



COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Fall 2020 | Garden City Early Learning Advisory Committee



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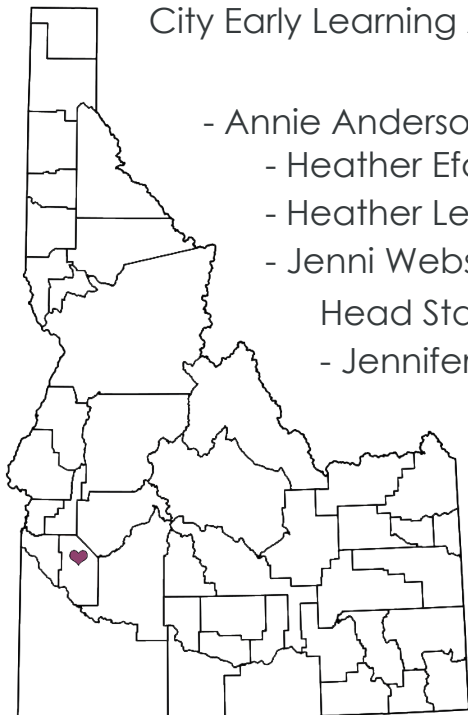
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Overview

In December 2019, the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (IDAEYC) was awarded a federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) to analyze and augment the state's early childhood systems and family resources. IDAEYC selected Garden City as one of 16 collaboratives to carry out the work within each region. The Garden City Early Learning Collaborative collected demographic data and conducted surveys of its families, businesses and early learning programs during July and August 2020. Findings from this assessment will assist in creating both a local and state level strategic plan during the next phase of the grant to increase and expand high quality learning opportunities and resources for young children and families.

The Governing Board

The work of the local collaborative was carried out by ten community leaders representing various local organizations, dubbed the Garden City Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC). They are:



- Annie Anderson | Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Boise
- Heather Efaw | Future Public School
- Heather Lee | IDAEYC
- Jenni Webster | Friends of Children and Families,
Head Start/Early Head Start
- Jennifer Schmidt | Riverside Hotel
- Joy Hansel | Learning Lab
- Linda Villaseñor | Genesis Community Health
- Lindsey Pettyjohn | Garden City Public Library
- Lori Fascilla | Giraffe Laugh Early Learning
Centers
- Tami Tremblay | KTVB

Vision Statement

Every young child and family in Garden City will have the opportunity to participate in high quality early care and learning to pursue their full potential in life, work, and citizenship.

Mission Statement

To increase affordable, high quality learning opportunities for Garden City's young children and families through information, resources, and community engagement

Data Sources

The ELAC engaged community members, businesses, and early childhood providers through online surveys.

- [Family/Community Survey](#)
- [Business Survey](#)
- [Early Childhood Provider Survey](#)

Additional demographic statistics were gathered from the following sources:

- [U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts](#)
- [U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for States, Counties and School Districts](#)
- [2019 State of Homelessness in Idaho](#)
- [2020 Kid Counts Data Book](#)
- [Idaho State Department of Education Public Reporting](#)
- [RISE Registry via Region 4 IdahoSTARS](#)
- Interviews: DHW Region 4 Staff and Boise/West Ada School District SPED Staff

Garden City Facts

Zip Code: 83714

Population: 11,969 (July 2019 estimate)

Children:

- 0-4 years old: 696 or 6%
- Children 5-9 years old: 613 or 5%

Family structure:

- 54.3% married
- 24.8% married with children
- 15% single-parent households

Race:

- 85.9% White
- 0.6% Black
- 0.4% Asian
- 0.1% Native American
- 11.1% Hispanic;
- 1.9% Two or More Races

Languages spoken at home:

- 93% English
- 6% Spanish
- 3% Other

Median income (2018): \$46,311

Percentage of community living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level:
-13.3% (2018)

Percentage of children who are economically disadvantaged:

- (2018) Ada County had 11,261 (10%) of children 0-17 living in poverty (not defined)

Number of children experiencing homelessness:

