



Summit County Childcare Needs Assessment Partial Update April 2024

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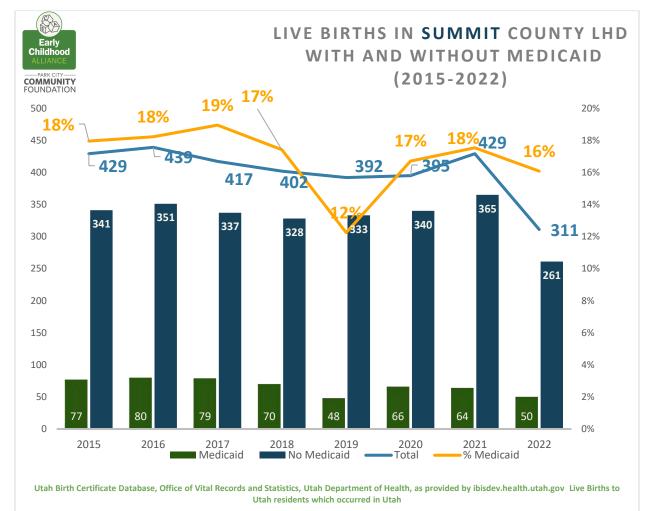
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This report updates some of the data sources contained within the <u>Summit County Childcare Needs</u> <u>Assessment</u> briefed to the Summit County Council on June 28, 2023.ⁱ It does not contain an updated community or provider survey, or revised demand analysis, but does update some relevant information from publicly-available data sources relating to access and affordability of childcare in Summit County.

Section I Demographic Updates

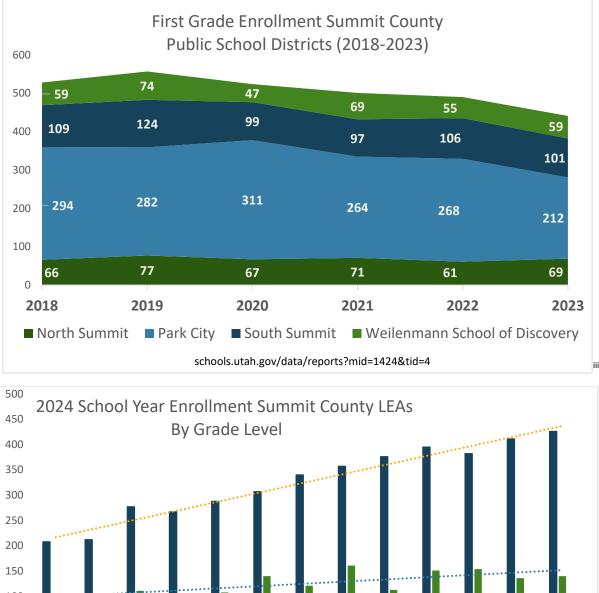
Birth Rates

With the exception of 2021, the population of children born in Summit County to Utah residents has declined slightly in the last several years. Approximately 16% of births to Utah residents in Summit County are to mothers using Medicaid, meaning that those households earn less than 139%ⁱⁱ of the Federal Poverty level, or \$2,152 a month for a 3-person household in 2024.



School Enrollment

Similar to the birth rate, public school enrollments are also declining. Kindergarten attendance is optional in Utah. Based on first-grade attendance between 2018 and 2023, total school enrollment has declined in Summit County since 2019 from 557 to 441 students, and most of this decline is within the Park City School District.

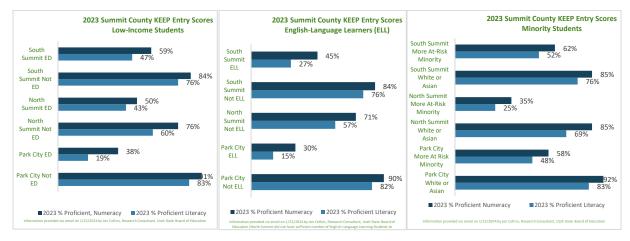




North Summit and South Summit school districts have a relatively even distribution of children amongst the grade levels. Park City School District generally has larger class sizes as the grade levels increase. For example, the Park City High School current senior class has 426 students while the kindergarten class size is only 208 students.

