

Childcare Needs Assessment: Tioga County

Survey Analysis
[September 2020]

TEAM Tioga



ABOUT



This survey was focused primarily on gathering data for immediate response post-COVID.

TEAM Tioga partnered with the Tioga County Department of Social Services (D.S.S.), Family Enrichment Network (FEN), and all six county-wide school districts to distribute the survey. 297 families participated in the survey.

SURVEY SNAPSHOT



297

SURVEY RESPONSES



~536*

CHILDREN IMPACTED



20

TOTAL OCFS-LICENSED PROVIDERS IN TIOGA COUNTY DISTRICTS



91%

RESPONDENTS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED



54%

FACING CHILDCARE GAPS

*Projected number of children impacted based on the survey response percentages

SURVEY SNAPSHOTS



RESPONDENT SNAPSHOT

FIRST SHIFT

TYPICAL WORK SHIFT*

95%

LOOKING FOR CARE
WITHIN TIOGA COUNTY

80%

RELY ON HOME-BASED
CARE

MAJORITY

SEARCHING FOR CENTER-
BASED CARE

IMMEDIATE NEED

90 CHILDREN IN IMMEDIATE
NEED OF BEFORE/AFTER
CARE, INDICATING MUCH
LARGER SYSTEMIC ISSUE.

*Times needed for childcare coverage varied



PARTICIPATION BY DISTRICT

7.29%

CANDOR

14.58%

NEWARK VALLEY

47.92%

OWEGO-APALACHIN

3.13%

SPENCER-VAN ETTEN

12.5%

TIOGA

5.21%

WAVERLY

9.37%

OTHER (outside Tioga County)



TOP CHALLENGES

38.83%

COST OF CARE

35.05%

SCHEDULING CARE TO
MATCH WORK SCHEDULE

28.52%

DEPENDABLE CARE

26.12%

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUS
ROUTES AND SCHEDULING

26.12%

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF COVID-
19 ON EXISTING CAREGIVER

23.37%

HYBRID VIRTUAL/IN-
SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

20.96%

EMPLOYER FLEXIBILITY



TOP 5

types of childcare currently being used

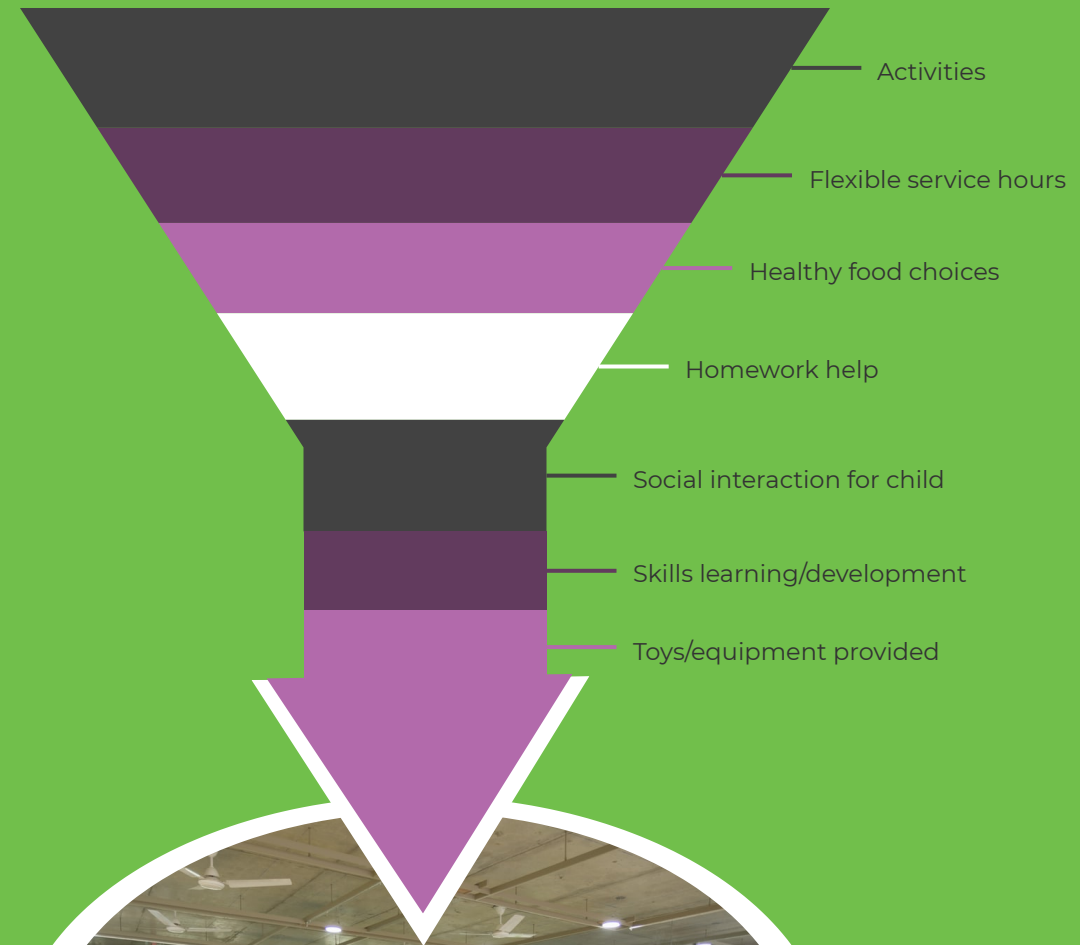
1. Care by parents in your home (37.46%)
2. Care in relative's home (21.65%)
3. Care in your home by relative (17.87%)
4. Care in non-relative home (14.43%)
5. Combination of above as needed (21.31%)

