

TO: Interested Parties
 FROM: Global Strategy Group
 DATE: December 4, 2019
 RE: Child Care Providers Survey Finds Many Programs at Max Capacity, Struggling to Pay Staff

Below are key findings from a survey conducted on behalf of Raising NY among 400 child care providers in New York State. The results indicated that many child care centers and family child care providers – particularly for infant care* – are at or approaching their max capacity. In addition, many programs currently have wait lists.

KEY FINDINGS

There is a major capacity problem for infant care across New York State.

- Infants are the biggest driver of the capacity issues facing child care providers. Seven out of 10 (70%) child care centers and half (49%) of family child care providers are at max capacity for infants.
 - 83% of family child care providers and 64% of child care centers enroll infants. The child care centers that do enroll infants typically have six or more, compared to five or less among family providers.
 - The New York City suburbs is the only region in New York State without a majority at infant max capacity, with 41% of providers saying they are at maximum capacity for infant care.
 - Predominantly rural areas in upstate report the bleakest numbers, with 72% at max capacity for infants. Only 6% of providers in these areas do not report being “at or near” maximum capacity.
- Issues around capacity are less dramatic – though still significant – for older children; 26% of family-based providers and 35% of child care centers are at capacity for toddlers, and only 15% of family-based providers and 25% of child care centers are at max capacity for 3 to 5-year-olds.

At “Maximum Capacity”	NYC Suburbs	West/Central NY Urban & Suburban Areas	Predominantly Rural Upstate	Albany Area	NYC
Infants	41%	65%	72%	64%	51%
Toddlers	21%	30%	32%	27%	30%
3 to 5-Year-Olds	20%	14%	13%	15%	20%

Most child care centers and nearly half of all providers have a wait list.

- A near majority (48%) of child care providers have a wait list for entry to their program. This is particularly problematic for child care centers, as almost two in three (64%) currently have a wait list (compared to 43% of family child care providers).
- Overall, providers in the Albany area are most likely to have a wait list for their program (58%).

	NYC Suburbs	West/Central NY Urban & Suburban Areas	Predominantly Rural Upstate	Albany Area	NYC
Yes, has a waitlist	44%	48%	49%	58%	49%

* For family providers, infants are defined by New York State as children up to 24 months old and toddlers are children 24 to 36 months old; for center-based providers, infants are children up to 18 months old and toddlers are children 18 to 36 months old.

