

## **2017 South Carolina Statewide Child Care Market Rate Survey Results**

To determine the amounts that the SC Voucher Program pays enrolled child care providers, the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) is required to conduct market rate surveys every three years. For the 2017 Market Rate Survey, SCDSS contracted with the University of South Carolina's Institute for Public Service and Policy Research (IPSPR) to conduct the data collection and data processing for the market rate survey. This report provides the results of the 2017 market rate survey.

Prior to the development of the 2017 market rate survey, SCDSS convened a meeting on January 26, 2017 of child care stakeholders to obtain their views and recommendations for the market rate survey instrument and process. Participants included representatives of the various types of child care providers to be surveyed (child care centers, family child care providers, providers serving children in families experiencing homelessness, faith-based child care centers, afterschool providers), early care and education service agencies (SC First Steps to School Readiness and county First Steps partnerships) and professional organizations (SC Association for the Education of Young Children, SC Association of Community Action Partnerships), university contractors that provide technical assistance to child care providers (University of South Carolina's SC Child Care Resource and Referral Network and SC Inclusion Collaborative, and Medical University of South Carolina's SC Program for Infant-Toddler Care). Discussion focused on distinguishing child care rates providers charge from the various types of rates they charge for other specific populations (children in Head Start/Early Head Start programs, those in various public and private pre-kindergarten programs, those in child care with SC Vouchers and those with child care extending the Head Start or Pre-K day/year). The various times of child care operation were also discussed so rates could be accurately and consistently captured and reported. The wording and placement of the questions in the

survey was also discussed. Following the meeting, SCDSS staff met with the IPSPR contractor to consider input from stakeholders and finalize the survey based on the recommendations.

To begin the survey process, SCDSS provided IPSPR with a list of regulated child care providers in the state, along with license-exempt child care providers enrolled with the SC Voucher Program. This list of child care providers were divided into 12 types of child care providers from which the sample was to be selected. Listed below are the 12 types of child care providers, the number of providers included in the sample, the number of completed surveys, the percentage of providers who completed the survey, and the response rate. For each type of child care in which there were 250 or fewer child care providers, all providers were included in the study; for those types of care with more than 250 providers, a random sample of cases was selected for the sample. A total of 1,481 providers were selected for the 2017 market rate survey.

On July 21, 2017, email invitations to complete the market rate survey online were sent to all of the sampled child care providers with an email address, and a mailing consisting of a cover letter (which was nearly identical to the initial email invitation), paper copy of the questionnaire, and postage paid return envelope was sent to providers without a working email address. If a child care provider had not completed the survey online or responded to the mail survey by August 23, 2017, the provider was contacted by telephone by a member of the IPSPR's interviewing staff in an attempt to collect the information.

The telephone interviewing for the Market Rate Survey was conducted from IPSPR's Survey Research Laboratory on the Columbia campus of the University of South Carolina. Prior to the telephone interviewing, the interviewing staff members received

specialized training for this survey. Also, many of the interviews were monitored to ensure that instructions were being followed. Calls were made from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday and, by appointment, on weekends and weekday evenings. Telephone interviewing concluded on November 3, 2017.

**TYPES OF CHILD CARE PROVIDERS, NUMBER SAMPLED IN EACH TYPE,  
NUMBER OF SURVEYS COMPLETED, AND RESPONSE RATE**

	<u>Sampled</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Response Rate %</u>
Urban, Centers – Licensed	250	199	79.6%
Urban, Family Homes - Licensed	17	9	52.9%
Urban, Group Homes - Licensed	61	43	70.5%
Urban, Centers-Registered (Faith-based)	170	124	72.9%
Urban, Family Homes - Registered	250	143	57.2%
Urban, ABC centers - exempt from DSS regulations	201	86	42.8%
Rural, Centers - Licensed	180	150	83.3%
Rural, Family Homes - Licensed	1	0	0.0%
Rural, Group Homes - Licensed	41	27	65.9%
Rural, Centers-Registered (Faith-based)	40	27	67.5%
Rural, Family Homes - Registered	220	122	55.5%
Rural, ABC centers - exempt from DSS regulations	50	20	40.0%

