



Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc.  
7572 Court Street, Suite 2  
P.O. Box 848  
Elizabethtown, N.Y. 12932

# ADIRONDACK COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS, INC

## Child Care Resource and Referral

### ANNUAL REPORT

### 2014-2015

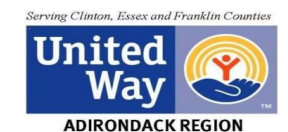
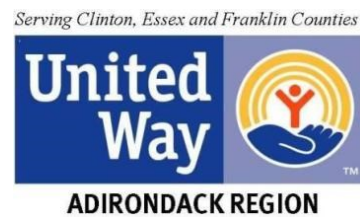


*ACAP, Inc. connects people, values and resources to promote personal, economic and community growth.*



**Our Mission**  
Adirondack Community Action Program, Inc. connects people, values, and resources to promote personal, economic, and community growth.

Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc.  
Child Care Resource and Referral  
Professional training and technical assistance in becoming a child care provider.  
Resource and Referral for parents seeking child care.  
Serving Children and Families in Essex Co. NY



# INTRODUCTION

Committee for Economic Improvement of Essex County now known as Adirondack Community Action Program's Inc. (ACAP) became the Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Agency for Essex County in early 1980. In the first ten years ACAP CCR&R assisted about 150 individuals, county wide, in becoming registered childcare providers.

In 1990s Essex County saw a huge decrease in Child Care Providers with more than half of the providers closing their businesses. In the 90's, the New York State Office of Children and Families (OCFS) moved the registering process out of Essex County to Albany. Providers said they felt that with the increase in Regulations and with the change from local support to the state, that doing child care has become very costly and intrusive.

There is a lack of school age programs in Essex County. ACAP was funded for 4 after school programs, and Cornell Cooperative Extension operated 3 in Essex County. Today we have 2 of the original 7 after school programs still open. After school programs are very beneficial for the children who attend. They promote positive academic, physical and emotional outcomes for the children.

The lack of quality child care has had a huge impact on our communities, families, children and economy. It has prevented some parents from working, causing them to go back on the public assistance system.

Quality childcare not only supports parents' ability to work, it also supports early care and learning for the children in our community.

There has been a rise in Essex County regarding children with emotional issues, behavioral issues, and substance abuse. Quality childcare helps support early childhood development and offers enriching environments for infants and young children in our rural community.

Rural counties such as Essex County struggle with the lack of funding to provider quality child care for our families and children. ACAP will continue to advocate for more funding to help potential providers open quality programs.

**Resource and Referral Directory**  
**Main Office:** 518-873-3207  
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**Toll Free:** 1-877-873-2979  
**Web Site:** [acapinc.org](http://acapinc.org)

**CCR&R Program Director:**  
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**CCR&R Program Assistant:**  
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**CCR&R/CACFP Program Assistant:**  
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 Email: [chrisc@acapinc.org](mailto:chrisc@acapinc.org)

## 2014 Statistics for New York

Average Cost of full time Child Care	Infant	4 year old	School Age
	10,140	9,776	8,346

