

Child Care Initiative (CCI) Community Meeting & Online Feedback Summary

Updated October 23, 2018

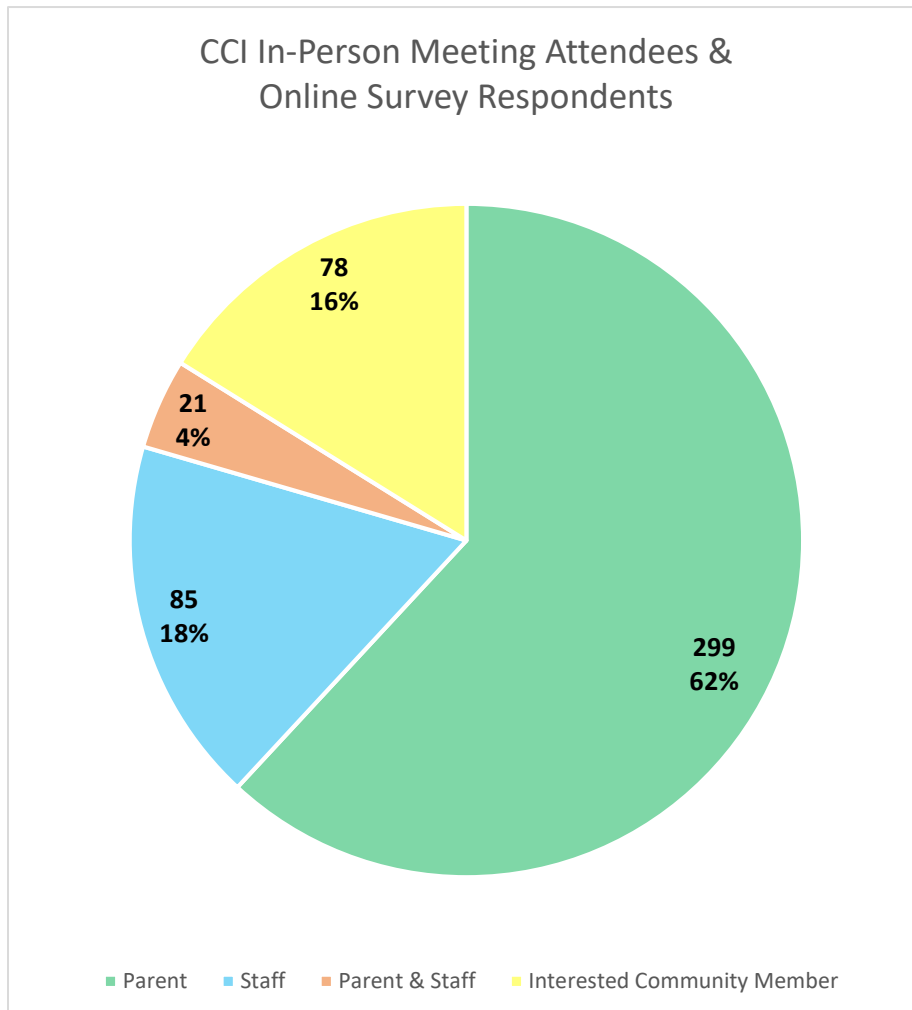
Meeting Attendance/Online Survey Responses

A community meeting seeking public feedback on possible changes to the Zoning Ordinance and local child care codes (i.e., Chapters 52 & 59) was held at the Department of Human Services on September 17, 2018 from 7 – 9:30 p.m. Free child care was made available for children three (3) years of age and older, and Spanish interpretation services were available.

A meeting was held with child care program staff in advance of the community meeting at the Department of Human Services on September 13, 2018 from 3 – 4:30 p.m.

An online survey was available September 17-23, 2018 for people who were unable to attend the other meetings but wanted to provide feedback. Following discussion at the September CCI Work Group and Leadership Roundtable meetings, the decision was made to extend the online survey through October 14, 2018.

Attendees/respondents were categorized as parents, child care staff, parents AND child care staff, or interested community members. The distribution of attendees/respondents is presented in the chart below.



Note: the source of the 483 responses can be broken down as follows: 26 in-person responses were received at the child care program staff meeting on September 13, and 69 in-person responses were received at the community meeting on September 17. A total of 388 unduplicated online responses were received; 39 responses were received September 17-23, and 349 responses were received September 28-October 14.

