

COMMISSION MEETING
January 14, 2020 – 5:30-7:30pm
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA 94590

CALL TO ORDER / SALUTE TO THE FLAG

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| I. Public Comment | Information |
| <i>This is the opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on matters not listed on the Agenda that are otherwise within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Please submit a Speaker Card and limit your comments to 3 minutes.</i> | |
| II. Consent Calendar (5 min) | Action |
| A. Approve the January 14, 2020 Commission Meeting Agenda
B. Approve the October 8, 2019 Commission Meeting Minutes | |
| III. Election of the 2020 First 5 Solano Commission Officers (5 min) | Action |
| Consider approval of the recommendation from the Nominating Committee to appoint Lisette-Estrella Henderson as 2020 Chair and Jennifer Barton as 2020 Vice-Chair of the First 5 Solano Commission
<i>Commissioners Erin Hannigan and Nicole Neff</i> | |
| IV. Positive Parenting Month Resolution (5 min) | Action |
| Consider approval of Resolution #2020-01 recognizing January 2020 as “Positive Parenting Awareness Month” in Solano County
<i>Kwiana Algere, Health Education Specialist</i> | |
| V. First 5 Center Update (5 min) | Information |
| Receive an update on the First 5 Center
<i>Megan Richards, Deputy Director</i> | |
| 20-minute break to tour the Vallejo First 5 Center | |
| VI. Policy and Oversight Committee Report (Commissioner Huber) (30 min) | Information/
Discussion |
| Receive a presentation on barriers to expanding early learning opportunities in Solano County
<i>Megan Richards, Deputy Director; Christina Branom, Applied Survey Research</i> | |
| VII. IMPACT 2020 (20 min) | Action |
| Consider approval of a First 5 Solano Application to the First 5 California IMPACT 2020 anticipated Request for Applications (RFA) in the amount of \$664,207 for FY2020/21-FY2022/23 with a required local match not to exceed \$221,402
<i>Juanita Morales, Program Manager</i> | |
| VIII. Executive Director’s Report (10 min) | Information |
| <i>Michele Harris, Executive Director</i> | |
| IX. Commissioner Remarks (5 min) | Information |

Information

X. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location

The next Commission meeting will be held on March 3, 2020 at 5:30PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items include: First 5 Solano Budget, Committee Report, First 5 Center Reconciliation

ADJOURN

Vision: All Solano County children are loved, healthy, confident, eager to learn, and nurtured by their families, caregivers and communities. **Mission:** First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission is a leader that fosters and sustains effective programs and partnerships with the community to promote, support and improve the lives of young children, their families and their communities.

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you require a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, please call (707) 784.1332 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. Non-confidential materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Commission are available for public inspection at the First 5 Solano business office, 601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA during normal business hours.

**First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
Commission Meeting**

October 8, 2019, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
601 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Erin Hannigan, Jerry Huber, Lenisha Anderson (arrived 5:38 PM), Jennifer Barton, Aaron Crutison, Mina Diaz (arrived 5:45 PM), Lisette Estrella-Henderson (arrived 6:30 PM), Nicole Neff, Tyffany Wanberg

First 5 Solano Staff present: Michele Harris, Megan Richards, Kwiana Algeré, Gene Ibe, Lorraine Fernandez, Juanita Morales, Luke Winders

Members of the public present: Kyle Bartle (Eide Bailly), Kathryn Clark Silveira (CARE 4 EM), Robin Cox (Solano County Public Health), Kathy Lago (Solano Family & Children's Services), Lisa Niclai (Applied Survey Research), Penny Paxton (Solano County Public Health)

Chair Hannigan called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM

I. Public Comment

No public comment

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

- A. Approve the October 8, 2019 Commission Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve August 13, 2019 Commission Meeting Minutes
- C. Approve the 2020 Commission Meeting Schedule

**Moved by Commissioner Barton; Seconded by Commissioner Huber
Approved 6-0-0**

Yea: Commissioners Barton, Crutison, Hannigan, Huber, Neff, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Chair Appoints Nominating Committee for 2020 Officers

Commissioner Neff and Chair Hannigan volunteered to form a nominating committee.

Commissioners Anderson and Diaz arrived

IV. Public Hearing: First 5 Solano FY2018/19 Annual Audit

Public comments: none

Chair Hannigan opened the Public Hearing. Kyle Bartle Eide Bailly (formerly Varinek, Trine, Day & Co) presented the annual audit for First 5 Solano. Eide Bailly issued an unmodified opinion, which is their highest level of assurance. No disagreements with management occurred outside normal process.

Motion: Receive First 5 Solano FY2018/19 Annual Audit

Moved by Commissioner Barton; Seconded by Commissioner Wanberg

Approved 8-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Anderson, Barton, Crutison, Diaz, Hannigan, Huber, Neff, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Commissioner Estrella-Henderson arrived

V. Public Hearing: First 5 Solano FY2018/19 Annual Report

Chair Hannigan opened the Public Hearing. Lorraine Fernandez, First 5 Solano Program Manager, presented the First 5 Solano Annual Report, reviewing the work being done and citing success stories in the priority areas of Health and Well-being; Early Childhood Learning & Development; and Family Support & Parent Education. More residents were served this year than last despite lower expenditure, though there was a slight decrease in number of Spanish-language clients.

Lisa Niclai, Applied Survey Research Vice President of Evaluation, shared results and progress in the four components of the Systems Change Implementation Plan.

Public comments: Kathy Lago, Executive Director of Solano Family & Children's Services, thanked the Commission for entrusting her agency with the Help Me Grow program and emphasized the importance of collaboration in making sure Solano County families get the services they need.

Motion: Approve the First 5 Solano submission to First 5 CA for the FY2018/19 Annual Report

Moved by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson; Seconded by Commissioner Anderson

Approved 9-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Anderson, Barton, Crutison, Diaz, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber, Neff, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

VI. FY2019/20 Allocations of Funding

Commissioners Crutison and Huber recused themselves.

Juanita Morales, First 5 Solano Program Manager, reviewed the successful implementation of the oral health program in FY2018/19, which served 593 children ages 0 - 5. Robin Cox, Senior Health Services Program Manager for Solano County Public Health, thanked the Commission for funding services last year. Services are greatly needed and fill a gap that could not otherwise be provided by Public Health.

Motion: Consider approval of an allocation of funding of up to \$40,000 for FY2019/20 to Solano County Health & Social Services, Public Health Division for dental services

**Moved by Commissioner Barton; Seconded by Commissioner Wanberg
Approved 7-0-0**

**Yea: Commissioners Anderson, Barton, Diaz, Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan,
Neff, Wanberg**

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Recused: Crutison, Huber

Commissioners Crutison and Huber returned.

Ms. Morales described the programs recommended for funding in this second Request for Applications in FY2019/20. Kathryn Clark Silveira, CARE 4 EM, explained how “Drum and Rhythm” classes could provide stress management where space and physical ability restrictions prohibited Mindful Movement classes. Commissioners asked where Ready.....Set....Survive! and ChildPlay Institute would provide services. Ms. Morales shared that Ready...Set....Survive! had multiple sites planned around the county and The ChildPlay Institute’s program would be at Hann’s Park in Vallejo. Commissioner Crutison asked why the ACEs awareness programs already being funded was not reaching as many families in Rio Vista. Megan Richards, First 5 Solano Deputy Director, explained that extra investments are needed to be equitable because Rio Vista families do not engage in programs held at locations central to the entire county.

A. *Motion: Consider approval of allocations of funding of up to \$56,945 for FY2019/20 Annual Grants in response to Request for Applications #2019-04 as follows:*

- 1. *Up to \$19,905 to Ready... Set...Survive! to provide CPR trainings for parents of children ages 0-5***
- 2. *Up to \$10,000 to Rio Vista CARE to build awareness in Rio Vista of Adverse Childhood Experiences***
- 3. *Up to \$18,540 to CARE 4 EM to provide “Drum and Rhythm” classes for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers.***
- 4. *Up to \$8,500 to The ChildPlay Institute to provide a nature-based education program for children ages 3-5***

Moved by Commissioner Barton; Seconded by Commissioner Diaz

Approved 9-0-0

**Yea: Commissioners Anderson, Barton, Crutison, Diaz, Estrella-Henderson,
Hannigan, Huber, Neff, Wanberg**

Nay: None

Abstain: None

VII. Policy and Oversight Committee Report

Motion: Consider approval of updates to the following policies with changes that are administrative in nature to reflect current procedures

- A. Annual Grants Policy***
- B. Business Challenge Grant Policy***
- C. Community Engagement Fund Policy***
- D. Compliance in Contracts Policy***
- E. Contracting and Procurement Policy***
- F. Co-Sponsorship of Conferences and Training Policy***

Megan Richards shared changes to six policies that are administrative in nature reflecting consolidation of committees, clarifying how funding levels are allocated, reflecting that only one Annual Grant per Fiscal Year will be funded for any one agency.

Moved by Commissioner Huber; Seconded by Commissioner Crutison

Approved 9-0-0

**Yea: Commissioners Anderson, Barton, Crutison, Diaz, Estrella-Henderson,
Hannigan, Huber, Neff, Wanberg**

Nay: None

Abstain: None

VIII. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Harris showed a video promoting the Vallejo First 5 Center narrated by Commissioner Hannigan and invited all Commissioners to come see the progress on the Center.

IX. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioners welcomed Tyffany Wanberg to the Commission. Commissioners shared their enthusiasm for the opening of the Vallejo First 5 Center.

X. Future Agenda Items

The next Commission meeting will be held on December 3, 2019 at 5:30PM at either 601 Texas Street, Conference Room B, Fairfield or 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Committee Reports, First 5 Center Update, First 5 Calendar Preview.

Adjourn

Chair Hannigan adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DRAFT

DATE: January 9, 2020

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Commissioners Erin Hannigan and Nicole Neff, Nominating Committee

SUBJ: Recommendations of Nominations for 2020 First 5 Solano Commission Officers

MOTION: Consider approval of the recommendation from the Nominating Committee to appoint Lisette Estrella-Henderson as 2020 Chair and Jennifer Barton as 2020 Vice-Chair of the First 5 Solano Commission.

Each October, 2-3 Commissioner volunteers comprise an ad hoc Nominating Committee to bring forward a recommended slate of officers for the upcoming year. Typically, at the December meeting, the First 5 Solano Commission elects its officers (Chair and Vice-Chair) as per its Bylaws. Since there was no December 2019 meeting, nominations are being presented today.

The Nominating Committee recommends appointments of Lisette Estrella-Henderson as 2020 Chair and Jennifer Barton as 2020 Vice-Chair. Officers serve a term of one calendar year, beginning with the January Commission meeting.

