



Fond du Lac County Child Care Report

Since 2022, there are 258 fewer licensed spots for infant care in Fond du Lac County. According to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), in 2022, there were 33 licensed child care providers in the county which included four Advocap HeadStart programs and three preschools serving ages 3-5, resulting in only 26 licensed infant care providers in the county.

According to DCF, in 2024, there are 34 licensed child care providers which include four Advocap HeadStart programs, two preschools, and six before school care programs in the Fond du Lac School District which were not in operation two years ago and serve ages 3 and up. This means there are now only 22 licensed infant care providers in the county. One major child care provider, Shining Stars Learning Center in the city of Fond du Lac is closing November 2024, which was licensed for 100, those lost spots are included in the numbers above.

According to the Census, in 2024 there are 5,262 children under the age of 5 in Fond du Lac County. According to Pew Research, 80% of women send their children to some form of child care. Of those women, 58% of them send their children to a center. Using the definition of licensed family or group facility in Wisconsin, there are 2,442 children in Fond du Lac County likely to enroll at a licensed facility. The total of licensed facilities in the county currently only serves 1,523 children. This leaves a gap of 919 children not able to enroll at a licensed child care provider in Fond du Lac County.

For comparison, in 2022 the gap of children not served was 800. Despite the number of children not changing drastically from 2022 (5,615) the number of licensed infant care providers and slots has decreased.

Fond du Lac County Licensed Child Care-2024

	Infant Group Care	Infant Family Care	Preschool	HeadStart	Before School Care
Fond du Lac	10	1	1	1	6
North Fond du Lac	1	2		1	
Rosendale			1		
Oakfield*	1				
Campbellsport	1				
Ripon	1		1	1	
Eden	1				
Waupun**					
Brandon	1				
Eldorado		1			
Total	16	4	3	3	6

*Oakfield public school program

**Camp Waupun 5-12 years old June-Aug

Fond du Lac County Licensed Infant Capacity-2024

	Infant Group Care	Licensed Capacity	Infant Family Care	Licensed Capacity
Fond du Lac	10	1085	1	8
North Fond du Lac	1	89	2	16
Rosendale				
Oakfield*	1	60		
Campbellsport	1	60		
Ripon	1	125		
Eden	1	24		
Waupun				
Brandon	1	50		
Eldorado			1	6
Total		1,493		30

*Oakfield public school program

Fond du Lac County Licensed Child Care-2022

	Infant Group Care	Infant Family Care	Preschool	HeadStart	Before School Care
Fond du Lac	12	1	1	2	0
North Fond du Lac	1	2		1	
Rosendale			1		
Oakfield*	1				
Campbellsport	1				
Ripon	2	3	1	1	
Eden	1				
Waupun		2			
Brandon	1				
Eldorado		0			
Total	19	8	3	4	0

**Oakfield public school program*

Labor Force Participation Rates	2020	2024
Female	79%	79%
Female w/children 6-17	89%	88%
Female w/children under 6	79%	84%
Female w/children under 6 & 6-17	77%	78%

**Department of Labor Women's Bureau*