

Lakewood, WA Work to Increase Child Care Resources

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2019 Washington State Economic Impacts of Insufficient Child Care Access

IMPACTS TO WASHINGTON FAMILIES

- **49%** of parents say it is difficult or very difficult to find, afford and keep child care
- **27%** quit work or school/training due to child care issues
- **25%** said the cost of child care prevented them from finding work
- **9%** were fired or let go due to child care issues
- **\$6.5 billion** the total estimated direct and opportunity costs due to employee child care issues

IMPACTS TO EMPLOYERS

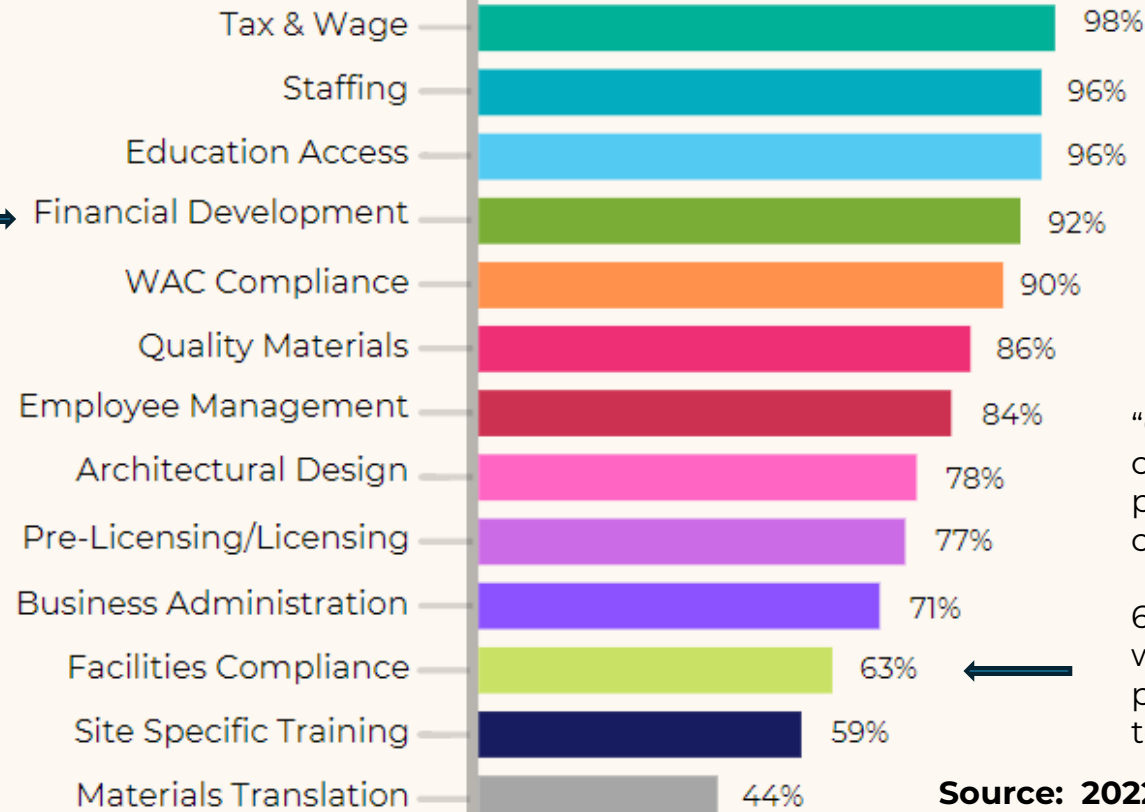
- 67% report absenteeism due to childcare
- \$2B+ estimated direct cost of turnover and missed work due to child care issues

IMPACTS TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- 73% of post secondary students w/kids take more than 13.5 years to complete a degree
- Child care deserts have lower rates of maternal labor force participation

PIERCE COUNTY PROVIDER NEEDS OVERVIEW

In line with Liberatory Design, over 250 providers were interviewed for this project. Providers were asked to identify what barriers were preventing stability, business growth, and expansion for their businesses. Pierce County providers identified the following needed supports. The following pages contain in-depth explanations of each category.