- (2019) 3054 children statewide; 647 total in Ada County

Number of children in foster care:

- (2020) 372 in Region 4 - Ada, Elmore, Valley and Boise Counties
- (2017) 0-5 years: 734 or 46.1%
- Garden City Schools: 2% - see table on the next page

Number of children with developmental delays or disabilities

- 32 children ages 3-5 within school boundaries that support Garden City receive services through the Early Intervention Programs

Children with disabilities: 12% - see table on the next page

Percentage and demographics of children meeting kindergarten readiness standards, as measured by the local school district: 64%

Elementary School:	Mountain View	Pierce Park	Shadow Hills	Whittier	Andrus	Average
Low Income	90%	90%	31%	98%	22%	66%
Disabilities	15%	13%	14%	8%	10%	12%
Dual Language Learners	4%	4%	4%	32%	3%	9%
Foster Care	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Homelessness	6%	4%	1%	5%	2%	4%
Kindergarten Readiness	75%	71%	61%	46%	68%	64%



(Image source: Boise State Public Radio)

Family/Community Feedback - 25 Respondents

68% of respondents have children between the ages of birth through 5 years of age, and all rely on someone else to care for their child(ren) while at work.

- 41% of participants' children are in center-based programs, 47% are being cared for by a friend or family member, and 12% are with home providers.
- 64% of participants work within 10 miles from home.
- Only 24% have children in child care that is known to be licensed.

96% believe that early childhood education and child care services are important for the community. But overall, only 12% said that they are satisfied with the quality of child care available in their community.

- 80% say that COVID-19 has impacted the ability of families to find services for children due to safety risks, reduced number of spaces available for child care, and caused changes in families' financial situations.
- 40% of the respondents have their child(ren) in care in Garden City; of this group, the majority (80%) are satisfied with their child care.

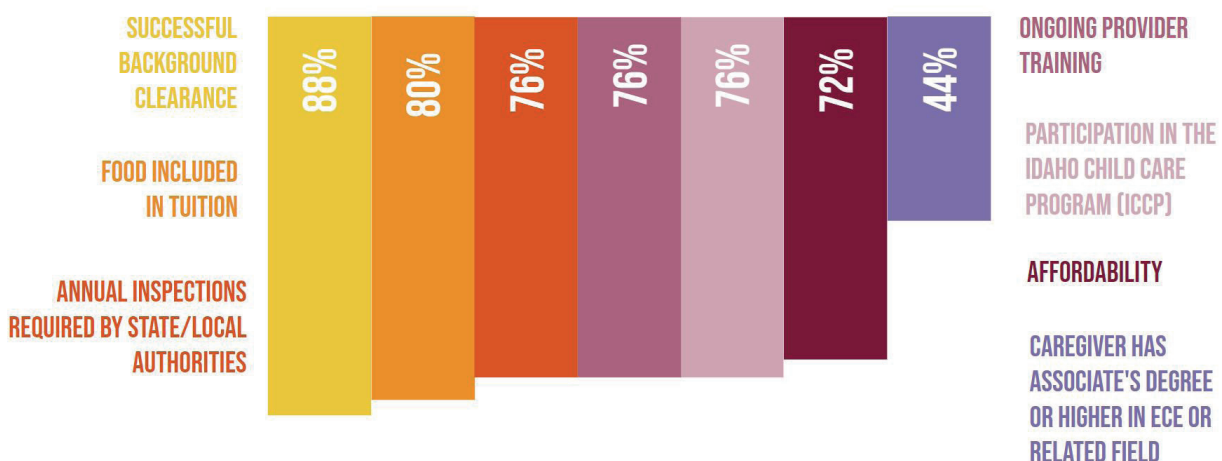
When asked what the community can do to better support our young children and their families, the top two answers given are requests for more affordable child care (36%) and an increase in child care opportunities (24%).

