



*St. Lawrence County Re-Opening Task Force Meeting
NYS-OCFS Regulated Child Care By School District
August 5, 2020*



“Child care must be acknowledged as an integral component for economic and workforce development. If families do not have quality affordable child care options, the North Country will never reach its full workforce or economic development potential. Although many have known this for years, the current COVID-19 crisis clearly shows that child care is an essential infrastructure just like information technology, health care services and transportation during this critical time.”

*Bruce Stewart, Executive Director
St. Lawrence Child Care Council, Inc.*

Thank you for inviting the St. Lawrence Child Care Council to report on the current status of child care in St. Lawrence County at this time.






The supply of regulated child care programs in the North Country, New York State and across the country has been in steady decline for years with many areas losing over 50% of their regulated child care slots. Unfortunately, this is also true in the North Country. The St. Lawrence Child Care Council and others have been raising concerns that the loss of child care options for families can and will significantly impact workforce participation and productivity.

- At the June 26, 2019 meeting of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council in Lake Placid I co-presented with Emily Badalamente of the Governor’s office on the state of child care in the North Country.
- At the July 10, 2019 North Country Regional Economic Development Council’s “Child Care Summit” in Watertown I presented on the decline of home based child care providers and the impacts this will have upon North Country families and businesses.
- On October 17, 2019 Dee Burlingame and I participated in the North Country Regional Economic Development Council’s North Country Business and Education Forum entitled “The Crisis of Childcare Needs and the Workforce” hosted by the North Country Workforce Development Board.
- The St. Lawrence Child Care Council and our North Country sister agencies were awarded a grant from the North Country Regional Economic Development Council to conduct an informational study on child care which was recently been highlighted in a series on North Country Public Radio.
- On November 14, 2019 Dee Burlingame and I participated in the North Country Regional Economic Development Council’s Placemaking Summit in Clayton. The former Supervisor of the Town of Clayton stated he wished they had given greater consideration of the communities child care needs as part of the Harbor Hotel project.
- On November 18, 2019 Dee Burlingame and I participated in the North Country Symposium at St. Lawrence University exploring ways to successfully recruit new residents to North Country communities expanding our economic, workforce and civic base through downtown redevelopment, housing, recreation, arts, culture and more. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, spoke about child care as a key component of workforce recruitment and new initiatives she was proposing.








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							Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	41	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	1	0	17	0		104	440
	Family Day Care Home	3	6	12	6		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	0	0	0	0	544		
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0	6.63 children/slot	Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group		6	29	6			
	Day Care Center	1	16	42	40	229	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	1	0	21	0		169	541
	Family Day Care Home	6	12	24	12		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	2	8	16	8	710		
	School-Age Child Care	1	0	0	30	1.55 children/slot	Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group		36	103	90			
	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	0	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	0	0	0	0		35	131
	Family Day Care Home	0	0	0	0		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	0	0	0	0	166		
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0	No regulated slots!	Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group		0	0	0			
	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	24	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	0	0	0	0		48	140
	Family Day Care Home	3	6	12	6		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	0	0	0	0	188		
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0	3.92 children/slot	Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group		6	12	6			
	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	8	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	0	0	0	0		73	213
	Family Day Care Home	1	2	4	2		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	0	0	0	0	286		
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0	17.88 children/slot	Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group		2	4	2			






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							Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	98	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	1	0	42	0		241	558
	Family Day Care Home	3	6	12	6		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	2	8	16	8	4.08 children/slot	799	
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0		Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group			14	70	14		
	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	16	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	0	0	0	0		30	104
	Family Day Care Home	0	0	0	0		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	1	4	8	4	4.19 children/slot	134	
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0		Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group			4	8	4		
	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	16	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	0	0	0	0		35	157
	Family Day Care Home	2	4	8	4		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	0	0	0	0	6.00 children/slot	192	
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0		Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group			4	8	4		
	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	8	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	0	0	0	0		52	173
	Family Day Care Home	1	2	4	2		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	0	0	0	0	14.06 children/slot	225	
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0		Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group			2	4	2		
	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	48	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	0	0	0	0		65	248
	Family Day Care Home	2	4	8	4		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	2	8	16	8	3.26 children/slot	313	
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0		Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group			12	24	12		