“Those wanting to open a new site are met with high start up fees prior to opening. The cost of opening, expanding, or running a child care site with infant care or one that operates non-traditional hours far exceeds available funding.”

“77% percent of providers asked for support meeting licensing requirements. Visits from licensors bring new information. Providers expressed having high levels of anxiety around licensing.”

“Compliance for early learning and child care providers means adhering to a policy, standard, or law outlined by the county, city, state, or federal government.

63% of providers are asking for support with meeting fire code, emergency preparation, and facilities support related to licensing.”

Source: 2022 Child Care Capacity Initiative Report

Land Use Zoning Impacts Commercial Child Care Expansion



No zoning approval = no occupancy permit



No occupancy permit means child care provider cannot get number from DCYF



No provider number means child care provider cannot obtain eligible grants



Without a commercially zoned property, child care provider is not eligible for commercial, SBA, or other funding

“Identified Weaknesses

Childcare: There is a large shortage of childcare providers, especially on the installation because providers frequently get certified through the installation and DoD processes, then leave for higher pay. **A shortage of infant care also exists, especially in the neighboring community.**”

Source: [Washington Statewide Defense Economic Impact Study.pdf](#), 2024

A top barrier to military spouse employment is childcare, with 2/3 of military spouses surveyed reporting this as a challenge. Cost is the primary barrier to childcare access, with four in five surveyed spouses reporting difficulties with the high cost of childcare. Other common childcare-related challenges include issues with service members’ unpredictable schedules and **limited availability of childcare providers**, both of which impact about 2/3 of surveyed spouses.

Source: [WA-Military-Spouse-Employment-Report-FINAL.pdf](#), June 2024

Economic Impact of Military in WA State: \$31B

ENTITY	EMPLOYMENT	VALUE ADDED TO GSP
Fairchild Air Force Base	7,776	\$778.4M
Joint Base Lewis-McChord	78,890	\$9.0B
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island	14,297	\$1.7B
Naval Base Kitsap & Naval Magazine Indian Island	63,381	\$6.8B
Naval Station Everett	6,748	\$622.8M
U.S. Coast Guard (Statewide)	3,358	\$385.3M

Source: IMPLAN

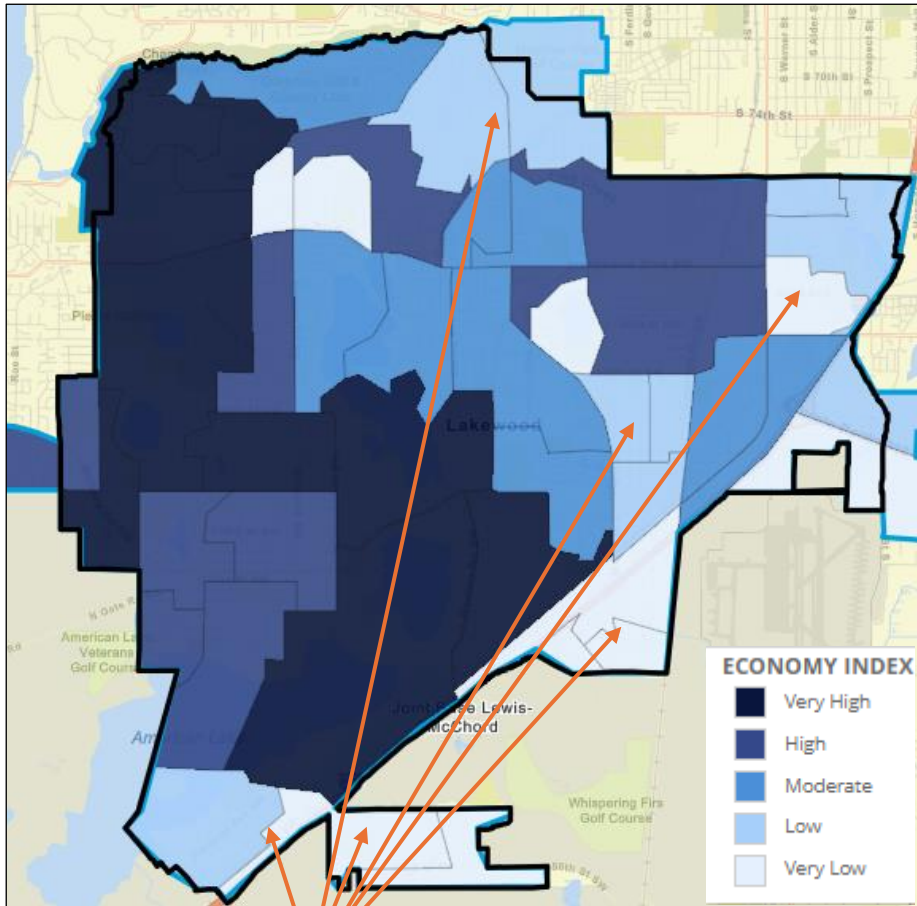
Note: Due to rounding, estimates for direct, indirect, and induced impacts may not sum to totals. Impacts reported in 2024 dollars.

