

FY25-26 Community Assessment Update

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FY25-26 Community Assessment Process

Timing

- Data updated in Fall/Winter 2025-26. Final report version in February 2026.

Data Sources

- Secondary data from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), 2023 California Child Care Portfolio published by California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, California Community Care Licensing Division, and other national, state, and local resources.
- Data disaggregated by cities within Contra Costa County.

Future

- RFP 1231 issued December 2025
- Received 6 proposals that are being vetted for a decision in Spring 2026

Community Assessment Highlights: Eligible Population

The number of children 0-5 years old has been declining since 2026, even while the county's overall population has been increasing.

	2016	2024	% Change 2016-24
1. Children Age 0-2	37,441	34,309	-8%
2. Children Age 3-5	41,893	38,167	-9%
3. Total Children 0-5	79,334	72,476	-9%
4. Overall Population	1,107,925	1,172,607	+6%
5. % Population 0-5	7%	6%	-1%

*Source: ACS 2024 1-Year Estimates and prior ACS 5- Year Estimates.

Community Assessment Highlights: Family Needs

Monthly full-time child care costs have increased from 2019 to 2023. For families needing infant care, costs are about 30% more expensive using either center-based options or family home based options. It is even more for families needing preschool care, increasing by nearly 40% regardless of type of program.

Average Monthly Full-Time Costs:	2019	2021	2023	% Change 2019-23
1. Center-Based Infant Care	\$1,622	\$1,733	\$2,088	+29%
2. Center-Based Preschool Care	\$1,190	\$1,295	\$1,649	+39%
3. Family Home Based Infant Care	\$1,045	\$1,233	\$1,381	+32%
4. Family Home Based Preschool Care	\$996	\$1,093	\$1,386	+39%

*Source: 2019, 2021, and 2023 California Child Care Portfolio published by California Child Care Resource & Referral Network.

Community Assessment Highlights: Availability of Services

- Overall, more child care slots are available in 2025 compared to 2024, including licensed center-based and family homes serving at least 9 children.
- Still only enough slots for 44% of 0-5 years old population.

	2024	2025	Change
1. # of Preschool Care Slots	18,553	17,797	-4%
2. # of Infant Care Slots	2,275	2,212	-3%
3. # of Single License Care Slots	3,732	4,999	+34%
4. Total # Child Care Center-Based Slots	24,560	25,008	+2%
5. # Additional Family Home Care Slots	6,050	6,553	+8%

*California Community Licensing Division, as reported in December of each year. A single license allows centers to serve multiple age ranges. Family Home Care slots only include those that serve at least 9 children, since data is not publicly shared for those with fewer than 9 children.

Slots Available for 0-5 Population
(72,476 in 2024)