New York is ranked 3rd as Least Affordable State for Center Based Infant Care

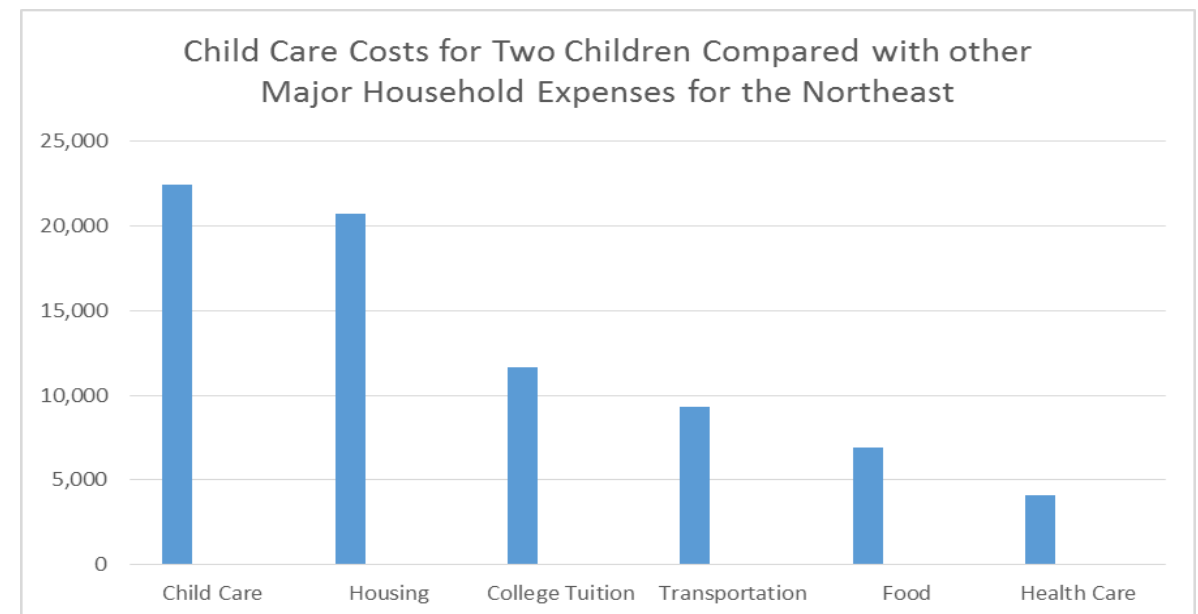
Average annual cost of infant care in a center	14,144
State median income for single parent	25,937
State median income for married couple	93,157

New York is ranked 1st as Least Affordable State for Center Based Four-Year Old Care

Average annual cost of 4 year old care in a center	11,700
State median income for single parent	25,937
State median income for married couple	93,157

New York is ranked 7th as Least Affordable State for School Age Child Care

Average annual cost of school age child care	8,346
State median income for single parent	25,936
State median income for married couple	93,157

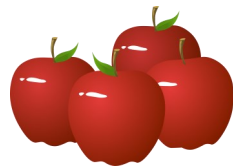


Resource: <http://usa.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Parents-and-the-High-Cost-of-Child-Care-2015-FINAL.pdf>

We all realize the importance of quality early childhood education. Helping providers open quality child care programs and helping parents afford quality child care is a goal of ACAP CCR&R. Through increased funding, we hope to open more After School Programs, more family home providers and a new child care center in Essex County.

## Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

- > Registered, and licensed child care programs are eligible to enroll in the CACFP program. Providers receive a reimbursement for the food they provide to the children in their care. The NYS census data is used to assign the tier rates for reimbursement. In order to receive a reimbursement, the providers must submit menus for approval. They must follow all the dietary guidelines from the CACFP program.
- > Providers who are part of the program increase the quality of care they provide. The children in their care receive nutritious meals.
- > Of the 38 currently registered/licensed providers, 22 are enrolled in the CACFP program. They serve approximately 350 children.
- > The 16 who do not participate, don't agree with the difference between the tier 1 and tier 2 reimbursement rates. Their comment is that food costs the same no matter what tier you are under.
- > When visiting our programs, we encourage all providers to be part of the CACFP program. The benefits of serving nutritious meals, is extremely important.
- > There are 11 legally exempt providers who are eligible for the program, but



### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- In 2014-2015 school year there were 3 After School Programs:
  - Westport Central School
  - Moriah Central School
  - Schroon Lake School
- The After School Programs serves 125 children.
- The After School Programs support the families and their children in many ways. The children receive help with their homework. The children also are part of the character education program. They conduct several community projects, such as food drives. They collect food for families in need in their communities.
- Unfortunately, the School Lake program came to an end at the end of the school year. The funding was not available to continue. The children and parents did a great campaign of writing letters to local representatives and politicians. They wanted everyone to know the great opportunities the after school program provides for the children.
- ACAP continues to search for more funding to open not only that program, but to hopefully open more After School Programs in other area schools.

