

## Certified Family (CF) Child Care Settings

OCC has conducted a brief analysis of the potential impacts of SB 1591. It should be noted that due to the short timeframe allotted, the analysis is likely not complete nor thorough. However, this statement attempts to collect the aspects of CF licensing we would need to consider if implementing an increase from 16 to 20 capacity.

Currently there are 899 certified child care programs licensed in the state:

- 4 counties have 0 licensed CF homes
- 15 counties have 5 or fewer licensed CF homes
- 24 counties have 25 or fewer licensed CF homes

While we know there is lack of capacity, particularly in rural areas, we can see that in many counties the capacity would not increase by much compared to the potentially harmful impacts to health and safety.

### Statewide average monthly cost per child in a Certified Family Child Care Home<sup>1</sup>

Age Group	Average Rate per month	Range of Rates
Infant	\$449	\$500 - \$900
Toddler	\$542	\$500 - \$845
Preschooler	\$614	\$480 - \$800
School Age	\$421	\$300 - \$680

### Compensation:

Data from Simon Workman<sup>2</sup> shows the following salaries and wages for a CF program with 12 preschool children costs (includes state and federal deductions):

- Provider/Teacher = \$34,236
- Assistant Teacher = \$30,977

When looking at the average rates of cost of care in CF, adding 4 children in capacity may not be enough to sustain an additional staff member, which would be required to stay aligned with current CF ratios.

### Capacity in large family child care homes across the nation:

39 states license large family homes<sup>3</sup>.

- 20 of the states cap the capacity at 12 children.
- 10 states also have a capacity of 12 children but allow extra slots for school-age children only. Of these 10 states:
  - 4 allow 2 additional SAC children.
  - 4 allow 3 additional SAC children.
  - 2 allow 4-5 additional SAC children.

At this time, Oregon offers one of the nation's highest CF home capacity options. Oregon's current CF home capacity allows up to 16 children for those programs that meet the

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<sup>1</sup> Child Care Market Price Study- Published in March 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Principal & Co-Founder, Prenatal to 5 Fiscal Strategies

<sup>3</sup> National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance

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requirements. These slots can be used for any age to address the community's needs and their program's ability to provide the correct staffing.

### Square Footage in Certified Family Homes

Square footage requirements are designed to provide a highly functioning program delivery, supervision, and learning support for each child.

- Recommendations from research studies<sup>4</sup> range between forty-two to fifty-four square feet per child in the setting. For a home setting of 16 children at forty-eight square feet (middle of the range of the recommendation), the total square footage would need to be 768 square feet.
- Oregon requires thirty-five square feet of usable space for up to 12 children in a CF home and fifty square feet of indoor activity areas available per child for each of the additional four children (if capacity is up to 16). The total square feet requirement for up to 16 children in an Oregon licensed CF home is 620 square feet.

**If four additional children were added to capacity, under current rules, a provider would need 820 feet of usable child care activity area space in their home.** “Activity Area” means the area of the home that is available, during all the hours of operation, for the children’s activities. This area excludes the food preparation area of the kitchen, bathrooms, storage areas, and those parts of rooms occupied by heating stoves, furniture and stationary equipment not used by children.

### Additional impacts from increasing capacity in child care settings:

- Fire Safety: ELD successfully worked with Building Codes Division (BCD) to find alternative fire safety solutions for home-based child care programs instead of installing sprinklers. The amended solution to the Oregon Structural Specialty Code may need to be revised if the capacity in child care is increased.
- Ratios may need to be altered depending on the children's ages and the number of staff available. For example, in child care centers, a group size of 20 children is allowed in a room with at least one teacher and an aide. These children must all be preschool age to be in this group size.
- Toilets and handwashing sinks: There are ratios of the number of toilets and handwashing sinks for a group, which may need to be altered based on increased capacity.
- Outdoor equipment and materials. Home providers have residential quality outdoor equipment that may not meet the commercial equipment needed for larger groups of children.
- We are uncertain how a larger capacity will affect a home setting, occupancy, zoning, neighborhood restrictions, and building codes.
- Outdoor space may not meet the needed square footage for outdoor play. A minimum of 75 Square feet of outdoor space is required for each child using the area at a time.

### Other Considerations:

- Fire Safety requires children to nap in a room with two exits. Bedrooms and upstairs areas are usually not an option in a home environment. Locating safe sleeping locations will be a challenge for an increase in enrollment.

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<sup>4</sup> Caring for Our Children; <https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database/5.1.2.1>

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- Staffing is problematic in many businesses throughout the nation at this time. If a provider is not able to acquire and maintain staff needed for children, they may have to decrease their capacity so they are in compliance and children's needs are
- An increase in capacity will also include an increased need for additional square footage requirements. Currently, 620 square feet are needed for 16 children.
- Transportation, if needed for daily route schedules or to evacuate in an emergency, could be a barrier to bring up to 20 children at one time.
  
- Several correlational studies in the 1980s and 1990s found that caregivers were more sensitive/responsive when caring for smaller groups of children than larger groups (see Clarke-Stewart et al., 2002 for a review).