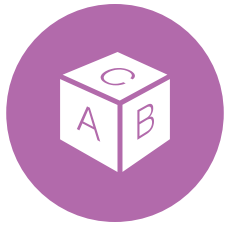


Only 20% are using center-based care, **HOWEVER...**

56% of survey respondents facing childcare gaps are searching for a center-based childcare provider.

Respondents preferred the following childcare services to be included:





TYPES OF CHILDCARE

Listed below are brief descriptions of common types of childcare programs in New York State, as defined by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). Each program is regulated by OCFS. Many variables contribute to the total number of children who may be cared for at a given site.

Daycare Center provide care for more than six children at a time, not in a personal residence.

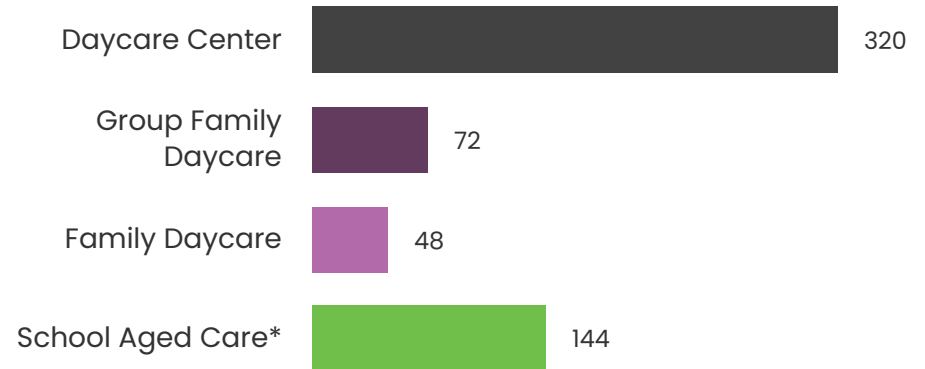
Group Family Daycare provide care for seven to twelve children at a time in a residence; may add one or two school-age children. The maximum allowable number of children will depend on whether there are and how many infants are in care. A provider must use an assistant when more than six children are present.

Family Daycare provide care for three to six children at a time in a residence; may add one or two school-age children. The maximum allowable number of children will depend on whether there are and how many infants are in care.

School Aged Care provide care for more than six children from kindergarten through age twelve. Care for children during non-school hours; also may provide care during school vacation periods and holidays.

Other forms of legal childcare include Nursery Schools, Head Start Centers, Pre-Kindergartens (usually located in public schools), and Non-regulated/Informal Care.

MAXIMUM # OF SLOTS AT OCFS-LICENSED PROVIDERS IN TIOGA COUNTY*



*School Aged Care programs were almost exclusively before/after school programs in Tioga County.



