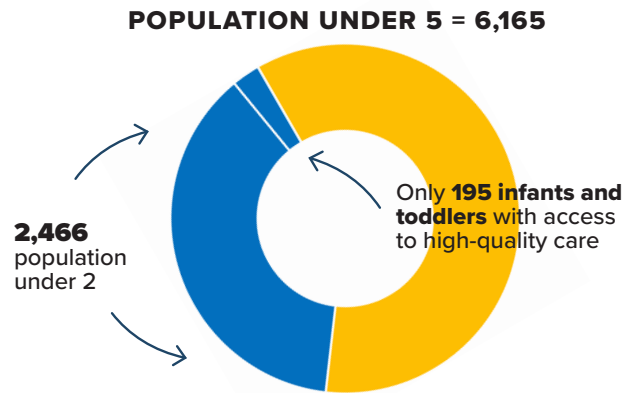


CHILD CARE IN SANTA FE

(All data for Santa Fe County unless otherwise noted)

THE CURRENT CRISIS

- 6,165** Population Under 5 Years of Age
- 2,466** Population Under 2 Years of Age
- 73,379** Population in labor force
- 7,620** Population in labor force with Children Under 6



Data Description	July 2019	April 2021	Percent change
Total High-Quality Capacity (4 and 5 Star) - includes school age	989	1,092	9% increase
Total Home-based Capacity - includes school age	156	84	46% decrease
Total Capacity Under Age 2	343	374	8% increase
4 and 5 Star Capacity Under Age 2	170	195	13% increase
TOTAL CAPACITY - includes school age	2,996	2,690	10% decrease

Considerations:

- **Only 7% of children under 2 have access to high-quality child care.**
- All data is for capacity (space allowed in facilities) and does not reflect funded slots or workforce limitations. Thus, capacity numbers are likely higher than what is actually available to families.
- Some recent closures of Santa Fe facilities are not reflected.

SANTA FE FAMILY SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **57% need more or a lot more** child care
- **37% can't afford** or are close to not being able to afford child care
- **69% prioritize a caregiver having a degree or certificate** in early childhood
- **52% are working full time**, 22% are part time, and 13% are looking for work

(From 200+ responses from families with children under age 5, collected July 2021)

THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT

For Children - 85% of the human brain develops in the first five years of life. High-quality early childhood programs are shown to reduce the strain on education, criminal justice, and social service systems.

For Families (and Workers) - High-quality child care is shown to increase family earnings, keep women in the workforce, and increase community connections.

For Businesses - Reliable child care is shown to decrease absenteeism, distracted work, and other workforce issues.

For Taxpayers - Every dollar spent on high-quality programs for disadvantaged children (birth to five) delivers an annual return of 7% to 20%.



SOLUTIONS

Federal stimulus packages coupled with pandemic pressures on the workforce are creating an unprecedented opportunity to address the child care crisis and build for a successful future.

Short Term Factors

- Active coordination, administrative improvements, and communication can maximize existing, permitted spaces and professionals.
- Officials in the NM Early Childhood Education and Care Department want to partner with Santa Fe to address child care.
- The State of NM has increased eligibility for child care subsidies to start at 350% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$92,778 for a family of four).
- Child care subsidy rates were significantly increased as of July 1, 2021.
- Supporting people to get early childhood certificates and degrees, with a work experience component can help fill immediate needs and build for long-term sustainability.

Long Term Factors

- Communities with workforce supports, like child care, are likely to retain and attract a qualified workforce.
- Significant efforts to increase wages in early childhood are underway at the state and national level.
- Home-based care businesses represent an entrepreneurial opportunity for parents and families.