School Readiness

Lack of school readiness is one of the many ways in which communities pay for missed opportunities in providing high-quality early childhood experiences and environments. In Summit County, our minority, dual-language learning, and low-income students are disproportionately less ready for school than their peers, based on the Kindergarten Entry and Exit (KEEP) scores.^v



Income

Summit County is one of the wealthier counties in Utah and has a higher Area Median Income (AMI) than the state as a whole. AMI is determined by the U.S. Census Bureau using data from the American Community Survey. These data are adjusted by household size. According to HUD, Summit County's 2023 AMI by household size is set forth below.^{vi}

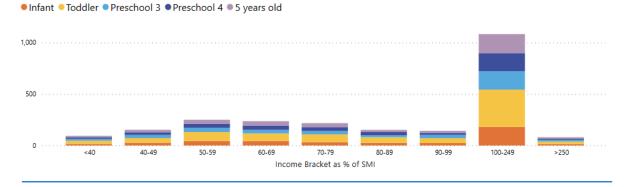
Summit County								
2024 AMI	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person	8 person
100%	\$107,100	\$122,400	\$137,700	\$153,000	\$165,300	\$177,500	\$189,800	\$202,000
80%	\$68,500	\$78,250	\$88,050	\$97,800	\$105,650	\$113,450	\$121,300	\$129,100
50%	\$53,550	\$61,200	\$68,850	\$76,500	\$82,650	\$88,750	\$94,900	\$101,000

Estimating the number of children by age, by income bracket can be difficult. One estimate using 2021 data for Summit County estimates the birth through five income breakdown using state median income as follows:^{vii}

Number of children by income bracket

SMI FPL

See how the number of children varies by household income bracket as a percentage of the State Median Income (SMI).



Since the state of Utah's AMI is lower than Summit County, the largest number of children fall within the income range of 71% to 177% of the Summit County AMI. For a family of 4, would be between \$108,500 and \$271,250 in annual income.

If families spend 10% of their income on child care expenses, then the difference between what families can afford and the average cost of childcare is set forth in the chart below:

Difference b/w Avg. Cost (\$1700) and Affordability (10% of income)	Avg.	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person
100%	\$585	\$756	\$639	\$520	\$425
80%	\$954	\$1,069	\$990	\$911	\$848
50%	\$1,142	\$1,228	\$1,169	\$1,110	\$1,063

Section II Childcare Options

Parental choice is paramount in deciding what type of childcare best suits each family's needs. There are numerous modalities of care, including center-based, family-based, preschool, after-school, summer, and informal family, friend and neighbor care. Many families use a combination of childcare types and providers. For example, many children may attend an academic year program and then use a different provider during the Summer. Similarly, three-year old children will often attend a partial-day public or private preschool program and then be cared for by either a nanny or a family, friend or neighbor informal care provider the rest of the day. Although there are numerous childcare options in our community, there are not enough of them to meet the need and many families can not afford what is currently available.

Need and Preferences for Childcare

The majority of children in Summit County have parents who work. 68% of mothers with children under age six are in the workforce in Summit County.^{viii} According to Voices for Utah Children's analysis,^{ix} Summit County has 1,634 children under the age of six with a childcare need, at a rate of 71%.

Availability of Childcare

Informal family, friend, and neighbor care is the most common form of non-parental care in the United States and nearly half of all children under the age of six spend time in some type of informal care.^x Because informal care, by definition, is unregulated, it is difficult to accurately quantify its availability or assess its quality.

Licensed Care

Licensed providers are more easily quantifiable than informal care, but the licensed capacity does not necessarily equate to actual capacity and there are several types of licensed care serving different ages, populations, and needs. Parents also often combine licensed care, such as preschool, with informal care to meet their needs.

Licensed vs. Actual Capacity

Licensed capacity often overstates actual capacity since providers sometimes use lower ratios than licensing standards allow to improve quality and many providers are currently experiencing staffing shortages and so are not able to serve as many children as their maximum licensed capacity would allow.