Family Day Care Homes – Maximum Number of Children and Review Process

By-right projects are permitted under their current zoning and do not require approval by the County Board; they are approved administratively by the Zoning Administrator and do not require public hearings. Use permits, in comparison, are required for special exception uses that may be essential or desirable, but which are not allowed by-right within a zoning district. Use permits allow the County to review the use through a public hearing process, and may allow flexibility within a zoning ordinance.

The Arlington County Zoning Ordinance allows up to nine (9) children in Family Day Care Homes. Family Day Care Homes with one (1) to five (5) children are permitted by-right, while Family Day Care Homes with six (6) to nine (9) children require the County Board’s approval of a use permit.

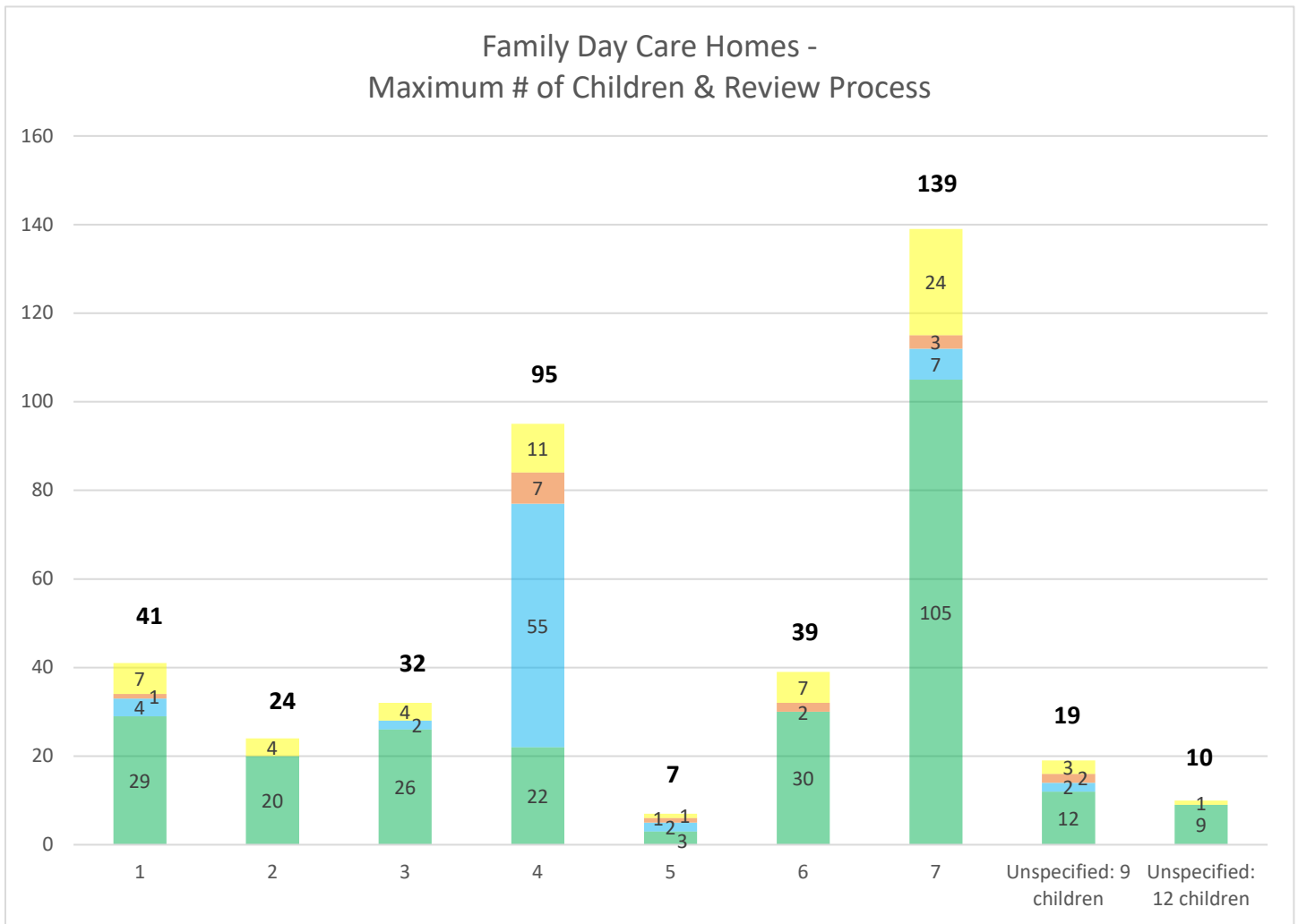
Below are six (6) alternatives to the existing Zoning Ordinance regulations that were presented to meeting attendees and survey respondents. The seventh option shows the existing regulations for comparison.

