Using the NYS Child Care Deserts Map Tool

The NYS child care deserts map shows all census tracts in the state, the level of shortage of child care slots, and the potential base request for application (RFA) score if a provider is located in that area. The darker the area, the more of a shortage of child care that area has. More than 60% of the state is considered a child care desert.

Grant funding is based on the application's total base RFA score compared to the total score of other applications received in the same regional economic development council (REDC) and modality such as day care centers, school age child care and home-based.

Map Tool Navigation

I know where my child care program will be located:

In the map tool, enter the address you are searching for into the search bar on the left-hand panel. The map will zoom into that address on the map and display more details along with your estimated base RFA score.

https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/deserts
Child Care Deserts Help Line: 844-863-9320
I do not know where my child care program will be located:

Browse locations by clicking on the map and zooming in using the + or - buttons. Click the surrounding census tracts to see the calculated estimated base RFA score for that area. Click on the red pin to view more information about that area.

What does the information mean on each census tract?

When you click on the census tract (CT), a small box will open and show your base RFA score as well as other information relevant to the Invest in NY Child Care grant opportunity.

Desert Level: How much of a shortage does this CT have?
REDC Desert Level: How much of a shortage of child care does the region have?
Diversity Index: How racially and ethnically diverse is the area?
Fam < 200% FPL: What percentage of low income families live in this area?

Estimated base RFA scores can go as high as 100 points. The higher the score, the more likely an applicant is to qualify for funding. The base score does NOT include additional RFA bonus points that are available for infant/toddler care (+5 points) or non-traditional hours (+5 points). Therefore, it is possible for a total score to be as high as 110 points.

Disclaimer: While the tool will help calculate your estimated base RFA score, Invest in NY Child Care funding is not guaranteed for any RFA score provided through the tool.