

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

The screenshot shows the map tool interface with several callouts:

- Search Box:** A red box highlights the search area with the text: "Enter a NYS address, city or county into the search box." Below the search bar is a "Show results within (Miles)" field set to 0.
- Map Navigation:** A blue box points to the zoom controls with the text: "Zoom in / out on the map".
- Map Interaction:** A blue box points to the map with the text: "Click any place on the map to browse and zoom in".
- Legend:** A blue box points to the legend with the text: "Higher scores (child care deserts) will display a darker brown than lower scores." The legend shows a color scale from light brown (< 22) to dark brown (> 100).
- Layer List:** A red box highlights the layer list on the right with the text: "Show/hide layers to display on the map". The list includes:
 - Regional Economic Development Councils
 - Child Care Deserts - Estimated Base RFA Score
 - NYC Boroughs
 - Cities and Towns
 - Census Designated Places

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**.

To begin, enter an address in the box below

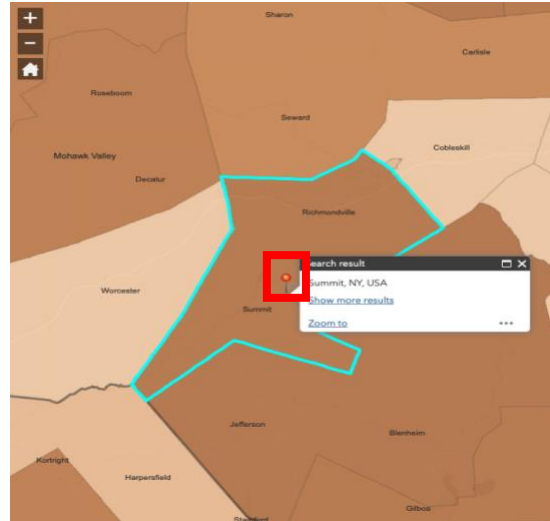
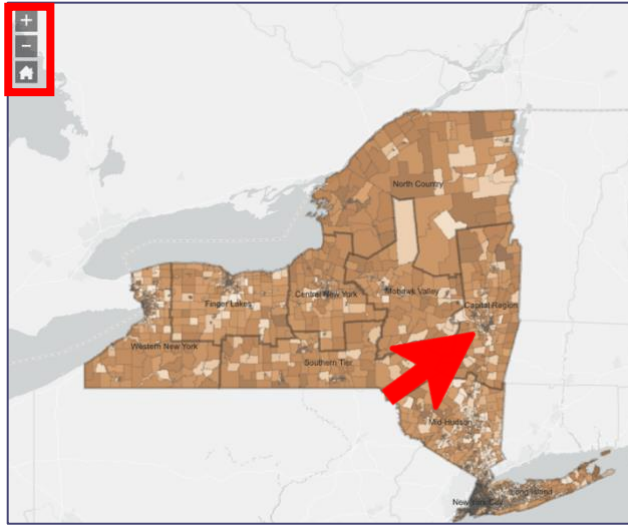
Search for an address or locate on map

Find address or place

Show results within (Miles)

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?

Census Tract ID 7405, Schoharie County, Mohawk Valley REDC	
Desert Level	No slots & >49 children under 5 yrs children/slot, High, 40 points
REDC Desert Level	70% of CTs are deserts, High, 20 points
Diversity Index	12.8, Low, 6 points
Fam <200% Poverty	24.79%, Med, 14, points
Estimated Base RFA Score	80 points

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.

Example: Summit, NY
Group Day Care
Hours: 7:30 am – 6:00 pm
Ages: 3 Months – 5 years

Estimated Base Score	80
Bonus Points Infant/Toddler	5
Bonus Points Non-Traditional Hours	0
TOTAL RFA SCORE	85