

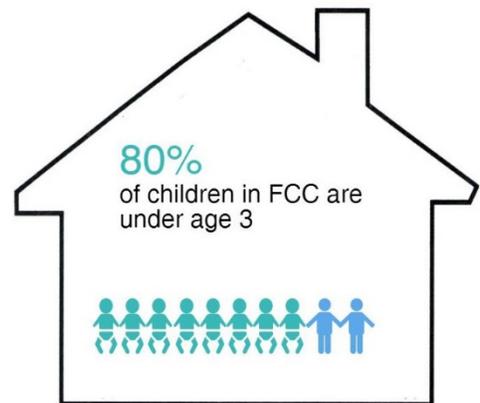
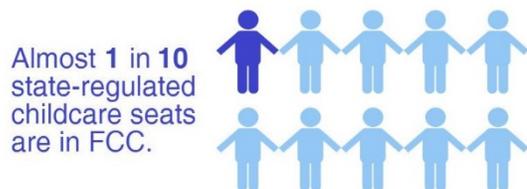
# FAMILY CHILDCARE IN HAWAI‘I

Fact Sheet 2017

Family childcare (FCC) providers work in their own homes, caring for up to six children at a time. As an alternative to center-based care, FCC fills an important niche in the early childhood system. Parents may prefer the homelike environment and small, mixed-age groups characteristic of FCC. In many areas of the state, FCC is the only option for parents needing infant–toddler, evening, or weekend care.

## Availability

FCC providers care for more than 2,400 children statewide, serving a larger share of children on the neighbor islands than on O‘ahu. There is a shortage of FCC seats, and 77% of providers keep a wait list.



## Cost

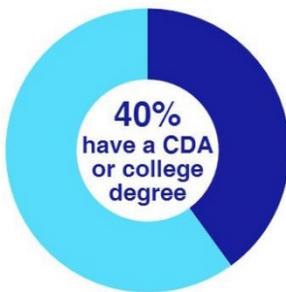
FCC is more affordable than center care. This is especially true for infants under one year of age, where FCC typically costs \$5,400 per year less than tuition at a licensed center. Still, at an average of \$7,853 per year, FCC care is a major expense for most families.

At an average cost of **\$7,853** per year, FCC care for **one** child equals



## Quality

FCC businesses are registered with the State Department of Human Services. FCC providers undergo background checks and home inspections but are not subject to the same education requirements as licensed center providers. However, about 40% of FCC providers have a Child Development Associate credential or a college degree, and about half of those with degrees are trained in early childhood education. The FCC setting has unique potential to promote child–caregiver bonds and parent–caregiver communication. Although national studies underscore the need to support quality in FCC, there are no systematic data on FCC quality in Hawai‘i.



Providers with these credentials are more likely to plan daily activities, monitor children's learning, and seek professional development.

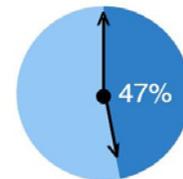
*"I am **not** a babysitter. I am an educator, and my children are ready for kindergarten when they leave here."*

–FCC provider

## Challenges for FCC Providers

FCC providers report much pride and satisfaction in their work. But they face many challenges in running their small businesses, including working long hours with no assistance, being able to provide coverage when they are ill, fiscal management, and profitability.

At a typical rate of \$3 or \$4 per hour per child, FCC providers may not earn a living wage



Almost half of FCC providers work more than 50 hours per week

## Policy Recommendations

Action needs to be taken to increase access, affordability, and quality in FCC. Strategic investment in the FCC sector would strengthen our early childhood system.

- Design policy solutions and incentives to increase the number of FCC providers.
- Help ensure the financial viability of FCC small businesses.
- Expand investments in quality supports for FCC providers and ensure that content and delivery formats meet their unique needs.
- Because FCC is a key source of infant–toddler care, offer more training specific to this vulnerable age group.

