

The Rising Cost of Child Care: A Growing Challenge

Child care costs are steadily increasing, often surpassing what families can afford. Experts recommend that child care expenses should not exceed 7% of a family's income—a benchmark many are struggling to meet. There's good news. Ventura County has seen an increase in child care availability over the past year. However, the demand for infant care still far exceeds the available supply, leaving many families in need. Referrals for all ages continue to be in demand. CDR is dedicated to supporting families by helping make child care more affordable and expanding the availability of child care spaces to meet growing needs.

Cost of Child Care Continues to Outpace Wages

Age Group	Estimated Avg. 2024 Rates	2024 % of Rates as a Share of Family Income	Current Rates for Subsidized Child Care
Infant/Toddler	\$19,790	15%	\$16,176
Preschool	\$16,185	13%	\$13,224
School Age	\$12,960	11%	\$11,832

*California Department of Social Services

**U.S. Department of Labor

Number of Licensed Facilities Available at CDR

Centers: **293**

Family Child Care Homes: **636**

Child Care Spaces are Limited in Ventura County

The percentage of children for whom child care spaces are available. Does not include Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and afterschool programs operated by school districts.*

Infant/Toddler: **10%**

Preschool: **53%**

School Age: **3%**

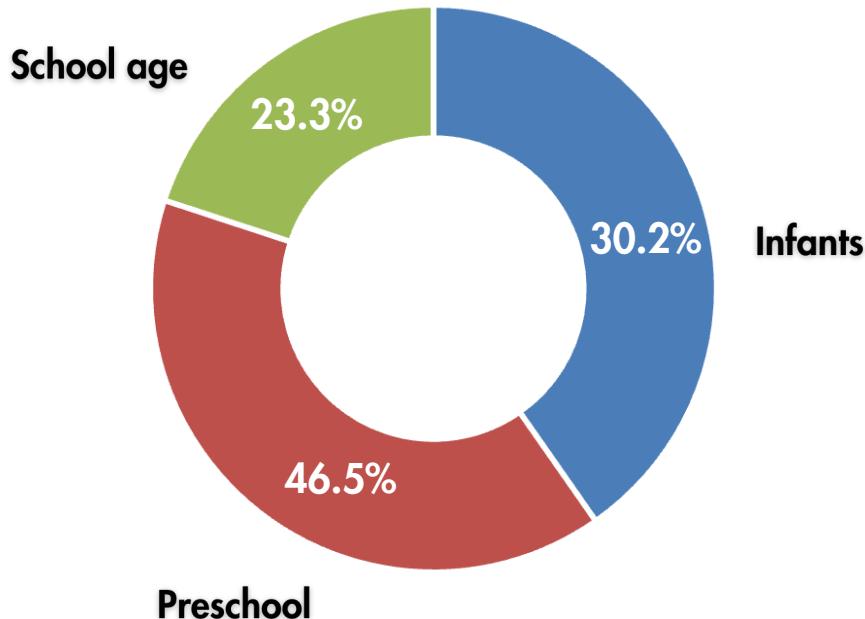
*Based on licensed child care facilities as of December 2024, Census ACS B09001 - Population by Years of Age 5 Year Estimates.





Referral Requests by Age Group

The following chart represents referral requests sent to CDR during the 2023-2024 fiscal year.



Children Served at CDR Fiscal Year 2023-2024

CalWORKS Stage 1-3: **2,221**

Alternative Payment Program: **3,304**

Family Child Care Home Education Network: **125**

Foster Child Care Bridge Program: **108**

Head Start/Early Head Start: **1,243**

CDR supported **60** family child care providers to become licensed, and trained over **1,464** teachers and providers on early care education, business of child care, and health & safety.