Resolution No. 2020-01

RESOLUTION OF THE FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION PROCLAIMING JANUARY 2020 AS “POSITIVE PARENTING AWARENESS MONTH” IN SOLANO COUNTY

WHEREAS, raising children and youth to become healthy, confident, capable individuals is the most important job parents and caregivers have; and

WHEREAS, positive parenting strengthens family relationships, increases parents' confidence and promotes children's healthy development; and

WHEREAS, families come in many forms and children are raised by parents, grandparents, foster parents, family members and other caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the quality of caregiving is one of the most powerful predictors of children's future social, emotional, and physical health; and

WHEREAS, one healthy adult relationship with a parent, caregiver, or other adult can prevent and heal the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) such as child abuse, neglect or other traumatic events; and

WHEREAS, in Solano County, families can receive support from various positive parenting programs, including Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, an evidence-based program which offers parents and caregivers a “tool kit” of proven strategies to strengthen families and develop positive relationships by teaching simple strategies any parent can adopt to suit their own values, beliefs and needs

WHEREAS, multiple agencies throughout Solano County, including Child Haven Inc., Child Start Inc., Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District-Adult School, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District Healthy Start Family Resource Center, Parents By Choice, Rio Vista CARE, Solano County Office of Education, and Solano Family & Children's Services offer an array of Triple P services available to any parent; and

WHEREAS, Triple P is an effective and universal parenting intervention, serving over 1,000 parents of diverse backgrounds in Solano County within the past year; and

WHEREAS, during the month of January, First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, along with partners throughout the county, will expand efforts to increase awareness of positive parenting and the availability of resources such as Triple P;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission hereby proclaim January 2020 as Positive Parenting Awareness Month in Solano County, and encourages all residents to work to support the health, safety and well-being of children and youth in Solano County.

Dated this 14TH day of January 2020

LISSETTE ESTRELLA-HENDERSON, Chair
First 5 Solano Families and Children Commission

ATTEST:

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

DATE: January 9, 2020
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Megan Richards, Deputy Director
CC: Michele Harris, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **First 5 Center Update**

Progress continues on the Vallejo First 5 Center. On January 9, the Chief Building Official granted access for staff to work and meetings to be held in the First 5 Solano administrative side of the building while the application for temporary occupancy was being finalized. It is expected the temporary certificate of occupancy will be granted by next week. Work continues on the First 5 Center to secure permanent occupancy and get the Center ready for the grand opening February 13! See the attached flyer and we hope to see you all there!

Site Tours:

Over the last two months, staff and Commissioners have provided site tours of the Center for funders, elected officials, community-based partners and county agencies. Below is the list of these tours:

Site Tours		
Date	Name of Business or Agency	Participants
10/24/19	City of Vallejo (Funder/Elected Official)	Vice Mayor Pippin Dew
11/13/19	Recology (Funder)	General Managers: Tom Phillips and Scott Phillips
11/6/19	William G. Irwin Foundation (Funder)	James Zanze and Michelle Sauger (Board of Trustees)
11/14/19	First 5 Solano Commission	Commissioners Lisette Estrella-Henderson and Mina Diaz
11/21/19	City of Vallejo and Vallejo School Board (Elected Officials)	Councilmember Hakeem Brown, and School Board Member Tony Gross
11/21/19	Solano County Child Support Services (County Agency)	Pam Posehn, Director
11/21/19	Kaiser Community Benefit (Funder)	Hannah Chen, Molly Bergstrom
12/12/19	Medic Ambulance Service (Funder)	Helen Pierson, Jimmy Pierson, Cindy McBride, Sandra Whaley
12/16/19	City of Vallejo (Funder/Elected Official)	Mayor Bob Sampayan, Councilmember Hermie Sunga

Everyone who has visited has been extremely supportive of the project and many visits have resulted in funding!

Fund Development to Support Tenant Improvements:

Staff has been implementing a Fund Development Plan to support the cost of tenant improvements for the First 5 Center. The charts below detail the funding that has been committed and proposals that have been submitted and are pending decision.

Secured Tenant Improvement Funding	
Solano County	200,000
First 5 Solano	430,000
City of Vallejo	100,000
William G. Irwin Charity Foundation	100,000
Kaiser Community Benefit	25,000
Recology	25,000
Anonymous Foundation	100,000
Syar Foundation	100,000
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	300,000
Meyer Corporation (Business Donor)	1,000
Buck Kamphausen (Individual Donor)	500
Subtotal Secured Tenant Improvement Funding	\$1,381,500
Tenant Improvement Budget	\$1,770,000
Tenant Improvement Funding Needed	\$388,500

Requested Tenant Improvement Funding	
<i>*Anheuser Busch</i>	25,000
City of Vallejo (Jan. 2020 Mid-Yr Budget Process)	100,000
<i>*Medic Ambulance</i>	50,000
<i>*Yarbrough Family Foundation</i>	100,000
Total Projected Funding	\$275,000
<i>*Indicates estimated giving</i>	

Bay Area Community Resources Update:

While First 5 Solano staff have been focusing on getting the physical space ready for occupancy, Bay Area Community Resources (BACR), the grantee that will be operating the First 5 Center, has been busy getting ready to work with families! BACR has focused efforts on hiring and meeting with community partners who will be delivering services at the center. After an initial hire for a Center Director that did not work out, BACR hired Andrea Azurdia, formerly First 5 Solano graduate intern into the position of Center Director! Andrea received her Master of Public Health for CalState Northridge. She is a great addition to the BACR and First 5 Center team. In addition, BACR has hired for the positions of instructor and community resource specialist (bilingual). Additional interviews are occurring nearly everyday.

In addition to hiring staff for Center services, First 5 Solano staff and Bay Area Community Resources have been meeting with a wide range of community partners to offer onsite services to Center families. The following agencies and program have committed to providing onsite services and are in the process of finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with First 5 Solano and BACR:

Agency	Program/Services
Solano County Health & Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment and Eligibility—Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWorks • WIC—Nutrition education, breastfeeding support/resources, food security • Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health—Mothers and babies perinatal depression and intervention class, safe sleep class, car seat class • Behavioral Health
Solano County Child Support Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child support orders, paternity testing, etc.
Solano County Office of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising a Reader
Touro University	
Workforce Development Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road to Employment

These represent the initial partners with more to come!

Grand Opening Committee:

As stated above, the grand opening for the First 5 Center is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2020. For the next several weeks, First 5 Solano and BACR staff will be meeting every Wednesday at 10am to plan the Grand Opening. If any commissioners are interested in helping to plan this event, please reach out to Luke Winders to be included on the calendar invitation.

Attachment A: Vallejo First 5 Center Grand Opening Flyer



FIRST5 CENTER GRAND OPENING



Thursday February 13th
11:00am-2:00pm
3375 Sonoma Blvd.
Vallejo, CA 94590
Ceremony will begin at noon

Free Activities!

Puppet Performance
Indoor Play Space
Arts & Crafts
Food & Giveaways

*Come learn about the free classes
and workshops that will be offered at
the Vallejo First 5 Center to all families
with children ages 0-5!*

[Click here to register](#)

Or search Vallejo First 5
Center on Eventbrite

The Vallejo First 5 Center will provide an environment that sparks creativity and learning in children, support parent/caregiver and child bonding, and build community and leadership.

First 5 Solano is proud to host the grand opening of the Vallejo First 5 Center
in partnership with Bay Area Community Resources.



DATE: January 9, 2019

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Megan Richards, Deputy Director

CC: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Barriers to expanding early learning opportunities in Solano County

As part of the 2018-2023 Program Investment Plan, the Commission allocated funds to conduct an assessment of the early learning landscape in Solano and identify barriers to expansion. During the Great Recession there was a significant decrease in funding for early childhood education which resulted in a significant decrease in available slots for childcare in Solano. Since then, the state has partially restored funding and has offered opportunities for local providers to access state funds. However, there have been times when no one in Solano has had the capacity to apply for funding.

This report was initially completed by Applied Survey Research in early 2019 to identify barriers to early childhood education providers from expanding and makes recommendation for possible next steps to ensure Solano can increase the availability of early learning opportunities for children and support its working families. With the appointment of a new governor, indicating a child-friendly agenda, staff recommended holding the report until we could see the impacts of his newly proposed budget. The report has since been updated and expanded to include information about the expansion of funding opportunities available with the focus on early childhood in the governor's budget.

Committee Discussion: The Policy and Oversight Committee received a presentation on the report at their December meeting. The Committee discussed opportunities for collaboration to increase Solano's ability to draw down additional funding from the state. In particular, the Committee noted that 10-years ago the Board of Supervisors and the Superintendent of Schools authorized the Local Childcare Planning Council (LCCPC) be housed at a local nonprofit due to limited capacity of the Office of Education at that time. The Committee also noted that the majority of LCCPC's across the state are housed within their Office of Education, which allows for maximization of resources and alignment with the K-12 and other systems. Since that time, the local Office of Education has taken the lead on quality improvement efforts and securing additional state and federal funding, developing an expertise in-house.

The Committee made a recommendation share the information in the report with the Commission and the Board of Supervisors to further explore the alignment of the early care and education policy bodies. The Committee also discussed the potential opportunities to develop the childcare workforce and recommended to present the report to the Workforce Development Board.

Attachment A: Solano Early Learning Assessment Report
Attachment B: Solano Early Learning Assessment Presentation

Expanding Early Learning Opportunities in Solano County

Updated December 2019

Introduction and Purpose

A large body of research has demonstrated a multitude of short-term and long-term benefits of quality early learning programs for children. Children who attend early care and education (ECE) are more likely to have the language, literacy, mathematics, executive functioning, and social emotional skills needed to be ready for kindergarten.¹ However, the availability of high quality ECE programs remains limited in many communities across the state, including Solano County. Given the need to increase the availability of child care in Solano County, the purpose of the current study was to better understand:

- The barriers to expanding the availability of ECE in Solano County; and
- Strategies, policies, or programs that could be implemented in the county to address these barriers.

This report synthesizes information from community indicator data for Solano County and the state, two focus groups with Solano County child care providers and other ECE stakeholders, as well as 14 key informant interviews with child care experts from Solano County, neighboring counties, and state agencies. Additional details on the methods and findings can be found in the appendices.

Unmet Need for Child Care in Solano County

Following the Great Recession of 2008, Solano County experienced a decline in both the number of child care spaces and sites providing care. As in other parts of the state, the loss of spaces in family child care homes was particularly great. The economic recovery and the introduction of Transitional Kindergarten (TK; a public kindergarten program open to about one-quarter of the state's four-year-olds) has replenished some of the lost spaces, but the availability of care in



Solano County has still not returned to prerecession levels. Just under one-quarter of children who need care because they have working parents currently has a licensed space available to them.ⁱⁱ

The availability of subsidized care for income-eligible children is also limited. A county-by-county analysis of subsidized care availability across the state found that Solano County ranked sixth worst in the percent of 3- to 4-year-old income-eligible children enrolled in State Preschool, TK, or Head Start.ⁱⁱⁱ When enrollment in Alternative Payment programs is also included, still only 33% of 3-year-olds and 73% of 4-year-olds in Solano County are served, compared to 41% of 3-year-olds and 75% of 4-year-olds statewide.

