



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Childcare Statistics

July 25, 2022





The following information details the current statistics regarding childcare in the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe 3-county service area.

The MLBO Service Area includes the school districts within the counties of Aitkin, Pine, and Mille Lacs.



Childcare Supply & Demand Gap

There are 3,603 children, ages 5 and younger, living within the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe 3-county service area who are eligible for childcare services.

Number of Family and Childcare Centers in the Service Area Surrounding the MLBO Reservation

County	Length of Drive	Licensed Childcare Programs	Tribally Licensed Programs
Aitkin	15 minutes	23	1
Pine	30 minutes	32	1
Mille Lacs	12 minutes	46	1
TOTAL		101	3

This 3-county service area only has about 800 licensed childcare slots for these 3,603 children. This includes the 180 slots at the three Head Start/Early Head Start/Childcare sites licensed by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe focusing on children enrolled in Federally recognized tribes.

This means there is a gap of around 2,800 licensed childcare slots for children ages 5 and younger who are within the service area and eligible for services.

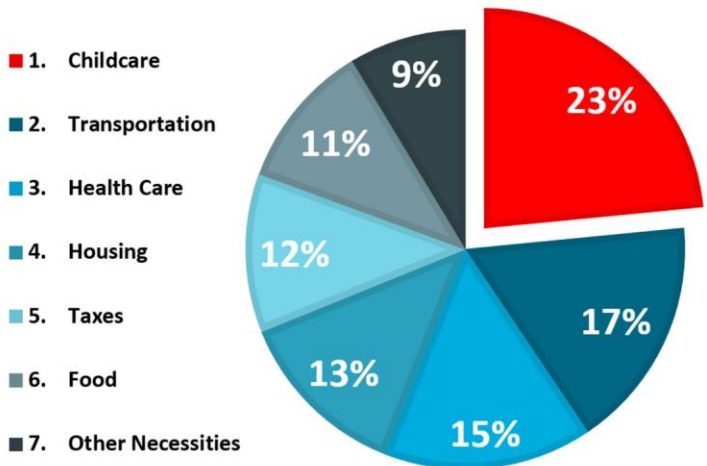


Family Expenses versus

Childcare is a significant financial burden.

It very expensive for both the provider and the family and can easily amount to more than 25% of a family's income.

The average median household income in the 3-county service area is \$52,970 a year. For a two-parent, two-child family in Mille Lacs County, it costs approximately \$86,952 to secure a modest, yet adequate, standard of living.



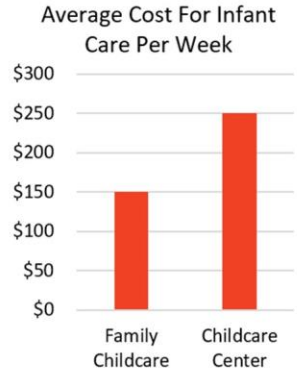
Childcare, on average consumes nearly a quarter of a families income.

Family Income

Cost of Care

The average cost for an infant in Family Childcare is \$150/week totaling \$7,800 each year.

The average cost for an infant in a Childcare Center is \$250/week totaling \$13,000 each year.



This means that childcare for an infant in family childcare consumes nearly 25% of a family’s budget... more than any of their other expenses.

Breakdown of Basic Monthly Budget Average Costs in Mille Lacs County		
1. Childcare	\$1,700	23%
2. Transportation	\$1,240	17%
3. Health Care	\$1,115	15%
4. Housing	\$936	13%
5. Taxes	\$847	12%
6. Food	\$785	11%
7. Other Necessities	\$623	9%
TOTAL	\$7,246	100%

A basic family budget usually consists of seven primary components: housing, food, transportation, childcare, health care, taxes & other necessities.

Information obtained from the Economic Policy Institute – <https://www.epi.org/>



Community Survey Analysis

From the Parent Survey:

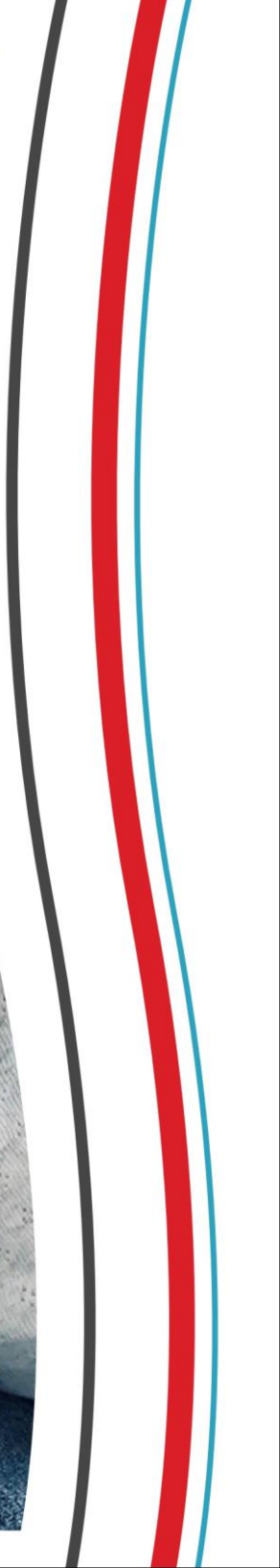
- 25% indicated they do not use childcare because it is too expensive, or it does not exist.
- 17% drive between 11 & 30 miles to their childcare site with another 17% driving over 30 miles.
- 25% need childcare for over 35 hours per week.

From the Childcare Provider Survey:

- Infant and toddler slots have the largest waiting list.
- The biggest challenges childcare providers face is low pay and limited ability for time off.

From the Employer Survey:

- 54% indicated that unavailable childcare has caused employees to be absent from work.
- The biggest challenge employers face is keeping a consistent workforce due to staff shortages & staff turnover.



This information results from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indigenous Core Team working to meet childcare needs for the Mille Lacs Band community.

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For more information about this project and how you can support childcare efforts in our communities, contact Aanjibimaadizing at 320-532-7407.