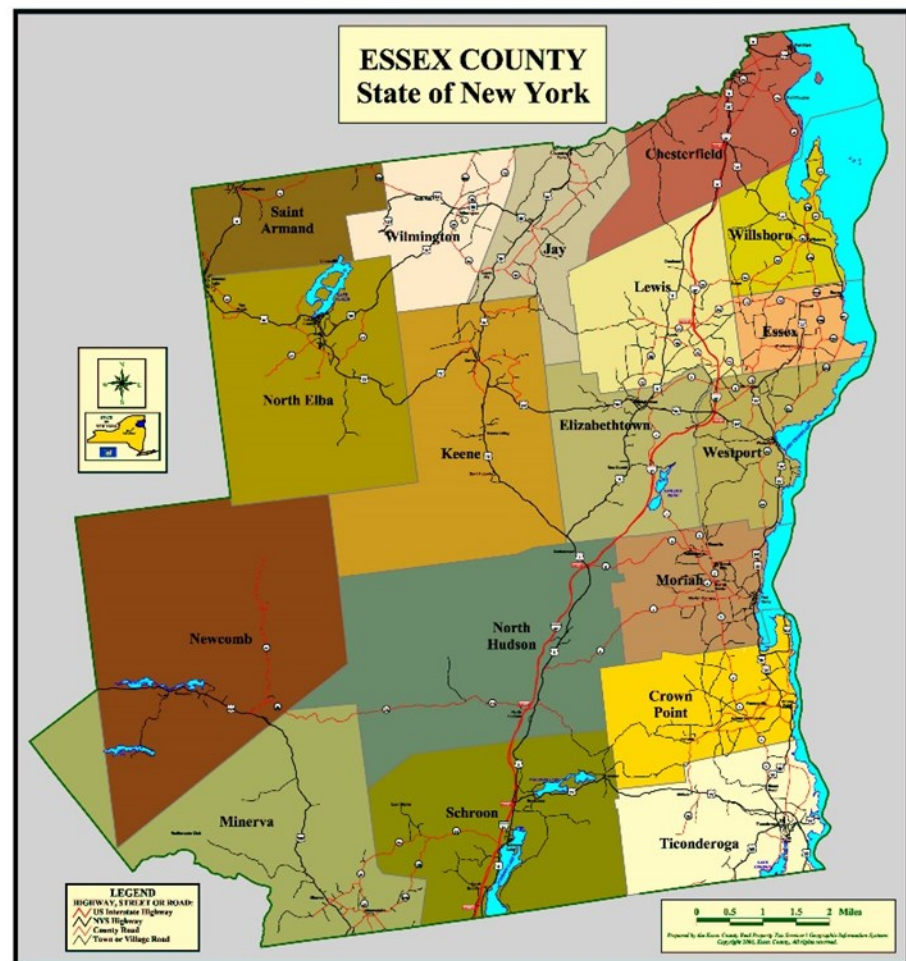
## List of Grantee Board of Directors

<b>Board Chair</b> Mr. Michael Tyler 14 Marks Rd., Box 434 Westport, NY 12993 tylerm@westelcom.com (h) 518-962-8739 Town Supervisor	<b>Vice Chair</b> Mr. James Monty 1325 County Rt. 10 Westport, NY 12993 montyj@westelcom.com (h) 518-962-4737 cell 570-9363 Town Supervisor	<b>Secretary</b> Mrs. Laurie Davis 691 Sunset Drive Willsboro, NY 12996 mldavis22@gmail.com (h) 518-963-1127 (w) 518-962-4810 x404 Early Child Care	<b>Treasurer</b> Mr. Scott Wilson 22 Scenic Point Lane Jay, NY 12941 swilson@illuminatingconceptsllc.com (h) 518-647-8469 Head Start Policy Council/Board Liaison
Lorilee Sheehan PO box 165 Willsboro, NY 12993 lorileesheehan@aol.com (h) 518-570-7124 Town Council Woman Educational Expertise	Charles W. Harrington 17 Monitor Bay Park PO Box 443 Crown Point, NY 12928 cwharrington@cptelco.net (h) 518-597-3114 Town Supervisor	Rev. Fred Shaw PO box 537 Elizabethtown, NY 12932 518-873-6822 fshaw@westelcom.com Religious Community	Wendy Courtright 7519 Court St PO Box 96 Elizabethtown, NY 12932 wcourtright@tfcunow.com 518-585-6725 X2400 Financial Expertise
Ms. Edna Coonrod 93 Farrell Rd Willsboro, NY 12996 elbc28@gmail.com (h) 518-963-4595	Amy Quinn 19 Oak Way Lake Placid, NY 12946 anq1970@gmail.com Cell 518-524-3231 Legal Expertise	L. Bridget Kileen 2608 Center Rd PO Box 126 Moriah, NY 12960 Briget.Killeen@dfa.state.ny.us (h) 518-546-4028 (w) 518-873-3414 Child Protective Services	Sue Montgomery Corey PO Box 46 Olmstedville, NY 12857 Suemcorey@gmail.com (h) 518-251-5060 Cell 518-225-3556 (w) 518-251-2525 President Community Power Network of NYS

### ACAP Programs and Services

Alan R. Jones—CEO

- \* Aging Services—Nutrition Program, Senior Transportation
- \* Child Care Resource and Referral
- \* Community Services—Emergency Needs, Food Pantry, Homeless Assistance
- \* Employment and Training—OneWorkSource Business & Employment Center
- \* Head Start and Early Head Start
- \* Weatherization and Energy Services, Assisted Home Performance with Energy Star, EmPower NY, Weatherization Network Initiative