- Child care is reported by participants as the third most community service for families with children ages 5 and younger.
- Library 84%, Parks/nature center 76%, Child care 68%, Rec/community center, and early intervention 44% (tied), School district 40%

92%

OF FAMILY/COMMUNITY RESPONDENTS SAID THERE AREN'T ENOUGH CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN GARDEN CITY TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF YOUNG CHILDREN AGES BIRTH - FIVE

WHAT FAMILIES LOOK FOR WHEN SELECTING A QUALITY CHILD CARE PROVIDER FOR THEIR CHILD(REN)





Business Feedback - 32 Respondents

13%

**OF BUSINESS
RESPONDENTS
ARE SATISFIED WITH
THE QUALITY OF
CHILD CARE IN
GARDEN CITY**

72% believe that child care is an important component for the success of employees in their company.

- 44% of company employees are missing days of work due to child care issues.

- 47% say that employee performance can be or is negatively impacted due to child care issues.

- 60% believe that the employer has a responsibility to be attentive to the needs of employees related to the support of employees' children (child care, early intervention, health care, etc).

88% believe that support of early childhood education and child care services strengthens the current workforce and develops a competent future workforce.

- 94% do NOT view investment in early childhood education is a waste of money.

Only 22% believe that there are adequate child care services available in the Garden City community.

- 32% feel that the available services provide quality care or meet the needs of employee families.

- 18% of businesses have considered subsidizing child care for employees or having onsite child care.

- 9% already subsidize child care, and 3% have onsite care.

- The top five barriers to finding quality child care in Garden City:

- Price (31%)

- Location (28%)

- Availability of open slots (25%)

- Transportation (22%)

- Lack of quality (19%)



Child Care Provider Feedback - 6 Respondents

Multiple sources were cross referenced (Idaho Region 4 CC&R, Idaho STARS RISE Registry, public business directory) to compile a register of 43 Garden City providers/programs. Once attempts were made to reach the providers, ELAC members found that 49% of the businesses on the list have phone numbers that are no longer in service or have permanently closed their businesses. Region 4 Lead Quality Child Care Consultant Jim Ferlisi describes Garden City as a "child care desert," a term coined by the Center for American Progress that refers to a place with little to no access to quality child care. 6 (14%) providers/programs on the original list completed this survey. [Detailed survey results can be found here.](#)

Description of child care programs

Business model

- All day (M-F) relative care: 1
- Half-day (T-F) Head Start: 1
- Center-based care and preschool: 3
(1 half day M-F, 1 all day M-F AND part-time, and 1 temporarily closed)
- Part time (TWF) home-based care: 1

Licensure

- 2 programs licensed by the state (one of which is also licensed through Boise) with one in the process
- 2 would like to become licensed but need support
- None is accredited by a national early childhood accreditation system

Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

- 2 programs certified to serve families participating in ICCP
- 2 would like to become certified to serve ICCP families but need support
- 2 participants in CACFP

