



Jefferson-Lewis Childcare Project

a program of

COMMUNITY ACTION PLANNING COUNCIL

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Child Care Report 2015



Every Child, Quality Care

Summer 2015

MISSION:

Community Action Planning Council assists, supports, and empowers people through diverse programs designed to alleviate poverty, promote self-sufficiency, and advance community prosperity.

VISION:

Community Action Planning Council envisions a prosperous community where all people are valued, supported, empowered and successful. CAPC is a valued resource that tirelessly protects and continuously expands these characteristics, building a community where opportunities are abundant and people help themselves and each other.

RESOURCES of Jefferson-Lewis Childcare Project:

- * **Child Care Resource & Referral** is the center of our programming. With funding from **NYS Office of Children & Family Services**, we help parents and families to recognize high quality child care and to locate information and services that fit their needs. We partner with the Child Care Subsidy teams in Lewis and Jefferson Counties to provide information to parents and providers about qualifying for and accessing these funds. Our team supports child care providers with training, resources, and access to information about best practices and managing their business. And we work with many other community groups to build understanding of how high quality child care supports economic growth and development. We also have an agreement with **Child Care Solutions** in Syracuse to provide specific information and training to those working with Infants and Toddlers.
- * Through our **Registration** program, both family child care and school age child care providers are assisted in establishing child care facilities and are monitored for regulatory compliance through site and document reviews, assuring the highest level of safety for children in care. Recruiting new providers and responding to community concerns about children in care is another important part of this program. Funds for this are provided by **NYS Office of Children & Family Services**.
- * Nutrition education and reimbursement for food costs is available to all home-based child care facilities in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties from our **Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**. Caregivers prepare and record healthy meals and snacks for children in care, and then monthly checks for reimbursement help pay for the next month of food purchases. The **NYS Department of Health** provides funds for this contract.
- * The **Training** program researches, develops, and delivers in-depth education to meet the needs and interests of anyone who works with children. Workshop, conference, multi-session, and correspondence training formats are all used to ensure that everyone can participate in professional development. Training is funded by user fees and membership dues as well as agreements with outside agencies.

Why Focus on Child Care?

If someone decreed that from now on all parents would have to pay for their child's elementary education-- books, transportation, teachers, facilities, and extra-curricular activities—the outcry would be strong and immediate. How could we make parents pay for what society now provides as a fundamental need and a privilege of living in a community?

And yet, that is the expectation for families of children from birth to school entry. There is a general acceptance of the idea that starting formal education earlier is better, as evidenced by the increased commitment of public dollars local to Universal PreK programs. A main reason for this move is the overwhelming evidence from brain research, proving that learning begins much earlier than previously thought. But for very Early Childhood (infants and toddlers up to age 4), no community commitment exists, except for Head Start.

Children across Jefferson and Lewis Counties arrive at the local school district doors with a wide range of skills and experiences, and District employees are expected to meet curriculum standards and testing levels demonstrating proficiency. Not much credence is given these days to showing improvement in an individual child as a measure of success. The acceptable skill scores are set at the State and National level, with no regard for the child, family, or community factors at play.

What if there was a way to help all of our children arrive at the school district ready to learn? What if we could spend less time remediating children to make up for what their early experiences didn't offer? And what if we committed to giving all of our children access to high-quality Early Childhood Educators who worked with the families and schools in the community toward a common goal?

This is the vision of Jefferson-Lewis Childcare Project. We work with families, child care providers (both home-based and child care centers), as well as community and government representatives to build a system of child care that serves our area. We seek to raise the level of time, money, and respect that supports high quality care. We work with other Child Care Resource & Referrals across the State and Country to advocate for change.

Please join us in our efforts to ensure that every parent has access to the quality of early childhood settings that will ensure their child is successful today and down the road.