## Providers listed by towns

Chesterfield/Keeseville	Kristina Dukett Erin Payro Jan Rafferty Karen Yeager
Crown Point	0
Essex	Lakeside School
Elizabethtown/New Russia	Isabelle Cassavaugh Jennifer Smith
Jay/AuSable Forks	Sally Ano Mona Dubay Judy Hardin
Keene	Jeanette Isham
Lewis	Melissa Rider
Minerva	0
Moriah/Port Henry/Mineville/Witherbee	Donna Glebus Tiffany Gumlaw Brandy Roselli
Newcomb	0

North Elba/Ray Brook/Saranac Lake/Lake Placid	Mona Bova Amanda Hayes Jennifer Hayes Shirley Hence Colleen Locke Melanie O'Brien Debbie Strack Joan Valentine Katie Ward Anita Wilson Patti Wood
North Hudson	0
Saint Armand/Bloomingtondale	Melissa Blanchard Dona Endries Donna Wilcox
Schroon Lake	0
Ticonderoga	Jody Belden Erika Kuhl Kishia Patenaude Robin Shaw Amber Thompson
Westport	Dora Atwell Vesta Bill Tricia Hart
Willsboro	0
Wilmington	Sadie Hozley

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- ◆ ACAP CCR&R presented an information table at the Westport Fair. We distributed information regarding child care in Essex County. Information was available for anyone interested becoming a provider in Essex County.
- ◆ A 3 hour training was presented to middle school children who wanted training regarding babysitting safety. 8 students attend the training.
- ◆ 4 Head Start sites were visited to meet with parents and children. 25 parents received suggestions on how they can have meaningful interactions with their children. The children who attended with their parents, created arts and crafts projects.
- ◆ 8 hours of health and safety training was presented to a local child care center for their employees.
- ◆ A recruitment video highlighting several Essex Co. home child care providers, was made and distributed to schools, municipalities, and human resource agencies.

## PARENTING CLASSES

### Parent Awareness

Court ordered

- ▶ 10 classes were offered this year
  - ▶ 11 people participated
- This program offers information to help separating/divorcing parents better understand issues surrounding the impact of separation/divorce on their children. The program also addresses the legal system and maintaining parents health and well-being.