Source: [Washington Statewide Defense Economic Impact Study.pdf](#), 2024

“BARRIERS TO CARE There are nine primary barriers to child care access for military families, including:

- **Civilian communities in Washington don’t have enough child care slots to meet demand.**
- Child care costs vary by location but aren’t reflected in BAH rates/fee assistance provider caps, and **many military families can’t afford child care in Washington.**

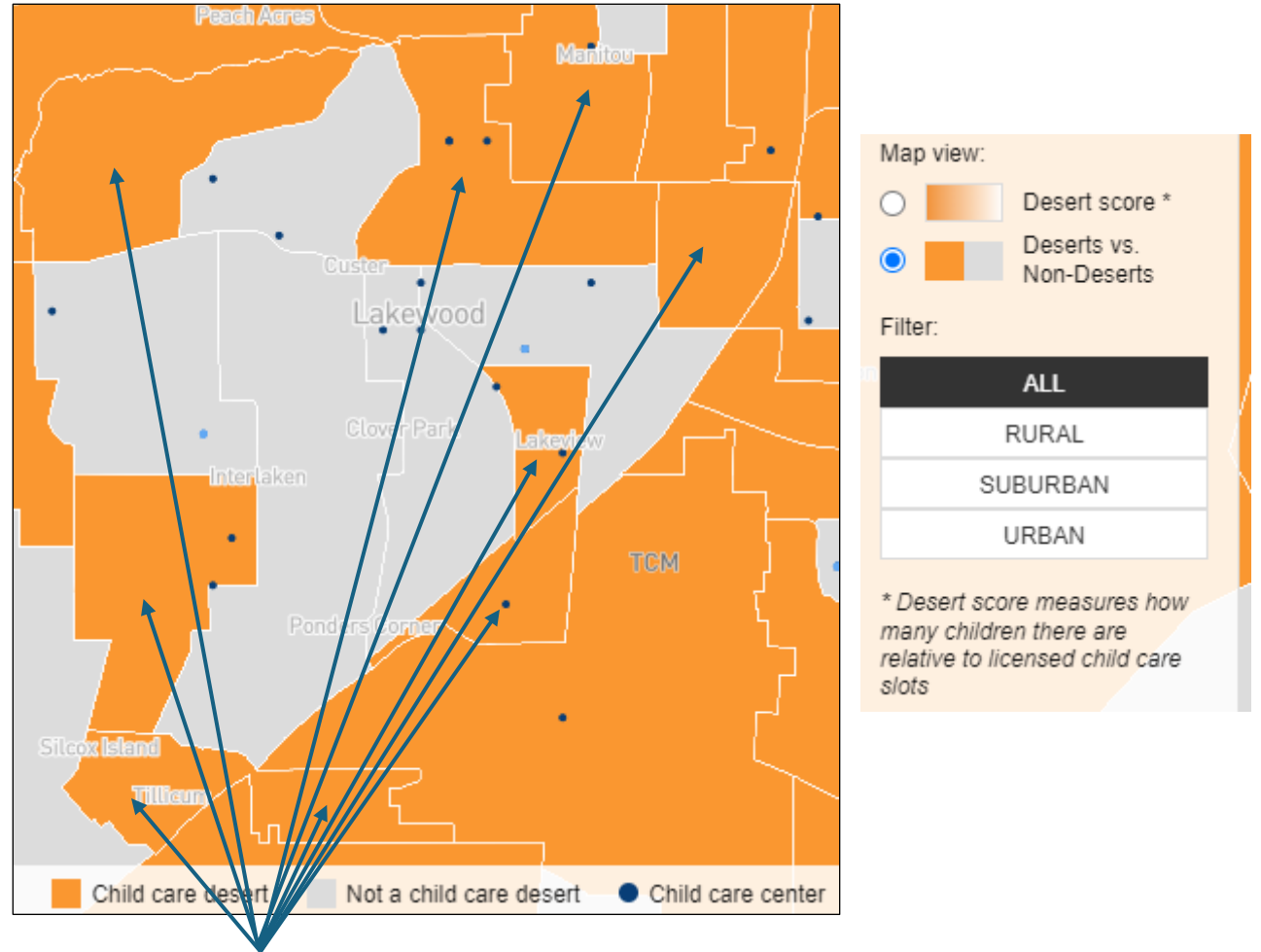
Source: [Washington State Military Childcare Need in Washington State February 2023 v 2.6.2023.pdf](#)