TOTAL	1,481	950	64.1%
Providers no longer providing child care services	( 40)		
Surveys returned/no working telephone number	( 2)		
<b>TOTAL OVERALL</b>	<b>1, 439</b>		<b>66.0%</b>

Of the 1,481 child care facilities included in the initial sample, 40 indicated that they were no longer providing child care services, and two had their mail surveys returned to sender and did not appear to have working telephone numbers. Of the remaining 1,439 child care providers, a total of 950 completed the survey online, returned a completed questionnaire in the mail, or completed a telephone survey interview, for an overall response rate of 66.0%.

Child care providers were asked to provide the weekly rates they charge for full-time (30 or more hours per week) and half-time (15 – 29 hours per week) care for children in the following age groups: less than 1 year; 1 to 2 years old; 3 to 4 years old; 5 years old; 6 to 12 years; and 13 to 19 year old children with special needs.

This full-time and half-time weekly child care rate information was then used to compile the minimum, 45<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup>, 85<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup>, 95<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> percentile rates for children ages 0-2 years old, 3-5 years old, and 6-12 years old for the types of child care providers.

In analyzing these data, the child care providers were weighted according to the number of children in each age group they served so that the rates charged by providers with larger numbers of children in a particular age group are given greater weight. The final 2017 weighted child care rate tables reflected below were completed and provided to the Lead Agency on July 31, 2018.

The Lead Agency calculated the estimated cost of care for child care centers, family child care homes, and group child care homes, differentiated by age of child and quality level to implement the health, safety, quality, and staffing requirements included in the September 30, 2016 Child Care and Development Fund Final Rule. Calculations were based on the methodology developed by the Center for American Progress for its 2018 report, "Where Does Your Child Care Dollar Go?" which drew from states' licensing regulations and defaults in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Child Care's Provider Cost of Quality Calculator. Estimated total costs per child per week in 2017 ranged from \$37 for school-aged children in base quality level family child care homes to \$205 for infants and toddlers in high quality child care centers.

**Type 11 - All Child Care Centers - 2017**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Rural</b>						<b>Urban</b>						<b>Statewide</b>					
<b>Time and ages of children served</b>	Full-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Full-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Full-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Half-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Half-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Half-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Full-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Full-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Full-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Half-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Half-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Half-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Full-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Full-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Full-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Half-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Half-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Half-time rates Ages 6 thru 12
<b>Percentiles</b>																		
Minimum (Percentile)	36.93 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	40.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	16.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	18.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	25.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	20.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	32.31 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	10.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	25.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	33.42 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	6.50 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	7.00 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	32.31 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	10.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	16.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	18.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	6.50 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	7.00 (1 <sup>st</sup> )
45	110.00	97.50	85.00	75.00	65.00	60.00	147.50	130.00	75.00	102.00	80.00	60.00	135.00	117.25	80.00	95.00	75.00	60.00
50	115.00	100.00	90.00	80.00	66.00	65.00	150.00	135.00	85.00	108.78	87.50	61.00	141.50	125.00	87.93	100.00	80.00	61.00
55	117.50	100.00	90.00	85.00	70.00	65.00	160.00	140.00	90.00	115.00	94.73	65.00	145.40	130.00	90.00	105.00	85.00	65.00
60	120.00	107.09	90.00	90.00	75.00	65.00	165.00	145.00	95.00	125.00	100.00	65.00	150.00	135.00	92.00	110.00	90.00	65.00
65	122.50	110.00	92.31	90.00	76.68	65.00	172.50	150.00	100.00	134.00	106.16	70.00	160.00	140.00	96.15	125.00	100.00	67.00
70	125.00	112.50	95.00	100.00	85.00	66.00	180.00	157.50	110.00	140.00	115.39	75.00	167.00	147.50	105.00	132.00	107.00	75.00
75	130.00	120.00	100.00	100.00	85.00	70.00	185.00	161.55	120.00	150.00	120.00	75.00	175.00	157.50	110.00	140.00	117.50	75.00
80	135.00	125.00	105.77	129.23	90.00	85.00	200.00	178.00	125.00	163.00	127.39	85.00	185.00	161.55	125.00	154.00	123.00	85.00
85	140.00	130.00	120.00	139.27	107.00	90.00	212.60	198.00	145.00	168.00	147.00	120.00	200.50	181.25	130.00	166.00	135.00	104.43
90	165.00	140.00	125.00	154.00	120.96	104.43	233.00	220.00	159.24	176.00	160.00	154.00	224.00	216.00	155.00	176.00	154.00	154.00
95	205.00	240.00	132.70	194.00	170.00	104.43	280.00	265.00	200.00	232.50	198.00	154.00	272.00	260.33	198.48	194.00	182.00	154.00
100%	375.39	290.00	303.88	220.00	182.00	555.00	846.82	620.00	580.00	797.32	758.00	280.00	846.82	620.00	580.00	797.32	758.00	555.00
(N)	3,217	4,318	2,089	1,386	3,056	1,795	8,079	12,607	6,183	3,689	9,445	5,710	11,296	16,925	8,272	5,075	12,501	7,505

