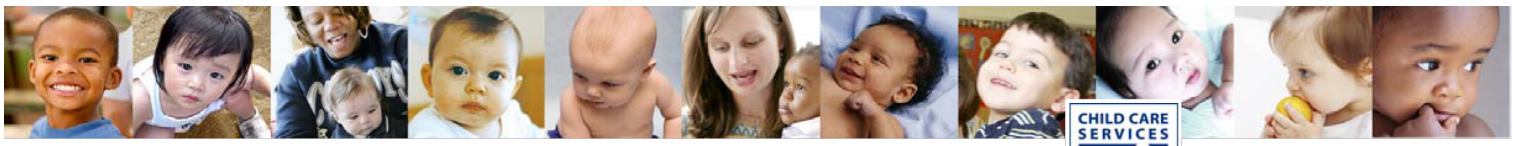


Child Care in Alamance County

www.childcareservices.org
919.967.3272

Did you know that...

- approximately **7,699** children under six in the county live in families where their sole parent or both parents are working? The need for child care is critical to the economic viability of these families.

- the county received and spent **$5,124,062** in federal and state funds (not including Smart Start) to help parents pay for child care in fiscal year 2016? In November, the county served **1,076** different children with child care subsidy and had **382** eligible children on the waiting list for subsidy.

- Alamance County has **89** licensed child care programs? Of these, **71** are centers and **18** are family child care homes. Of all the licensed programs in the county, **65%** of the centers and **44%** of homes have a 4 or 5 star rating. These businesses employ **549** people directly, and also contribute to the economy through purchases of goods and services provided by other businesses in their communities and state.

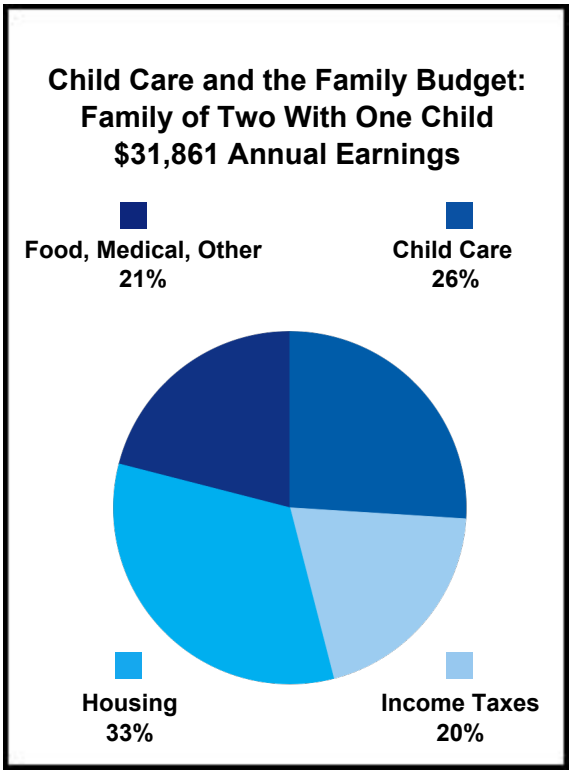
- there are **2,718** birth to five year old and **584** school-age children currently enrolled in these child care programs.

- among birth to five year old children enrolled in centers in Alamance County, **73%** are in 4 or 5 star licensed centers. Among birth to five year old children enrolled in homes in Alamance County, **42%** are in 4 -5 star licensed homes.

- **52** teachers, directors and family child care providers living in Alamance County participated in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project in fiscal year 2016 with **22** child care programs supporting their employees returning to school through this scholarship program?

- using federal guidelines for setting subsidy payment rates and data from fiscal year 2015 market rate study, the 4-star center market rate for two year olds in Alamance County is **$703** per month?

- most families in Alamance County cannot afford the full cost of child care? Low-income families and families with more than one child have to pay a high percentage of their income for care. A single mother with one child earning $31,860 or less per year can receive child care subsidy as funds are available. If funds are unavailable or if this parent's earnings exceed the income eligibility limit, a parent would pay **26%** of her gross income (see chart) for child care offered at the county rate. Little is left in the family's budget for food, medical, clothing, travel or other basic living expenses. Due to the high cost of child care, parents often make difficult choices. Some may be forced to seek TANF. Others may seek cheaper, often inadequate child care or leave their children unattended.



© 2017 Child Care Services Association. Figures derived using the most recent available data from Child Care Services Association, Internal Revenue Service, N.C. Budget and Tax Center, N.C. Division of Child Development and Early Education and N.C. State Data Center and U.S. Census Bureau.

Updated January 2017