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							Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	align="center">32	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	0	0	0	0		75	266
	Family Day Care Home	2	4	8	4		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	1	4	8	4	5.33 children/slot	341	
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0		Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group			8	16	8		
	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	align="center">24	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	0	0	0	0		92	289
	Family Day Care Home	3	6	12	6		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	0	0	0	0	7.98 children/slot	381	
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0		Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group			6	12	6		
	Day Care Center	2	24	74	30	align="center">251	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	1	0	51	0		289	1040
	Family Day Care Home	7	14	28	14		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	1	4	8	4	2.65 children/slot	1,329	
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0		Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group			42	161	48		
	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	align="center">8	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	0	0	0	0		37	151
	Family Day Care Home	1	2	4	2		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	0	0	0	0	11.75 children/slot	188	
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0		Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group			2	4	2		
	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	align="center">50	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	1	0	34	0		112	435
	Family Day Care Home	0	0	0	0		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	1	4	8	4	5.47 children/slot	547	
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0		Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group			4	42	4		



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							Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
 Ogdensburg	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	align="center">121	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	1	0	17	0		209	677
	Family Day Care Home	7	14	28	14		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	3	12	24	12	3.66 children/slot	886	
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0		Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group		26	69	26			
 Parishville-Hopkinton	Day Care Center	0	0	0	0	align="center">272	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	1	0	17	0		35	160
	Family Day Care Home	0	0	0	0		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	0	0	0	0	.36 children/slot	195	
	School-Age Child Care	1	0	0	255		Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group		0	17	255			
 Potsdam	Day Care Center	1	8	75	20	align="center">201	Pre-K/K	Grade 1-6
	Head Start Center	1	0	34	0		193	558
	Family Day Care Home	0	0	0	0		Total Pre-K - Grade 6	
	Group Family Home	4	16	32	16	1.88 children/slot	751	
	School-Age Child Care	0	0	0	0		Children per slot estimating 50% may need child care	
	Total Capacity By Age Group		24	141	36			

Types of NYS Office of Children & Family Services regulated child care:

- **Day Care Center** - multiple staff caring for children of various ages in a commercial facility setting.
- **Head Start Center** - operated by SLC-CDP Head Start serving preschool children typically in a school or community facility, but only for part of the day so these children may be in need of “wrap around” child care arrangements for the rest of the day.
- **Family Day Care Home** - one person operating in a residential home typically caring for 2-8 children depending upon ages.
- **Group Family Day Care Home** - two people operating in a residential home typically caring for 2-16 children depending upon ages.
- **School Age Child Car Program** - multiple staff caring for many children of various school ages typically in schools, churches or other community facilities.

- Telephone Survey - Current openings in Family/Group Family Day Care Homes (county wide):
As of 8/4/20
 - Birth - 2 yrs = 4 openings
 - 2 yrs - 5 yrs = 20 openings
 - School Age = 4 openings
 - Nearly all Family & Group Family Day Care Homes are full at this time
- Telephone Survey - Current openings in Child Care Centers (county wide):
As of 8/4/20
 - Massena - 2 day care centers - lots of openings in all age groups, both centers have very low enrollment
 - Potsdam - 1 day care center - very few openings with a long waiting list
 - Canton - 1 day care center - very few openings, almost at full capacity
- Our (8) Head Start Centers and (2) School Age Child Care programs are not open at this time and with the uncertainty of what school districts will allow within their facilities during the school year there could be significant loss of additional regulated child care slots.
- *It should be noted in preparing this document we only factored school age children who may be in need of child care based upon NYSED data for each district on 2-18-19. Although they are not today's numbers, they still illustrate a significant lack of regulated child care options for families in nearly all of our school districts. If we were to include the number of children from birth to 3-4 years of age in each district who may also be in need of child care, the situation becomes even more critical as they would be vying for the same child care slots.*

All of these successful people ... started right here!





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Where do we go from here?

1. Area employers must acknowledge that child care is a very real issue for many employees. Employees may want to return to work, but without viable child care options they may not be able to. We know that child care is an issue at most of our areas largest employers and it will remain a barrier for many in the workforce.
2. If employees are unable to return to work we will see a proportional increase in families participating in social service and/or other community assistance programs.
3. Our civic, economic and workforce development leaders must recognize that child care is critical essential infrastructure that must become an integral part of the conversation and planning for current and future economic development initiatives.
4. There must be a significant investment of time and resources to plan, develop and expand the supply of regulated child care options for families in St. Lawrence County. This will require participation and investment from both the public and private sectors to ensure success.
5. Creating a healthy early childhood/child care environment in St. Lawrence County can and will have direct and significant impacts upon county, school and community budgets.

Once again, thank you for inviting the St. Lawrence Child Care Council to be with you today. Together we can change the state of child care in St. Lawrence County ... key word ... TOGETHER!



I encourage everyone to take a few moments to watch this short video. Listen to members of the New York business community including JP Morgan Chase, Corning, NYS Business Council, etc. speaking about our future and our future workforce.

<https://vimeo.com/15991754> “It’s Our Business: New York State Business Leaders Speak Out in Support of Quality Early Childhood Education”

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