Cathy Brodeur
Director, Jefferson-Lewis Childcare Project

Jefferson County Center Based Programs (operating full time/full day)

Number of Day Care Centers Surveyed: 9

+Includes 34 full day Head Start slots which operate for an academic year

* **Only 5 Centers enroll infants.**

Number of Licensed Centers: 9	Number of potential slots (as reported in CCFS)	Utilization Rate as determined by random sample
Infant Slots *	62	79.0%
Toddler Slots	102	116.7%
Preschool Slots+	384	96.9%
School Age Slots	42	23.8%
Total Slots	590	93.2%

Lewis County Center Based Programs (operating full time/full day)

Number of Day Care Centers Surveyed: **4**

+Includes 70 full day Head Start slots which operate for an academic year

* **Only 1 center enrolls infants**

Number of Licensed Centers: 4	Number of potential slots (as reported in CCFS)	Utilization Rate as determined by random sample*
Infant Slots *	8	100%
Toddler Slots	20	65.0%
Preschool Slots+	120	85.8%
School Age Slots	18	188% some part-time
Total Slots	148	106.8%

Jefferson County Family Child Care (FDC)

Number of Registered Family Child Care Homes: 63	Number of potential slots (as reported in CCFS)	Utilization Rate as determined by random sample
Infant Slots*	126	53.2%
2-12	378	72.2%
Total Slots	504	67.5%

Number of Registered Family Child Care Providers surveyed: **63**

* These numbers will be approximate as Infant slots may be utilized for other ages.

Lewis County Family Child Care (FDC)

Number of Registered Family Child Care Homes: 10	Number of potential slots (as reported in CCFS)	Utilization Rate as determined by random sample*
Infant Slots*	20	60%
2-12	60	63.3%
Total Slots	80	62.5%

Number of Registered Family Child Care Providers surveyed: **10**

* These numbers will be approximate as Infant slots may be utilized for other ages.

Jefferson County Group Family Child Care (GFDC)

Number of Licensed Group Family Child Care Homes: 26	Number of potential slots (as reported in CCFS)	Utilization Rate as determined by random sample
Infant Slots*	104	41.3%
2-12	312	69.2%
Total Slots	416	62.3%

Number of Licensed Group Family Child Care Providers surveyed: **26**

* These numbers will be approximate as Infant slots may be utilized for other ages.

Lewis County Group Family Day Care (GFDC)

Number of Licensed Group Family Child Care Homes: 1	Number of potential slots (as reported in CCFS)	Utilization Rate as determined by random sample
Infant Slots*	4	125%
2-12	12	66.6%
Total Slots	16	81.25%

* These numbers will be approximate as Infant slots may be utilized for other ages. Additional providers must be present for more than 4 infants.

Jefferson County School- Age Child Care (SACC)

Number of Registered School Age Programs surveyed: **18**

Number of Registered School Age Programs: 19	Number of potential slots (not including summer only facilities)	Utilization Rate as determined by random sample
Total Slots	1456	51.6

Four of the programs (425 slots) are grant-funded (offered to parents at no cost). Those programs generally maintain 100% enrollment.

Lewis County School- Age Child Care (SACC)

Number of Registered School Age Programs surveyed: **3**
One of the programs (35 slots) is grant-funded .

Number of Registered School Age Programs: 3	Number of potential slots (as reported in CCFS)	Utilization Rate as determined by random sample*
Total Slots	185	37.8%

Jefferson County other types of care available and approximate slots

Type of Program	Number of Programs	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	School Age Slots	TOTAL
Head Start Classroom .5 day	5	0	0	211	0	211
UPK half-day*	8	0	0	575	0	575
UPK Full day	1	0	0	18	0	18
Private Preschools	6	0	0	209	0	209
Legally Exempt Family Child Care	39					78
Legally Exempt in home	57					114

*9 of 11 school districts offering UPK for 4 year olds. 8 of 9 have 2.5 hour sessions only.

**Private PreK/Nursery Schools- 2 or 3 days/week, no transportation, 3 and 4 year olds

Special needs programming options are integrated in count across modalities.

