

Trinity County

Located in the lower reaches of the Cascade Range, Trinity County long relied on a forest-based economy. One by one timber mills closed, leaving the Trinity Lumber Company in the county seat of Weaverville as the last mill in operation. The weakened local economy has made it increasingly difficult for families with children, and many have sought jobs elsewhere. As a result, the county's child population has declined. School enrollment dropped in Hayfork, and state preschool enrollment is down significantly, prompting programs in Hayfork and Burnt Ranch to close. With the funding for most subsidized child development programs based on enrollment, maintaining them in the future will be difficult, increasing the problem for working families to find child care.

Tourism has become a major source of economic revenue and jobs in the county, but it is often seasonal – reducing the need for child care during the winter and making it difficult for providers to stay in business. Since the county encompasses a large geographic area and a population of about 13,000 people – more than half of county residents live in Hayfork and Weaverville – many smaller outlying communities find it difficult to support child care businesses.

Incentives to 'make things work'

Human Response Network, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, provides innovative child development services to families. Through the Child Care Initiative Project, (CCIP), a statewide program, and Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability (CARES), the R&R has recruited providers and offered them training and incentives for participating in educational activities. The R&R recently developed a school readiness program in five communities that previously had no child development services. "We make things work," says an R&R staffer. "While our small population can create challenges, it is also a strength in that it requires collaboration. We know how to take programs conceived for urban areas and make them work here in Trinity County."

"Although care during nights and weekends is always hard to find, we continue to work to meet the need."

– R&R Counselor

The People ¹	1990	2000	Change
Total number of residents	13,063	13,022	0%
Total number of employed residents		4,401	
Percent working outside the county		17%	
Percent working non-traditional hours		18%	
Total number of households	5,182	5,582	8%
Speaking English	4,804	5,225	9%
Speaking Spanish	123	159	29%
Speaking an Asian language	32	20	-38%

The Children¹ 2000

Total number of children (0–13 years) 2,119

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–11	12	13
203	82	132	135	144	1,059	194	170

Children 0–5 living in poverty (% of total) 211 (32%)

Children 0–5 living in single parent household (% of total) 208 (34%)

Total number of children (0–13) with parents in the labor force² 1,189

Under 2	2	3	4	5	6–13
105	50	59	85	80	810

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	\$4,676
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	33%
Annual median family income ¹	\$34,343
Annual fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit ⁵	\$6,036
Salary of entry-level public school teacher ⁶	\$31,509

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 Trinity County, call:

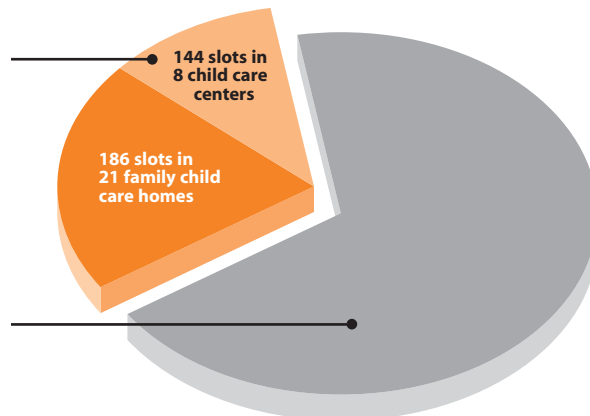
Human Response Network

530-623-2024

Child Care Supply in Trinity County

Licensed Child Care Supply 330 slots

Total number of licensed slots	330
Percent of slots in child care centers	44%
% of slots for infants (under 2 years old)	0%
% of slots for preschoolers (2–5 years old)	76%
% of slots for school-age children (6 years and older)	24%
Percent of slots in family child care homes ¹	56%



Children with Parents in the Labor Force² 1,189

Licensed child care is only available for 28% of children with parents in the labor force².

- Licensed center-based care not available for infants¹
- Licensed center-based care available for 40% 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	8	21
	Total number of slots	144	186 ¹
	Infant slots	0	
	Preschool slots	109	
	School-age slots	35	
Schedules³	Full-time and part-time	40%	91%
	Only full-time available	0%	0%
	Only part-time available	60%	9%
	Care available during non-traditional hours	20%	38%

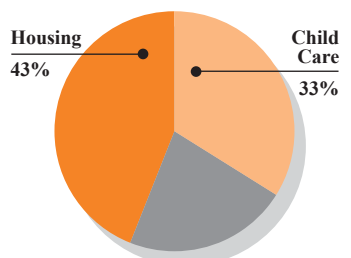
Parent Requests to the R&R⁴

Type of care: 100% school-age

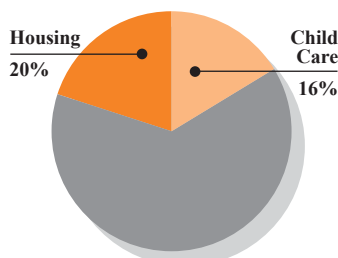
Type of facility: 100% family child care homes

Reasons for needing child care: 100% employment

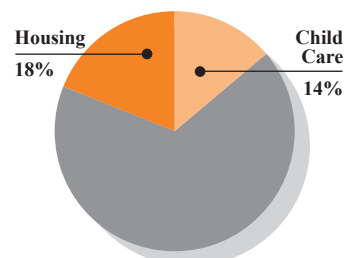
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Preschooler in a Licensed Center



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



For a Family Earning \$30,000 / year



For a Family at County Median Income \$34,343 / 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.