IdahoSTARS Steps to Quality

- 3 participating
- 2 interested but need support

Educators' hourly wage: \$8.50-\$20/hr

Level of education: varies from no HS degree to Masters degree

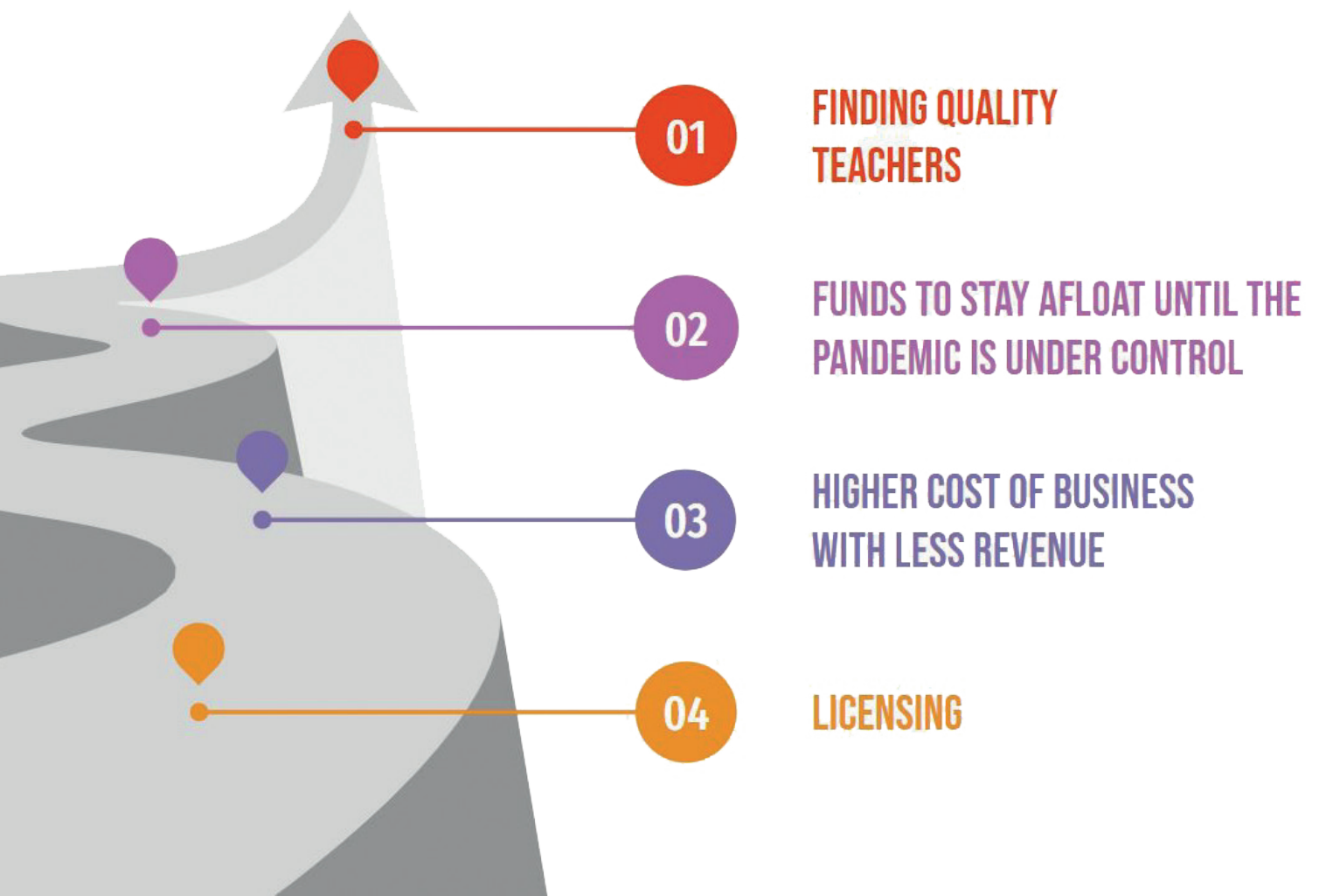
Children served:

- 110 children total, birth through age 5
- 4 languages spoken: English, Spanish, Arabic, and Pashto
- 68% qualify for ICCP
- One program which serves 44 total children (not included in total count) currently closed due to COVID-19

Services offered

	Offers breakfast	Offers snacks	Offers lunch	Diapers/wipes provided	Sunscreen provided	Transportation provided	Extended hours	Field trips	Child assessment system	Parent-teacher conferences	Secure online registration/payment portal	Parent education opportunities
GCECE1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCECE2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GCECE3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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GCECE5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GCECE6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHALLENGES FOR PROVIDERS



Key Findings

Garden City survey respondents across all groups indicated that families need greater access to affordable high quality early care and education opportunities. Business respondents reported that early childhood education and child care services are an important component for success of their employees, strengthening the current workforce and developing a competent future workforce. Child care providers stated that they are grappling with the higher cost of business with less revenue due to COVID-19 and need supplemental funds to stay afloat until the pandemic is under control. They also spoke of the challenge of finding and retaining quality teachers, as well as unlicensed programs' willingness to become licensed but need additional support to do so.

