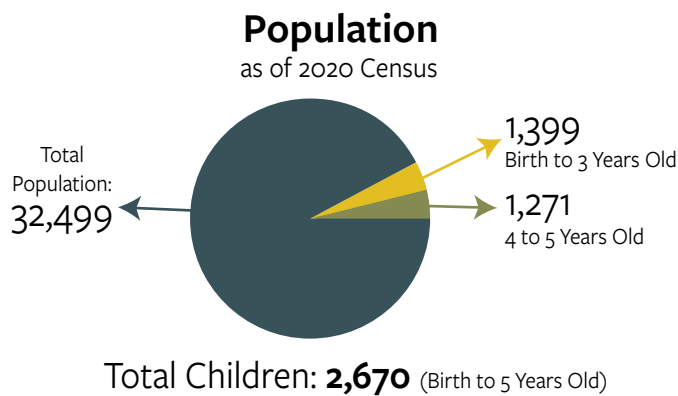


Establishing a Child Care Facility - Guide to Zoning and Permitting

In 2021, Riverside County ranked 56 out of 58 for the availability of child care. This severely limits working families access to quality, safe, and healthy licensed child care spaces. The fact sheet below (with data self-reported through a survey conducted in 2023) provides a snapshot of current child care zoning, permitting and fees in each jurisdiction with the goal of helping guide changes to support and improve access to child care.

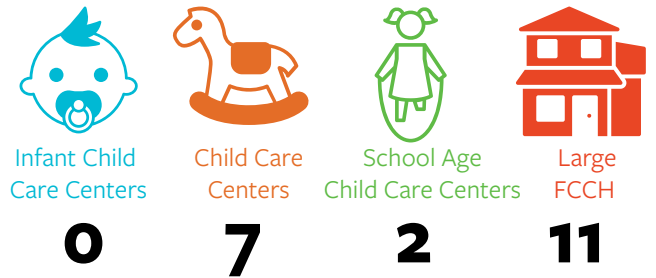
Riverside County Population Census 2020: 2,418,177

City of Desert Hot Springs by the Numbers:

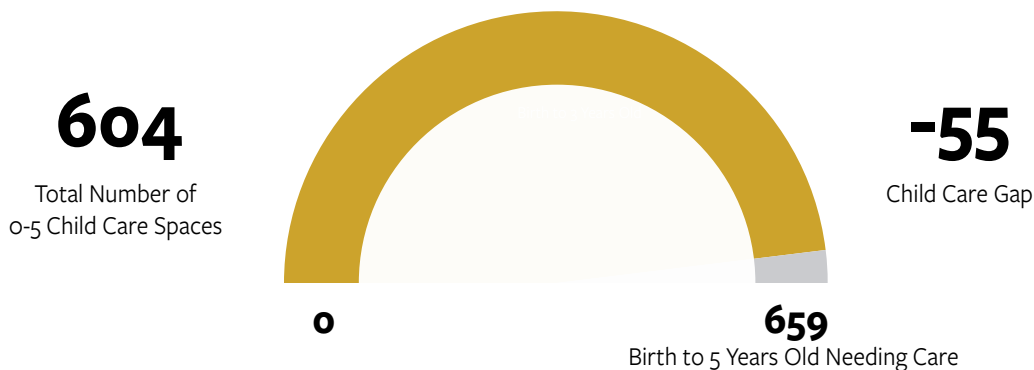


Currently Operating ECE Facilities

Total: 20

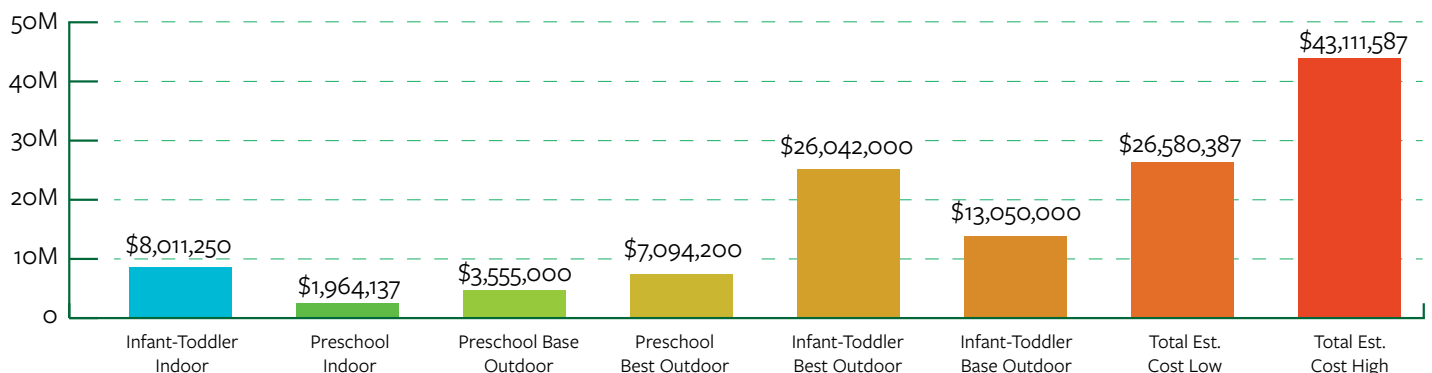


Child Care Gap



Estimated ECE Facility Cost 2021

(Average new construction sq. ft. per child is about 110 sq. ft.)