According to experts interviewed for this study and the available data, the shortage of care for infants and toddlers is even more extreme, primarily due to the higher cost of providing care and the relatively limited investment from the state in care for this age group. Data from the Solano County Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) suggest that only about 9% of income-eligible infants and toddlers (ages 0-2) had a space available to them in 2016.^{iv}

Only 9% of income-eligible infants and toddlers are enrolled in subsidized care

Barriers to Child Care Expansion

Given that there are significant unmet child care needs in Solano County, one goal of this assessment was to understand what barriers prevent the expansion of care in the county. Based on interviews, focus groups, and a review of other research on child care in the state, the following emerged as the three primary barriers to expanding early learning opportunities in the county:

- A shortage of qualified workers to staff early learning programs;
- A lack of brick-and-mortar facilities to house early learning programs; and
- Limited capacity among providers to apply for funding and manage the business side of offering child care.

SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED WORKERS

Every ECE expert participating in the study said that finding qualified staff is a primary barrier to expanding child care. Providers in Solano County struggle to fill their current vacancies for teachers and aides, let alone consider adding spaces that would require them to hire additional staff. In some programs, volunteers are even used meet the mandated adult-to-child ratios.

In Solano County, many providers are getting close to retirement and few people are entering the profession. For example, in 2017, just four students received an Associate's (AA) degree or a certificate in ECE at Solano Community College.^v Key informants said that one difficulty working students face in completing their AA degree is taking time off

from their job to complete their practicum, a semester-long mandatory internship. A second hurdle ECE students encounter is completing the math and English requirements for the degree.

In addition to the shortage of students studying ECE, Solano County has a shortage of providers with Child Development permits. There were approximately 71 Child Development permits issued in the county in 2018, which translates to just over 10 per 10,000 children 0-12, fewer than in the state overall, which issues about 17-18 new permits per 10,000 children each year.^{vi}

Only 4 students graduated with an ECE degree or certificate from Solano College in 2017

Some of the chief reasons making it difficult to recruit and retain a qualified ECE workforce are the low pay, lack of benefits, high stress, and perceived low value of the profession. The pay for child care workers and preschool teachers is so low that about half of California's early learning professionals rely on public income support.^{vii} According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average pay for a child care worker or preschool teacher in the Vallejo-Fairfield Metropolitan Area was \$13-\$14 per hour in 2017, roughly half the average wage of the area overall.^{viii} In addition to the low pay and the fact that many positions do not provide benefits, working conditions in ECE can be stressful and without adequate support, providers are likely to leave the profession.^{ix}

Although increased pay could help recruit and retain child care workers, key informants said that raising wages in most programs would require an increase in funding from the state. Program directors who were interviewed for this study said they stay afloat by supplementing subsidies from the state with parent fees and fundraising, but have little room in their budgets to increase wages or provide benefits to their workforce.

LACK OF FACILITIES

The second primary barrier to expanding the availability of child care in Solano County is a lack of physical space to provide care. Key informants said that center providers struggle to find suitable buildings with classrooms equipped to serve young children (e.g., with small bathrooms, outdoor play space, and safe places for parents to pick up and drop off their children). The cost of renovating facilities to be appropriate for serving children is prohibitive for most providers. One key informant noted that providers across the state have deferred



maintenance on their existing facilities due to the high cost of upgrades. Thus, providers may be unable to even consider opening new facilities until they upgrade their current classrooms.

The high cost of real estate in Solano County also makes it difficult to locate affordable physical spaces to provide care. Although considered affordable relative to other Bay Area counties, real estate costs are rising rapidly in Solano County. The median property value in Solano in 2017 was \$411,700, a 58% increase from 2013.^x Just as the reimbursement rate from the state is insufficient to raise workforce wages, part of the challenge in finding facilities to expand child care lies in the fact that there are no longer grants from the state specifically for facilities.

LIMITED GRANT APPLICATION AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

Finally, even if additional funding, a qualified workforce, and suitable facilities were available, it is difficult for many ECE providers to apply for grants. Consequently, grants do not always go to where the need is greatest, but rather to where providers have the capacity write a successful proposal.

Grants do not always go to where the need is greatest, but rather to where providers have the capacity write a successful proposal

Key informants said that Solano County providers often lack time to respond to Requests for Proposals (RFPs), particularly when they have a quick turnaround time. Many RFPs from the state require a response within 4-8 weeks, and the applicant must provide a detailed plan of how they will use the funds, as well as data to support their request. Putting together a successful proposal is a challenge for providers who are already strapped for time. Moreover, given the low reimbursement rate, some providers may not see applying as worthwhile. This problem is not new; Solano County's 2008 Child Care Needs Assessment noted disparities across regions of the state in provider capacity to apply for funding that resulted in Solano County receiving less funding than other counties with similar populations.^{xi}

Related to the difficulty in drawing down funding for their services is the fact that, although child care providers are business owners and operators, many are not trained in business or finance. Some key informants recommended fiscal consultants to help providers meet their contracts and develop accurate financial and enrollment projections.

Strategies to Address Barriers to Child Care Expansion

To address these barriers to expanding care, stakeholders in Solano County may consider the following recommended approaches:

ECE WORKFORCE

Invest in education and professional development to strengthen the child care workforce

- Continue and expand the financial support offered to students that they can complete their education and practicum; for example, Persistence Pays was funded through a First 5 Solano Annual Grant and offers a stipend so ECE students can afford to take time off from their job to complete their practicum. In 2018-19, 18 students signed up for the program completed their practicum.
 - Provide ECE students tutoring and individualized support to help them finish their degree; cohort models in Solano and other Bay Area counties have shown success in helping students complete their ECE degree.^{xii}
 - Continue to incentivize ECE providers' participation in coaching and high-quality trainings by providing stipends and bringing professional development to worksites.
-

Outreach to potential ECE providers at colleges and career fairs

- Attend classes and career fairs at local colleges and universities, partnering with these institutions to reinforce the ECE workforce pipeline.
-

Train parents to become ECE providers

- Pay for the training and education of parents who have children enrolled in ECE, so they can become child care workers or teachers; some programs, including Child Start in Napa Valley, have been able to hire 18 new staff through this model, which taps into a group of people who are already present and invested in their child's ECE program.
-

Help informal care providers become licensed and provide ongoing support to help them maintain and expand their business

- Provide more accessible, local trainings for:
 - Informal care providers and others interested in providing child care on how to become licensed.
 - Family child care providers to help them maintain their businesses and improve the quality of care they provide.
 - Build a stronger peer support network for family child care providers, so they can share resources and offer one another support.
-

- Help new family child care providers with startup costs for expenses like licensing fees, bookkeeping, advertising, furniture, and educational materials.
- Expand upon the services offered in two existing programs that have helped to recruit and retain family child care workers: the Child Care Initiative Project and the Early Head Start Partnership program, which offer family child care providers training, coaching, and quality improvement stipends.

FACILITIES

Provide facilities technical assistance

- Revive facilities technical assistance that used to be available in the county; two potential models include:
 - Building Child Care Collaborative Project, which offered a clearinghouse of information, one-on-one technical assistance, and resources to help providers navigate regulations, financing, and building requirements related to starting or expanding a child care business.
 - Constructing Connections, a collaboration between the child care and community development sectors that helped to reduce regional barriers to child care facility construction.

Locate free or low-cost facilities by partnering with other entities

- Co-locate ECE programs with existing community organizations, churches, low income housing complexes, or elementary schools, thereby reducing the cost of facilities for programs, as these entities can offer free or low-cost space.

Partner with city planners and developers to provide space for child care

- Partner with planners and developers to provide space for child care in new developments to address the shortage of child care facilities.
- Create a policy whereby child care facilities are planned for in cities in the same way that K-12 schools are.

Encourage local businesses to invest in child care

- Encourage local businesses to provide on-site child care to their workers or financially contribute to local initiatives that help expand the availability of care.
 - Engage local businesses in discussions about child care by highlighting its economic benefits: reliable child care increases worker productivity, decreases absenteeism, and allows employees with children to stay in the workforce.^{xiii}
-

FUNDING/BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Advocate for more funding for ECE at the local, state, and federal level

- Address the lack of a qualified child care workforce and child care facilities with more government investment in ECE.
- Advocate for funding at the state level by educating the community and policymakers on the importance of quality early learning opportunities and what kind of child care is needed in the community (e.g., infant/toddler care, full-time care, and care with flexible schedules, as well as expanded paid family leave to help address the shortage of infant care).

Provide technical assistance in applying for and maintaining funding

- Enlist the services of financial experts, who can help programs attract funding from a wide variety of sources – key to financial sustainability – as well as maintain contracts and financially plan for challenges. First 5 Alameda, for example, has cosponsored a fiscal consultant, who helps state subsidized providers prepare their financial projections and make adjustments necessary to maintain their contracts.

Increase collaboration among ECE stakeholders

- Improve collaboration and communication among ECE stakeholders to help providers successfully apply for new funding.
- Ensure existing collaboratives like the LPC and Quality Counts Consortium are effectively coordinating ECE stakeholders and are in a position to help the county draw down new funding.

Conclusion

Considering the significant benefits of high-quality early learning programs for children's long-term outcomes, it is essential that each child in Solano County has the opportunity to attend quality ECE. Universally available child care has beneficial effects on the economy as well, allowing parents to pursue education, job training, and employment.

The ECE landscape in Solano County has changed over the past 10 years (e.g., with the advent of Transitional Kindergarten and Quality Rating and Improvement Systems, both of which are managed locally in Solano County by the County Office of Education), and it stands to change further with increased investment from the state. As shown in Appendix 6, many of the recommendations provided in this report will be addressed by allocations in the state's 2019-20 budget. It is critical that Solano County is in a position to take advantage of these new funding opportunities. Solano may want to consider reassessing the structure of convening bodies to maximize the ability to draw down and leverage funding, build ECE provider capacity, and coordinate ECE providers.

Despite the current trend toward increased investment in ECE from the state, there is a concern among the majority of economists that the United States will face another major recession by 2021,^{xiv} which could lead to cuts in funding for ECE and have a devastating impact on child care businesses, as occurred following the Great Recession. Thus, Solano County should take steps now to reinforce its ECE system so that all children have access to quality early learning opportunities.



Appendix 1: Methods

Various sources were consulted in the preparation of this report, including community indicator data, key informant interviews, and focus groups. Information from these sources was complemented by a review of the research literature on limitations to ECE expansion and strategies for increasing the supply of ECE.

Secondary data sources utilized for the study include the US Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Local Planning Council, the California Resource and Referral Network, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the California Department of Education, and local data on degree completion from Solano Community College.

