

A DEVASTATING DECLINE: REGULATED CHILD CARE IN THE NEW NORTH REGION

The number of regulated child care programs across the state of Wisconsin has steadily declined over the last decade. In the **New North region**, this sharp decline has placed a burden on working families with young children who rely on access to care to maintain employment. It, in turn, has significant effects on local employers and businesses, which need a reliable workforce for productivity and growth. See the other side of this document for a chart with regulated care data for each of the counties in the New North region.

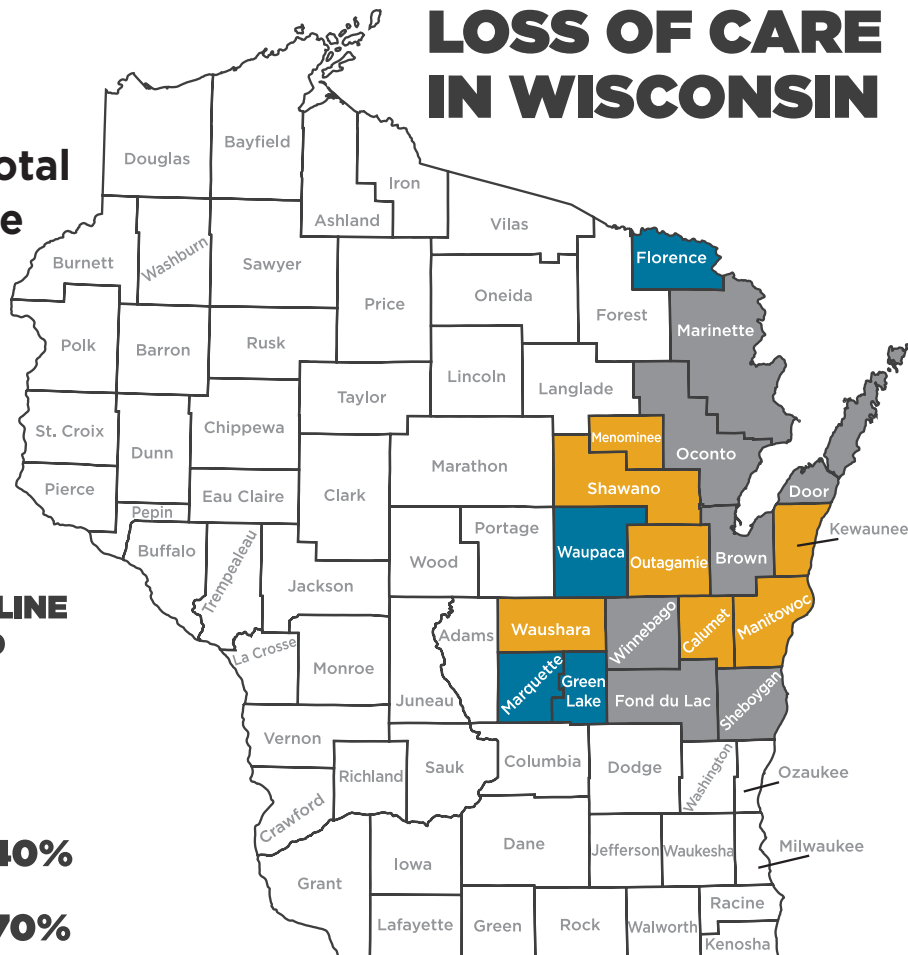
32%

overall decline in total regulated child care programs 2013-2024

LOSS OF CARE IN WISCONSIN

PERCENT DECLINE IN REGULATED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

- 0-20%**
- 21% to 40%**
- 41% to 70%**



At the same time, child care deserts are prevalent across Wisconsin - 50% overall and 70% in rural areas. A desert is defined as an area where there are three or more children under age 5 for every regulated child care slot.

For more information on child care deserts, scan the code with your smartphone's camera for a visualization from Center for American Progress. Or, visit <https://weca.info/ccdeserts>.



“I knew things were bad in northeast Wisconsin, but this ... absolutely devastating, and it's only going to get worse.”
-Child care owner, New North region

County	Number of Programs (Feb. 2013)	Number of Programs (Aug. 2024)	Change in Number of Programs	% Decrease
Brown	179	126	-53	30%
FCC	78	36	-42	54%
Group	101	90	-11	11%
Calumet	32	17	-15	47%
FCC	15	5	-10	67%
Group	17	12	-5	29%
Door	16	8	-8	50%
FCC	5	3	-2	40%
Group	11	5	-6	55%
Florence	1	0	-1	100%
FCC	0	0	0	0%
Group	1	0	-1	100%
Fond du Lac	54	34	-20	37%
FCC	20	6	-14	70%
Group	34	28	-6	18%
Green Lake	16	14	-2	13%
FCC	10	9	-1	10%
Group	6	5	-1	17%
Kewaunee	18	10	-8	44%
FCC	12	6	-6	50%
Group	6	4	-2	33%
Manitowoc	51	24	-27	53%
FCC	22	6	-16	73%
Group	29	18	-11	38%
Marinette	25	18	-7	28%
FCC	15	7	-8	53%
Group	10	11	+1	10%(Increase)
Marquette	12	14	+2	17%
FCC	6	9	+3	50%
Group	6	5	-1	17%
Menominee	6	3	-3	50%
FCC	4	1	-3	75%
Group	2	2	0	0%
Oconto	26	16	-10	38%
FCC	17	9	-8	47%
Group	9	7	-2	22%
Outagamie	161	94	-67	42%
FCC	85	33	-52	61%
Group	76	61	-15	20%
Shawano	27	10	-17	63%
FCC	15	3	-12	80%
Group	12	7	-5	42%
Sheboygan	84	50	-34	40%
FCC	49	17	-32	65%
Group	35	33	-2	6%
Waupaca	34	28	-6	18%
FCC	15	11	-4	27%
Group	19	17	-2	11%
Waushara	21	15	-6	29%
FCC	15	10	-5	33%
Group	6	5	-1	17%
Winnebago	136	92	-44	32%
FCC	61	37	-24	39%
Group	75	55	-20	27%