Option		Number of Children											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Family Day Care Home	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
2	Family Day Care Home	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red
3	Family Day Care Home	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
4	Family Day Care Home	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
5	SF-Home Family Day Care Home	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	MF-Home Family Day Care Home	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
6	SF-Home Family Day Care Home	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
	MF-Home Family Day Care Home	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
7	(NO CHANGE)	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red

LEGEND	
	By-Right
	Use Permit
	Prohibited

SF	Single-family
MF	Multi-family

The distribution of preferences by attendee/respondent type is presented in the chart below. 29 respondents did not select one of the seven options, but did share whether they thought the maximum number of children allowed in a Family Day Care Home should be nine (9) or 12. This data is captured in the two rightmost columns in the chart.



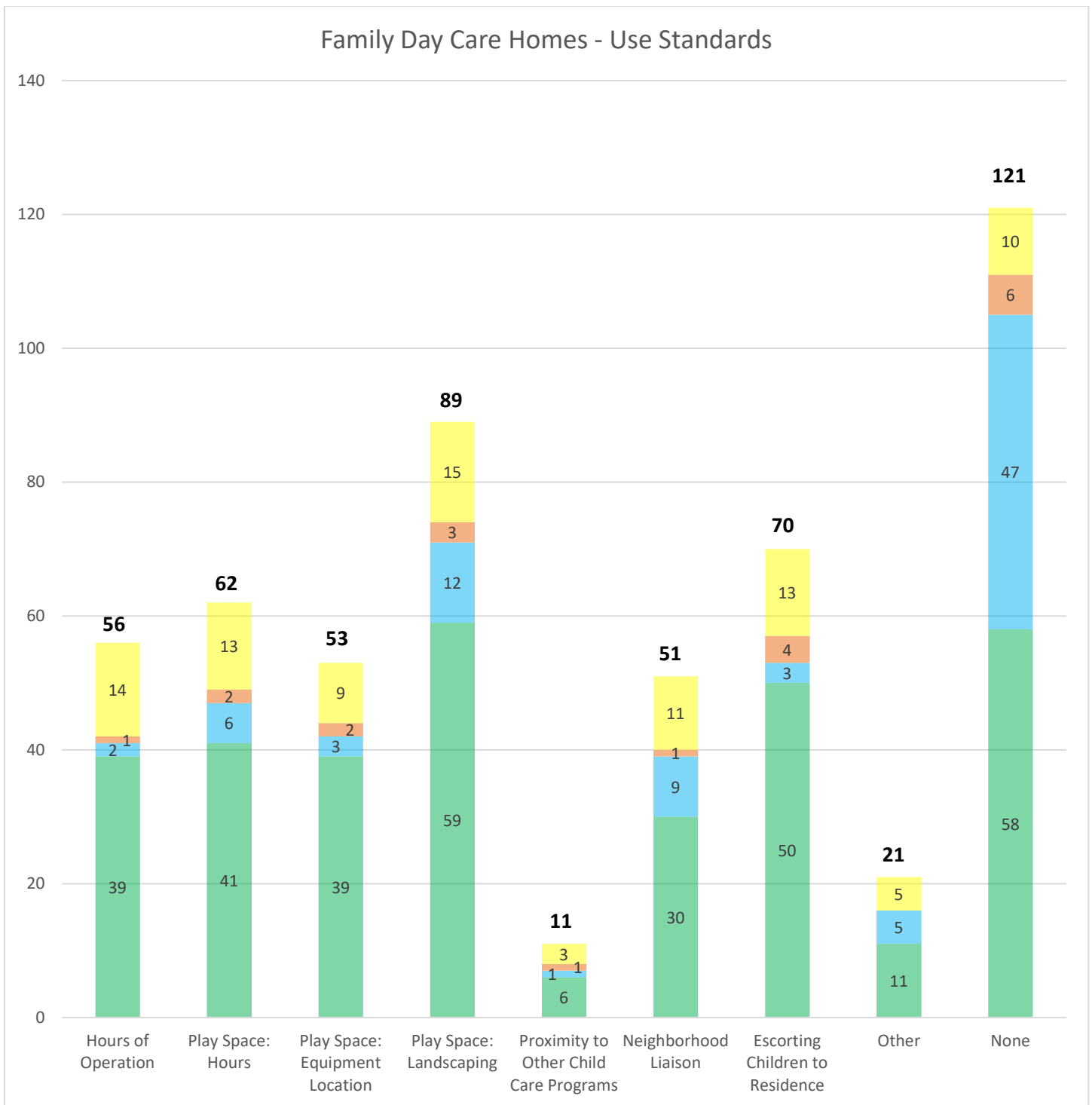
Family Day Care Homes – Use Standards

A zoning ordinance includes use standards to provide specific direction for the design and operation of a use in addition to the lot size, setback, density, and height requirements set by a zoning district. Use standards are enforced by the Zoning Administrator, and apply to both by-right and special exception projects.