**Type 16 - All Group Child Care Homes - 2017**

Type 16 - All Group Child Care Homes - 2017																		
Location	Rural						Urban						Statewide					
Time and ages of children served	Full-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Full-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Full-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Half-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Half-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Half-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Full-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Full-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Full-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Half-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Half-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Half-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Full-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Full-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Full-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Half-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Half-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Half-time rates Ages 6 thru 12
Percentiles																		
Minimum (Percentile)	70.00 (5 <sup>th</sup> )	65.00 (5 <sup>th</sup> )	50.00 (5 <sup>th</sup> )	45.00 (20 <sup>th</sup> )	45.00 (15 <sup>th</sup> )	35.00 (5 <sup>th</sup> )	75.00 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	75.00 (5 <sup>th</sup> )	55.50 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	60.00 (10 <sup>th</sup> )	50.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	50.00 (20 <sup>th</sup> )	70.00 (4 <sup>th</sup> )	65.00 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	50.00 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	45.00 (10 <sup>th</sup> )	45.00 (5 <sup>th</sup> )	35.00 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
45	85.00	85.00	90.00	50.00	50.00	45.00	100.00	100.00	90.00	75.00	66.00	60.00	90.00	95.00	90.00	65.00	62.50	60.00
50	85.00	90.00	90.00	55.00	55.00	50.00	105.00	100.00	90.00	75.00	68.00	60.00	95.00	100.00	90.00	68.00	65.00	60.00
55	85.00	90.00	90.00	55.00	55.00	50.00	110.00	100.00	90.00	75.00	70.00	65.50	97.50	100.00	90.00	70.00	65.00	60.00
60	85.00	90.00	90.00	60.00	55.00	55.00	115.00	100.00	95.00	75.00	70.00	68.00	100.00	100.00	90.00	71.28	68.00	60.00
65	90.00	90.00	90.00	65.00	60.00	55.00	115.00	105.00	100.00	75.00	75.00	72.50	100.00	100.00	95.00	75.00	70.00	66.00
70	90.00	100.00	90.00	65.00	60.00	60.00	120.00	105.00	100.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	75.00	72.50	70.00
75	90.00	100.00	90.00	68.14	65.00	60.00	120.00	110.00	100.00	85.00	80.00	75.00	110.00	105.00	100.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
80	90.00	100.00	100.00	71.28	70.00	60.00	125.00	110.00	100.00	88.00	85.00	87.50	115.00	110.00	100.00	80.00	80.00	80.00
85	100.00	110.00	100.00	75.00	70.00	80.00	130.00	115.00	100.00	100.00	105.00	149.00	120.00	110.00	100.00	82.50	85.00	80.00
90	100.00	110.00	100.00	77.50	80.00	80.00	135.00	122.50	100.00	110.00	110.00	198.00	130.00	122.50	100.00	92.50	100.00	100.00
95	100.00	125.00	100.00	82.50	80.00	80.00	140.00	150.00	122.50	132.00	110.00	198.00	135.00	135.00	115.00	110.00	110.00	198.00
100%	125.00	125.00	100.00	82.50	80.00	80.00	150.00	150.00	140.00	198.00	198.00	198.00	150.00	150.00	140.00	198	198	198.00
(N)	108	86	34	80	61	36	136	162	80	92	104	60	244	248	114	172	165	96

