



211 Child Care Annual Program Closure Report on Licensed Center Based Child Care July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

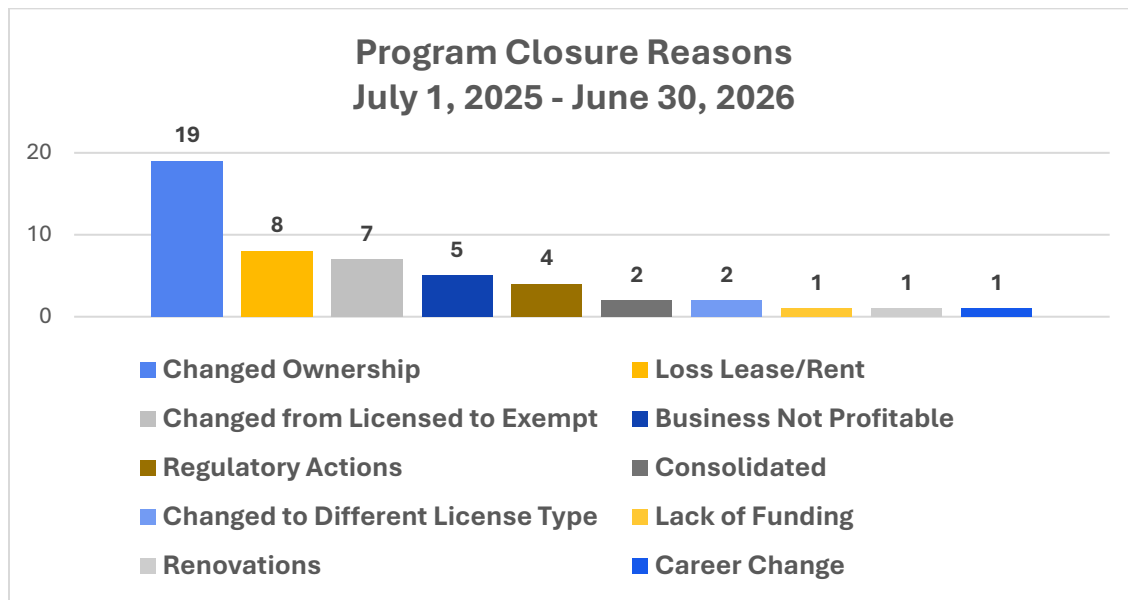
Where the Year Began

The year began with **1,384** licensed child care centers statewide. The year ended with **1,388** licensed child care centers, resulting in a net gain of **+4** programs.

Programs Exited the Field – CLOSED

Throughout the year, **73 programs closed**. Of the programs that reported reasons for closure, 68% closed due to new ownership, loss of their lease/rent, changed status to operate as an exempt program, financial strain and regulatory actions. 12% of the programs that closed had been operating for less than three years.

Even though there were many closures due to ownership changes, consolidation and change from license to exempt, the closures did not result in a reduction of child care slots in the system. These closures reflect administrative transitions rather than loss of capacity.



- I. **New Ownership** – A new license application needs to be filed with OEC Division of Licensing when change of operator, ownership or location unless a request to be waived has been submitted to the OEC Division of Licensing. Nineteen (19) programs re-opened in the same location under a new license.
- II. **Financial Challenges** – Eight (8) programs reported closure primarily driven by loss of facility space, including church closures, property sales, lease terminations and the inability to secure or sustain alternative locations
- III. **License to Exempt** – Before and After School programs shifted oversight to Boards of Education or Park & Recreation departments, primarily to reduce operating costs and streamline services.

- IV. **Regulatory Actions Taken** - There were four (4) programs that closed due to regulatory actions with Office of Early Childhood Licensing. Three (3) programs surrendered (voluntary surrender) their licenses; one (1) had their license cancelled (revoked) by OEC Licensing

Licensed Center Based– NEW

During FY26, **77 new licenses were issued**. Most of these new licenses represent programs establishing operations in new or repurposed locations. Of the 77 licenses issued, **28 programs opened in newly developed facilities**, while **15 programs moved into facilities that had previously closed**. Additionally, **19 licenses were issued for programs operating at the same location but under new ownership**, demonstrating ongoing continuity of services despite ownership transitions.

The remaining licenses highlight a variety of facility-use arrangements. **Twelve (12) programs are operating under license in facilities that were formerly run by a municipality or other public entity**, indicating the successful transition of public-use spaces to licensed operations. **One program is operating in a space shared with another licensed program**, and **two programs are utilizing space shared with a licensed camp program**.

Contact 211 Child Care for more information about child care programs in your community.