Key informants interviewed included ECE experts from Solano County and neighboring counties, as well as those from statewide agencies. Within Solano County, ASR interviewed representatives from the Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC), Solano Family and Children's Services (i.e., the local Resource and Referral Agency), Solano County Office of Education, Child Start (i.e., the local contractor for Head Start programs), Solano Community College, Vacaville and Vallejo School Districts, and Child Development Inc. LPC coordinators in Alameda and Santa Cruz Counties were also interviewed, as these counties had increased their supply of child care in recent years. Likewise, the CEO of Kidango was interviewed due to the success of this organization in expanding the availability of care in the Bay Area. Finally, three interviewees offered a statewide perspective on the early learning landscape: the Policy Director of First 5 Association of California, the Branch Chief of CalWORKS and Child Care at the Department of Social Services and the Director of Government Relations at the Child Care Resource Center.

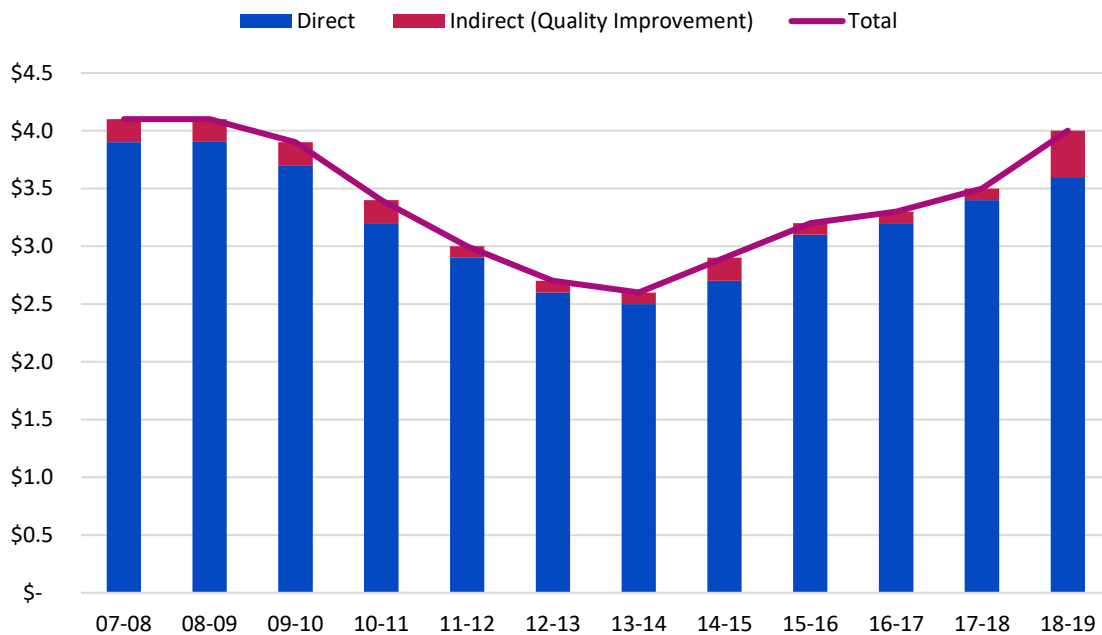
Two focus groups were conducted with ECE representatives in Solano County. The first focus groups was composed of nine members of Solano's Child Care Subsidy Pilot Plan committee and the second focus group was comprised of four family child care providers.

Appendix 2: Unmet Need for Child Care

In the wake of the Great Recession, state funding for early learning programs declined, resulting in a reduction of state subsidized child care slots. Since 2013, the State has incrementally increased the number of subsidized spaces for children as well as provider reimbursement rates. In 2017, the state budget added close to 3,000 full-day State Preschool spaces and increased reimbursement rates to providers to better reflect the cost of living.^{xv} Reimbursement rates were increased again in 2018, specifically for serving children with special needs and infants/toddlers, and the state added 13,407 new child care slots for low-income families who pay for child care through the state’s Alternative Payment Program.^{xvi} However, despite these increases in funding, total direct funding for slots is still nearly \$300 million lower than it was in 2007-08.

It should also be noted that state policies have increased the demand for subsidized care by expanding the number of families eligible. For example, AB 2626, which went into effect July 1, 2019, changed income eligibility limits for subsidized care from 70% of the state median income (SMI) to 85% of the SMI (i.e., from \$60,083 to \$76,601 for a family of four).^{xvii} Furthermore, it extended the length of time a family remains eligible from 6 months to 12 months. Thus, as the demand for subsidized child care increases, current state investment remains insufficient to meet the needs of all eligible families.

TOTAL FUNDING FOR SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE AND PRESCHOOL IN CALIFORNIA (BILLIONS)

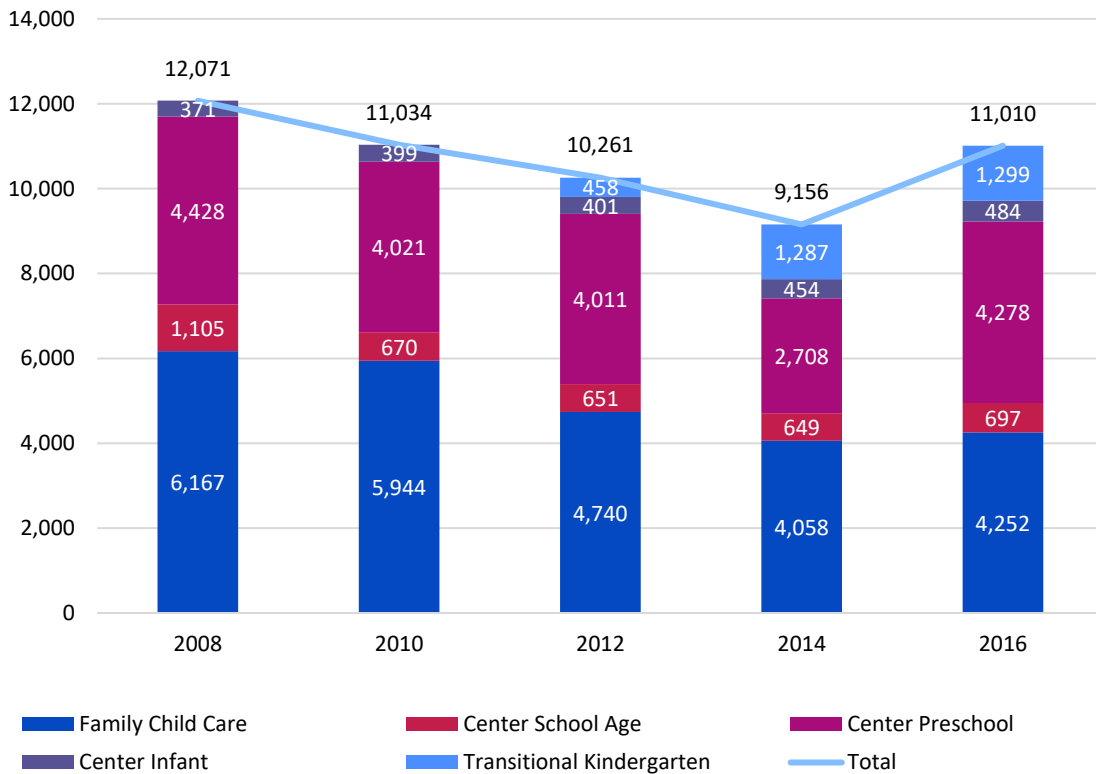


Sources: California Department of Education; Head Start Program Facts.

Note: Includes federal and state funds for slots as well as for quality and support programs and are in 2019-20 dollars. Excludes Transitional Kindergarten which is a reallocation of kindergarten funding not a new child care funding source; it represented \$861 million in expenditures in 2018-19.

Between 2008 and 2014, Solano County also experienced a decline in both the number of licensed child care spaces and sites providing care. The economic recovery and the introduction of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) in 2012 has replenished some of the lost spaces, but the availability of care in Solano County has still not returned to prerecession levels. Just 24% of children who need care because they have working parents currently have a licensed space available to them.

SOLANO LICENSED CARE SLOTS (INCLUDING TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN)



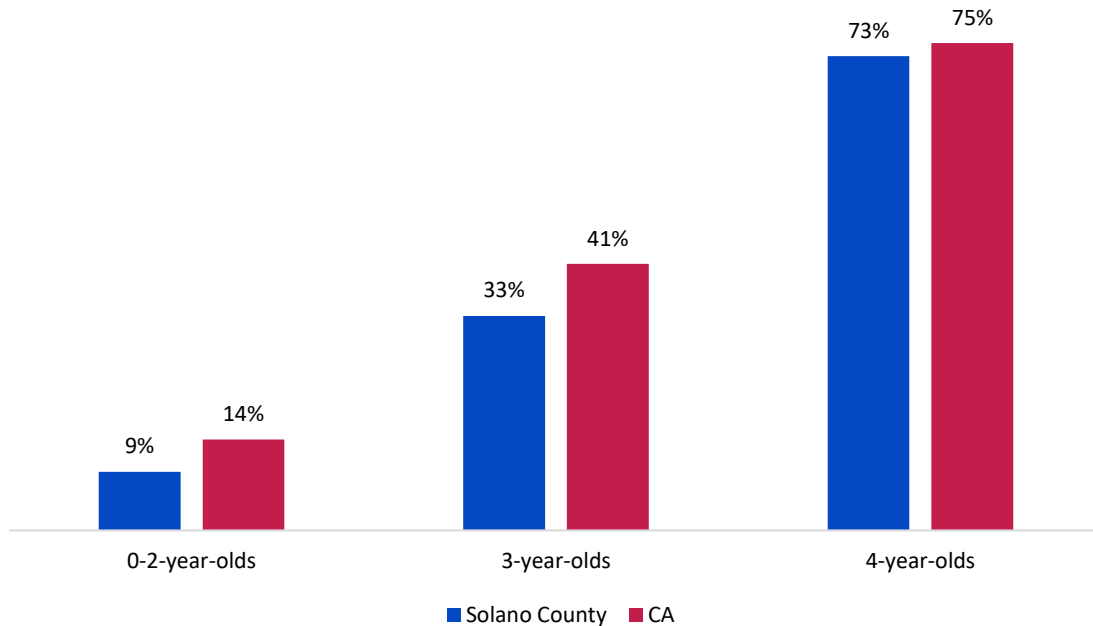
Source: California Department of Education; Resource and Referral Network.

Given the high cost of care – close to \$14,000 per year for infants/toddlers and approximately \$9,500 per year for preschoolers in center-based settings in Solano County,^{xviii} it is especially important to track the availability of subsidized care. According to an analysis conducted by American Institutes for Research, Solano County had one of the lowest rates in the state of 3- to 4-year-old income-eligible children enrolled in State Preschool, TK, or Head Start.^{xix} Solano County’s unmet need was sixth worst in the state, behind only Sierra, Mariposa, San Benito, Placer, and Lassen Counties. When enrollment in Alternative Payment programs is also considered, 33% of 3-year-olds and 73% of 4-year-olds in Solano County are served, compared to 41% of 3-year-olds and 75% of 4-year-olds statewide.

