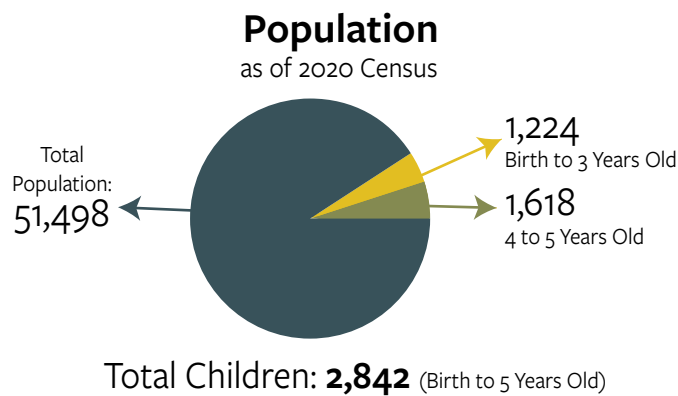


Establishing a Child Care Facility - Guide to Zoning and Permitting

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 Cathedral City by the Numbers:

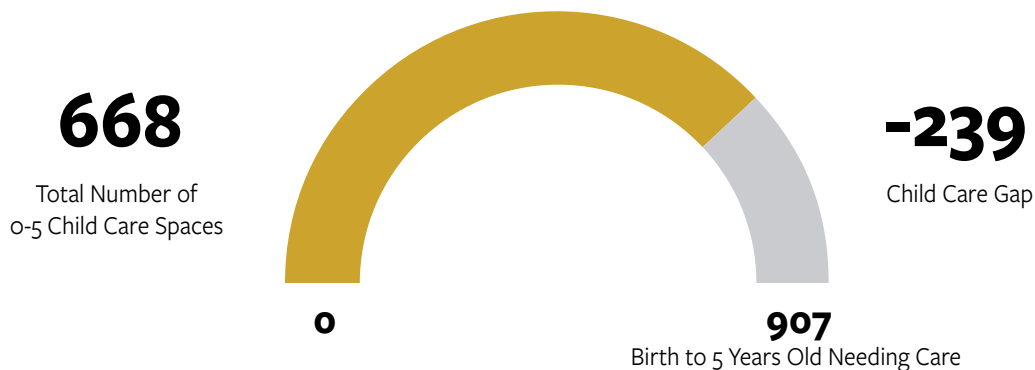


Currently Operating ECE Facilities

Total: 36

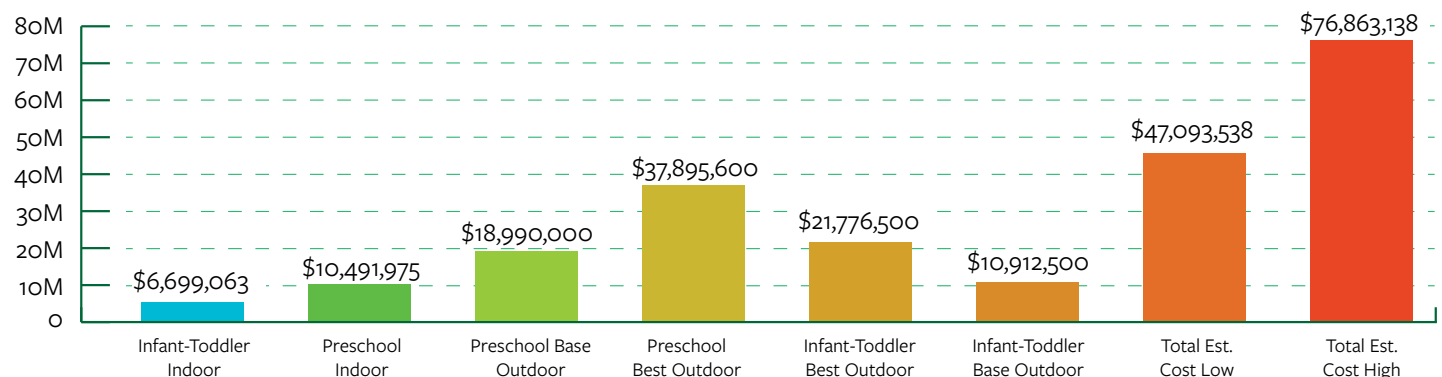


Child Care Gap



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)	✓	—	—	—	Neighborhood Business Park
Prohibited	—	✓	✓	✓	Any commercial zone other than NBP (Neighborhood Business Park Transition District) – Day Care Center is prohibited in any commercial zone other than NBP (Neighborhood Business Park) District
Zones Where Child Care is Allowed with a Conditional (Discretionary) Use Permit	✓	—	—	—	

About the Permit Application Process

Approximate Timeline	6 weeks to 3 months
Noise Requirements	N/A
Landscaping Requirement	N/A
Parking Requirements	N/A
Traffic Requirements	N/A
Setback Requirements	N/A
Other	There is not a specific zoning permit a child care center needs to obtain where it is a permitted use. If the use is allowed, they would be required to process building permits for any tenant improvement work, the same as any other business. If exterior changes are proposed, it would be subject to design review. A CUP is reviewed against the CUP criteria contained here, the same as any CUP: Cathedral City, CA Table of Contents (ecode360.com)
Requirements to Obtain a Child Care Center Clearance From the Fire Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fire department would be involved in the review of any permit to change the occupancy of a building to the appropriate occupancy for the facility together with the review of any tenant improvement permit. Any required improvements are directed by the California Building Codes, including the 2022 California Fire Code. The City’s current fee schedule for building and safety fees together with fire prevention fees is available at: https://shorturl.at/bpsCP

About the Permit Hearing Process

Permit Hearing Caused By	Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Process
Hearing Conducted By	A CUP is processed by the Development Services Department and heard by the Planning Commission
Hearing Notification	Mailed notice to owners of real property located within three 300 feet of the exterior boundaries of the parcel of property to be considered together with public notice at city hall
Who Approves or Denies the Permit	A CUP is processed by the Development Services Department and heard by the Planning Commission
Appeal Process	Defined here: Cathedral City, CA Table of Contents (ecode360.com)

Child Care Centers Costs and Fees*

Permit Hearing Costs:	\$1,000
Business License Fee:	Varies depending on their gross receipts; anywhere from \$30.75 - \$3,223 Small child care facilities are exempt from business licenses. Large facilities are not exempt from the business license
Planning Permit Fees:	Fee 1 - If applicable, administrative design review fee of \$1,134
	Fee 2 - If applicable, non-construction conditional use permit fee of \$1,890
	Fee 3 - If applicable, conditional use permit fee with significant exterior improvements of \$8,514

*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	✓	—
Fire Department Permit Clearance and Fees for FCCH Not Required	✓	—

Costs and Fees*
 FCCH Business license fees varies depending on their gross receipts; anywhere from \$30.75 - \$3,223

General Plan

Next Update to the General Plan	More than 6 years
Child Care Included In General Plan	No

Additional Information

Small child care facilities are exempt from business licenses. Large facilities are not exempt from the business license

Quick & Helpful Contacts*

	Planning Dept	Building Dept	Economic Development Director	Build Up Riverside County
Name	Jesse Castaneda	Jeremy Frey	Stone James	Andrea Del Valle
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Phone	(760) 770-0306	(760) 770-0373	(760) 219-7227	(951) 870-8112
Website	https://www.cathedralcity.gov/services/planning	https://www.cathedralcity.gov/services/building-and-safety	https://www.cathedralcity.gov/services/economic-development/business-license	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.