



# Family Child Care Workforce Fact Sheet

## What is Family Child Care?

It's simple – child care provided in a home, as an alternative to a center or institutional setting.

Family child care (FCC) homes or programs are licensed or registered by states, and appear on their respective state lists of available child care options. FCC homes may receive state subsidies as payment for the care they provide and/or payments directly from the families of children in their care. In some cases, FCC homes may also be eligible to receive public subsidy payments from Head Start, pre-K funding, or Child Care Development Fund Subsidy).

Commonly used terms in state regulations across both large and small family child care settings include:

- Family child care
- Child development home
- Family day care
- Child care home

\*\*This fact sheet focuses on Family Child Care. For information about other kinds of child care provided in homes, see the [Home-Based Child Care Fact Sheet](#) and [Promising Practices in Policy for Home-Based Child Care: A National Policy Scan](#).

## Prevalence of Family Child Care

- 785,000 children under the age of 13, including 594,000 children from birth to 5 years old, receive care in a family child care setting ([NSECE, 2019](#)).
- There are nearly as many family child care homes (91,200) as there are child care centers (121,000) ([NSECE, 2019](#)).

## Who are Family Child Care Professionals?

### Demographics

- 74.6% of FCC professionals are between the ages of 30 and 60 years old, with the highest percentage of FCC professionals (32.5%) falling between the ages of 50 and 60 years old ([Mathematica, 2022](#)).
- 31.5% of FCC professionals speak languages other than English and 18.5% are immigrants to the United States ([Mathematica, 2022](#)).
- Nearly half of FCC professionals (47.4%) identify as Hispanic/Latino, Black non-Hispanic, or other ethnicities non-Hispanic ([Mathematica, 2022](#)).
- 68.6% of FCC professionals have more than 10 years of experience in the field. 33.5% of FCC professionals have more than 20 years of experience in the field.

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## Credentials in Family Child Care Professionals

- 63% of FCC professionals have earned a college degree Or have completed some college. (NSECE 2021 )
  - 30.7% of FCC professionals have a degree.
    - Approximately 18.1% have an associate level degree.
    - Approximately 17.9% have a bachelor’s level degree.
  - 33.3% of FCC professionals had some college (credits completed).

## Family Child Care Professionals Compensation

- According to [2012 NSECE](#) data, the average income for family child care providers is \$29,377 annually and 80% of FCC providers reported working more than 40 hours a week.
- RAPID survey data from November 2023 shows that material hardship is prevalent and increasing among child care providers. Nearly half (45%) of providers reported experiencing difficulty affording at least one area of basic need ([November 2023 RAPID EC Survey](#)).

## Student Loan Debt in Child Care Professionals

- RAPID survey data finds that more than one in five (21%) child care providers reported that they had student loan debt in November 2023, a disproportionately high rate compared to 16% of the U.S. adult population overall. The percentage of providers reporting student loan debt has grown from the 19% [reported in May 2022 \(October 2023 RAPID EC Survey\)](#).
- Three in five providers (60%) said that repayment will cause their household financial hardship, and 63% said they’ve felt stress in the last month about their ability to pay off their student loans ([October 2023 RAPID EC Survey](#)).

## Material Hardship in Child Care Professionals

- One in three child care professionals reported experiences of hunger ([February 2022 RAPID EC Survey data](#)).
- 40% of child care professionals reported that providing child care accounted for less than half of their income ([July 21, 2021 RAPID EC Survey data](#)).
- [According to the 2020 CSCCE Early Childhood Workforce Index](#), “for a single adult with one child, median child care worker wages do not meet a living wage in any state, yet many early educators are themselves also parents, with children at home.”
- As a result of low wages, over 53% of child care workers receive public assistance ([2020 CSCCE Early Childhood Workforce Index](#)).
- Roughly 13% of FCC professionals reported having at least one other job outside child care ([Mathematica, 2022](#)).
- 8.9% of FCC professionals do not have health insurance ([Mathematica, 2022](#)).