According to all experts interviewed for this study and the available data, the shortage of care for infants and toddlers is even more extreme, primarily due to the higher cost of providing care (because lower child-to-adult ratios are required). The state recently

increased the reimbursement rate it offers for providers to serve infants and toddlers,^{xx} but key informants said it is still insufficient. Recent data from the Solano County Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) suggest that only about 9% of income-eligible infants and toddlers (ages 0-2) had a space available to them in 2016.^{xxi} This is somewhat lower than the estimated proportion of income eligible infants and toddlers enrolled in subsidized programs statewide.^{xxii}

PERCENT OF INCOME-ELIGIBLE CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SUBSIDIZED CARE

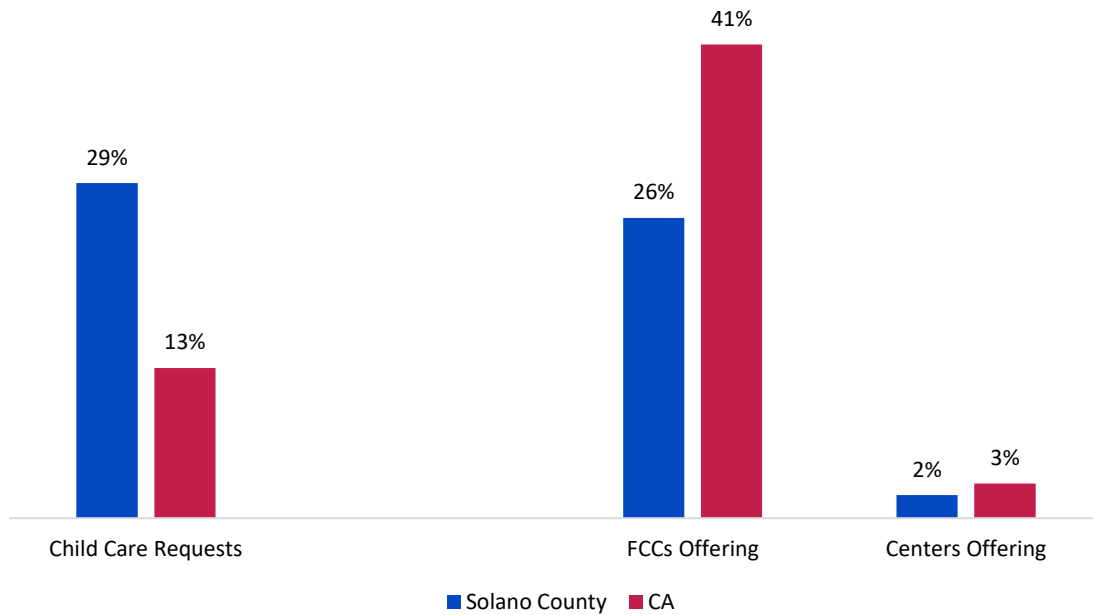


Sources: American Institutes for Research; Children’s Network of Solano County; Learning Policy Institute.

Note: Includes enrollment in Head Start, State Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, General Child Care and Development, CalWORKS Stage 1 and Stage 2, and Alternative Payment. Data for 0-2 is from 2016; data for 3-4 is from 2014. Number unserved in Solano County = 4,202 (0-2-year-olds); 1,312 (3-year-olds); 483 (4-year-olds).

However, even if there are enough spaces for every child who needs a slot, there can be a misalignment between programs’ operational hours and the hours families need care. For example, 3 in 10 parents in Solano County request evening, weekend, or overnight care, but few providers offer these hours. As shown in the following chart, a greater share of families in Solano County request this type of care compared to the state overall, but it’s availability in the county is also more limited. Similarly, 80% of families with children 0-5 in Solano County request full-time child care, but close to 20% of child care centers offer *only* part-time spaces, and 66% of the county’s State Preschool spaces and 93% of its Head Start preschool spaces are part-time.^{xxiii} Likewise, most TK programs run for only four hours a day.^{xxiv} Due to the limited hours of TK and center-based providers, many working families depend on family child care and informal care to meet their child care needs.

EVENING, WEEKEND, AND OVERNIGHT CHILD CARE REQUESTED AND OFFERED, 2016



Source: California Resource and Referral Network.

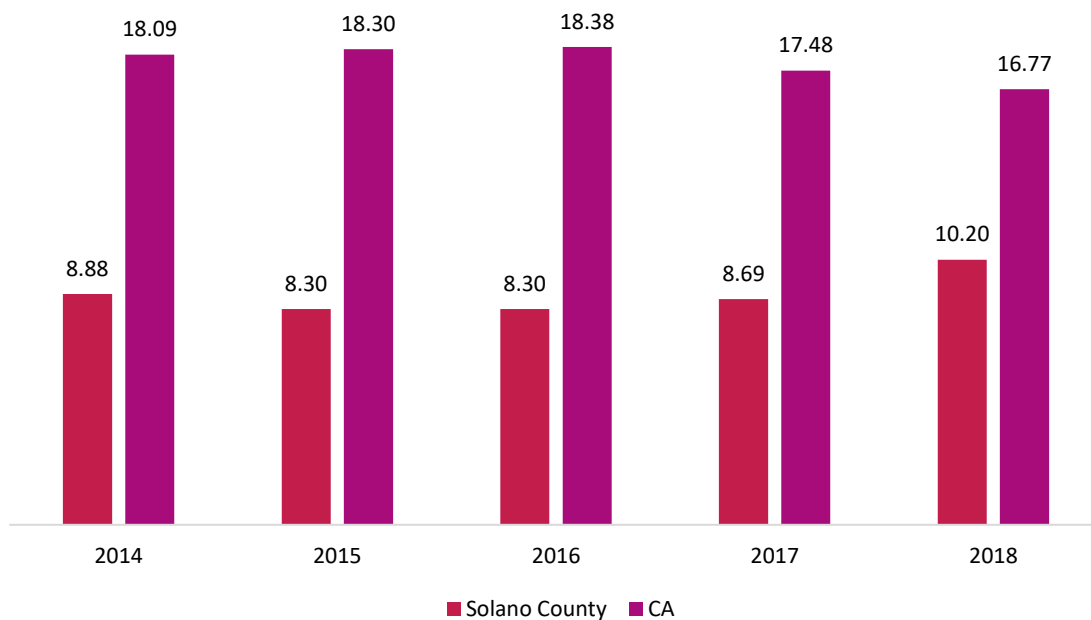
Another unmet need mentioned by seven key informants was child care for children with special needs. Although only 3% of the child population 0-5 has a special need (1,091 children),^{xxv} key informants said that finding enough providers who have the skills and confidence to meet the needs of these children is a challenge. Some recent developments and funding sources may be helping address this need. For example, in Fall 2016, the Fairfield Suisun Unified School District opened a full inclusion State Preschool at the Mary Bird Early Childhood Education Center^{xxvi} and in 2018-19, the state increased the reimbursement rate for providers serving children with special needs.^{xxvii} Nevertheless, key informants felt there currently is still a substantial need for additional training and support to enhance provider capacity to serve children with special needs.

Appendix 3: ECE Workforce Shortage in Solano County

Every ECE expert participating in the study said that finding reliable, dedicated, and qualified staff is a primary barrier to expanding child care. Finding enough staff for infant/toddler care is even more challenging due to the lower child-to-adult ratios needed and the specialized skills needed to work with this age group. Additionally, infant/toddler teachers typically earn less than preschool teachers, there is limited focus on infant/toddler preparation in higher education, and they tend to have fewer professional development opportunities than preschool teachers.^{xxviii}

At Solano Community College, ECE majors make up about 3% of all students enrolled and only 1% of degrees awarded are in ECE. In 2017, just four students completed their AA degree or a certificate in ECE.^{xxix} In addition to the shortage of students studying ECE, Solano County has a shortage of providers with Child Development permits. There were approximately 71 Child Development permits issued in the county in 2018, which translates to just over 10 per 10,000 children 0-12, fewer than in the state overall, which issues about 17-18 new permits per 10,000 children each year.

NUMBER OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT PERMITS PER 10,000 CHILDREN 0-12

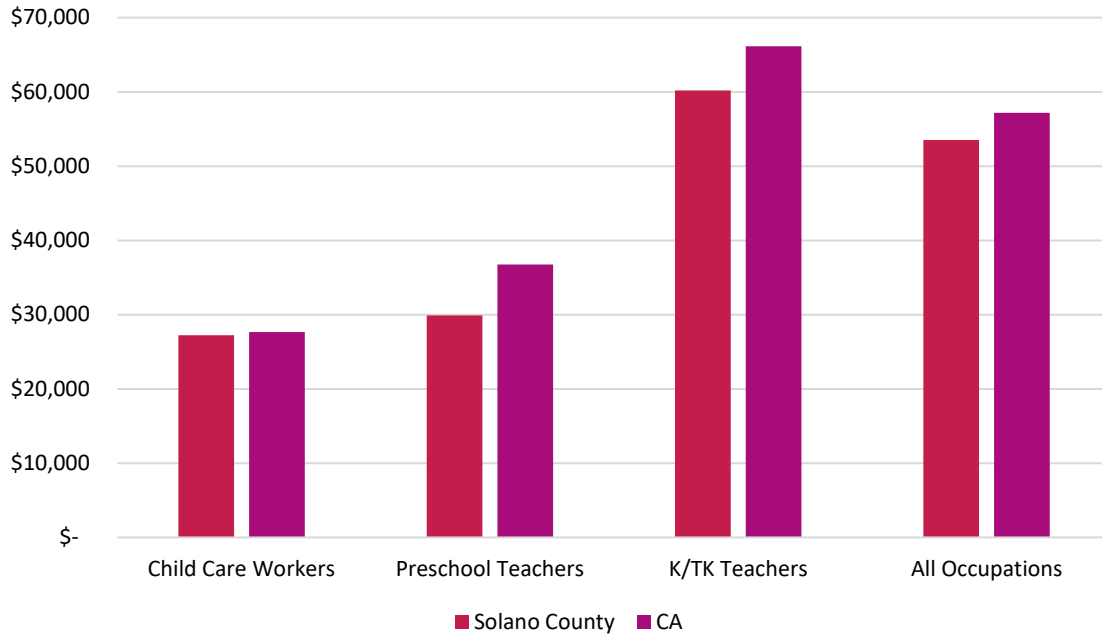


Source: California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

One of the challenges to recruiting and retaining a qualified workforce is the low pay of the profession. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average pay for a child care worker or preschool teacher in the Vallejo-Fairfield Metropolitan Area was \$13-\$14 an hour (i.e., approximately \$30,000 per year), roughly half the average wage of the area overall and lower than the wages of child care workers and preschool teachers statewide. By comparison, kindergarten teachers, including those who teach TK, earned just over \$60,000 per year in the Vallejo-Fairfield area. In addition to higher wages,

kindergarten and TK teachers typically have better benefits, like sick leave, retirement, and health care. Consequently, some child care workers and preschool teachers may choose to get a credential and begin teaching in the K-12 system instead.