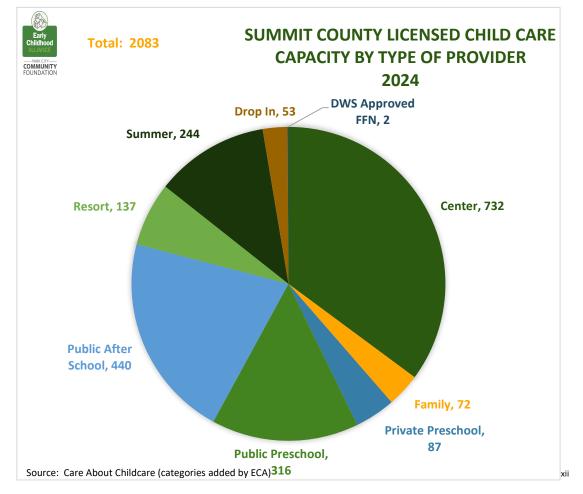
Total Licensed Capacity

The licensed childcare providers in Summit County are set forth in the table below, organized by type of care and showing each provider's total licensed capacity, with the exception of Deer Valley, which was separated to more accurately describe its Deer Valley Academy and resort guest services. Additional revisions were made to reflect the expansion of public preschool at McPolin and Jeremey Ranch in Fall 2024 as well as the opening of PC Tot's third location at the Park City Library. Mountain Sprouts Children's Center is expected to open in mid to late April, 2024 near Kimball Junction that will serve kids from 4 weeks to 5 years old and is expected to add an additional 57 spots once it is licensed. Note that Jenny Evans switched from a family provider to a center provider in Coalville, increasing options for licensed care in that community. Licensed capacity is not available by age group, since each facility is provided a total capacity and is allowed to decide which age groups to serve, and how many in each age group.^{xi}

Туре	Facility	Capacity
Center	Alpine Adventurers Academy	88
Center	Alpine Adventurers Academy II	53
Center	Creekside Kids - Park City	76
Center	Little Miners Montessori	80
Center	PC Tots	96
Center	PC Tots Library	20
Center	PC Tots Too	34

Center	Soaring Wings International Montessori School	120
Center	The PEEK Program by Creekside Kids	45
Center	Deer Valley Academy	30
Center	Mountain Sprouts Children's Center	57
Center	Love and Learning Child Care	33
Family	Rieker, Keziah	8
Family	Evans, Keri dba Evans Day Care	16
Family	Miller, Casey Geisdorf dba Stepping Stone Academy	16
Family	Peck, Marianne dba Peck's Playschool	16
Family	Nielsen, Krystal dba Lil Oaklies Childcare	16
Private Preschool	Black Diamond - Park City	36
Private Preschool	Holy Cross Ministries	23
Private Preschool	Shining Stars School	28
Public After School	Jeremy Ranch After School Program	100
Public After School	McPolin Elementary After School Program	100
Public After School	Parley's Park After School Program	100
Public After School	Trailside Elementary After School Program	100
Public After School	Weilenmann Enrichment Corporation	40
Public Preschool	North Summit Elementary Preschool	30
Public Preschool	Jeremy Ranch Elementary Preschool	100
Public Preschool	McPolin Elementary Preschool	100
Public Preschool	Parley's Park Elementary Preschool	36
Public Preschool	Trailside Elementary Preschool (Park City)	30
Public Preschool	South Summit Preschool	20

Resort	Deer Valley Child Care	48
Resort	Little Adventures Children's Center @ Canyons	72
Resort	Wildstar	17
Summer	Park City Recreation Summer Day Camp	91
Summer	YMCA of Northern Utah - Park City	70
Summer	Park City Kids Camp (Vail)	83
Drop In	Westgate Resort's Kids Club	21
Drop In	Wildings Mountain Camp	32
DWS-Approved FFN	Killion, Courtney A	2
Total	39	2083

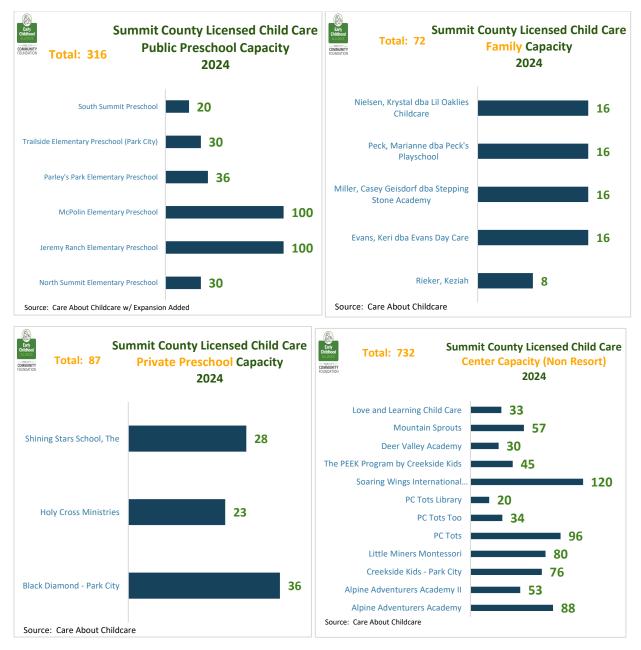


In terms of early care and education, the primary providers of licensed care for the Summit County workforce are the center, family, and private/public preschool providers since afterschool and summer providers typically serve kids over age five.