Lakewood, WA Livability Index

- 13% poverty rate
- 39% cost-burdened households
- 52%+ BIPOC (18% Hispanic, 14% African-American)
- Host city to JBLM and Camp Murray

<https://lakewood.caimaps.info/>



Lakewood, WA Child Care Deserts

More than half of America's children - particularly those from low- and middle-income, Hispanic, and rural communities - live in a "child care desert" (i.e., more than a 3-1 ratio of children under 5 to cumulative child care capacity)

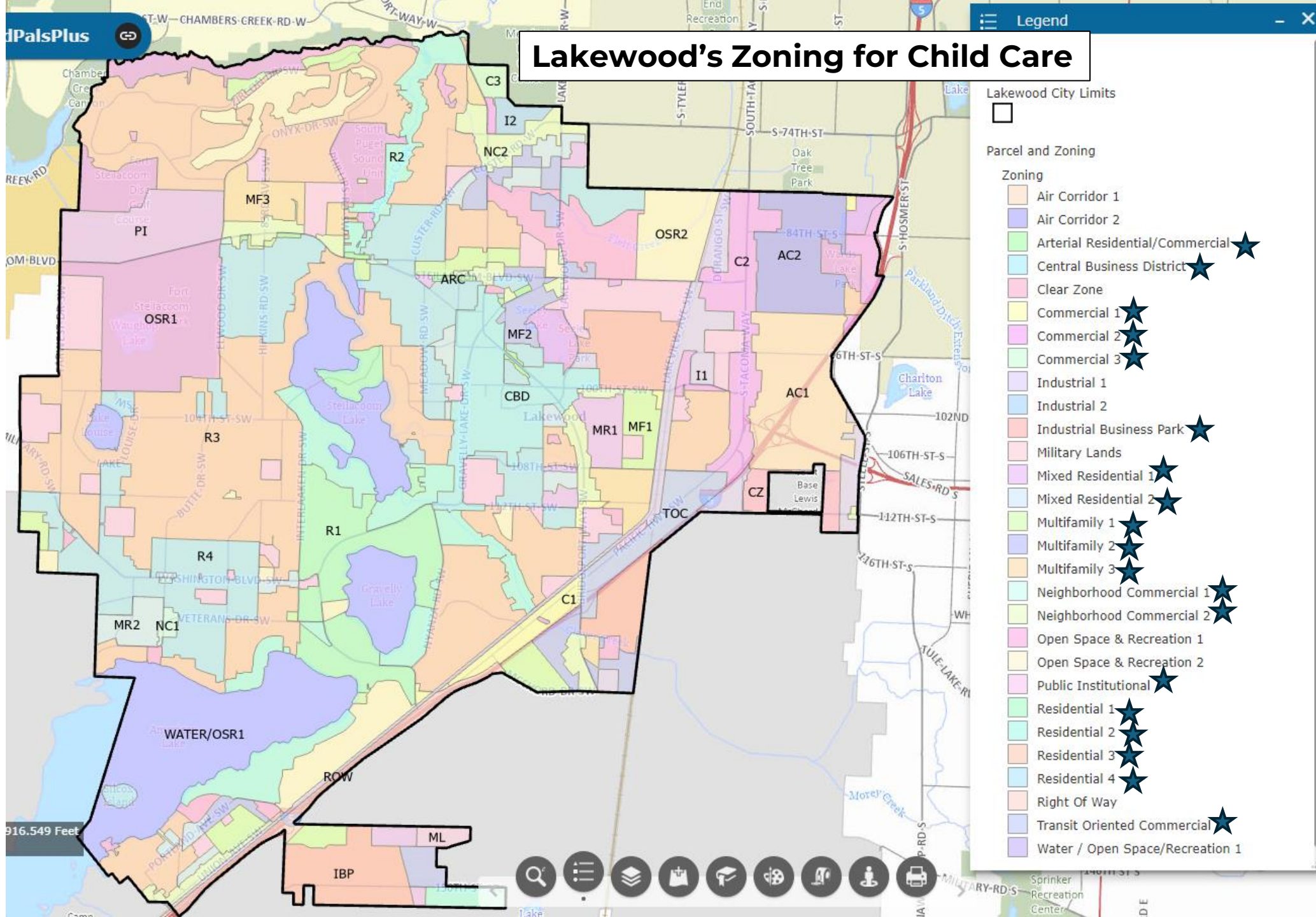
<https://www.americanprogress.org/series/child-care-deserts/>

