

MONTANA CHILD CARE BUSINESS
CONNECT

Small Business Support. Big Community Impact.

Child Care Analysis Report



Sanders County

May, 2023

This project is funded in whole or in part under a contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department.

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INTRODUCTION

About Zero to Five Montana (ZtFMT) and Montana Child Care Business Connect (MCCBC)

Zero to Five Montana is a statewide early childhood organization focused on increasing access to early care and education, supporting and strengthening families, uplifting voices, and empowering small businesses and communities. ZtFMT is nonpartisan and focused on solutions that work toward a Montana dedicated to every child.

The ZtFMT promises to stabilize, innovate, and build the early childhood system in Montana so all families and communities can thrive.

Montana Child Care Business Connect (MCCBC), a program of ZtFMT, supports the start, stability, viability, and expansion of high-quality, early childcare businesses in Montana.

About the Community Capacity Building Cohort

Communities across the state of Montana have been selected to participate in the Community Capacity cohort. The goal of the program is to engage communities in identifying solutions to increase the supply of high quality affordable licensed/registered child care. The Core team will facilitate community-based discussions to highlight pathways to preserving existing child care businesses and adding new child care slots. Cohort teams will work over the next 6 months to enhance, establish, and expand existing and/or new registered licensed child care programs.

Sanders County

Given the severe desert status highlighted in the report below, it is recommended that Sanders County dedicate significant efforts to identifying needs through further research and by creating a core team to work on system level solutions to solve the lack of available child care. Sanders County is encouraged to apply for the next Community Child Care Capacity Building Cohort when the application period opens late-summer 2023.



SUPPLY AND DEMAND ANALYSIS

Demand of Need Analysis:

- Population:
 - 2010 Census - 11412
 - 2020 Census - 12400 (increase of: 9%; 988 people)
- Households:
 - 2010 Census - 5121
 - 2020 Census - 5533 (increase of: 8%; 412 households)
- Housing Units:
 - 2010 Census - 6678
 - 2020 Census - 6800 (increase of: 2%; 122 units)
- Children Ages 0-4:
 - 2010 Census - 582
- Children Ages 5-9:
 - 2010 Census - 586*
- Children Ages 0-6 with Parents in the Labor Force:
- 2017-2021 Kids Count - 307**



Total Potential Need for Ages 0-6: 307

*<https://svc.mt.gov/doc/siteselector/>

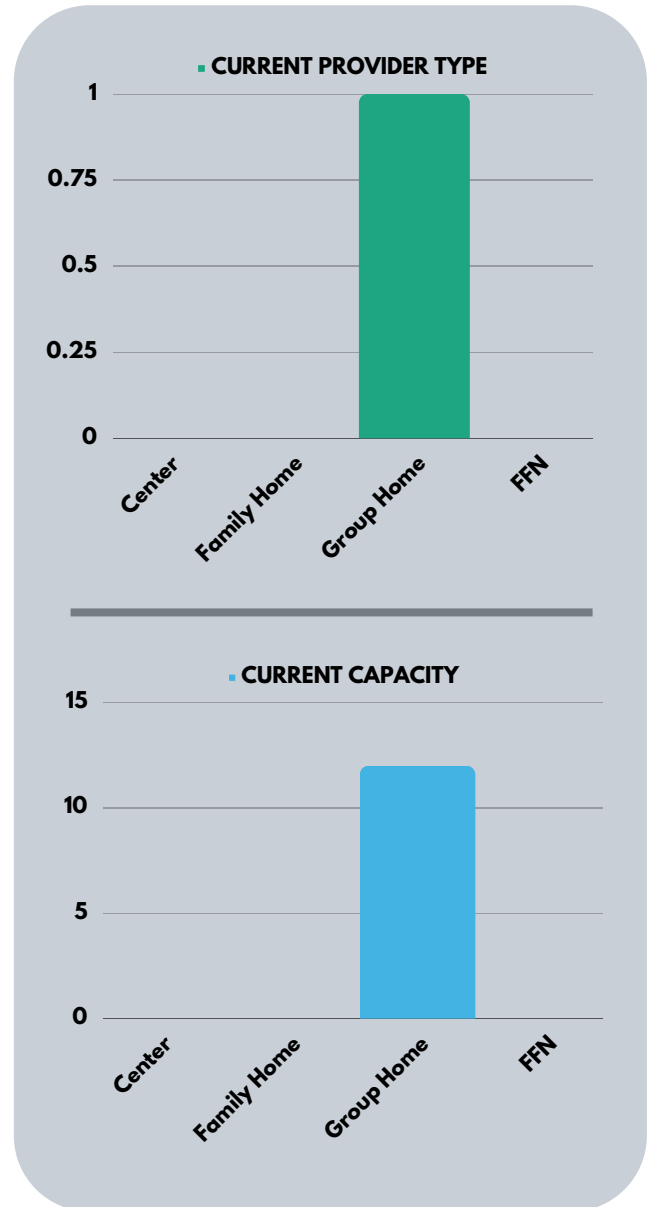
**<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#MT/2/0/char/0t>



SUPPLY AND DEMAND ANALYSIS

Supply of Care Analysis:

- Licensed/Registered Child Care Providers:
 - Belknap: 0
 - Camas: 0
 - Dixon: 0
 - Heron: 0
 - Hot Springs: 0
 - Lonepine: 0
 - Noxon: 0
 - Old Agency: 0
 - Paradise: 0
 - Plains: 1
 - Thompson Falls: 0
 - Trout Creek: 0*
- Total Licensed/Registered Capacity:
 - **12 Slots****
- Capacity Being Met for 0-6 Year Olds:
 - $12/307=4\%$
- Capacity Being Met by Current Licensed/Registered Providers for K-3:
 - To be researched via Primary Market Surveys & Interviews
- Early Head Start/Head Start:
 - Thompson Falls: Head Start Center
 - Plains: Head Start Center
- Partner organizations:
 - N/A***



*<https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/childcarelicensing/providersearch>

**<https://dphhs.mt.gov/InteractiveDashboards/ChildCareCapacityandSubsidyAuthorizations>

***<https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/hssco>

CHILD CARE DESERTS AND GAP ANALYSIS

Definition of Childcare Desert:

*"A childcare desert is defined as any geographic area where childcare supply meets less than a third of the potential demand."**

- Sanders County Analysis:
 - Sanders County Potential Demand for Care: 307 (children 0-6)
 - Sanders County Licensed Capacity (Demand): 12
 - Sanders County % Met by Current Licensed Providers for Pre-K:
 - $12/307 = 4\%$
 - Is $4\% \geq 33\%$? Less than

Criteria for Child Care Desert Met?: Yes, Sanders County is a Child Care Desert

Gap Analysis:

- Licensed Care Spots to Reach 34% of Demand for Care:
 - Sanders County Potential Demand for Care: 307 (children 0-6)
 - Definition of Child Care Desert: Less than 33% of Potential Demand
 - Existing licensed care spots: 12

Target to No Longer Be Child Care Desert:

- $307 \times 34\% = 104$ total licensed care spots
- $104 - 12 = 92$ new licensed care spots
- Percentage increase of total potential supply of care: $92/307 = 29\%$
- Number of Families affected by 29% increase in licensed care spots: 40
 - $92 \text{ new spots} / 2.26 \text{ average household size} = 40$

*https://lmi.mt.gov/_docs/Publications/LMI-Pubs/Special-Reports-and-Studies/ChildCareDesertsWhitePaper-FINAL.pdf

**<https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/hssco>