AVERAGE WAGES, BY OCCUPATION, 2017



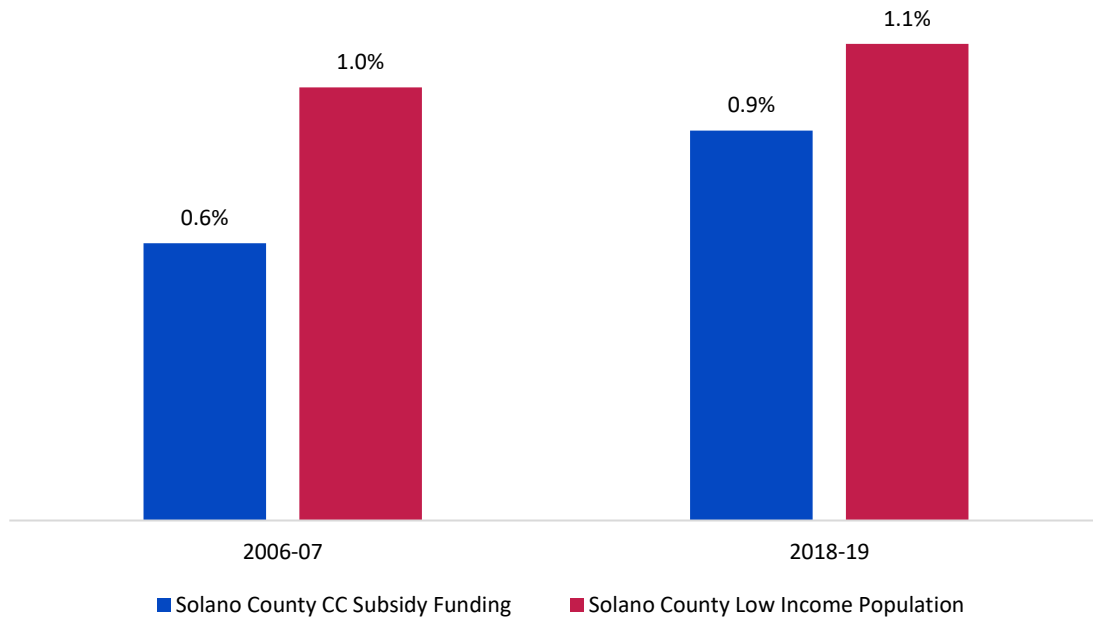
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2018). May 2017 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates: California and Vallejo-Fairfield.

Note: For the purposes of BLS occupational categorization, child care workers are defined as people who attend to the basic needs of children and typically have a high school education; preschool teachers are defined as teachers who educate children in kindergarten readiness skills and typically have an AA degree. Data for Solano County represent wages in the Vallejo-Fairfield Metropolitan Area.

Appendix 4: Limited Grant Application Capacity

Even if additional funding, a qualified workforce, and suitable facilities were available, it is difficult for many ECE providers to apply for grants. This problem is not new; Solano County's 2008 Child Care Needs Assessment noted disparities across regions of the state in provider capacity to apply for funding that resulted in Solano County receiving less funding than other counties with similar populations.^{xxx} The Assessment found that although Solano County is home to about 1% of income eligible children in the state, it received only .6% of the state funding for child care subsidies. This funding rate for Solano improved to .9% in 2018-19, but still does not reflect the proportion of low income children living in the county (i.e., those qualifying for a state subsidy based on family income, which is just above 1%); the shortfall in funding for child care subsidies in Solano County is approximately \$5.5 million.

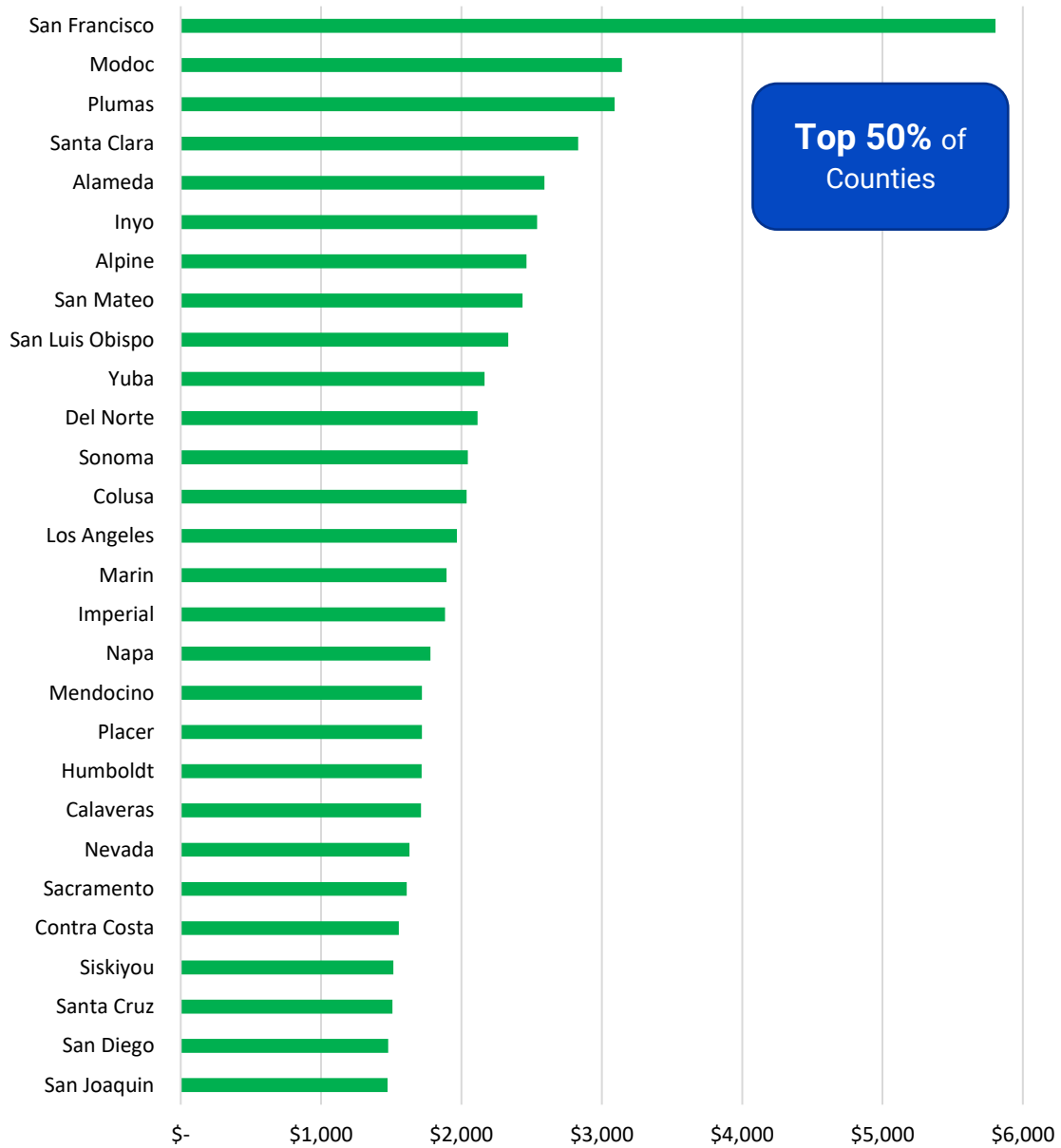
PERCENT OF STATE'S SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE FUNDING AND LOW INCOME CHILD POPULATION IN SOLANO COUNTY



Sources: Solano County Child Care Planning Council; California Department of Education; US Census, American Community Survey.

A county-level analysis revealed regional disparities in state funding for subsidized child care.^{xxx} Relative to the number of low income children 0-12 in the county, San Francisco, Modoc, Plumas, Santa Clara, and Alameda Counties received a disproportionately high share of funding in 2018-19. San Francisco was an outlier, receiving approximately \$5,800 per low income child. Modoc and Plumas received approximately \$3,100 per child, Santa Clara received \$2,800 per child, and Alameda received \$2,600 per child.

**2018-19 STATE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE FUNDING PER LOW INCOME CHILD:
HIGHEST FUNDED COUNTIES**

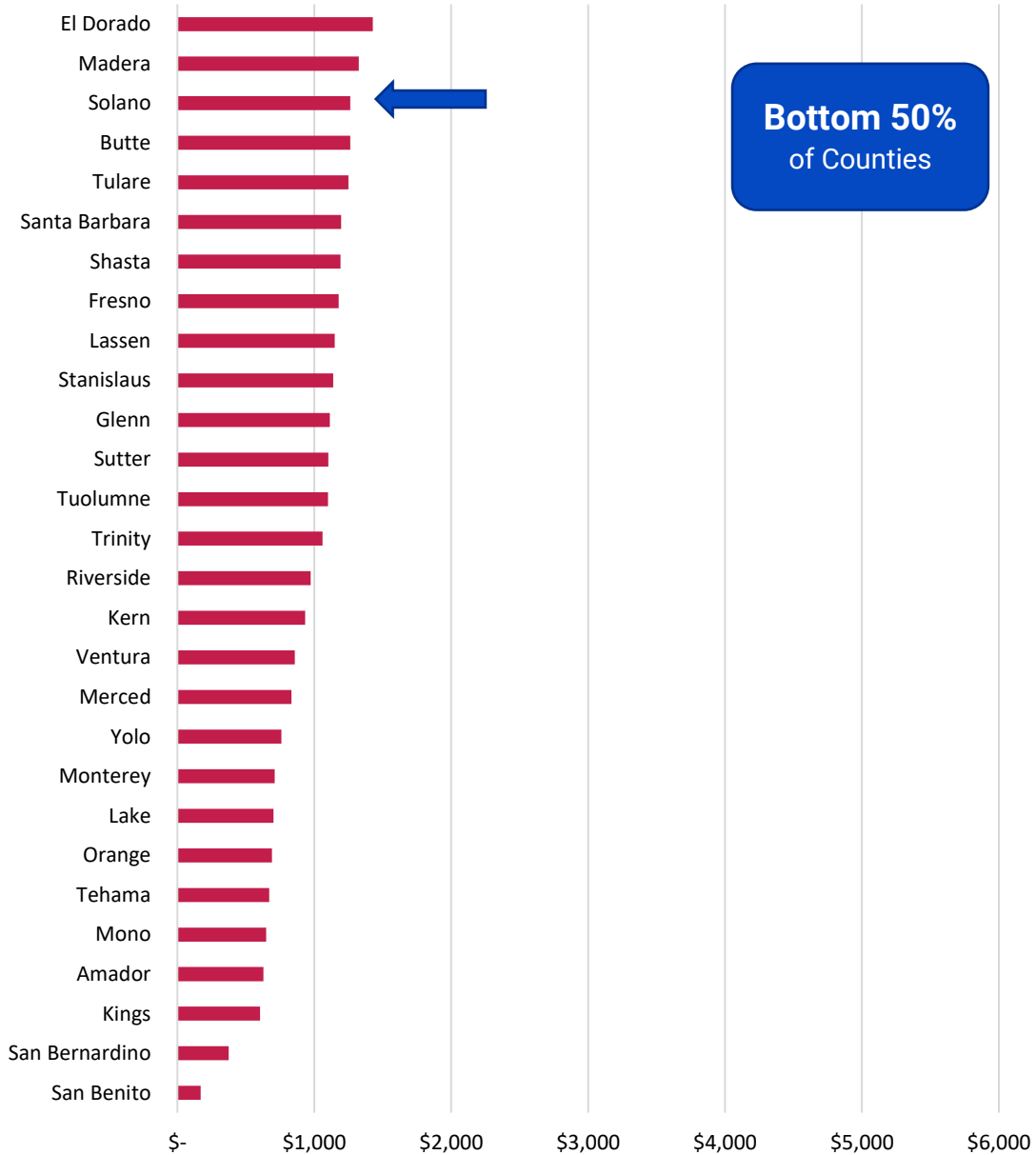


Source: California Department of Education.

