

Lake County

Lake County, with its pine-studded hills and large lake, attracts thousands of tourists each year. Because of its relative proximity to the Bay Area, it has also attracted families seeking less expensive housing and a lower cost of living. This, in turn, has caused property values in Lake County to rise. "Turnover in child care has increased due to rising housing and insurance costs," says a staff member from Rural Communities Child Care, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency.

Working in Lake County's recreation and tourism industries requires weekend and evening shifts. Gaming casinos on Native American reservations also create a demand for child care during non-traditional hours – especially for infants and toddlers. There is also a shortage of special needs care as well as care that is culturally- and linguistically-appropriate for Native Americans and the county's growing number of Spanish-speaking households. Although the R&R reports that the majority of families request licensed care – mostly in family child care homes – most end up using license-exempt care, because the supply of licensed care is so limited and is often cost-prohibitive.

Building supply and quality

Efforts to expand the supply of licensed care are happening on several fronts in the county. Through the Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability (CARES) program, more than 100 family child care providers and center staff received stipends and training in just two years. In its Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP), a statewide program, the R&R is training providers in child development and business skills. They are also targeting license-exempt providers for health and safety training. And collaborative efforts among many organizations have enabled a training and retention project, funded by the First 5 Commission, to be established.

"While many families in our county request referrals to licensed child care, the supply is quite limited and they need to seek other options. Parents with infants and toddlers are finding it increasingly difficult to access care."

– R&R Counselor

The People ¹	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	50,631	58,309	15%
Total number of employed residents		19,886	
Percent working outside the county		22%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		19%	
Total number of households	20,722	23,984	16%
Speaking English	18,430	21,110	15%
Speaking Spanish	1,275	1,865	46%
Speaking an Asian language	80	182	128%

The Children¹ 2000

Total number of children (0–13 years) 10,613

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
1,169	582	642	681	715	5,076	895	853

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 975 (28%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 1,027 (34%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force² 5,560

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
555	250	240	295	330	3,890

Child Care Cost and Family Income 2002

Average annual cost of full-time licensed care for a preschooler, 2–5 years old, in a center³ \$5,772

Annual minimum wage of a full-time worker⁴ \$14,040

Care for a preschooler as a percent of income of a single parent household at minimum wage 41%

Annual median family income¹ \$35,818

Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit⁵ \$7,332

Salary of entry-level public school teacher⁶ \$27,500

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.

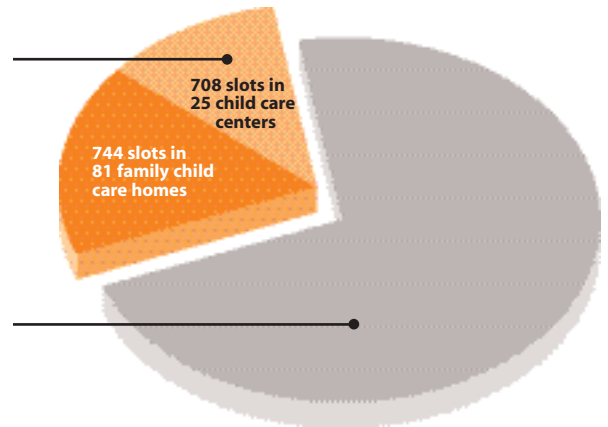
For more information about child care in Lake County, call:

North Coast Opportunities –
Rural Communities Child Care 707-994-4647

Child Care Supply in Lake County

Licensed Child Care Supply 1,452 slots

Total number of licensed slots	1,452
Percent of slots in child care centers	49%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	10%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	78%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	11%
Percent of slots in family child care homes ¹	51%



Children with Parents in the Labor Force² 5,560

Licensed child care is only available for 26% of children with parents in the labor force².

- Licensed center-based care available for 13% of infants¹
- Licensed center-based care available for 50% 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	25	81
	Total number of slots	708	744 ¹
	Infant slots	73	
	Preschool slots	555	
	School-age slots	80	
Schedules³	Full-time and part-time	42%	89%
	Only full-time available	5%	3%
	Only part-time available	53%	8%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	11%	26%

Parent Requests to the R&R⁴

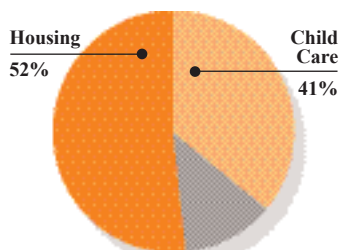
Type of care: 24% infant/toddler; 43% preschool; 33% school-age

Type of facility: 93% family child care homes; 56% child care centers

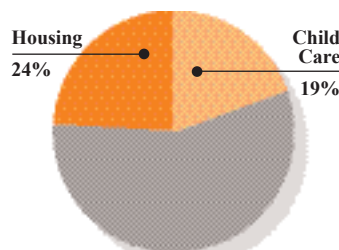
Schedule of care: 60% full-time care (0–5 years); 40% part-time care (0–5 years)

Reasons for needing child care: 84% employment; 12% school/training; 8% looking for work

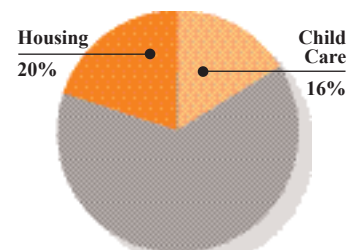
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



**For a Family Earning
\$30,000 / year**



**For a Family at County Median Income
\$35,818 / year**

1. 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.
2. Children (0–13 years old) living with two parents or with a single parent in the labor force. 2000 U.S. Census.
3. 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.
4. 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.