Legally Exempt average 2 slots, ages not restricted

Lewis County other types of care available and approximate slots

Type of Program	Number of Programs	Infant	Toddler	Pre-school	School Age Slots	TOTAL
UPK	4	0	0	154	0	154
Legally Exempt Family Child Care	25					50
Legally Exempt in home	29					58

4 out of 5 school districts offer UPK 2.5 hour programs for 4 year olds only

All Head Start slots are included in the Licensed Centers count.

Special Education services are integrated in count across modalities.

Legally Exempt average 2 slots, ages not restricted

“Experts tell us that 90% of all brain development occurs by the age of five. If we don’t begin thinking about education in the early years, our children are at risk of falling behind by the time they start Kindergarten.”

- Robert. L. Ehrlich

DEFINITIONS & COST

Family Day Care Homes (FDC)

- Provide care for 3 to 6 children at a time in a residence; may add 1 or 2 school age children
- May provide care for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years and operate for more than 3 hours per day
- The maximum allowable number of children will depend on how many infants are in care
- They are Registered by OCFS
- The maximum child-to-adult ratios are:

Child's Age	Group Size	Ratio (# of children per caregiver)
0 - 2 years	2	2
2 - 5 years	6	6
5 - 12 years	2	2

The average cost of care for FDC in Jefferson and Lewis Counties:

	Birth – 18 mo	18 mo – 2 yrs	3 yrs – 5 yrs	6 yrs – 12 yrs
Weekly	\$150.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00
Daily	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Part-day	20.00	20.00	20.00	19.00
Hourly	4.75	4.50	4.50	5.00

Group Family Day Care Homes (GFDC)

- Provider care for 7 to 12 children at a time in a residence; may add up to 4 school age children
- May provide care for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years and operate for more than 3 hours per day
- The maximum allowable number of children will depend on how many infants are in care
- They are Licensed by OCFS
- The maximum child-to-adult ratios are:

Child's Age	Group Size	Ratio(# of children per caregiver)
0 - 2 years	4	2
2 - 5 years	12	6
5 - 12 years	2	2

The average cost of care for GFDC in Jefferson and Lewis Counties:

	Birth – 18 mo	18 mo – 2 yrs	3 yrs – 5 yrs	6 yrs – 12 yrs
Weekly	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$148.00	\$140.00
Daily	35.00	33.00	32.00	30.00
Part-day	23.00	22.00	21.00	20.00
Hourly	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

Day Care Centers (DCC)

- * Provide care for more than 6 children at a time in a facility that is not a personal residence
- * May provide care for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years and operate more than 3 hours per day
- * They are Licensed by OCFS
- * The maximum child-to-adult ratios are as follows:

Child's Age	Group Size	Ratio (# of children per caregiver)
0-6 weeks	6	3
6 weeks - 18 months	8	4
18 months - 36 months	12	5
3 years	18	7
4 years	21	8
5 years	24	9
6 - 9 years	20	10
10 - 12 years	30	15

COST	Birth – 18 mo	18 mo – 2 yrs	3 yrs – 5 yrs	6 yrs – 12 yrs
Weekly	\$190.00	\$180.00	\$170.00	\$160.00
Daily	42.00	40.00	38.00	35.00
Part-day	28.00	27.00	25.00	23.00
Hourly	6.75	6.75	6.25	6.25

School Age Child Care Programs (SACC)

- * Provide care for more than 6 children from kindergarten through age 12 during the school year before and/or after regular school hours
- * Care may be provided during school vacations and holidays
- * If they are open more than 3 hours per day, they are Registered by OCFS
- * The maximum child-to-adult ratio are as follows:

Child's Age	Group Size	Ratio(# of children per caregiver)
K – 9 years	20	10
10 – 12 years	30	15

COST	6 yrs – 12 yrs
Weekly	\$150.00
Daily	35.00
Part-day	23.00
Hourly	6.25

OTHER TYPES OF CARE AND DEMAND

Nursery School/Preschool Programs

- * Serve children ages 2-5 years of age in a variety of settings
- * Class may meet anywhere between 1-5 days per week for less than 3 hours per class and follow the school year calendar
- * No regulatory oversight
- * May volunteer to be Licensed by OCFS

