

# Shasta County

**In Shasta County**, a once thriving timber-based economy, has given way to retail and service industries, which employs many CalWORKs families. These jobs often pay low wages, and require early morning, evening, and weekend shifts. Currently, only one percent of licensed center-based care is available during these non-traditional work hours. Thirty-four percent of family child care homes offer care during non-traditional hours. Care for infants and toddlers is also in short supply, with just 5 percent of slots in centers – which make up 62 percent of the county’s licensed child care supply – available for children under two.

Most of the population in Shasta County is concentrated in Redding and a few other towns along Interstate 5 at the northern end of the Sacramento Valley. The rest of the county is sparsely populated, with severe winter conditions that often make roads impassable. With most of the licensed supply of child care located in the county’s populated areas, parents in rural areas are likely to turn to friends, family or neighbors.

## Professional development increases quality

Early Childhood Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, has targeted license-exempt providers for quality improvement activities. Through the implementation of a new early care initiative supported by First 5 funds and the California Department of Education, the R&R provides orientations for license-exempt providers. Through the Child Care Retention Incentive project, licensed and license-exempt providers are offered stipends for professional development, with additional incentives offered for becoming licensed. The R&R also offers home visits for support and resources to license-exempt providers. A new project provides technical assistance, support and financial resources to both family child care and center-based providers wishing to achieve national accreditation.

*“Most child care centers are located in the incorporated cities of the county. License-exempt care is often the only option for our rural families, and families of diverse ethnic backgrounds.”*

– R&R Counselor

| The People <sup>1</sup>               | 1990    | 2000    | Change |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Total number of residents             | 147,036 | 163,256 | 11%    |
| Total number of employed residents    |         | 64,487  |        |
| Percent working outside the county    |         | 7%      |        |
| Percent working non-traditional hours |         | 21%     |        |
| Total number of households            | 55,940  | 63,497  | 14%    |
| Speaking English                      | 52,095  | 57,828  | 11%    |
| Speaking Spanish                      | 1,663   | 3,131   | 88%    |
| Speaking an Asian language            | 562     | 810     | 44%    |

## The Children<sup>1</sup> 2000

Total number of children (0–13 years) 31,741

| Under 2 | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6–11   | 12    | 13    |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| 3,661   | 1,852 | 2,033 | 2,097 | 2,177 | 14,709 | 2,630 | 2,582 |

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 2,836 (24%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 2,897 (28%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup> 17,940

| Under 2 | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6–13   |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1,900   | 1,020 | 1,215 | 1,110 | 1,205 | 11,490 |

## 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 <sup>3</sup> | \$5,052  |
| Annual minimum wage of a full-time worker <sup>4</sup>  | \$14,040 |
| Care for a preschooler as a percent of income of a single parent household at minimum wage                | 36%      |
| Annual median family income <sup>1</sup>  | \$40,491 |
| Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit <sup>5</sup>   | \$6,684  |
| Salary of entry-level public school teacher <sup>6</sup>  | \$34,000 |

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 Shasta County, call:**

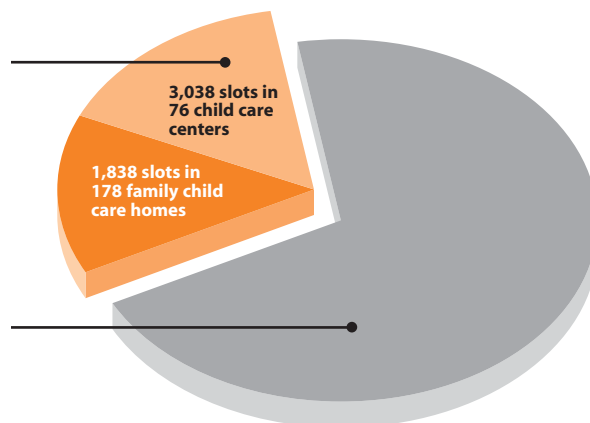
Early Childhood Services

530-225-2999

# Child Care Supply in Shasta County

## Licensed Child Care Supply 4,876 slots

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Total number of licensed slots                           | 4,876 |
| Percent of slots in child care centers                   | 62%   |
| % of slots for infants (under 2 years old)               | 5%    |
| % of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)              | 60%   |
| % of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)   | 34%   |
| Percent of slots in family child care homes <sup>1</sup> | 38%   |



## Children with Parents in the Labor Force<sup>2</sup> 17,940

Licensed child care is only available for 27% of children with parents in the labor force<sup>2</sup>.

- Licensed center-based care available for 9% of infants<sup>1</sup>
- Licensed center-based care available for 40% of preschoolers<sup>1</sup>

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

|                              |   | Child Care Centers | Family Child Care Homes |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Facilities</b>            | Total number of sites                       | 76                 | 178                     |
|                              | Total number of slots                       | 3,038              | 1,838 <sup>1</sup>      |
|                              | Infant slots                                | 166                |                         |
|                              | Preschool slots                             | 1,829              |                         |
|                              | School-age slots                            | 1,043              |                         |
| <b>Schedules<sup>3</sup></b> | Full-time and part-time                     | 73%                | 81%                     |
|                              | Only full-time available                    | 11%                | 17%                     |
|                              | Only part-time available                    | 16%                | 2%                      |
|                              | Care available during non-traditional hours | 1%                 | 34%                     |

**Parent Requests to the R&R<sup>4</sup>**

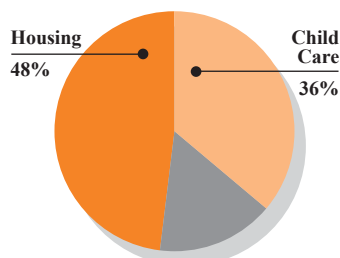
*Type of care:* 38% infant/toddler; 41% preschool; 22% school-age

*Type of facility:* 78% family child care homes; 6% child care centers

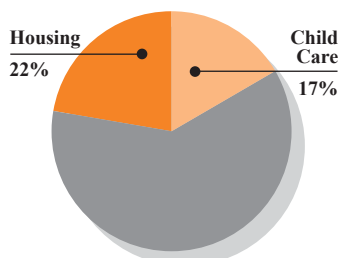
*Schedule of care:* 65% full-time care (0–5 years); 38% part-time care (0–5 years)

*Reasons for needing child care:* 93% employment; 8% school/training; 3% looking for work

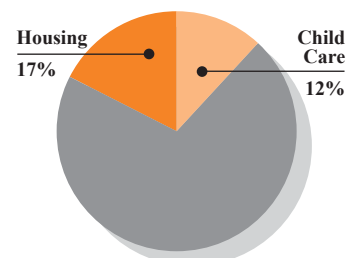
## Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



For a Family Earning \$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income \$40,491 / 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.