Zones where Child Care Centers are Allowed and Not Allowed

Zone	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Mixed-Use	Other/Notes
Allowed By-Right (with an Administrative Permit)	✓	✓	—	✓	—
Prohibited	✓	✓	✓	—	<p>Day Care Homes are allowed in all residential districts</p> <p>Day Care Centers are allowed in Residential Medium and Residential High with an AUP. They are also allowed in Neighborhood Commercial and General Commercial with a CUP but not the other commercial districts. They are permitted in all Mixed-Use districts with a CUP. They are not permitted in Industrial Zoning districts</p>
Zones where child care is allowed with a Conditional (Discretionary) Use Permit	—	—	—	✓	—

About the Permit Application Process

Approximate Timeline	0 - 6 weeks
Noise Requirements	Outdoor activities may only be conducted between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Ord. 679 2-19-19; prior code § 159.04.030(2)(B) and 159.04.030(2)(C)). The minimum acceptable surface weight for a noise barrier is 4 pounds per sq. ft. (equivalent to 3/4-inch plywood). The barrier shall be of a continuous material which is resistant to sound including: (1) masonry block; (2) precast concrete; or (3) earth berm or a combination of earth berm with block concrete. Noise barriers shall interrupt the line of sight between noise source and receiver
Landscaping Requirements	On-site landscaping shall be consistent with the use and that prevailing in the neighborhood and shall be installed and maintained, pursuant to Chapter 17.56 (Landscaping Standards). Landscaping shall be provided to reduce noise impacts on surrounding properties
Parking Requirements	All on-site parking shall be provided pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 17.48 (Off-Street Parking Standards). On-site vehicle turnaround or separate entrance and exit points, and adequate passenger loading spaces shall be provided
Traffic Requirements	N/A
Setback Requirements	Dependent on district
Other	N/A
Requirements to Obtain a Child Care Center Clearance From the Fire Department	Separate from City, contracted through County Fire. Annual inspections and plan review

About the Permit Hearing Process

Permit Hearing Caused By	Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Process
Hearing Conducted By	Planning Commission
Hearing Notification	Property owners, 300 ft radius & public posting in Desert Star Weekly
Who Approves or Denies the Permit	Planning Commission
Appeal Process	<p>Other: Appeals shall be submitted to the Department on a City application form, and shall specifically state the basis of the appeal. An appeal of a Director action shall be filed with the Department within 15 days following the final date of action for which an appeal is made. Appeal of a Commission decision shall be filed with the Department within 15 days following the final date of action for which an appeal is made. Appeal of a City Engineer action shall be filed with the Department. All appeals relating to subdivision matters shall be made within 15 days following the date of the decision or action for which an appeal is made. Appeals shall be accompanied by a filing fee as specified in Chapter 17.68 (Applications and Fees). (Prior code § 159.52.100)</p>

Child Care Centers Costs and Fees*

Permit Hearing Costs:	\$1,305
Business License Fee:	\$100
Planning Permit Fees:	Fee 1 - Conditional Use Permit Application Fee, \$4,325
	Fee 2 - Administrative Use Permit Application fee, \$950

*Estimate as of September 2023. Additional fees may apply, for more information review Helpful Contacts.

Zones Where Family Child Care Homes are Allowed and are Not Allowed

Zones	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Mixed-Use	Other/Notes
Allowed By-Right	✓	—	—	—	—
Prohibited	—	✓	✓	✓	—

State law SB 234 requirements which exempt small and large family child care home from any licenses, permits, home occupation permits, or fees ([Child Care Law Center’s Fact Sheet. Frequently Asked Questions: SB 234: The Keeping Kids Close to Home Act — Child Care Law Center](#)).

Find out where your city is with SB 234 implementation

	Non-Compliant	Compliant
FCCH Allowed in Residential	—	✓
FCCH Business License Fee Not Required	Not Sure	—
Fire Department Permit Clearance and Fees for FCCH Not Required	—	✓

Costs and Fees*
 FCCH Business License Fee: Not Sure

General Plan

Next Update to the General Plan	More than 6 years
Child Care Included In General Plan	Yes

Additional Information

CUP Application - https://tinyurl.com/5xu7n4ef
General Plan - Pg. 253 Health and Wellness - https://tinyurl.com/mb2742av

Quick & Helpful Contacts*

	Planning Dept	Building Dept	Community Development	Build Up Riverside County
Name	Patricia Villagomez	Vivian Rivera Mark Valdez	Travis Clark	Andrea Del Valle
Email	pvillagomez@cityofdhs.org	Vrivera@cityofdhs.org Mvaldez@cityofdhs.org	tclark@cityofdhs.org	adelvalle@liifund.org
Phone	(760) 329-6411 - Ext 243	(760) 329-6411 - Ext 238	(760) 329-6411 - Ext 240	(951) 870-8112
Website	cityofdhs.org/planning-division/	cityofdhs.org/building-division/	cityofdhs.org/departments/community-development/	buildupca.org/riverside

*We thank each jurisdiction for completing the survey. If you have any questions about this profile, please contact them directly. View the website for updated contact information.