

North Country Region

NCREDC Priorities on Childcare Supply Building:

In 2019, the NCREDC set out to create a more comprehensive strategy to address regional childcare needs to both help families in need as well as encourage more professionals to enter the field. The NCREDC strategic plan makes it a priority to expand the quality of affordable childcare options in order to meet the ever-increasing demand in a mostly rural setting. The Council recognizes that a lack of affordable childcare solutions impacts employment opportunities and economic growth across all sectors, reducing both business productivity and profitability. Having affordable and available childcare not only improves long-term workforce recruitment and retention, but also helps with near-term employee work attendance.

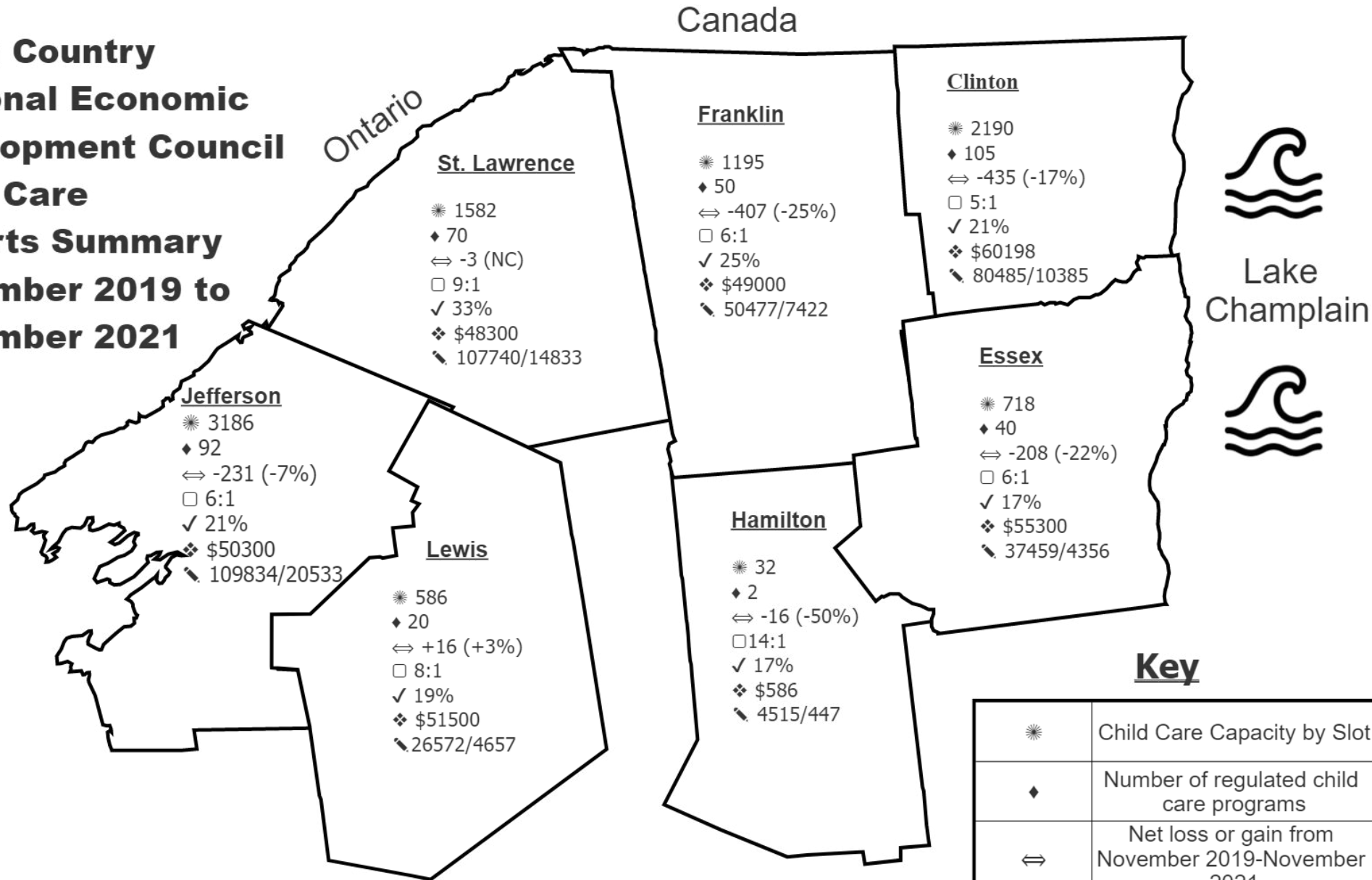
One challenge unique to the North Country Region is lack of population density. This makes establishing larger institutional style childcare facilities difficult because of costs and distance parents can or will travel in relations to their place of work. Thus, the NCREDC Workforce Development Group has put an emphasis on how better to promote small and in-home daycare settings; which is more conducive to rural/small city populations.

The NCREDC focus and priorities include:

- Working to increase the supply of in-home group childcare businesses;
- Identifying and focusing on areas with the greatest need and least ability to address childcare supply;
- Addressing the issues of affordability and sustainability with potential subsidies;
- Increasing training program availability to promote new in-home group childcare businesses;
- Soliciting feedback and involvement from key stakeholders and strategic partners within targeted needs areas; and
- Working across sectors to reuse/re-designate existing space to increase the number and affordability of childcare spaces.

**Note: See attached graphic for NC daycare slot availability*

**North Country
Regional Economic
Development Council
Child Care
Deserts Summary
November 2019 to
November 2021**



Recommendations to stabilize the child care crisis in the North Country:

1. Create and implement an early childhood workforce pipeline at each county level for the development of new child care programs, beginning with home-based family child care programs and school-age child care programs.
2. Campaign widely to increase awareness in the community (including the business and education community) of importance of high-quality child care.
3. Subsidize the child care system from both ends - parent tuition and provider expenses - to achieve affordability, stability and sustainability. Increase NYSOCFS Child Care Market Rates.