



The Aspire Registry is New York State’s workforce registry for early childhood and school-age educators, designed to support the professional development of these educators and capture verified data about the early care and learning workforce. By collecting and analyzing this data, the Aspire Registry also helps identify trends and challenges within the state, one of which is the availability and accessibility of high-quality early childhood education.

Home-based providers are a vital component of the early learning community in New York. They offer flexible, affordable, and personalized options, meeting the diverse needs of families, especially in areas facing child care shortages. Home-based providers serve as a critical solution in many of these underserved areas, offering families alternatives to quality child care and education services that might not otherwise be available. Many families choose home-based care because it can:

- Offer flexibility for parents who work non-traditional hours
- Be more affordable than other types of care
- Provide a small group size and mixed age setting that allows siblings to stay together
- Reflect the family’s language and culture
- Give young children consistency because they aren’t switching classrooms with different staff

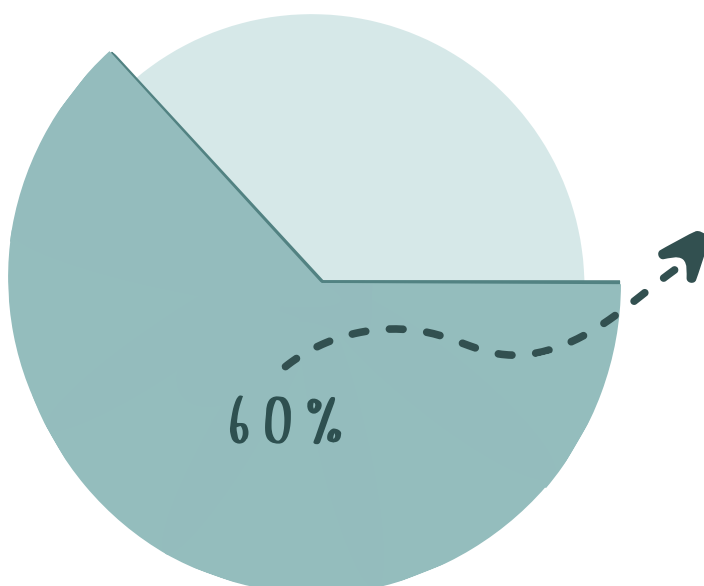
In this edition, we will focus on who home-based providers are, where they are located, and their professional development needs.

Who are New York’s Home-Based Child Care Providers?

As of 2024, there are 18,078 child care programs licensed or registered* by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) in New York State. More than half (about 60%) are home-based programs, who provide about 20% of licensed capacity.

As of January 2025, there are 1,922 home-based child care providers with active profiles in the Aspire Registry, a number that has more than doubled since 2022. Aspire represents 18% of the overall home-based provider population, and as the Registry continues to grow and welcome new members, we will be able to give an even more accurate representation of the home-based provider workforce.

*OCFS licenses and registrations for center-based child care, out of school time child care, and home-based child care.



Home-Based Child Care Providers in Aspire at a Glance

The following data show percentages from a total of 1,922 home-based child care providers in Aspire.

Primary Language

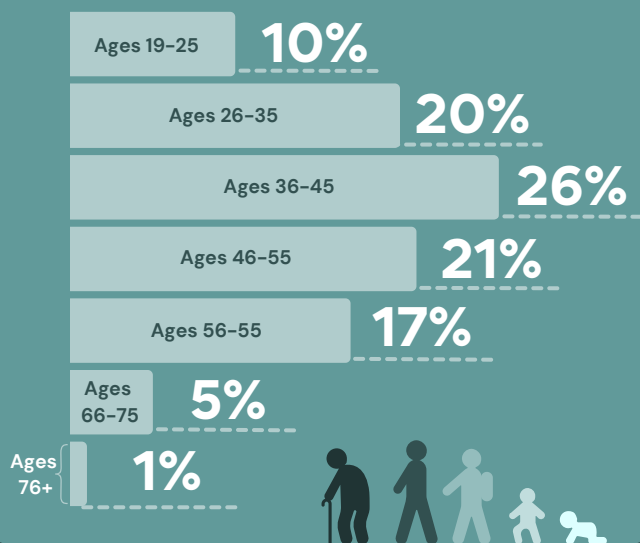
77% of home-based providers speak **English** as their primary language

21% of home-based providers speak **Spanish** as their primary language

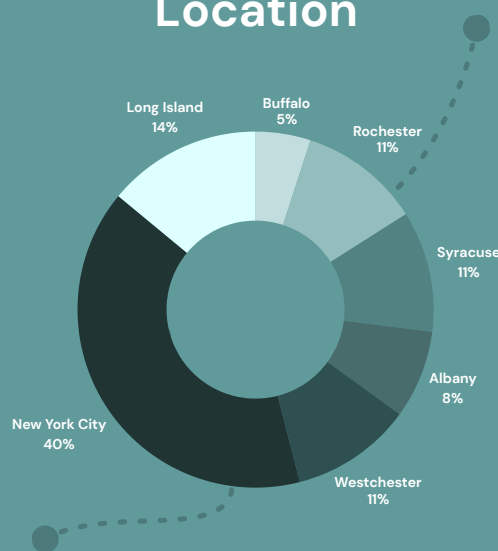
**A Center for NYC Affairs 2023 report shows an even higher percentage of home-based providers with Spanish as their primary language: 56.2% in NYC and 41.1% in NY State.²*