### Parent Skills

DSS contracts with ACAP

- ▶ 5 classes were offered this year
  - ▶ 7 people participated
- Most participants are referrals from DSS or other county agencies. The class is one day a week for 3 weeks. Topics for classes include: attachment, relationship building, parenting styles, temperament, routines, discipline, build-ing self esteem and setting goals.

## PROVIDER APPRECIATION DINNER

The month of May is Child Care Provider appreciation month. During the month parents/guardians and children show their appreciation to their Child Care Provider in many ways. Some providers may receive flowers, or a box of candy. Adirondack Community Action Program the Child Care Resource & Referral Agency for Child Care Providers, recognizes their dedication and hard work for families and children in Essex County. ACAP showed their appreciation this year by hosting a dinner. Every provider received a certificate for the amount of years they had been a provider. To help meet the shelter in place regulation set by OCFS, each provider received a tote with supplies needed in case of an emergency situation. It was an enjoyable evening with a lot of networking. All the providers were very appreciative.

## Funding Sources

- New York State Funding:
  - Child Care Resource and Referral Grant—\$70,844
  - Advantage After School Grant (2 sites) - \$123,750
- Foundation:
  - Adirondack Foundation—Through the small grant program, 28 Providers received a total of \$16,195. Several providers have purchase new equipment for their programs.
  - Cloudsplitter Foundation—Has funded ACAP Child Care for 3 years for a total of \$30,000. ACAP received \$10,000 each year to conduct outreach and retention of child care providers. A portion of the money from the foundation was used to make a recruitment video for child care. Several of our current providers and their programs are highlighted in the video. The video is shown in local municipalities, schools, and human resource agencies.
- Donation:
  - Adirondack Marathon—ACAP staff from all departments volunteered to work the marathon. ACAP received a \$2000 donation to be used in Schroon Lake/North Hudson area for child care.
- Grant:
  - Workforce Development Institute—Funded Manikins for CPR/First Aid classes for a total of \$1,737.60.
  - ACAP also received funding in the amount of \$4,333.21 to hold a regional conference for child care providers. Forty providers from Essex, Clinton, Franklin, and Warren Counties attended.



Tricia Hart, a family home provider, shared with us some of the things she purchased with the grant money she received from the Cloudsplitter Foundation: Here are photos of children playing with some of the toys I purchased with the Grant money I received. Along with the little yellow sink (which completed my kitchen set) and the doll buggy that you see in the photo, I also purchased a bakery set, a mixer, a coffee maker, a toaster, and a doll quilt and pillow. These were items I needed to help build on our "house". The children love playing "family". They love to pretend to be Mom's and Dad's. With these new items, they have been able to wash the dishes after they had baked pies, cookies, or made

toast to go with their coffee or cocoa. The doll buggy was a huge hit. The children are so caring and nurturing when playing with dolls. This helps foster their social and emotional development. The Tree Top activity toy is great for hand eye coordination. The baby uses it to help her get into a standing position. The vet kit and the pirate hut have been so much fun. I have many children



who are attached to a stuffed animal, so the vet kit has been a great toy in learning how to care for our treasured friends. The pirate hut is awesome. The kids love to find hidden treasure in the playroom. I also purchased a stack n roll tumbling tower. After you put together the see through pieces, a large ball is dropped down a spiral maze. The baby loves to play with it and I don't have to worry because the ball is too big to fit in her mouth. All the children enjoy dropping the ball in the top and following it through the path.

## Types of Child Care

**Family Child Care**—An individual provider may care for up to 8 children in their home, 2 of which may be under the age of 2 years. Providers are regulated by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and must meet minimum requirements for health, safety, nutrition, and programming.

**Group Family Child Care**—A provider with an assistant, may care for up to 16 children in their home, 4 of which may be under the age of 2 years. Providers are regulated by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and must meet minimum requirements for health, safety, and nutrition, and programming.

