



# Columbia Board of County Commissioners

March 4, 2026



Northwest Regional  
Child Care Resource & Referral



# Northwest Regional Child Care Resource and Referral

At Northwest Regional Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) we are dedicated to supporting child care and education Professionals in Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook counties. We strive to support professionals through coaching, helping them access training, advance their careers, and navigate licensing to meet state standards for health, safety, and education.

We also advocate for the childcare profession at a state and local level to improve the quality of care for children and families in our communities.



## Columbia's Child Care Desert

*A child care desert exists when there are more than three children for every licensed slot of child care or fewer than 33% of children have access to a licensed child care slot*

# Columbia's Progress



2018

0-2 Years Old 4%

3-5 Years Old 29%

2022

0-2 Years Old 5%

3-5 Years Old 29%

2024

0-2 Years Old 8%

3-5 Years Old 34%

# Number of Active Programs in Columbia County

53

**Q4- 2025**

# Columbia Child Care Data

*This data was pulled from the Find Child Care Oregon database.*

*The CCRR team maintains this data through regular check ins with childcare and early learning programs.*

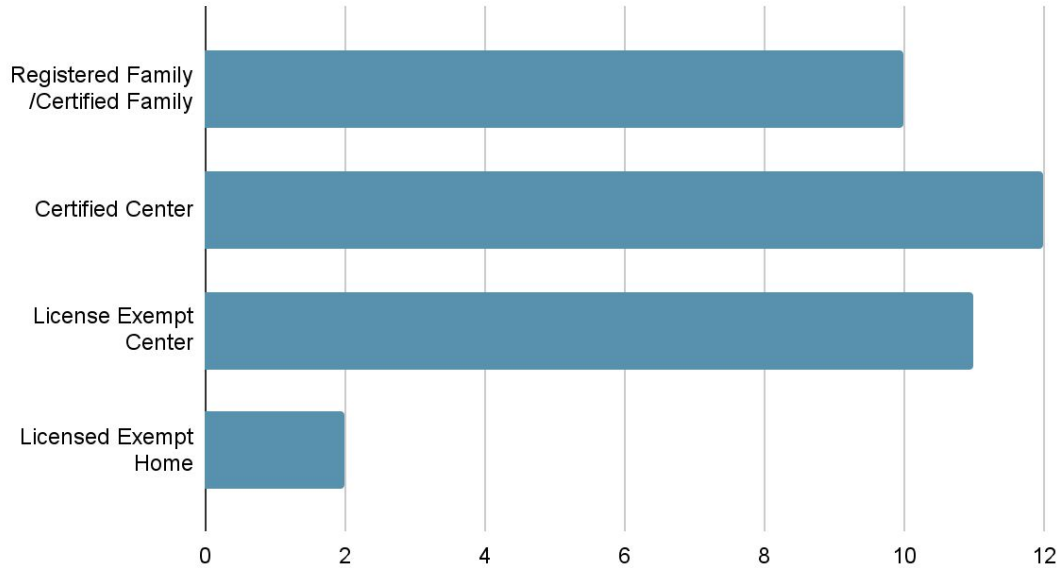
*ALL licensed child care is required to be in the database.*

*Exempt programs are not required and may not be adequately represented in the data*



# Types of Childcare in Columbia County

Number of Active Programs



## REGISTERED/CERTIFIED FAMILY

Child care that is within the providers residence. Provider s licensed with the Child Care Licensing Division.



## LICENSED EXEMPT

Childcare that is within providers residence. In-home provider is **NOT** required to be licensed with Child Care Licensing Division.



## CERTIFIED CENTER

Childcare that is within a commercial facility. Center is licensed with the Child Care Licensing Division.



## LICENSED EXEMPT CENTER

Childcare that is within a commercial facility. Center is **NOT** required to be licensed with the Child Care Licensing Division.

Q4- 2025

# Age Groups of Children Served (Columbia)



**Q4- 2025**

# ERDC Listed Providers in Columbia County

51

Q4- 2025

## **Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)**

is a subsidy program that pays part of the child care costs for families who are working, in school or receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

## **Currently Listed**

is actively able to accept ERDC payments

**Note:** Some people who are only ERDC Listed choose not to be added into the FCCO database.

# ERDC in Columbia County



## Columbia

**200**  
Enrolled Families

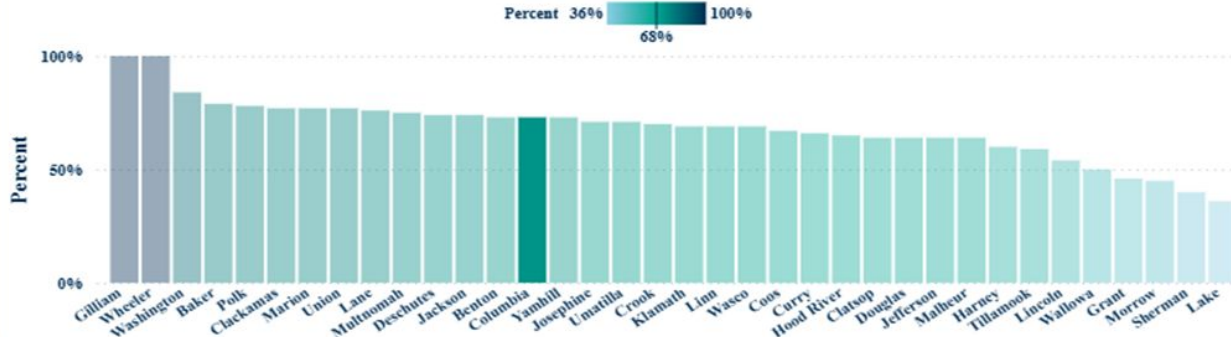
**45**  
Providers

**73%**  
Connected

**140**  
Waitlisted Families

\*The numbers of enrolled and waitlisted families by county are rounded by 5

## Percent of Families Who Are Connected to a Provider



**Current 2/19/26**

# Columbia's Strategy to support child care

Replicating work that is  
happening in Clatsop County:

- Supports expansion and retention of child care businesses
- Affordability and accessibility for families



# Child Care work in Columbia

## **Historical:**

Child Care Advisory through Covid

Several failed grant applications for capacity building to start work

## **Current Focus:**

Received a grant from The Neimeyer Foundation within Oregon Community Foundation

- Utilizing the Clatsop County Child Care Program Manager to begin seeking funds
- Developing Columbia County Advisory
- Secure additional funding
- Launch first grant round

# Clatsop County Project

## **Retention Strategies:**

Business training and advising

Early Childhood training and coaching

Programs are licensed with the Child Care Licensing Division

## **Expansion Strategy:**

Grants for expansion of Infant/Toddler care

## **Family Affordability and Accessibility:**

Grants delivered to programs who deliver scholarship programs to families in need

Programs are ERDC Listed

Programs are “Open for Referral” in the Find Child Care Oregon database



**QUESTIONS?**