Resort Childcare Serves Local and Guest Children

A significant portion (137) of the licensed capacity in Summit County is based at the resort centers, and often serve guest children in addition to the local workforce families. Vail's Little Adventures Children's Center, for example, estimates that during the winter season, 10% of the spots are used by local workforce children and 90% are guests. Their local workforce proportion grows during the mud season and during the Summer the local workforce children are the majority, with a few guest children.^{xiii} Similarly, Vail's Park City Kids Camp at the base of Park City Mountain Resort operates only in the Summer (June- mid August). It has not been open the past few years due to COVID and it is uncertain whether it will open for the 2024 Summer.xiv Wildstar, part of the Talisker Club community, currently does not provide care under age 2, but is considering adding this in the future, and most of their use is from visiting members who have a second home there.^{xv} Deer Valley offers an academic-year round program called Deer Valley Academy for 30 children; guest children are also served, but this number fluctuates greatly depending on demand and available staffing, with an estimated peak time of 48 children.^{xvi} The ratio of guest to local use fluctuates between roughly 50%/50% and 70% guest and 30% local during the busy periods.^{xvii} Outside of Deer Valley Academy, the rest of the spots are open during the winter season, typically December through April. Deer Valley is separated into the Deer Valley Academy (30 center spots) and Deer Valley Child Care (48 resort spots) in the following charts to recognize their two programs.

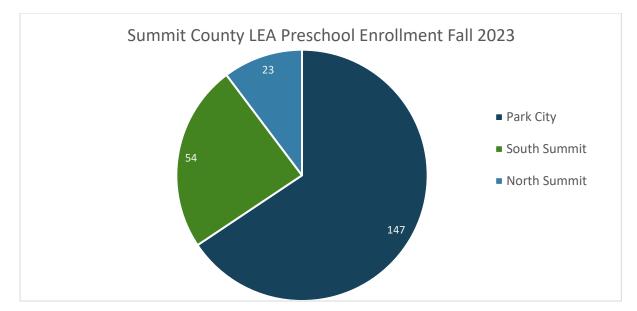




Combining the licensed capacity of non-resort center and family programs, Summit County has a capacity of 819 regulated childcare opportunities. Public and private preschool programs offer another 385 spots, but with the exception of Park City School Districts' expanded four-year old program next Fall, many of those preschool programs have shorter hours and days of the week and so may not fully satisfy the needs of full-time working parents.

Preschool Care

As children age, the options for care increase as public and private preschools also offer services to this age group. All three public school districts in Summit County offer preschool programs. For the 2023/24 school year, there were a total of 224 children enrolled in public preschool in LEAs in Summit County.^{xviii}



Park City School District Is Expanding Preschool Programs

The Park City School District currently offers preschool programs at all four of its elementary schools. Currently, four-year old children may attend full-day (8:15 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.) four days a week at all four schools and a half-day program (12:05 p.m. to 3:05 p.m.) is available at Jeremy Ranch four days a week. Three-year old students may attend half day (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) two days a week.

For the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, the 3-year old program costs \$175 per month (not available at Parley's Park Elementary) and the 4-year old program is \$780 per month for full-day and \$390 per month for the half day program (available only at Jeremy Ranch Elementary). Tuition may be reduced if families qualify for a fee reduction.

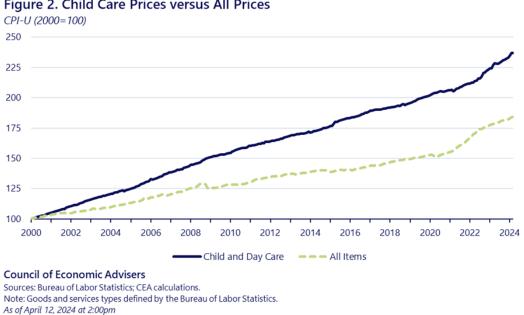
Park City School District's Board of Education voted to expand the preschool program on December 12, 2023.^{xix} According to the presentation to the school board,^{xx} 86% of survey respondents need five full days of preschool or five full days plus aftercare. Park City School District will increase 4-year old capacity by a total of four classrooms at two elementary schools by opening two new classes at both McPolin and Jeremey Ranch, extend the program to five days a week, and also allow the 4-year old students to attend the afterschool program. This is estimated to be an additional 70 spots for 4-year olds.^{xxi} The 3-year old program is not changing. Park City School District is increasing tuition to account for moving from four days a week to five and additional fees are charged for those families who select the afterschool program.