Note: Mariposa and Sierra not shown as they do not receive direct funding from the state. Amounts based on funds for CalWORKs Stage 2 and Stage 3, APP, CCTR, CFCC, CHAN, CMAP, CMIG, and CSPP.

In contrast, the counties in the chart below, including Solano County, received a disproportionately low share of funding for subsidized care relative to the size of their low income child population. In 2018-19, Solano received just over \$1,200 per low income child living in the county.

**2018-19 STATE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE FUNDING PER LOW INCOME CHILD:
LEAST FUNDED COUNTIES**



Source: California Department of Education.

Note: Mariposa and Sierra not shown as they do not receive direct funding from the state. Amounts based on funds for CalWORKs Stage 2 and Stage 3, APP, CCTR, CFCC, CHAN, CMAP, CMIG, and CSPP.

Appendix 5: Report Recommendation Details

TRAININGS AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR PROVIDERS

Experts recommended the continuation of high-quality trainings for providers. Trainings should also be incentivized with stipends and/or paid substitutes to make attending the training feasible. Some communities have used AB 212 dollars (i.e., funds provided to the LPC for child care staff retention activities) to bring professional development directly to ECE sites, which engages all the staff in professional development, is paid for, and is accomplished during work hours.^{xxxii} Although key informants said that many high-quality trainings are available in Solano County, including those offered by the Solano County Office of Education, additional trainings were recommended specifically for working with children who have special needs so that providers feel confident that they have the skills they need to serve this population. Similarly, experts recommend bringing trainings into the community for working with infants and toddlers to address the shortage of providers working with this age group.^{xxxiii} Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC) trainings, for example, help providers develop skills in attending to infants' cues, connecting with families, and offering responsive, relationship-based care.^{xxxiv} Finally, one key informant mentioned the value of training ECE providers in trauma-informed care and recommended the trainings from the center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (SEFL) to strengthen the capacity of child care providers to support the social and emotional outcomes of young children.^{xxxv}

Another recommended strategy was to provide more information and support to informal care providers so that they can become licensed. Community Care Licensing, a division of the California Department of Social Services, used to provide an in-person trainings on how to become licensed in Solano County, but now their closest training is in Rohnert Park or Chico. Online trainings are available, but a key informant noted that these don't allow participants to ask questions. Family child care providers interviewed also said they would benefit from ongoing support to ensure they are meeting licensing requirements, providing quality care, and managing their business effectively. Some topics, including what they should charge for their services, where to buy materials for their program, how to develop curricula, and how to meet transportation regulations, are not fully covered in the licensing orientation. Providers also wanted information about how they could expand to serve more children (e.g., expand from a small family child care home to a large or from a large family child care home to a center-based program). They said that they would prefer trainings that are in their own city and those that provide child care for their own children to ease access to professional development opportunities.

Child Care Ventures in Santa Cruz County, funded by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, also attempted to address the need for trainings on licensing and business operations in the county. Child Care Ventures was a collaboration between the local LPC, resource and referral agency, and stakeholders in the local child care community, that helped people learn how to obtain licensing, develop a budget, run a business, and manage marketing and tax issues. The local credit union was also a partner in a

collaborative, helping family child care providers set up business accounts and obtain loans.

Additionally, there used to be family child care network in Solano County that provided peer support and training for these providers. Family child care networks offer personalized coaching and consultation, opportunities to network with other providers and professional groups, and information about local resources, supports that can improve the quality of care provided.^{xxxvi} Running a family child care home can be isolating and peer support offered in the network helps providers build relationships and solve problems together. Reviving a network in Solano County could help these providers sustain and improve the quality of their family child care business.

Finally, two programs currently operating in Solano County, the Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) and the Early Head Start Partnership, have shown promise in training and retaining family child care providers and might be expanded upon. The CCIP is administered by Solano Family and Children's Services Child Care and offers training each month on the business of family child care, the developmental needs of children, and other topics, and offers a monthly forum for providers to share information and resources with one another. The statewide program, funded through the Department of Education and a 2:1 local funding match, places particular emphasis on supporting family child care providers in offering infant/toddler care due to the shortage of care for this age group in center-based programs.^{xxxvii}

Another successful program in Solano County that offers family child care providers training and support to serve infants and toddlers and improve the quality of care they provide is the Early Head Start Partnership program. The program places Early Head Start children in family child care settings, offering the provider coaching, trainings, and quality improvement stipends. Programs must adhere to the evidence-based Head Start Program Performance Standards governing health and safety policies, child-to-adult ratios, curriculum and instruction time, and parent engagement activities.^{xxxviii} Currently, over 50 slots are available through this program for families who qualify for Early Head Start. Through its local Head Start contractor, Child Start, Solano County recently applied for a third round of funding, which would open up about 40 additional slots for infants and toddlers in family child care. The county may look to this program as a model for boosting the supply of high quality care for infants and toddlers.

ADVOCATING FOR ECE FUNDING

When advocating for additional funding for ECE, key informants recommended communicating to the public and policymakers the immense value of high-quality ECE, which yield returns on investment of up to 13%.^{xxxix} Children with access to ECE have better education, economic, health, and social outcomes, and are less likely to be dependent on public programs. ECE has also been shown to help close the achievement gap and reduce inequities between children from low and high income families.^{xl}

According to research conducted by the Center for Child Care Employment at UC Berkeley, successful campaigns for additional funding have involved communicating the

benefits of paying ECE workers more. Studies have shown that ECE settings with higher paid staff have higher quality ratings and lower turnover rates.^{xii} Experts recommend linking teacher compensation to the provision of high quality care and framing the issue around a commitment to equity.^{xiii} With more public investment, wages of child care workers can be increased without passing along the cost to families in the form of tuition or fees. Communities that have boosted wages for ECE professionals have even found kindergarten teachers become interested in working in pre-kindergarten classrooms.^{xiii}

INCREASING COLLABORATION AMONG ECE STAKEHOLDERS

Key informants interviewed for this study recommended improving collaboration among ECE stakeholders in the county. The patchwork of funding streams and administrative bodies involved in providing ECE care is a hindrance to collaboration, but some counties have effectively coordinated programs at the local level.

According to one key informant, counties that have embarked on California Child Care Subsidy Pilot Projects, which provide counties flexibility in designing an ECE system that meets local needs, have been leaders in coordination, because developing their plans has given stakeholders a reason to convene and coordinate their efforts. Successful, established pilot counties include San Mateo and San Francisco, who have been developing and implementing their plans for at least 15 years.^{xiv} Solano County also has a pilot plan, but only received authorization to begin its development in 2017.^{xiv}

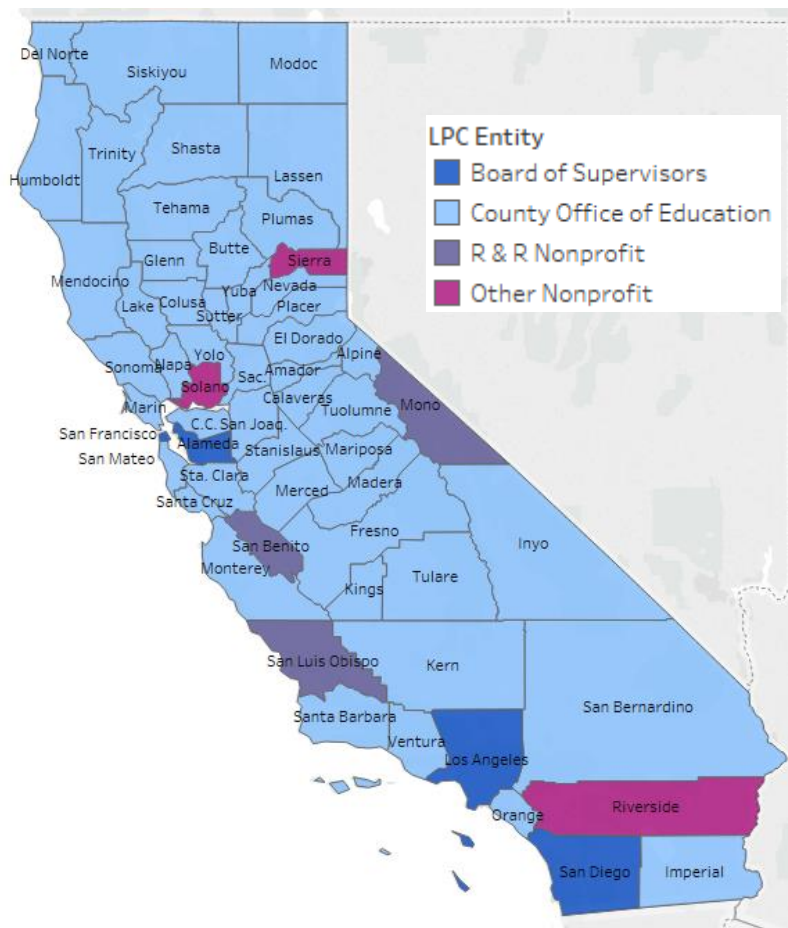
San Mateo County was a pioneer in the pilot program, which raised the income eligibility threshold for subsidized child care and increased reimbursement rates to providers.^{xvi} It also allows funding that is not spent by some ECE programs to be reallocated throughout the county. In addition, administrators at the county's Resource and Referral agency (Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County), Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC, which is located at the San Mateo County Office of Education [SMCOE]), and First 5 San Mateo meet together regularly and collaborate on major county ECE initiatives.^{xvii} Stakeholders frequently serve on the same committees, allowing them to build a shared agenda. The county has also fully funded its LPC coordinator and provided LPC support staff at SMCOE. Additionally, ECE stakeholders have worked with local businesses and other county agencies to expand access to preschool and improve the quality of early learning sites. Perhaps in part due to its efficiency and effectiveness in coordinating stakeholders, San Mateo County is also one of the top 10 counties in terms of state funding for ECE slots (see Appendix 4). San Mateo County may serve as a model for Solano County, demonstrating how ECE stakeholders can work in concert with one another and leverage funding to improve the ECE system.

