

- [Estimated number of children under the age of 5 in El Paso County](#): 46,863
- [Total licensed ECE capacity in El Paso County](#): 17,542
- Current number of licensed ece spots needed (and how determined): 16,935
  - Increasing capacity by this number will provide enough seats for 70% of the population ages 0-5. This is an estimate based on applications received for UPK (we received applications for 72% of our estimated four-year-old population), statistics regarding millennial parents in the workforce indicating that [82% of millennial parents work](#), and the [Child Care Gaps Assessment map](#) (data on this map was compiled in 2019, since then the population ages 0-5 has increased and the number of ECE slots have decreased but this map was helpful in determining a methodology.) The National Institute for Early Education research [defines a preschool program as universal when it has enrolled 70% of eligible children](#).
- The cost to provide an ece spot: This comes from the UCCS report from the summit
  - Center-Based
    - 0–18-month year olds: \$18,223 median/year
    - 18–36-month year olds: \$15,626 median/year
    - 36-72-month year olds: \$13,835 median/year
  - Home-Based
    - 0-24- month year olds: \$12,568 median/year
    - 24-72- month year olds: \$11,151 median/year
- [The parts of the county most in need of ece](#): Zip codes 80916, 80902, 80910, 80911, 80817, 80831, 80906, 80925, & 80920 are the zip codes with the highest need. This is the south side of Colorado Springs, Fountain/Fort Carson, Security/Widefield, Peyton/Falcon, and the Briargate area. These areas have the highest concentrations of children ages 0-5 in El Paso County, large Spanish-speaking populations, and the highest youth poverty rates in El Paso County.