Currently, existing Arlington County Family Day Care Home use standards include the requirement of a certificate of occupancy, as well as licensure pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Arlington County Code. Possible additional use standards for family-based child care relate to private outdoor play space (e.g., hours of use, proximity to adjacent residential lots, and buffering/ landscaping/ fencing); parking; pick-up and drop-off; proximity to other child care programs; provision of a neighborhood liaison; and escorting children to residence. It is important to note that child care programs would be able to request exceptions to the requirements established by the use standards, but a use permit would be required.

Below are seven (7) possible use standards, as well as the options of none and other, which were presented to meeting attendees and survey respondents. Attendees/respondents were asked to choose up to three possible use standards that they felt were important for the County to consider for inclusion in the Zoning Ordinance. The distribution of preferences by attendee/respondent type is presented in the chart below.

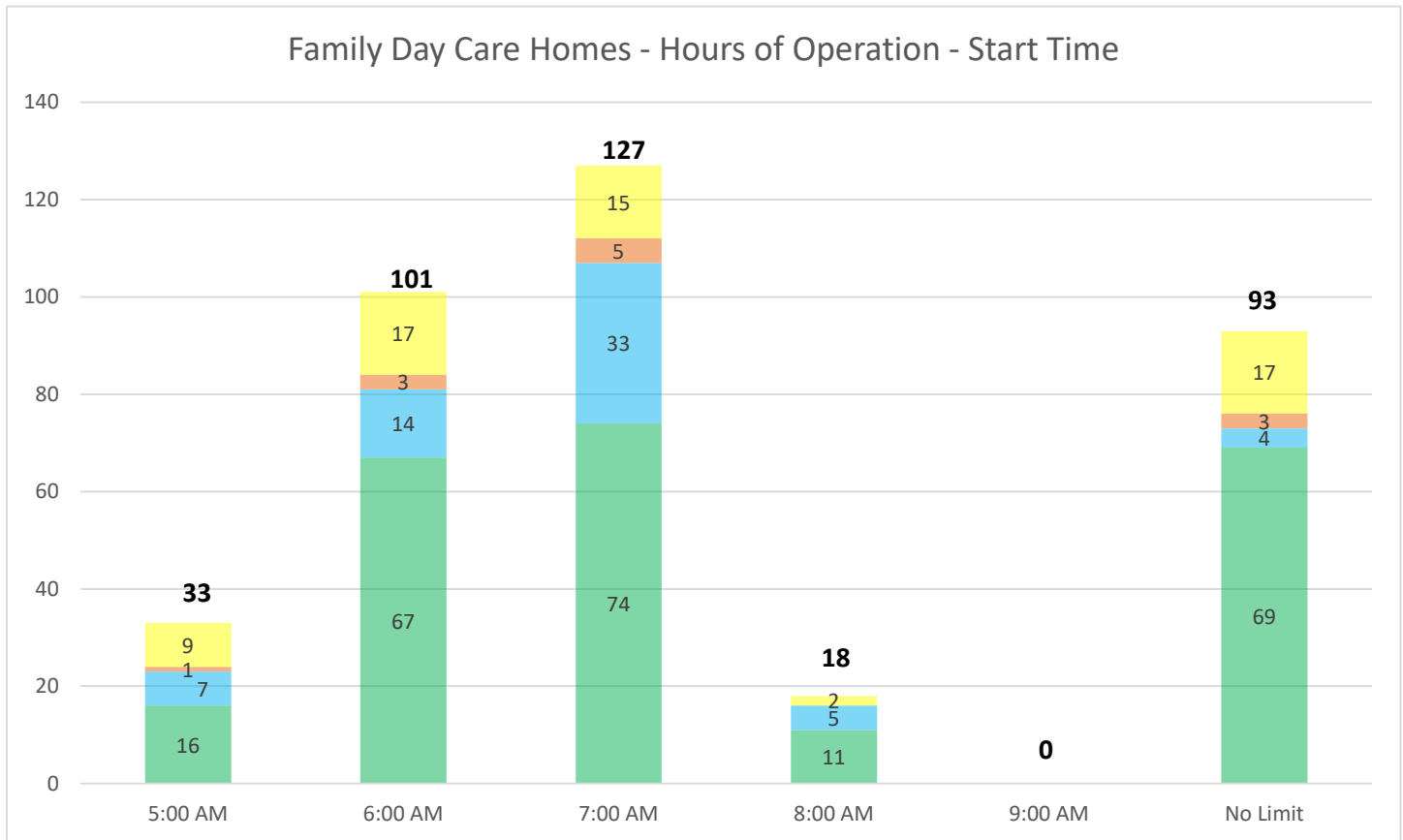
Family Day Care Homes - Use Standards

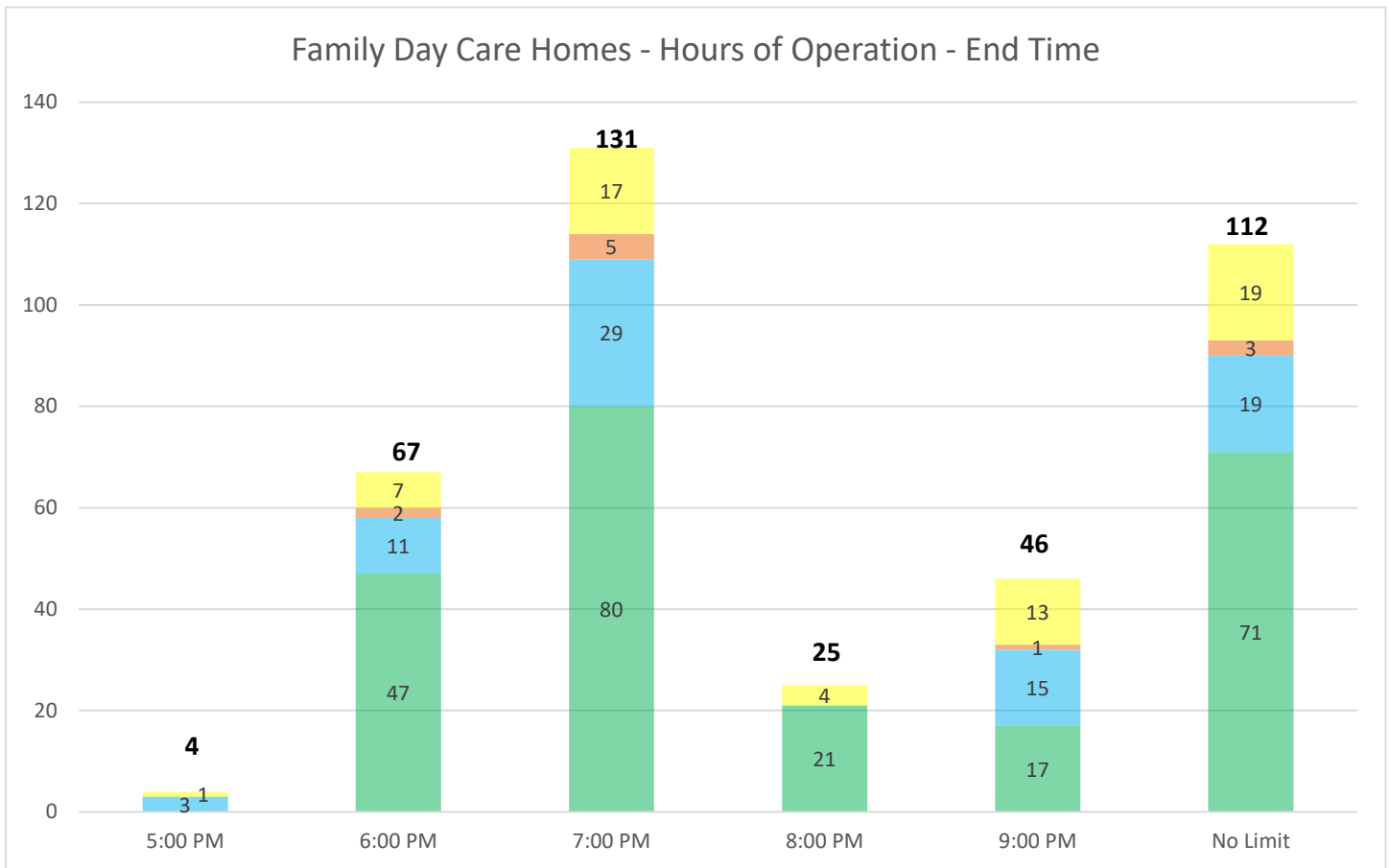


Note: The majority of “other” responses (n=11) were outside of the scope of use standards. The remaining “other” responses touched upon parking (n=6), location (n=1), emergency evacuation location (n=1), minimum square footage per child (n=1), and noise (n=1).