211 Child Care Annual Program Closure Report on Licensed Family Child Care July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Where the Year Began

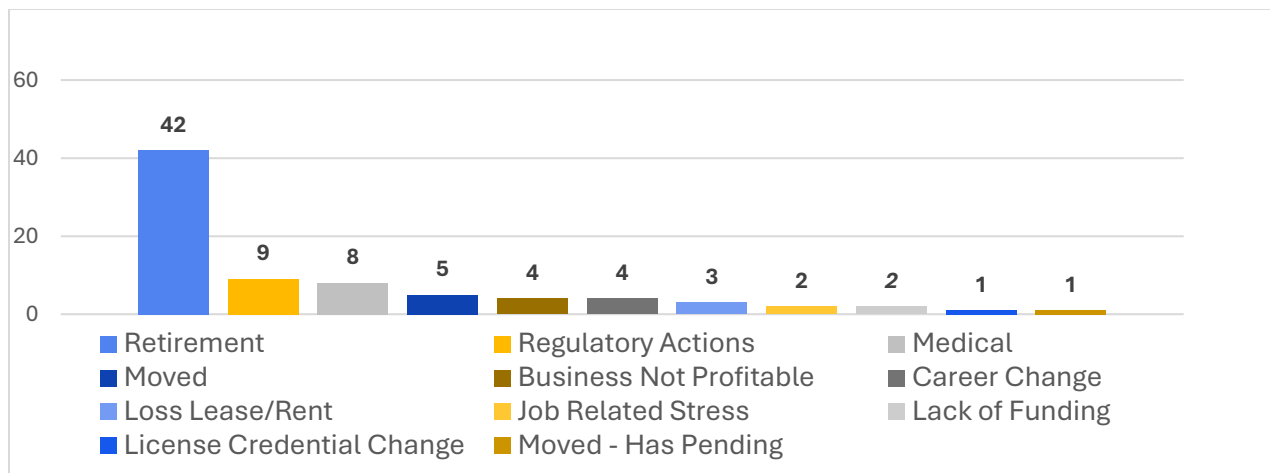
The year began with **1,792** licensed Family Child Care programs statewide, indicating foundational home-based child care capacity. We end the year with **1,773** licensed Family Child Care providers, making a total net loss of **-19** programs.

Programs Exited the Field – CLOSED

Throughout the year, **(192)** providers exited the field. 42% Providers closed due to retirement, financial strain, housing instability and personal circumstances. 34% of providers that closed exited the field less than three years after opening.

Key Drivers of Closure

192 Closed **(81)** Reasons Reported **(111)** Reasons Not Reported



I. Retirement and Aging Workforce

Retirement is the leading reason providers are closing, causing loss of experience and mentorship.

II. Regulatory Actions Taken

There were **(9)** providers that closed due to regulatory actions with Office of Early Childhood Licensing. **(5)** providers surrendered (voluntary surrender) their licenses; **(4)** had their licenses cancelled (revoked) by OEC Licensing.

III. Health and Career Stressors

Medical issues, career changes and job-related stress also contribute significantly to providers leaving the field.

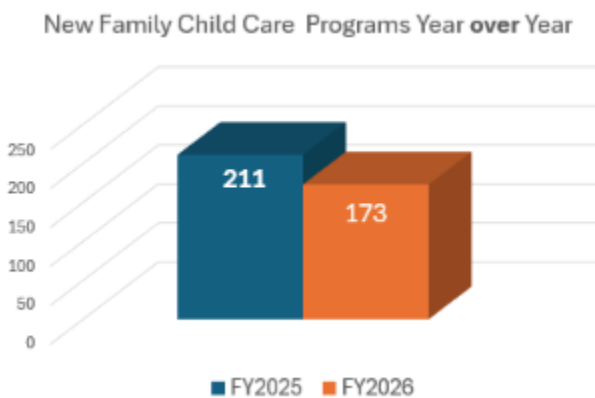
IV. Financial and Housing Challenges

Financial unprofitability and loss of lease or housing instability are major factors driving provider closures.

Providers Entered the Field - NEW

(173) new providers entered the field. However, not all new providers are true expansions: (15) were reinstatements, returning to the field after prior closure. In addition, (5) that closed in FY26 currently have pending applications for reissuance, adding complexity to turnover.

New provider entry has declined 18% year over year. The [2026 211 Child Care Snapshot](#) reported nearly 1,000 fewer children enrolled in Family Child Care compared to last year. This raises concerns about long-term sustainability.



[Who is Entering the System](#)

Urban Concentration of New Licenses

New Family Child Care licenses were mainly granted in cities reflecting high population density and child care demand. Bridgeport, Waterbury, Hartford, New Haven and Danbury had the highest concentration of new licenses.

Increase in Spanish Speaking Providers

This highlights the growing linguistic diversity in the child care field

[Happy Retirement to Connecticut's Family Child Care Providers](#)

Closure data shows the average licensed family child care provider remains in business for **12 years**, reflecting a strong foundation of long-term commitment. **211 Child Care** recognizes and celebrates the extraordinary contributions of providers who have devoted their homes, careers and care to families across their communities.

This year's report highlights exceptional longevity: (1) provider served for more than 50 years, (3) providers retired after 40+ years and (21) providers retired after 30+ years.

These milestones reflect decades of dedication and lasting impact on children and families – thank you!

[Contact 211 Child Care](#) for more information about child care programs in your community.