-	Tuitior	n Propo	osal
Preschool Tuition 4yr olds (5 Day)	Afterschool	Preschool Tuition 3yr olds (2 half days)	
780 per month	400 per month	175 per month	
Sliding Scale Tuition	Sliding Scale Tuition	Sliding Scale Tuition	Work Force Service Child Care Subsidy Offsets to
125 per month	65 per month	75 per month	full tuition cost

PCSD's preschool program started in 2010 and the Park City Education Foundation provides over \$120,000 each year to support this critical program.^{xxiii} The proposed preschool expansion budget for the 2024/2025 school year costs a total of \$2,268,000, with \$1,321,000 coming from revenue from tuition and support from the Park City Education Foundation, \$947,000 as an allocation from the Park City School District, \$221,000 in additional district funds for the expansion and between \$150,000 and \$180,000 to expand after school services to the preschool children.xxiv

Affordability of Childcare

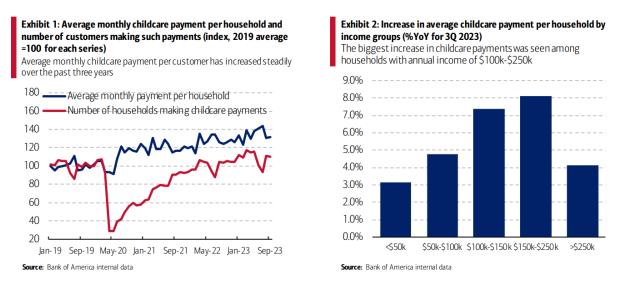
Childcare has always been expensive, but the costs are increasing.



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Figure 2. Child Care Prices versus All Prices

"According to Bank of America internal data, the average childcare payment per household has risen over 30% since 2019 with middle- and upper-income families (annual income of \$100k to \$250k) seeing the biggest increase."xxvi



Nationally, families spend 24% of their household income on childcare, and 35% of families use their savings to cover childcare costs.^{xxvii} Most (79%) parents expect the loss of federal funding to increase costs in 2024 and 54% expect to spend an additional \$600 or more per month on childcare as a result of the child care cliff.

Pricing of care differs greatly depending on the quality of care (higher-quality care requires trained teachers with lower ratios), amount (some families need more than 40 hours per week of care), timing (some families need care during evening and weekends), and age of the child. In general, due to higher staffing ratios, the cost of care typically decreases as the child ages, and center-based care is more expensive than home-based care, while nannies are the most expensive.

	2023	2022
	One	child
Nanny	\$766	\$736
Daycare	\$321	\$284
Family Care Center	\$230	\$229

Infant	child	care	cost	per	week

Toddler child care cost per week

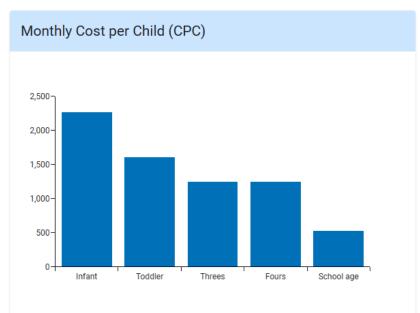
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	One child Two childrer		hildren	
Nanny	\$755	\$701	\$764	\$726
Daycare	\$293	\$268	\$556	\$510
Family Care center	\$219	\$217	\$ 416	\$413

Infant care is typically the hardest to find and the most expensive. In fact, it costs more to send an infant to childcare in Utah (\$14,064)^{xxix} than tuition and fees for residents this year at the University of Utah

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(\$9,400);^{xxx} and, unlike college tuition, there are very few grants, loans, or scholarships available to cover these costs.

The cost of care in Utah using licensing ratio and group size regulations for centers based on the <u>MIT living</u> <u>wage calculator</u> is estimated to range from \$2,265 per month for infants to \$1,245 per month for fouryear old children and a center with 110 children would cost approximately \$1.5 million each year to run.^{xxxi}



The recommended benchmark is that families should not pay more than 7% of their family income on childcare.^{xxxii} Based on 2024 Area Median Income for Summit County, those maximum monthly parental contributions for families earning the median income would be as follows:

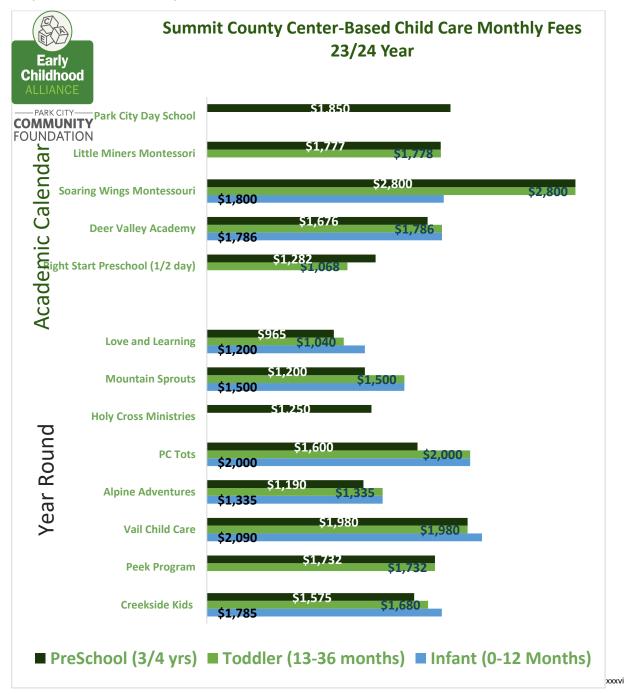


Local Childcare Tuition

Pricing for home-based licensed care varies depending upon the provider. Family care typically includes mixed-ages and does not have separate classrooms, so the pricing often does not vary as much by age. The estimated annual cost per child in Utah for family child care is \$9,400 for base quality and \$27,000 for high-quality.^{xxxiii} Stepping Stones, a local family-based provider charges \$1,173 per month, or \$14,076 per year.^{xxxiv}

Pricing for center-based care often does vary by age. Pricing for several of the licensed, center-based providers in Summit County is set forth below, categorized by whether their programs run on an academic or calendar year. Pricing can vary between local rates and guest rates. For example, Vail offers childcare

for \$65 a day for employees, and provides a local rate during the Summer of \$95 a day for infants and \$90 a day for children two and up.^{xxxv}



Childcare Assistance

There is limited childcare tuition assistance available through philanthropic donations, federal funding administered by the Utah Department of Workforce Services and city and county funding.

Private Assistance

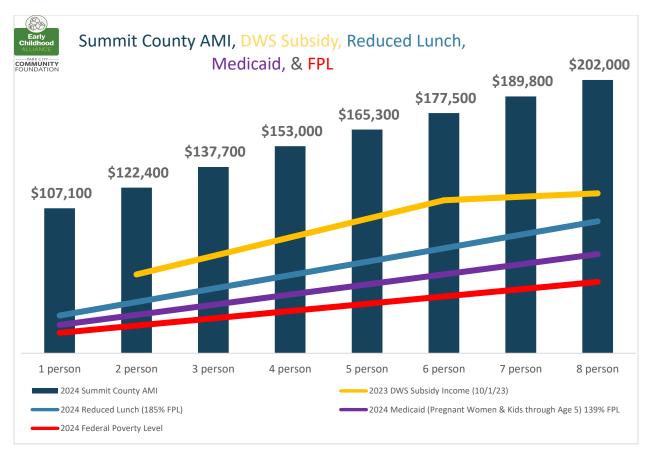
Several of the local childcare providers offer privately-funded financial assistance to their clients, including Park City Day School, PC Tots, and Holy Cross Ministries. The Park City School District Preschool is able to offer fee waivers to income-eligible families in part because of the philanthropic support provided by the Park City Education Foundation. These types of private assistance rely on philanthropic support and require extensive fundraising efforts.

Federal Assistance

The Utah Department of Workforce Services Office of Childcare (DWS) administers federal Child Care Development Block Grant funds as a childcare subsidy program. These subsidies are available to families who earn 85% or less of the state median income and are working or in school and can demonstrate a need for childcare, among other requirements. Because Summit County's Area Median Income levels are higher than the state levels, this results in an income limitation that is likely to range between 48% and 60% of Summit County's area median income, depending upon household size.^{xxxvii}

	2-person	3-person	4-person	5-person
DWS Childcare Subsidy Income Limits	\$58,236	\$71,940	\$85,644	\$99,336
% Summit County AMI	48%	52%	56%	60%