Type 25 - All Family Child Care Homes - 2017

Location	Rural						Urban						Statewide					
Time and ages of children served	Full-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Full-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Full-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Half-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Half-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Half-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Full-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Full-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Full-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Half-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Half-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Half-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Full-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Full-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Full-time rates Ages 6 thru 12	Half-time rates Ages 0 thru 2	Half-time rates Ages 3 thru 5	Half-time rates Ages 6 thru 12
Percentiles																		
Minimum (Percentile)	50.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	40.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	25.00 (5 <sup>th</sup> )	22.00 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	8.00 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	8.00 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	5.00 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	47.50 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	45.00 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	30.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	15.00 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	15.00 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	5.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	40.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	25.00 (5 <sup>th</sup> )	22.00 (<1 <sup>st</sup> )	8.00 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	8.00 (1 <sup>st</sup> )
45	90.00	85.00	75.00	55.00	50.00	45.00	105.00	100.00	80.00	80.00	75.00	50.00	95.00	90.00	75.00	70.00	65.00	50.00
50	90.00	85.00	75.00	60.00	50.00	50.00	115.00	100.00	80.00	85.00	80.00	50.00	100.00	90.00	77.50	75.00	66.00	50.00
55	90.00	85.00	75.00	60.00	57.50	50.00	125.00	107.50	80.00	85.00	82.50	50.00	100.00	95.00	80.00	80.00	70.00	50.00
60	95.00	85.00	80.00	65.00	60.00	50.00	125.00	115.00	80.00	88.00	85.00	55.00	100.00	100.00	80.00	80.00	75.00	50.00
65	97.50	90.00	80.00	67.50	60.00	50.00	125.00	120.00	85.00	90.00	95.00	60.00	110.00	100.00	80.00	85.00	80.00	55.00
70	100.00	90.00	80.00	70.00	65.00	60.00	125.00	125.00	95.00	97.50	100.00	65.00	117.50	110.00	80.00	85.00	85.00	60.00
75	100.00	100.00	80.00	75.00	70.00	65.00	135.00	125.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	65.50	125.00	115.00	85.00	90.00	88.00	65.00
80	100.00	100.00	85.00	80.00	75.00	65.00	140.00	125.00	100.00	110.00	100.00	75.00	125.00	120.00	90.00	98.75	95.00	66.00
85	100.00	105.00	90.00	80.00	80.00	70.00	145.00	130.00	100.00	132.00	110.00	100.00	135.00	125.00	100.00	110.00	100.00	80.00
90	110.00	110.00	95.00	82.50	85.00	85.00	150.00	135.00	100.00	132.00	132.00	100.00	145.00	130.00	100.00	132.00	110.00	85.00
95	120.00	125.00	100.00	85.00	88.00	85.00	167.50	145.00	120.00	176.00	132.00	100.00	162.50	145.00	110.00	176.00	132.00	100.00
100%	200.00	200.00	120.00	176.00	110.00	88.00	200.00	200.00	180.00	220.00	176.00	180.00	200.00	200.00	180.00	220.00	176.00	180.00
(N)	281	206	118	143	115	110	391	243	82	257	168	84	672	449	200	400	283	194