Family Day Care Homes – Hours of Operation

More specifically regarding hours of operation, below are five (5) possible start times and five (5) possible end times, which were presented to meeting attendees and survey respondents. As a result of feedback received at the in-person meetings, online survey respondents were also given the option of choosing no start time and/or no end time. The distribution of preferences by attendee/respondent type is presented in the two charts below.





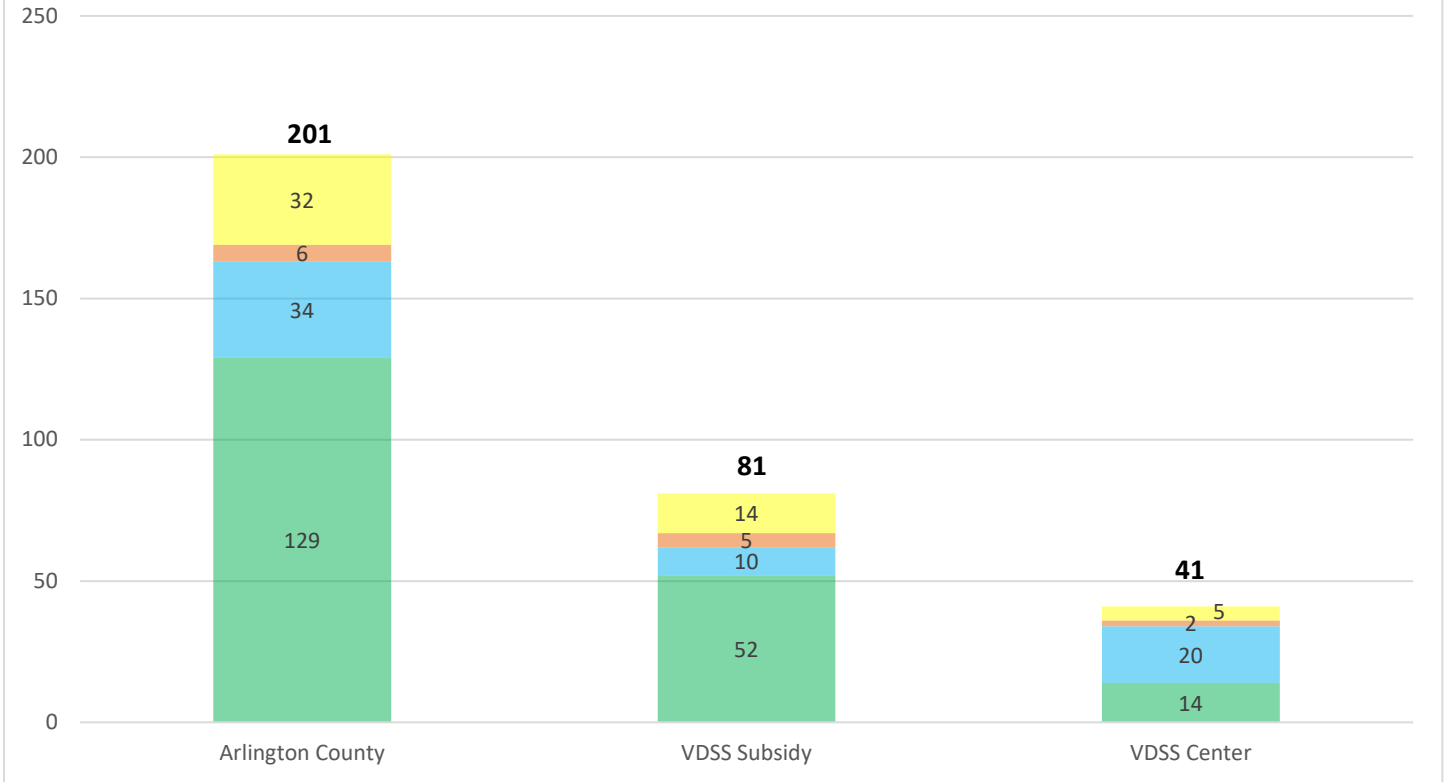
Child Care Centers – Group Sizes

In center-based child care programs, group size refers to the maximum number of children allowed in a group per classroom, as determined by age.