**Informal Child Care (Legally Exempt)** - when regulated care is not available, informal care may be an option. Informal care is when care is provided by a friend or family member. Informal child care providers may provide care for 2 children besides their own in their home or in the child's home, and should still meet the minimum standards for health, safety, nutrition, and programming.

**Child Care Centers**—care provided for a group of 6 or more children in a non-residential setting for 3 or more hours a day. Child Care Centers must be licensed through the Office of Child and Family services. Some examples of child care centers are head start programs, which are run by ACAP, and pre-k programs, which are run by schools.

**School Age Children**—Care provided for 6 or more children before/after schools in schools, churches, community centers or day care centers. School age child care providers must be registered by the Office of Children and Family Services.

## QUALITY CHILD CARE

Many elements combine to make a quality environment. Consider the following as you research child care options:

- \* A caregiver should provide your child with loving guidance and works with you and your family to ensure that your child grows and learns in the best way possible.
- \* The environment should keep your child safe and healthy. It should meet your child's individual needs.
- \* Activities should be suited to your child's stage of growth. They should also help your child to develop mentally, physically, socially and emotionally.

**REGISTERED/LICENSED  
CHILD CARE PROVIDER**

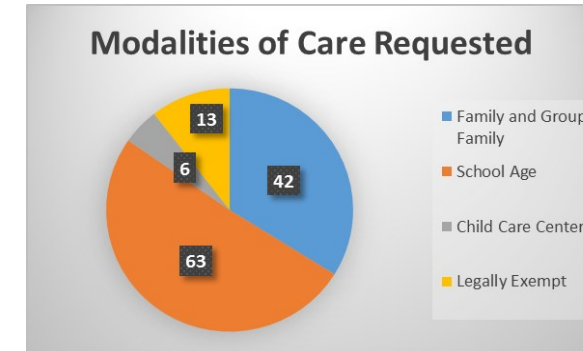
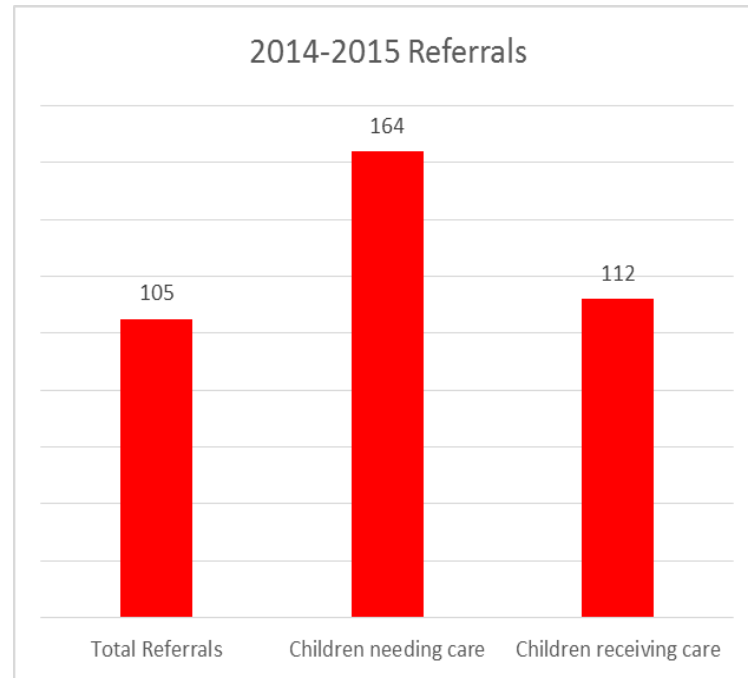
**Referrals**

There were 105 referrals given to families during the year. These referrals were for care of all ages of children, infants through school age.

