

2026

 First Children's Finance

Part Time Child Care in Vermont

A Supplement to the 2026 Supply Demand Gap Analysis Report

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Analysis: Part-Time Programs

The [2026 Supply Demand Gap Analysis](#) completed by First Children's Finance (FCF) built on the previous Stalled at the Start report series developed by Let's Grow Kids to analyze the supply of full-day, full-year child care supply and demand in Vermont. While the supply and demand analysis focuses on full-day, full-year child care across the state, this special brief provides a summary of programs excluded from this analysis.

The supply and demand analysis includes programs that meet the full-day, full-year threshold of operations, meaning they report operating at least 8 hours a day and follow a full-year, rather than school year, calendar. By examining programs that operate part-time, this brief adds important nuance to the statewide picture of child care access. While many families require care for 40 or more hours per week, others have more flexible needs that can be met by part-time or limited hour programs.

At the time of analysis, Vermont had 920 licensed and regulated child care programs, 663 of which were identified as full-day, full year programs and were included in the supply demand gap analysis.

The remaining 257 programs are the focus of this analysis. All of the 257 programs offer fewer than 8 hours of care a day. Additionally, 40% of them operate on a part-year schedule.

FCF estimated weekly hours of operation using reported daily start and end times, assuming five days of operation per week. Twenty-three programs reported no hours of operation and were therefore excluded from additional analysis. FCF then categorized the part-time schedules of these remaining programs as either 26-39 hours per week or 25 or fewer hours per week, consistent with child care financial assistance program (CCFAP) certificate requirements. Families' child care needs vary, and programs operating within these two categories may play differing roles in families' overall child care arrangements.

Table 1. Analysis of all part-time programs by hours of operation and program type

Program Type	25 or fewer hours	26-39 hours
Center Based Child Care and Preschool Programs (CBCCPP) (Recurring and Non-Recurring)	50	138
Licensed & Registered Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)	3	8

The following table provides details at the county level of the programs that did not meet the full-day, full-year criteria and their respective slots. This data highlights the county-level differences in part-time child care supply and could further support local supply-building efforts.

Table 2: Analysis of part-time slots at the county level by program hours of operation

County	25 or fewer hours per week slots	26–39 hours per week slots	Percent of all slots that are under 39 hours
Addison	22	132	8%
Bennington	97	151	15%
Caledonia	131	122	15%
Chittenden	114	906	10%
Essex	35	58	64%
Franklin	230	219	24%
Grand Isle	20	0	8%
Lamoille	62	217	19%
Orange	40	123	12%
Orleans	66	99	14%
Rutland	96	524	19%
Washington	42	604	22%
Windham	89	511	33%
Windsor	90	456	16%
Vermont	1,134	4,122	16%

Of note, many of the part-time slots removed from the supply and demand gap analysis serve preschool aged children. Though the percent of part-time preschool slots varied by county, an average 46% of all preschool slots across the state did not meet the full-day, full-year criteria.

Many families may choose part-time care arrangements to meet their unique needs, or due to a lack of full-time care options. Additional exploration could include engaging families in counties with a high proportion of part-time care to better understand how employment trends shape local child care needs. Furthermore, those seeking to increase access to child care in Vermont can engage leaders of part time programs to understand and address their barriers to expanding operating hours.