Legally Exempt/Informal Day Care

- * Provide care for up to 2 non-related children and/or 6 relatives
- * Provider's own children do not count in the total number of children allowed
- * Limited inspections and requirements
- * Provider is hired by the child's parents

EXPECTED DEMAND FOR CHILD CARE

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHILDREN

Source: 2011-2013 3-year American Community Survey

Age of Children	Number of Children	
	Jefferson	Lewis
Under 3	5839	977
3 and 4	4351	693
5	1803	298
6-8	5154	951
9-11	4718	1038
12 and 13	4068	1326
Total children 0-13	30074	6441

The Department of Labor (2011) estimates that 62.3% of children from birth to age 5 are likely to need some kind of child care, based on the demographics of the labor force. That number rises to 76.5% for school-aged children. Those percentages lead us to expect that 8,327 young children and 11,682 children in school (6-13) need to have care for some part of their day.

During the year (4/1/14-3/31/15), many parents called and discussed their child care options with us. After they received referrals tailored to meet their particular needs, we gave them information about how to conduct a search: what to look for, questions to ask providers, what to bring to the interview, and what to expect. A few weeks later we followed up and asked about their situation. Here are the barriers they found.

Total Calls for child care	328	
Problem Finding Care	30	9.15%
Reported Concern		% of Responses
Cost of child care too high	6	20
Did not need care	5	16.66
Have not completed search for child care	10	33.33
Location of care	1	3.33
Made different choices to accommodate family needs	8	26.66
No openings for child/children	3	10
Provider not available during days & hours needed	6	20
Transportation	1	3.33
Type of care desired was not available	3	10

Age of Child Needing Care	
0-11 months	94
12-23 months	56
24-35 months	57
3 & 4 years	105
5 years	31
6-12 years	60

A large percentage of the child care requests (39%) are for children under the age of 2, and over half (53%) are for children less than 3 years old.

Schedule of Care Requested		
Full time	349	74.2%
Part time	110	23.4%
Both	11	2.3%
Drop-in	19	20%
Temporary	2	2.1%
Before School	34	36.2%
After School	33	35.1%
Rotating	4	4.3%

Most of the requests that are received are for full time care, though parents sometimes have multiple occasions and hours they must consider.

Jefferson and Lewis County *

Population by gender within the 2 county report area is shown in Table 2. According to ACS 2008-2012 5 year population estimates for the report area, the female population comprised 49.1% of the report area, while the male population represented 50.9%.

Geographic Area	0 to 4		5 to 17		18 to 64		Over 64	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Jefferson County, New York	4,913	4,677	9,970	9,825	39,480	35,013	5,158	7,460
Lewis County, New York	912	841	2,434	2,424	8,408	7,890	1,710	2,265
Report Area	5,825	5,518	12,404	12,249	47,888	42,903	6,868	9,725
New York	593,298	566,465	1,614,332	1,542,825	6,088,717	6,351,854	972,410	1,545,106

Population change within the 2 county area from 2000-2012 is shown below. During the twelve-year period, total population estimates for the report area grew by 3.89%, increasing from 138,682 persons in 2000 to 144,073 persons in 2012. The greatest growth occurred in Jefferson County, New York, which experienced a 4.72% increase in population, whereas Lewis County, New York, experienced a 0.44% change. The major impetus for growth when much of NY is losing population is the activity of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, which is located in the northeastern section of the County (107,265 acres).

Geographic Area	Census 2000 Population	ACS 2008-2012 Population	Population Change	% Change
Jefferson County, New York	111,738	117,011	5,273	4.72
Lewis County, New York	26,944	27,062	118	0.44
Report Area	138,682	144,073	5,391	3.89
New York	18,976,457	19,398,124	421,667	2.22

*Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Census 2010. Release Date: February 2011](#) and [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 Data Release, December 2013.](#)

The 2012 American Community Survey 5-year data is a 5-year average of data collected from 2008 through 2012.