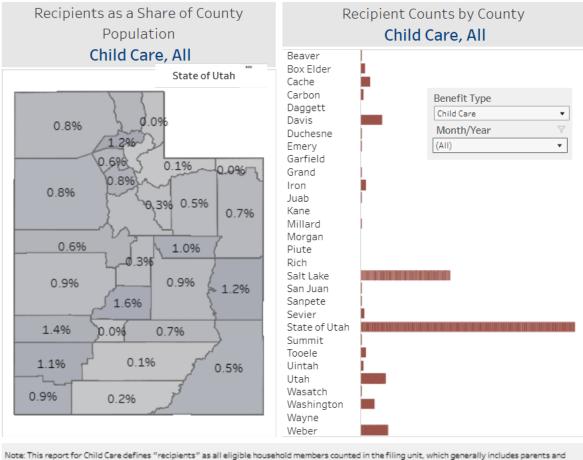
To get a sense of the DWS childcare subsidy income level qualification in comparison to other federallyfunded programs that support young children such as free lunch and Medicaid, the chart below shows these income caps relative to the Summit County area median income and the federal poverty level.



In September of 2023, there were only 34 children in Summit County who received a childcare subsidy from the DWS program aged five and under.^{xxxviii} At .1%, Summit County has a lower child care subsidy usage rate compared to other counties in Utah and the state average of .8%.

Public Assistance Recipients

For more information about this visualization, see the About Public Assistance Recipients Dashboard at: http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/statewide/aboutpubassist.pdf



all children under age 18 living in the home.

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In general, many eligible families do not receive federal childcare subsidies. It is estimated that across the State of Utah, only 9.5% of eligible children under 6 are served.^{xl} In addition to obtaining the subsidy, families also need to find a qualified provided who will accept the subsidy, and the lack of available spaces may also decrease the utilization. Increasing utilization of the DWS subsidy program would greatly improve childcare access and affordability in Summit County.

For the children who benefit from the DWS subsidy, the maximum amount of subsidy is substantial, and can be as much as \$14,064 per year. The amount of subsidy depends upon the age of the child, the type of childcare provider, and the amount of care required. Payments are made directly to providers. The maximum monthly subsidies provided for various types of providers are adjusted each year and the amounts effective as of January 1, 2024, are listed below.

kevTable 3 Maximum Monthly Child Care Payments Based on Monthly Local Market Rates

Table Effective Date: January 1, 2024

Provider Type	0 to <24 months	2 years old	3 years old	4 years old	5 years old	6 to <13 years old
License Exempt – Child/Provider home (Family, Friend, and Neighbor-FFN)	413	385	371	361	358	320
Commercial Preschools- Licensed	413	385	371	361	358	320
License Exempt Center/Program Residential Certificate	630	525	506	492	488	484
Family Home- Licensed	840	700	675	656	650	610
Center-Licensed	1172	867	820	783	755	629

County Assistance

Summit County included \$280,000 in its 2024 budget to support childcare: \$150,000 to expand childcare for County employees and an additional \$130,000 for community-wide childcare. It is not yet clear exactly how these funds will be invested.

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City Assistance

Park City has invested \$1 million and partnered with <u>Upwards</u> to expand childcare access and affordability for families living or working in Park City.^{xlii} The program has four components: (1) a needs-based childcare tuition scholarship for resident children up to kindergarten age; (2) an infant/toddler childcare tuition scholarship up to 36 months; (3) a scholarship for employees of Park City Municipal up to kindergarten age; and (4) an incentive for regulated providers to serve children who receive a subsidy from the Utah

Department of Workforce Services. This program just launched in 2024 and the staff report covering the first two months of the program shows that families are actively applying for these funds.^{xliii}

Childcare Workforce

The childcare industry is experiencing a workforce shortage across the nation that began well before the pandemic. The Center for the Study of Childcare Employment at Berkeley tracks childcare sector jobs each month. As of January 2024, the childcare industry had finally reached and slightly exceeded the pre-covid numbers and there has been a 21.1% increase in child care jobs since April 2021, when ARPA funds began being distributed.^{xliv}

The Utah Department of Workforce Services Office of Childcare hired the University of Utah's Department of Economics to study Utah's Child Care Workforce in November of 2023 based on over 10,000 early care and education survey respondents.^{xlv} In Utah, compared to the overall labor force, child care workers are more likely to be: younger, female, identify as people of color or Hispanic and Latino ethnicities, earn lower than the median income, not have access to health insurance, retirement contributions, and paid sick leave, and hold an additional job to cover basic living expenses.