*Data as of 9/17/20 from <https://ocfs.ny.gov/>

TIOGA COUNTY CHILDCARE by the NUMBERS

Given the current number of licensed providers, 584 available childcare slots represents the best-case-scenario in Tioga County prior to COVID-19.

It is important to note that the total capacity at a childcare facility varies according to many factors, including the age of children, number of staff, size of the classroom, etcetera.

*Data as of 9/17/20 from <https://ocfs.ny.gov/>

Type of Care	Facility	Infants	Toddlers	Preschool	School Age	Total Slots Per OCFS
Daycare Center	Abide in the Vine	16	24	60	40	140
Daycare Center	FEN (Waverly)- Head Start	0	0	16	0	16
Daycare Center	FEN (Owego)- Head Start	16	16	32	0	64
Daycare Center	FEN (NV)- Head Start	0	0	16	0	16
Daycare Center	Giggle Box Playhouse	4	8	12	18	42
Daycare Center	Racker	0	0	42	0	42
Group Family	P.A.	*	*	*	4	16
Group Family	K.H.	*	*	*	0	12
Group Family	S.T.	*	*	*	2	14
Group Family	C.W.	*	*	*	4	16
Group Family	S.W.	8	*	*	2	14
Family Daycare	C.B.	*	*	*	2	8
Family Daycare	L.C.	*	*	*	2	8
Family Daycare	Houston Homestead	*	*	*	2	8
Family Daycare	L.N.	*	*	*	2	8
Family Daycare	D.V.O.	*	*	*	2	8
Family Daycare	A.W.	*	*	*	2	8
School Age Care	TCBGC Club Positive	0	0	0	44	44
School Age Care	First United Methodist	0	0	0	43	43
School Age Care	PlayYard Concepts	0	0	0	57	57
TOTAL	20 facilities	*see note	*see note	*see note	*see note	584

VARIABLES THAT IMPACT THE AVAILABILITY OF CHILDCARE SLOTS

Ratios

"A staff-to-child ratio is a measure of the number of children for whom each child care provider is responsible. The staff-to-child ratio is usually stated in numerical terms. For example, if each caregiver cares for 10 children, the ratio is 1 to 10.

In general, lower staff-to-child ratios are one indicator of a higher-quality program because a childcare provider can be more sensitive and responsive to children's needs if he/she is responsible for a smaller group of children.

Childcare regulations in most states define the maximum legal staff-to-child ratios for that state. These ratios differ from state to state. Most states allow higher ratios than research indicates are ideal for children. Both legal and ideal staff-to-child ratios differ depending on the children's age. Because younger children need more direct one-on-one interaction, response, and supervision, staff-to-child ratios should be lower for younger children than for older ones."

Cited: <https://childcare.extension.org/what-is-a-staff-to-child-ratio-and-why-is-it-important-in-child-care/>

A chart of New York State-mandated ratios is available here: <https://www.earlychildhood.org/standards/ratios.cfm>

Non traditional work hours

"Parents working nontraditional schedules face unique child care challenges, as most formal child care programs are only open during standard daytime, weekday hours and provide limited programming for families with fluctuating care needs."

Cited:

https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/99148/insights_on_access_to_quality_child_care_for_families_with_nontraditional_work_schedules_1.pdf

Affordability

"American families are struggling with the costs of child care—a key element in the ever-rising expenses associated with middle-class opportunity. Quality, affordable child care allows parents who want to work to stay in the labor force, encourages the healthy development of young children, and supports families at a stage in their lives during which small investments return large social dividends."

Cited: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2019/06/20/471141/working-families-spending-big-money-child-care/>

Of concern is the demographic that does not qualify for childcare subsidies, but does not make enough to afford childcare. Childcare providers also must strike a balance between operational costs and maintaining rates that are affordable.

COVID-19

"...the pandemic has exacerbated the existing child care crisis and raised significant new challenges. Many child care programs were forced to close for a period of time, and while many have since reopened, they are operating with decreased enrollment and increased instability due to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. This new reality poses a dire threat to many child care programs, which were already operating on razor-thin margins and lack the financial reserves to weather the current crisis."