2023 Amendment to Lakewood's land use zoning code

	Zoning Classifications																					
	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 4	M R 1	M R 2	M F 1	M F 2	M F 3	A R C	N C 1	N C 2	T O C	C B D	C 1	C 2	C 3	I B P	I 1	I 2	P I	
Health and Social Services																						
Day care center in existing and new schools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C	-	-	-	P	
Day care center in existing or new churches	C P	C P	C P	C P	-	-	-	-	-	P	C	P	C	P	P	P	C	C	-	-	-	-
Day care center providing care for children and/or adult relatives of owners or renters of dwelling units located on the same site.	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	C	C	C	P	P	P	P	C	-	-	-	-	
Day care center providing care for children and/or adult relatives of employees of a separate business establishment located on the same site.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	C	P	C	C	P	P	C	P	-	-	C	
Day care center, independent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	P	C	-	-	-	C	
Preschool/nursery school	P C	C P	P C	C P	-	-	C P	C P	C P	C	C	P	P	P	P	C P	C	C	C	-	C	
	Zoning Classifications																					
	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 4	M R 1	M R 2	M F 1	M F 2	M F 3	A R C	N C 1	N C 2	T O C	C B D	C 1	C 2	C 3	I B P	I 1	I 2	P I	
Residential Land Uses																						
Babysitting care	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Family daycare	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	C	-	-	-	-	

- Allowed family daycare and/or commercial child care facilities (“day care centers”) in all of Lakewood’s land use zones other than open space/recreation, industrial, and military-affected areas;
- Changed the use from conditional to permitted outright in many zones; and
- Ensured increased access to child care in Lakewood’s child care deserts

Lakewood's Zoning for Child Care



Lakewood City Limits



Parcel and Zoning

Zoning

- Air Corridor 1
- Air Corridor 2
- Arterial Residential/Commercial
- Central Business District
- Clear Zone
- Commercial 1
- Commercial 2
- Commercial 3
- Industrial 1
- Industrial 2
- Industrial Business Park
- Military Lands
- Mixed Residential 1
- Mixed Residential 2
- Multifamily 1
- Multifamily 2
- Multifamily 3
- Neighborhood Commercial 1
- Neighborhood Commercial 2
- Open Space & Recreation 1
- Open Space & Recreation 2
- Public Institutional
- Residential 1
- Residential 2
- Residential 3
- Residential 4
- Right Of Way
- Transit Oriented Commercial
- Water / Open Space/Recreation 1

916.549 Feet



Next Steps:

- Track increase in child care facilities and capacity in Lakewood over time
 - YTD in 2024, 3 new commercial child care facilities (all with 13+ child capacity) have filed for permits
- Seek feedback from current and potential child care providers about ability to open business in Lakewood
- Partner with JBLM to inform service members about community child care availability
- Consider future amendments to zoning and/or regulations to encourage child care facilities