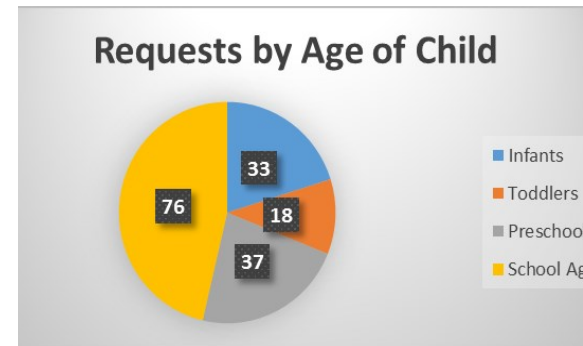
76 families found child care for a total of 112 children who are receiving care.

The biggest obstacle in finding care was the lack of care available. There are just not enough child care providers in Essex County for the amount of children needing care.

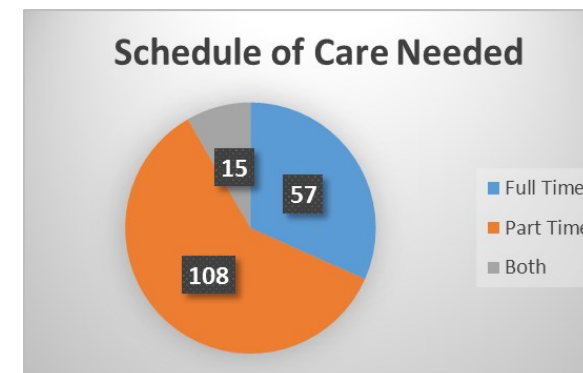
Currently there are 38 child care providers in the county. Most of those providers are at capacity. There are not enough openings to support the families who are looking for quality care for their children.



Family and Group Family	42
School Age	60
Child Care Center	6
Legally Exempt	13



Infants	33
Toddlers	18
Preschool	37
School Age	76



Full Time	57
Part Time	108
Both	15

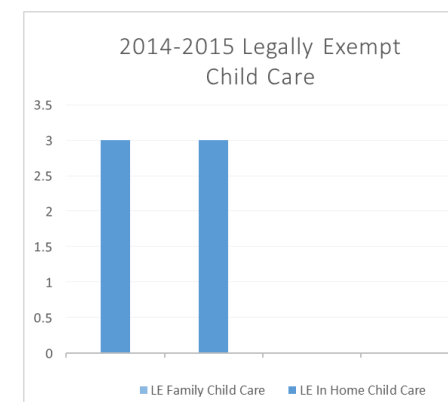
**Potential Registered/Licensed Child Care Providers**

- Eight people completed the orientation process on line at the Office of Children and Family Services web site to request an application to become a Family or Group Family child care provider.
- Of those eight, 3 have completed the process and are licensed providers 4 have stopped the process for several reasons:
  - ⇒ One became pregnant and decided it was not the right time for her to open her home to care for children.
  - ⇒ Another one moved out of Essex County.
  - ⇒ One was pregnant during the process and after delivering her baby decided not to continue the application process.
  - ⇒ Another applicant just stopped and gave no real reason.
  - ⇒ There is still one applicant in the process and hopes to be licensed soon.

➔ **The major obstacle for all potential providers is the start up cost. Potential providers often do not have enough money to meet all the required regulations enforced by OCFS.**

**Legally Exempt Child Care**

- ➔ Legally Exempt Family Child Care is child care provided outside the child's home in a residence and is not regulated by OCFS, but must meet all State and local health and safety requirements for such child care. The child's parent or guardian chooses the caregiver.
- ➔ Legally Exempt in Home Child Care is child care provided in the child's own home by a caregiver chosen by the child's parent or guardian. It is not regulated by OCFS, but must meet all State and local health and safety requirements for such child care.



**2014-2015 Legally Exempt Enrollments**

- 3 applications for LE Family Child Care
  - 3 applications for LE In Home Child Care
  - 8 children are receiving Legally Exempt Child Care
- There are currently 16 Legally Exempt Child Care providers. This includes the 6 new ones who started their programs this year.

These providers are caring for a total of 35 children.