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers do not include group size requirements for center-based child care programs, while Chapter 52 of the Arlington County Code does. In addition, programs participating in the VDSS Child Care Subsidy Program are subject to group size requirements, but the group sizes are generally larger than those set forth in Chapter 52. The VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers are in the process of being revised, however, and the advertised possible changes included proposed group size requirements identical to those currently in place for the VDSS Child Care Subsidy Program.

Below are two alternatives to the existing local requirements, as well as a third option of retaining the existing local requirements. Attendees/respondents were asked to choose one option related to group sizes. The distribution of preferences by attendee/respondent type is presented in the chart below.

Center-Based Child Care Programs - Group Sizes



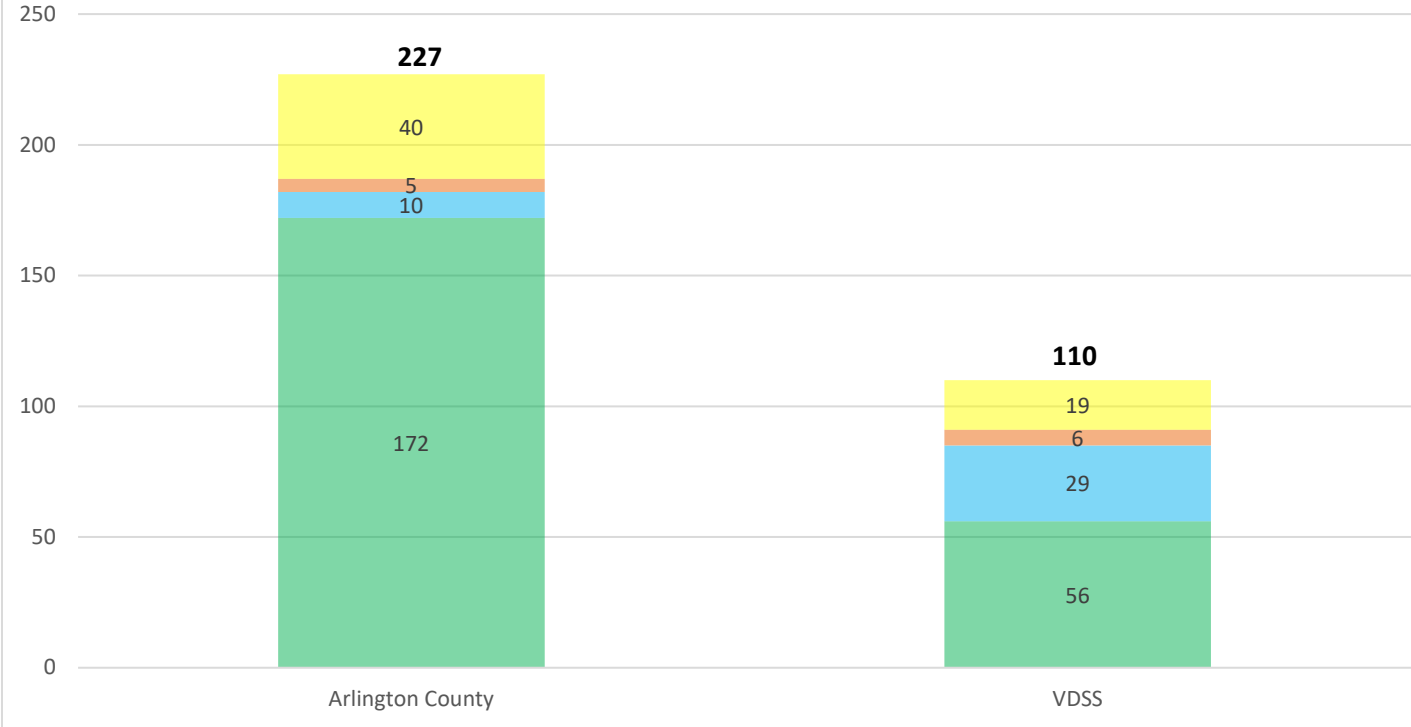
Teacher-to-Child Ratios

Teacher-to-child ratios are a measure of the maximum number of children for whom a caregiver may be responsible. In center-based child care programs, these are typically stated in numerical terms, while in family-based child care programs, these are often expressed in terms of points.