	Child Care Labor Force Survey Sample	Utah Total Labor Force
Percent Female	89%	45%
Percent identifying as White	83%	91%
Percent with Hispanic ethnicity	20%	14%
Percent aged 16 to 24	33%	20%
Percent with a bachelor's degree or higher	31%	33%
Percent of employed working full time, year- round	59%	62%
Percent of full-time workers with employer- provided health insurance	52%	79%
Median hourly wage	\$15	\$21.38
Percent working multiple jobs	21%	5%

Table 3.1: Worker Demographics and Labor Market Outcomes for Utah's Child Care	
Workforce and Total Labor Force	

Sources: Utah Department of Workforce Services Office of Child Care Workforce Bonus Program Survey Data. Utah labor force gender, race, ethnicity, and educational attainment from Bureau of Labor Statistics Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, Utah 2021 Tables 14 and 15. Utah age share from Bureau of Labor Statistics Preliminary 2022 Local Area Unemployment Statistics Expanded State Employment Status Demographic Data. Utah full-time year-round employment share from American Community Survey Table C23022. Utah employment-provided health insurance estimate from American Community Survey Table C27012. Utah median hourly wage from Bureau of Labor Statistics May 2022 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates. And Utah multiple job holders from and Utah Department of Workforce Services Report "Utahns Who Work Multiple Jobs at the Same Time, Dec. 2021".

Despite having nearly the same amount of bachelor's degree or higher (31%) as the total labor force in Utah (33%), due to the low wages and scant benefits, early care and education workers are more than four times (21%) as likely to have to work multiple jobs than the total labor force in Utah (5%).

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End Notes

ⁱ Summit County Childcare Needs Assessment (March 2023), available at: <u>https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/2031700/Staff Report-</u> Childcare Needs Assessment.pdf.

ⁱⁱ Utah Department of Workforce Services, Pregnant Women Medical, available at: <u>https://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/services/medicaid/byb.html</u>.

^{III} Utah State Board of Education, Fall Enrollment by Grade Levels and Demographics (November 2023), available at: <u>https://schools.utah.gov/data/reports?mid=1424&tid=4</u>.

^{iv} Utah State Board of Education, Fall Enrollment by Grade Levels and Demographics (November 2023), available at: <u>https://schools.utah.gov/data/reports?mid=1424&tid=4</u>.

^v Email from Jon Collins, Research Consultant, Utah State Board of Education to Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance, (January 22, 2024).

^{vi} FY 2024 Income Limits Summary Summit County, available at:

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il2024/2024summary.odn?STATES=49.0&INPUTNAME=NCNTY49043 N49043*4904399999%2BSummit+County&statelist=&stname=Utah&wherefrom=%24wherefrom%24&statefp=49 &year=2024&ne_flag=&selection_type=county&incpath=%24incpath%24&data=2024&SubmitButton=View+Count y+Calculations.

^{vii} Cusp Public Child Population Estimate for Summit County ages infant through five, available at: <u>Free Early</u> <u>Childhood Dataset from 3Si | CUSP Public (team3si.com)</u>.

^{viii} U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2022: ACS 5-Year Estimate, Table B23003, (188 out of 593 females with own children under 6 years old not in the labor force) available at: <u>B23003: Presence of Own Children</u> ... - <u>Census Bureau Table</u>.

^{ix} Voices for Utah Children, *Mapping Care for Kids: A County-Level Look at Utah's Crisis in Licensed Child Care*, (October 23, 2023), available at: <u>Voices for Utah Children - Mapping Care for Kids: A County-Level Look at Utah's Crisis in Licensed Child Care</u>.

* National Center for Children in Poverty, Demographics of Family, Friend, and Neighbor Childcare in the United States (August 2008), available at: <u>https://www.nccp.org/publication/demographics-of-family-friend-and-neighbor-childcare-in-the-united-</u> states/#:~:text=FFN%20care%20is%20the%20most,for%20school%2Dage%20children).

^{xi} E-mail from Utah Child Care Licensing, Office of Licensing, DHHS, to Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance, (January 23, 2023).

^{xii} Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Licensing and Background Checks, (November 2, 2023) available at: <u>https://ccl.utah.gov/ccl/#/facilities</u> with updated PCSD preschool figures provided by Dan Galley via email (February 2, 2024).

xiii Telephone call with Gail Sauer, Little Adventures Children's Center, with Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance, (October 26, 2023).

xiv Telephone call with Gail Sauer, Little Adventures Children's Center, with Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance, (October 26, 2023).

^{xv} Email from Meg Driscoll, Wildstar Manager, to Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance, (January 25, 2023).

^{xvi} Phone conversation between Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance, and Tracy Webb, Deer Valley, (January 25, 2023).

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