

Long Island Summary of Child Care Priorities

Primary Goal of the LIREDC for Child Care, as stated in the 2021 Progress Report: ENSURE all families access to safe, affordable childcare, delivered by well-trained and equitably compensated professionals, to nurture our children, empower parents to realize their earnings potential and provide businesses in all sectors the employees they need to accelerate the economy.

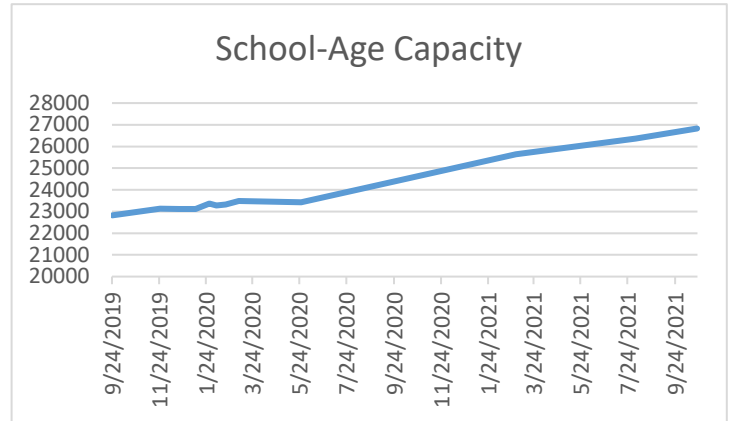
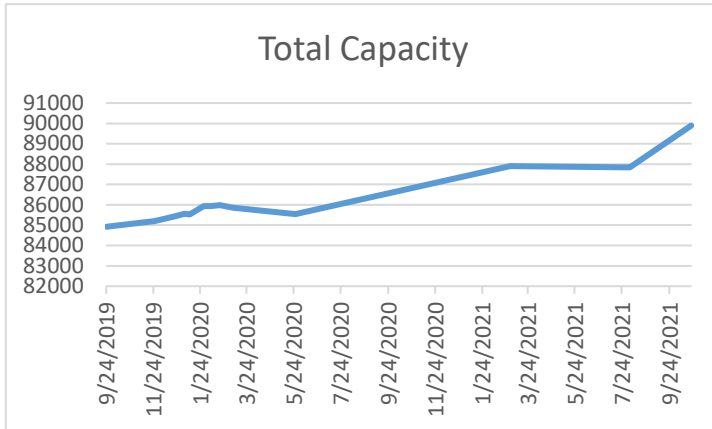
Specific Priorities

Proposals for new and expanded child care programs on Long Island should demonstrate how they will meet the following priorities:

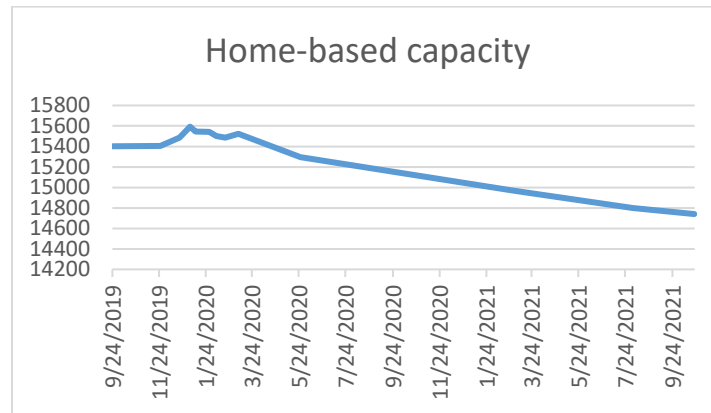
- **Equitably meets the needs of parents and their employment situations.**
Proposed child care programs will need to demonstrate how they will meet the specific needs of each community, based on actual outreach and effectively integrating feedback from the parents and the employers in the local community into their program model. Proposals should include outreach and engagement strategies utilized, integration of findings of such outreach and describe how services will equitably reach children – specifically children who have not had adequate access to early learning opportunities. Program designs may include, but not limited to, services in other languages, “non-traditional” hours, providing transportation or other appropriate services as identified by the community.
- **Expands child care for infants and toddlers.** Based on existing child care capacity, proposals should be focused on expanding child care options for children ages three and younger. (See attached capacity trends.)
- **Safe, high-quality child care.**
Proposals should demonstrate how they will adhere to the highest safety standards, and provide high-quality care as measured by evidence-based, quality assessment tools. The proposals should identify specific plans for creating and maintaining a high-quality, developmentally appropriate child care program.
- **Affordable.**
Proposals should demonstrate how they will remain affordable for the working families in the community in which they will be located. A strong and effective business plan will be a key aspect of demonstrating affordability in the short- and long-term.
- **Well-compensated.**
Proposals should demonstrate how the program will provide appropriate wages and benefits to the staff of the program, based on experience, credentials and regional cost of living. The proposal should include a strong and effective business plan that will allow the program to provide appropriate wages and benefits to all employees. Proposals should highly encouraged programs that integrate career credential pathways for staff to build their professional capacity and gradually increase their compensation over a period of time, especially new hires.

Capacity Trends on Long Island

While overall child care capacity on Long Island has increased over the past two years, this growth is due primarily to an expansion of school-age child care.



During this same period, however, there was a significant decrease in the capacity of family day care and group family day care programs – which are often where the infants and toddlers are served.



Parent Feedback

Based on a survey of 625 working parents on Long Island, the following are the most important when looking for child care for young children.

For your child(ren) under age 6, are the following factors (a) very important, (b) somewhat important, (c) not very important, or (d) not important at all?

	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Cost	78.95% 225	20.00% 57	0.00% 0	0.35% 1	0.70% 2	285	1.21
Convenience/Location	75.44% 215	23.51% 67	0.70% 2	0.00% 0	0.35% 1	285	1.25
Quality of program	94.77% 272	4.53% 13	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.70% 2	287	1.05
Transportation offered	20.28% 58	13.99% 40	31.82% 91	24.13% 69	9.79% 28	286	2.66
Credentials of teachers/caregivers	78.13% 225	20.14% 58	1.04% 3	0.00% 0	0.69% 2	288	1.22
Reputation of program	84.38% 243	13.89% 40	1.04% 3	0.00% 0	0.69% 2	288	1.16
Language spoken by staff	46.18% 133	27.43% 79	15.97% 46	7.29% 21	3.13% 9	288	1.84