE OF CARE CHOSEN



Data Range - 1/1/22-12/31/22