



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Karen Sampson
Director, Data and Evaluation
253-383-1735

Marcia Jacobs
Communications & Marketing Mgr.
253-383-1735 ext. 100

**CHILD CARE AWARE OF WASHINGTON RELEASES 2016 STATEWIDE COUNTY-SPECIFIC
CHILD CARE DATA**

TACOMA, WA – Oct. 7, 2016 – Child Care Aware of Washington announces the release of its 2016 county-specific child care data, providing the latest information about the supply, demand and costs of child care in every county in Washington. The data also include important demographic information about each county, including child care workforce wage information and income measures in each region, as well as a statewide summary. You can find the data on our website here: <http://wa.childcareaware.org/about-us/data>.

Child Care Aware of Washington provides this important data each year. It is used by state and federal agencies, as well as by academic institutions across the country. In addition to providing much-needed data about the child care field, the data also show the success of our state’s child care quality-improvement efforts, with more than 70 percent of licensed child care programs statewide enrolled in the Department of Early Learning’s Early Achievers, Washington’s Quality Rating and Improvement System.

“A high-quality child care system is critical to support the parents that make up Washington’s workforce, and to prepare the next generation to become wise leaders and good citizens. Our county reports provide a quick snapshot of key information about children, families and child care in each community. We collect information from child care providers and combine it with data from a variety of other sources to provide

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information about our state’s child care system and the impact to working families,” said Karen Sampson, Director, Data and Evaluation for Child Care Aware of Washington.

Key findings among the statewide data show that:

- Child Care workers continue to earn low wages in Washington.
- After a decline earlier in the decade, the overall number of child care programs has stabilized in the last few years.
- More than half of the families that Child Care Aware of Washington assisted in finding child care for intended to use financial assistance.

Some of the county-specific data highlights include:

- In **King County** the number of child care providers has declined, but the combined capacity of all providers increased from 2,137 providers with capacity for 55,485 children in 2011, to 1,867 providers with capacity for 59,683 children in June of 2016.*
- In **Pierce County** 75 percent of licensed child care providers accept state subsidies, and approximately 59 percent of children seeking child care referrals used subsidies.
- In **Yakima County** approximately 86 percent of licensed child care providers are participating in Early Achievers.
- In **Snohomish County** 72 percent of providers accept state subsidies and 53 percent of children seeking child care referrals used subsidies.
- In **Spokane County** approximately 68 percent of licensed child care providers are participating in Early Achievers.
- In **Thurston County** approximately 73 percent of licensed child care providers are participating in

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Early Achievers.

- In **Clark County** the number of child care providers and total child care capacity declined from 324 providers with capacity for 9,302 children in 2011, to 255 providers with capacity for 8,747 children in June of 2016. *

Child Care Aware of Washington is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to connecting families to local, high-quality, licensed child care and early learning programs, and to supporting providers who deliver high-quality care. As a statewide network of six regional agencies, we work side-by-side with child care providers, offering professional development services and higher education scholarships to help them integrate research-based, best practices into their programs. We are committed to ensuring that each and every child in Washington has access to the quality care and education they need to succeed in school and life. For more information, please visit our website at <http://wa.childcareaware.org> and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Child-Care-Aware-of-Washington-149636987661/> and on Twitter @childcarewa.

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*Includes licensed child care (centers and family child care) and exempt school-age programs only.