Cited: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2020/09/03/489900/true-cost-providing-safe-child-care-coronavirus-pandemic/>

20

LICENSED CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

Tioga County has a total of **20** providers licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) available to serve children in Tioga County School Districts. Pre-COVID-19, the OCFS-licensed facilities that serve Tioga County School Districts could accommodate no more than **584 children**. This number could vary based on state-mandated childcare ratios.

8,515
total population of children under the age of 14 in Tioga County.
(2010 census)

584
total existing childcare slots COUNTY-WIDE

School District	Total Existing Childcare Slots	Population of Children Under Age 14 (2010 census)	% of Slots Available to Population of Children
Candor	32	1,063	3.01%
Newark Valley	87	1,088	7.99%
OACSD	413	2,814	14.68%
SVE	8	487	1.64%
Tioga	0	1,193	0%
Waverly	44	1,870	2.35%
TOTAL	584	8,515	6.86%

6.86%

At any given time, outside of schools, there are OCFS-licensed childcare slots available for **no more than 6.86%** of the total population of children under the age of 14 in Tioga County Districts.

Data as of 9/17/20 from <https://ocfs.ny.gov/>



In the event of another school closure, how will your household manage balancing work schedules with child/ren's distance learning schedule?

1

Family member will provide childcare.

26.12% of respondents expressed concern about potential impact of COVID-19 on existing caregiver

2

Flex hours.

3

Need to find full-time childcare provider.

4

Unsure.

5

76% of survey respondents plan to do one or more of the following: leave employment entirely, take leave, reduce hours, etc. to care for child/ren.

Please indicate how this will impact the financial viability and stability of your household:



55%

MAINTAINING THE WORKFORCE

Statistics show that women have been uniquely affected by COVID-19. Prior to the pandemic, women made up 49% of the overall workforce, but accounted for **55% of job losses** in April 2020.*



71.2 HOURS

As schools and 45% of daycares closed, families took on significant domestic labor. Since the pandemic began, women have spent an average of **71.2 hours/week handling chores and caregiving**. For men, it is 51.5 hours.

2-3x MORE

For women of color, the situation is even tougher: compared to white women, Latinas and Black women are spending an average of 4-12 more hours per week on childcare. Latinas and Black women are also spending between **2-3x as many hours per week caring for elderly or sick relatives**.

39% LOWER

Time out of the workforce also has a lasting impact on a woman and her family. One year off from work makes a **woman's annual earnings 39% lower** than women who did not take time away.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Childcare Match parents with operating childcare providers.

Flexibility Offer and support flexible working options, including flextime, staggered shifts, job sharing, remote work, and less business travel.

Feedback Examine and work to address unintended consequences of work from home arrangements (i.e. do those working in the office get more cases, creating an unfair promotional ladder?)

*data from www.wnywomensfoundation.org / Additional reading: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/26/world/covid-women-childcare-equality.html>

Results



The Tioga County Childcare Needs Assessment Survey gathered critically important data. Significant gaps in the availability of childcare and remote work policies were identified. The results also highlighted the benefits of proactively implementing remote work policies. For example, respondents who worked for employers with established work-from-home policies were generally better prepared to manage childcare needs and less concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on the financial stability of their households. Policies and procedures designed to support the workforce may be used as a model throughout Tioga County.

TEAM Tioga, together with D.S.S. and FEN, have identified both immediate and longer-term strategic actions, and have initiated implementation of these actions. Establishment of a Childcare Task Force is a critical next step.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS



FUNDING

PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SECURED GRANT FUNDING FOR PLAYYARD CONCEPTS, INC.



WORKFORCE

SHARED SAMPLE REMOTE WORK POLICIES WITH TIOGA COUNTY EMPLOYERS



SUPPORT

UTILIZED EXISTING RESOURCES SUCH AS FEN TO CONNECT RESPONDENTS WITH AVAILABLE CHILDCARE PROVIDERS



FACILITATE

CONTINUE TO SHARE DATA WITH STAKEHOLDERS



ENGAGE

ASSIST ORGANIZATIONS IN EXPLORING CHILDCARE NEEDS IN COMMUNITY AND APPLY FOR FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT AND/OR IMPLEMENT CENTER-BASED CARE PROGRAMS



PREPARE

ESTABLISH CHILDCARE TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC ISSUES.

- EXPLORE CHILDCARE MODELS
- ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC/ PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



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