

**ANNUAL CHILD CARE REPORT  
Federal Fiscal Year 2025  
(10/1/2024 – 09/30/2025)**



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF

**HUMAN  
SERVICES**

Bureau for Family Assistance

Division of Early Care  
and Education

Lisa Ertl, Director  
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## **Introduction:**

Quality child care begins with consistent, basic health and safety practices in place. West Virginia strives to maintain basic health and safety standards in programs that care for children ages six weeks through 12 years, or through age 18 if the child has a special need.

The W. Va. Code requires that child care programs be either licensed or certified, depending on the provider type. During federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025, there were 1,310 child care providers throughout the state with the potential to serve 40,433 children ages six weeks through 12 years, ranging from small family child care homes to large child care centers.

This document serves as the annual report regarding licensed child care centers to meet the requirements of W. Va. Code §49-2-123 and is to be sent to the Governor and the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability (LOCHHRA). The report covers FFY 2025 and reflects information regarding all child care provider types opened or closed during this period, as can best be determined by the Peoples Access to Help (PATH) generated reports, hand-tallied monthly reports, and the PATH systems in general.

## **Provider Types:**

A **Family Child Care Home** is home-based care provided for a portion of the day in a private family home for compensation. The home must be inhabited by the family/individual that is providing care, and the provider's hours of operation may not exceed 18 hours in a 24-hour period. State law requires that care provided in a family child care home for 4-6 children must be regulated. The W. Va. Code allows for exemption from state regulatory requirements to **Informal Family Child Care** providers and **Relative Family Child Care** providers, unless the family child care provider chooses to receive subsidy payments through the child care certificate system. An Informal Family Child Care provider cares for fewer than four children, and a Relative Family Child Care provider cares for related children only. Upon approval to operate, a Family Child Care Home receives a certificate of registration.

A licensed **Family Child Care Facility** provides care for 7-12 children. The Family Child Care Facility may care for a maximum of 12 children, including children residing in the home under the age of six, with no more than four children under the age of 24 months.

Facility care may be in the operator's home or in a facility not inhabited by the provider.

A licensed **Child Care Center** serves 13 or more children, four or more hours per day, and is open for more than 30 days per year per child. Exceptions to this requirement include programs offering sessions not exceeding four hours per day per child such as kindergarten through grade

12 education programs, West Virginia Pre-K classrooms operated by a county board of education in a public-school setting, and any other kindergartens, preschools, or school-age programs with sessions not exceeding four hours per day per child. In addition, an individual or facility that offers occasional care of children for brief periods such as attendance of a religious service or engaging in recreational activities is exempt from licensure. While hospitals do not themselves meet the definition of a child care center, some hospitals may seek licensure for on-site child care provided to employee and patient families. As a result of HB4662, passed in March 2022, Head Start programs are treated separately from child care centers and are *deemed* to be licensed based on the receipt of a Notice of Award issued by the Office of Head Start.

A licensed **Out-of-School Time** program offers activities to school-age children before and/or after school, on school holidays, when school is closed because of an emergency, and on school calendar days set aside for teacher activities.

#### **Annual Child Care Statistics:**

- **Total Number of Licensed and Certified Programs – 1,375**
  - **Total Number of Licensed Programs – 671**
    - Child Care Centers – 325
    - Out-of-School Time Programs – 90
    - Head Start – 90
    - Family Child Care Facilities – 166
  - **Total Number of Certified Programs – 704**
    - Family Child Care Homes – 697
    - Informal Family Child Care Homes – 1
    - Relative Family Child Care Homes – 6
  
- **Total Enrollment Capacity for Children – 41,042**
  
- **Total Number of Approved New Provider Licenses/Certificates – 114**
  - Licensed Child Care Programs – 32 (14 Centers/0 Head Starts/1 Out-of-School Time Programs; 17 Facilities)
  - Certified Child Care Programs – 82
  
- **Total Number of Denied Applications for Licensure/Certification to New Providers – 11**
  - Licensed Child Care Programs – 5 (3 Centers/0 Out-of-School Time Programs; 2 Facility)
  - Certified Child Care Programs – 6 (6 Homes/0 Informal/Relative Homes)

- **Total Number of Revoked Licenses/Certificates to Current Child Care Providers – 34**
  - Child Care Centers – 0
  - Out-of-School Time Programs – 0
  - Head Start – 0
  - Family Child Care Facilities – 1
  - Family Child Care Homes – 33
  - Informal Family Child Care Homes and Relative Family Child Care Homes – 0

**PLEASE NOTE:** A license or certificate may be revoked due to an unwillingness or inability to comply with laws and regulations set forth in W. Va. Code §49-2-115. Family Child Care Homes may see their certificate suspended due to an Institutional Investigative Unit (IIU) investigation. If IIU finds no substantiation of abuse or neglect, the certificate is reinstated.

- **Total Number of Licensed Programs Receiving Negative Action that Affected the Status of the License (moved the license from regular to provisional status) – 31** (16 Centers, 15 Facilities)
- **Total Number of Negative Actions that Resulted in Court Injunctions – 0**
- **Total Number of Serious Occurrences in Licensed/Certified Programs – 95** (32 injuries; 15 communicable diseases (Influenza, RSV, Hand-Foot Mouth, Chicken pox); 1 medication errors; 2 serious violations; 43 reports of suspected abuse/neglect; 1 child death, 1 legal action, 0 substantiated abuse/neglect).
  - Licensed Programs – 91
  - Certified Programs – 4
- **Total Number of Fatalities in Licensed/Certified Programs Statewide – 1**
  - Licensed Programs – 1
  - Certified Programs – 0