

Siskiyou County

Mount Shasta, one the highest volcanic peaks in the United States, dominates the landscape of Siskiyou County. The mountain and its related tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities are major contributors to the local economy. Many of these tourism-related, service, and forestry jobs are seasonal, pay low wages, and often require irregular shifts and weekend work. But there is no care available in licensed centers during the non-traditional hours that many parents work. Infant and toddler care is also limited, with just 1 percent of licensed center-based slots going to children under two. For working parents, finding affordable, quality child care can be challenging. Affordability is also an issue for low-income families, many of whom cannot access subsidies and also cannot afford the cost of quality child care (more than 30 percent of children under 5 live in poverty). The lack of steady income and low reimbursement rates also make it difficult for many providers to make ends meet. Access to child care is further limited by the lack of public transportation and icy road conditions during the winter months – especially for communities far from the more populated areas along the Interstate 5 corridor.

Reaching out in rural communities

To help meet the needs of potential child care providers, Siskiyou Child Care Council, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, is using computerized licensing orientations to provide one-on-one support that serves all residents of the county. The R&R has worked with First 5 Siskiyou County and the Local Child Care Planning Council to offer incentive programs for professional development. Through the statewide Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP), more than 30 potential providers have been recruited over the past two years, and 57 providers received training incentives.

“In rural counties such as ours, a major contributor to building our supply of licensed care has been the use of computerized presentations. Before, caregivers had to drive hours for this. Now, we can offer one-on-one orientations in even the most remote areas of the county.” – R&R Counselor

The People¹

	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	43,531	44,301	2%
Total number of employed residents		16,706	
Percent working outside the county		6%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		19%	
Total number of households	17,233	18,573	8%
Speaking English	15,578	16,578	6%
Speaking Spanish	825	1,178	43%
Speaking an Asian language	88	133	51%

The Children¹

Total number of children (0–13 years) 7,675

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
870	413	484	493	482	3,538	738	657

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 892 (32%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 721 (27%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force² 4,515

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
455	220	290	280	365	2,905

Child Care Cost and Family Income

	2002
Average annual cost of full-time licensed care for a preschooler, 2–5 years old, in a center ³	\$5,837
Annual minimum wage of a full-time worker ⁴	\$14,040
Care for a preschooler as a percent of income of a single parent household at minimum wage	42%
Annual median family income ¹	\$36,890
Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit ⁵	\$6,036
Salary of entry-level public school teacher ⁶	\$27,300

1. U.S. Census Bureau, 1990; 2000.

2. This number reflects children with either two parents or single head of household in the labor force.

3. 2002 Regional Market Rate Survey of California Child Care Providers.

4. California Department of Industrial Relations, Industrial Welfare Commission, 2002.

5. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2002.

6. California Department of Education, 2002-2003.

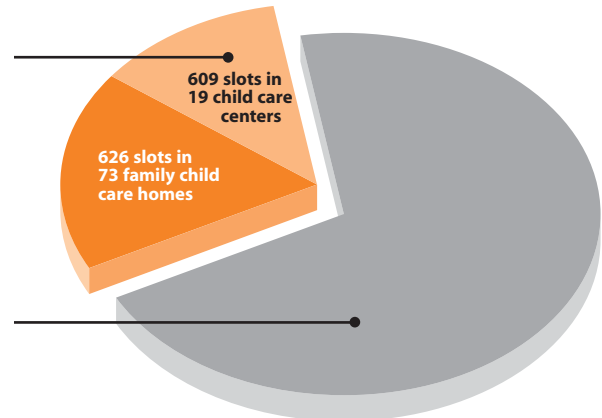
For more information about child care in Siskiyou County, call:

Siskiyou Child Care Council 530-938-2748

Child Care Supply in Siskiyou County

Licensed Child Care Supply 1,235 slots

Total number of licensed slots	1,235
Percent of slots in child care centers	49%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	1%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	86%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	13%
Percent of slots in family child care homes ¹	51%



Children with Parents in the Labor Force² 4,515

Licensed child care is only available for 27% of children with parents in the labor force².

- Licensed center-based care available for 1% of infants¹
- Licensed center-based care available for 45% of preschoolers¹

Supply of Licensed Child Care and Requests from Parents to the R&R

		Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes
Facilities	Total number of sites	19	73
	Total number of slots	609	626 ¹
	Infant slots	4	
	Preschool slots	523	
	School-age slots	82	
Schedules³	Full-time and part-time	69%	83%
	Only full-time available	0%	12%
	Only part-time available	31%	6%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	0%	33%

Parent Requests to the R&R⁴

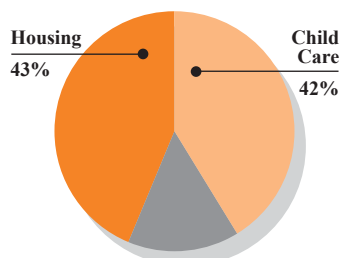
Type of care: 25% infant/toddler; 46% preschool; 29% school-age

Type of facility: 90% family child care homes; 47% child care centers

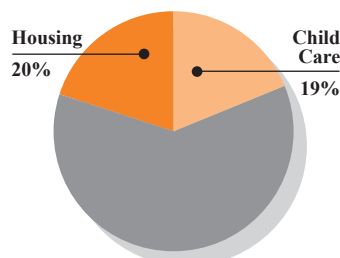
Schedule of care: 37% full-time care (0–5 years); 63% part-time care (0–5 years)

Reasons for needing child care: 75% employment; 5% school/training; 9% looking for work

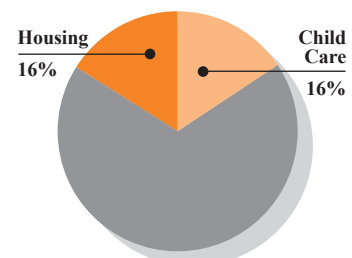
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



For a Family at Minimum Wage \$14,040 / year



For a Family Earning \$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income \$36,890 / year

- A breakdown of slots by age is not available for family child care homes because they are licensed to care for children of all ages.
- Children (0–13 years old) living with two parents or with a single parent in the labor force. 2000 U.S. Census.
- Full-time and part-time schedules are percentages of total slots. Some centers that are exempt from licensing requirements are included in the percentages related to care during non-traditional hours (evening, weekend, or overnight.) Non-traditional schedules are percentages of total sites.
- Since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.