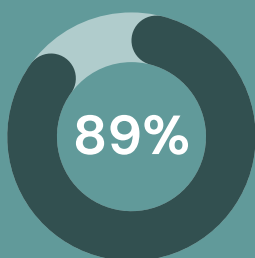
Age



Location



Gender



of home-based providers are female



of home-based providers are male



of home-based providers are nonbinary

Highest Level of Education*

Education Type	% of Home-Based Providers
High School Diploma	21%
CDA or Some College	17%
Associate	5%
Bachelor's	9%
Master's or Higher	6%

*Percentages are presented for whom education data is available.



Professional Development

Home-based providers, like all members of the Aspire Registry, have access to high-quality professional development through the PD Finder. Members can have their training attendance automatically reflected on their profile through partner training organizations, or receive credit by uploading their certificates for verification by the Aspire Registry staff.

Overall, home-based providers completed more than 36,000 hours of professional development within the last 3 years.

The PD Finder currently lists over 1,000 professional development courses, with more than 480 designed for home-based providers. Many of these courses offer multiple events to provide the flexibility providers need.

Events available in the PD Finder are thoroughly reviewed by Aspire’s Professional Development Quality Assurance team, leveraging their in-depth knowledge and qualifications such as the Training and Technical Assistance (T-TAP) credentials. Providers can confidently register for training, knowing they are selecting high-quality events that are relevant to their work and practice.

New and Expanded Home-Based Programming

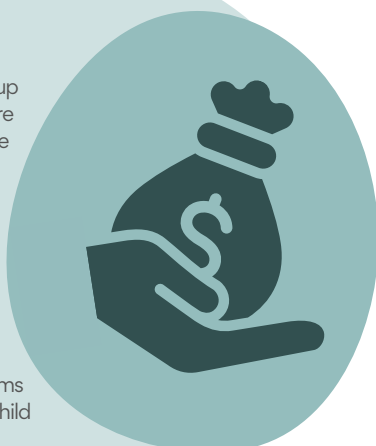
In 2022 the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) identified parts of the state where the availability of licensed or registered child care services did not support the number of children who live in the area (also known as Child Care Deserts).³ Programs and new providers had the opportunity to apply for funding to establish new child care services or increase capacity in existing programs.

196

New family child care and group family child care programs were opened through the Child Care Desert Grant funding.

152

Existing family child care and group family child care programs were expanded through the Child Care Desert Grant funding.



Core Body of Knowledge (CBK) Topic Areas and Hours of Training Completed	
Health, Safety, and Nutrition	7,718
Child Growth and Development	6,825
Environment and Curriculum	5,853
Professionalism and Leadership	4,149
Administration and Management	4,100
Family and Community Relationships	2,774
Observation and Assessment	1,751

OCFS Topic Areas and Hours of Training Completed	
Child Day Care Program Development	9,767
Principles of Childhood Development	8,551
Nutrition and Health	4,585
Safety and Security Procedures	3,968
Business Record Maintenance and Management	3,716
Statutes and Regulations Pertaining to Child Day Care	1,917
Child Abuse and Maltreatment Identification and Prevention	1,034
Adverse Childhood Experience Focused on Understanding Trauma and on Nurturing Resiliency	938
Statutes and Regulations Pertaining to Child Abuse and Maltreatment	890
Education and Information on the Identification Diagnosis and Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome	652

**Please note: CBK Competencies and OCFS Topic Areas run in parallel. Because multiple topic areas can be assigned to a single training, the total training hours in each category may not match across CBK and OCFS tables.*

As New York continues to develop opportunities and solutions to address the child care crisis in part through support for home-based child care, the Aspire Registry is in a unique position to support providers by recognizing their work as both educators and business owners. Providers have individual profiles with verified information regarding their education and professional credentials, while providers’ organization profiles contain verified information about licensing, capacity, and staff (if applicable).

These benefits equip home-based providers with the tools to streamline their operations, invest in their professional growth, and enhance their practice. In doing so, they are better empowered to deliver exceptional care and education, making a lasting impact on families throughout New York State.

Endnotes

¹New York State Office of Children and Family Services. (2024). 2024 Division of Child Care Services fact sheet.

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/assets/docs/factsheets/2024-DCCS-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

²High calling, low wages: Home-based early care and education providers in New York City. (2023). The New School Center for New York City Affairs.

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53ee4f0be4b015b9c3690d84/t/6501f825b2dff90bf8f27a36/1694627883527/High+Calling%2C+Low+Wages_Melodia_CNYCA.pdf

³An area is identified as a child care “desert” if there are three or more children under the age of five per available child care slot in local day care centers, family day care, or group family day care programs. See Invest in New York: Child care deserts grant for new providers (n.d.) for more details:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/deserts/#:~:text=Child%20Care%20Desert%20Definition&text=An%20area%20is%20identified%20as,group%20family%20day%20care%20programs.>