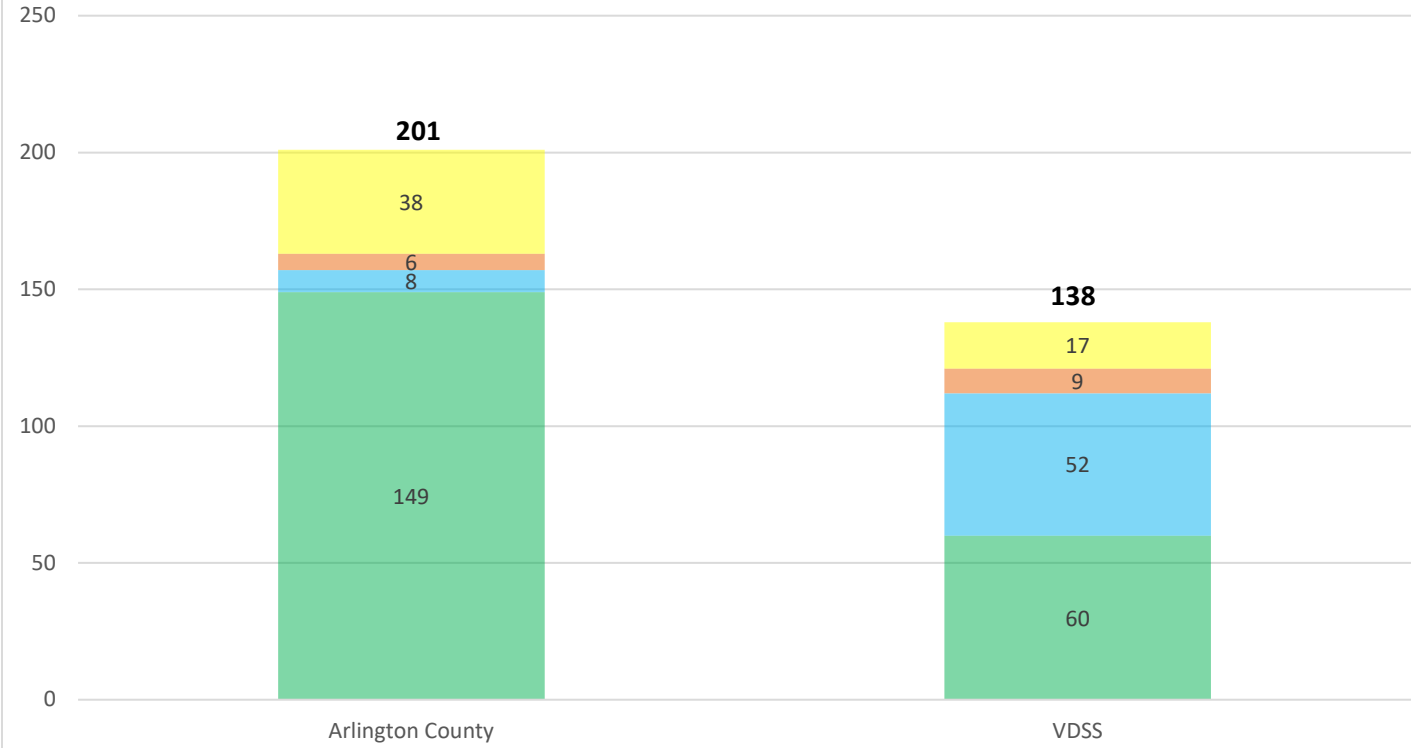
Both the VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers and Chapter 52 include teacher-to-child ratios, and the VDSS Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes and Chapter 59 include maximum point totals by provider. The Arlington teacher-to-child ratios/point totals, however, are more stringent than those set forth by their VDSS counterpart.

Below are two alternatives to the existing local requirements (one for center-based child care programs, and one for family-based child care programs). Attendees/respondents were asked to choose one option related to teacher-to-child ratios for center-based child care programs, as well as one option for family-based child care programs. The distribution of preferences by attendee/respondent type is presented in the chart below.

Center-Based Child Care Programs - Teacher-to-Child Ratios



Family Day Care Homes - Teacher-to-Child Ratios



Child Care Centers – Lead Teacher Qualifications

For center-based child care programs, Chapter 52 requires that lead teachers have two (2) years of college, including 15 credit hours of child development and/or early childhood education coursework. VDSS requires that lead teachers have a high school diploma (or equivalent), six (6) months of supervised programmatic experience, and 24 hours of training related to the care of children. The VDSS Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers are in the process of being revised, however, and the advertised possible changes included additional VDSS-sponsored training that covered such topics as medication administration, emergency preparedness, and safe sleep practices.

Below are two alternatives to the existing local requirements, including adopting the VDSS requirements, as well as establishing new requirements that include the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, which is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education in the United States. Retaining the existing local requirements was also offered as a third option. Attendees/respondents were asked to choose one option related to lead teacher qualifications. The distribution of preferences by attendee/respondent type is presented in the chart below.