San Mateo County is also one of 48 counties in California that houses the LPC at the county office of education, which has allowed it to maintain continuity between the ECE and K-12 system and blend various sources of quality improvement funding it receives from the state, as the SMCOE also manages the local quality improvement program (QRIS). The purpose of the LPC is to plan for child care and development services based

on the needs of families in the local community, study the child care needs in the county, prepare plans to mobilize public and private resources to address needs, identify local funding priority areas, and foster local partnerships.^{xlviii} Because the California Department of Education (CDE) has historically seen the LPC and other child development and education services as the purview of county offices of education, the vast majority of LPCs (83%) are run by local county offices of education (see map below).

Solano is one of only six counties where the LPC is managed by a nonprofit. In Solano County it is run by an agency devoted to advocacy and education regarding a range of issues affecting children and youth. Three of the nonprofits (in Mono, San Benito, and San Luis Obispo) also run their counties' Resource and Referral program, which connects families to child care, recruits and trains child care providers, and collects data on child care needs in the county. One LPC nonprofit (in Riverside) is an organization offering advocacy and resources for high-quality, affordable, and accessible child care programs. Sierra County's nonprofit provides child abuse prevention advocacy and resources. Finally, in four counties (Alameda, Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco), the LPC's legal entity is the county Board of Supervisors.

LOCAL CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL ENTITIES, BY COUNTY



Source: California Department of Education.

Following the Great Recession, state funding for LPCs was cut drastically and remains too low for many of them to effectively carry out their mission.^{xlix} Without more investment from the state, key informants suggested it may benefit Solano County to align its LPC with an entity receiving other types of state ECE funding to leverage and coordinate resources. To take full advantage of new dollars coming from the state for ECE and improve the capacity and sustainability of the LPC, Solano County may want to reevaluate the structure of its convening bodies.

Appendix 6: Future Outlook on Child Care Funding

Future funding opportunities have the potential to bolster the ECE supply and system in Solano County. For example, the state announced in January 2019 that it was receiving close to \$11 million from the US Department of Health and Human Services, which will first go towards a statewide needs assessment, conducted in partnership with LPCs.ⁱ Eventually, funding will go towards strengthening supports for the early childhood workforce and improving the quality of early learning programs.

In early 2019, Solano County Office of Education also partnered with Napa and Sonoma Counties to successfully apply for \$432,263 in funding from the state to increase access to early learning and care for children with special needs, first by studying effective inclusion models, forging communication between special education and ECE teachers and administrators, facilitating professional development for inclusion practices and assessment tools, and enhancing connections with existing networks and organizations serving this population.ⁱⁱ In Spring 2019, the state released an RFP for a one-time grant for infrastructure costs, including renovations, equipment, and professional development, to improve the capacity of providers to serve children with special needs.ⁱⁱⁱ Solano County Office of Education applied for \$1,889,732 on behalf of a collaborative of Solano County school districts (LEAs) and several early learning organizations that contract with CDE to provide state-funded general child care and preschool programs, including: Benicia Unified School District, Vallejo City Unified School District, Vacaville Unified School District, Solano Community College Early Learning Center, Child Start, Inc., Continuing Development, Inc., Circle of Friends, and Family Child Care Homes who are Alternative Payment Program participants. The grant provides for facilities improvement, specialized training for early learning professionals, and adaptive equipment. Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District and Vacaville Unified School District also applied for additional funds for facilities improvement.

Finally, the following table lists the recommendations made this report crosswalked with funding in the 2019-20 California State Budget that may address these recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION

2019-20 CALIFORNIA BUDGET^{liii}

ECE WORKFORCE

Invest in education and professional development to strengthen the child care workforce

- \$195 million one-time funding for a workforce professional development and education program to improve the quality of care and increase the educational attainment of the child care workforce; includes investments to expand trainings and support aligned with the Quality Counts California professional development system.
 - Funds will be allocated over the next four years.
 - Funds will be distributed to one or more “local partners” within each county and the amount distributed will be based on the relative need for additional child care and preschool workers, the cost of living, and the number of children eligible for subsidized care.
 - Funds may be used for a variety of expenses, including tuition, supplies, transportation, child care, and professional coaching.
 - The CDE would have broad discretion to review applications and distribute funding. The Legislature and Administration may make changes in how funding is dispersed based on recommendations in the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care, released by October 2020.

Outreach to potential ECE providers at colleges and career fairs

- *None*

RECOMMENDATION

2019-20 CALIFORNIA BUDGET^{liii}

Train parents to become ECE providers

- *None specifically, though local partners could potentially use workforce funding to train parents*

Help informal care providers become licensed and provide ongoing support to help them maintain and expand their business

- *None specifically, though local partners could potentially use workforce funding to train informal care providers*

FACILITIES

Provide facilities grants and technical assistance

- \$245 million one-time funding, plus an additional \$18 million transfer from the Child Care Facilities Revolving Loan Fund, for facilities grants to providers willing to serve additional children.
 - Funds will be allocated over the next four years.
 - Funds could be used for one-time infrastructure costs, including site acquisition, facility inspections, or construction management.
 - Up to 5% of funding may be used for repairs and renovations to address child care and preschool provider health and safety issues.
 - By March 2020, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Department of Finance will determine implementation details, including a system for overseeing grant recipients, ensuring grants are used as intended, and identifying the types of technical assistance to provide grantees.

RECOMMENDATION**2019-20 CALIFORNIA BUDGET^{liii}**

-
- Funds would be distributed competitively and prioritize applicants in low income communities with a high share of eligible unserved children and a plan to serve those children. The Legislature and Administration may make changes in how funding is dispersed based on recommendations in the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care.
 - \$239 million in one-time funds to California State University for deferred maintenance and to improve and expand child care infrastructure for students on college campuses.
 - Campuses would most likely use the bulk of these funds to address projects on the CSU's 2019-20 systemwide infrastructure improvement lists, but they also have the option to use the funds to expand campus-based child care facility infrastructure.
 - \$300 million in one-time non-proposition 98 General Fund to assist schools in constructing or retrofitting facilities to expand access to full-day kindergarten (including transitional kindergarten).
 - Funds limited during the first two years to schools that will convert from part-day to full-day kindergarten programs. In the third year, funding will be open to districts already running full-day kindergarten programs.
 - The state share of the facility grants will be 75% for schools converting from part-day to full-day kindergarten. Districts facing challenges raising their local match could qualify for additional state funding, up to 100% of project costs.
-

RECOMMENDATION

2019-20 CALIFORNIA BUDGET^{liii}

- Districts may use project savings to fund other activities to reduce barriers to providing full-day kindergarten.

Locate free or low-cost facilities by partnering with other entities

- *None*

Partner with city planners and developers to provide space for child care

- *None*

Encourage local businesses to invest in child care

- *None*

FUNDING/BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Advocate for more funding for ECE at the local, state, and federal level to:

- Increase the availability of a qualified child care workforce and child care facilities

- See above for workforce and facility investments.

- Expand the availability of full-time care

- \$31.4 million in 2019-20 and \$124.9 million ongoing non-Proposition 98 funding to add 10,000 full-day California State Preschool slots for low-income four-year-olds in non-LEAs^{liv} (effective April 2020).
 - Additional slots will be introduced in future years as funding is available.

RECOMMENDATION

2019-20 CALIFORNIA BUDGET^{liii}

- Effective January 1, 2020, eligibility for full-day slots was expanded with the elimination of the requirement that families work or are in school, and the program will be open to all children who live in a school attendance area where 80% or more students qualify for free or reduced price meals. However, priority will still be given to families with the lowest incomes and to families with parents who are working or in school.
 - See above for full-day^{lv} kindergarten expansion funding.
 - \$10 million ongoing funding to increase access to the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children, which provides child care vouchers to families with foster children. Brings the total program funding to \$41 million.
 - \$80.5 million Proposition 64 funds to add 8,162 slots and \$12.8 million federal funds to add 1,298 slots in the Alternative Payment Program, which provides child care vouchers for low income families.
 - \$56.4 million General Fund in 2019-20 and \$70.5 million ongoing funding to provide a full year of child care for CalWORKS Stage 1 families (newly enrolling in the welfare-to-work program); CalWORKS families receive assistance with paying for child care with a provider of their choice.
 - Also provides additional allowable program activities for which clients are eligible to receive Stage 1 child care services and requires a data sharing system between county welfare departments and child care contractors.
- Expand the availability of care with flexible schedules (including vouchers, which can be used to pay for care in licensed centers, licensed family child care homes, or informal care settings)

RECOMMENDATION

2019-20 CALIFORNIA BUDGET^{liii}

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand the availability of infant/toddler care, including expanding the paid family leave program to help address the shortage of infant care^{lvi} 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$157.5 million additional funding in 2019-20 for CalWORKS Stages 2 and 3 child care, covering the cost of child care for almost 14,000 additional children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding is in response to recent increases in the number of Stage 2 and 3 cases due to changes in income eligibility (families already enrolled in the program can continue receiving benefits as long as their income remains below 85% of SMI; previously, they were only eligible if their income remains below 70% of SMI), and changes in reporting requirements (families only need to report information for determining eligibility once per year; previously, they were required to report any change in income or work hours within five days). • Expansion of the California Paid Family Leave from six weeks to eight weeks, effective July 1, 2020. For two-parent families, expansion adds an additional month of paid leave, allowing a combined four months of leave after the birth or adoption of a child. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The state has convened a task force to provide recommendations on how to expand the program further.
<p>Provide technical assistance in applying for and maintaining funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i>
<p>Increase collaboration among ECE stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None at the local level, although the budget funds state-level collaboratives to improve the early learning and care system (see below).

RECOMMENDATION

2019-20 CALIFORNIA BUDGET^{liii}

OTHER

- \$5 million one-time funding to develop a Master Plan for Early Learning and Care that will provide a roadmap for future changes to the early learning and care system.
 - The budget allows the State Board of Education to contract with a research entity to study the state’s child care needs and strategies for improving accessibility and affordability.
 - The report will be produced by October 2020 and will recommend steps to achieve universal preschool, improve access to and quality of subsidized child care, and address facility capacity and workforce training.
- \$2.2 million per year over the next three years to establish an Early Childhood Policy Council advisory board made up of parents, providers, and administrative agencies, to make recommendations to the Legislature and Administration on early learning and care policy.
- \$50 million General Fund for an additional 3,086 General Child Care slots. In future years slots will be funded with Proposition 64 funds.
- 3.26% cost-of-living increase for California State Preschool Program.
- \$20 million one-time funding to improve the state subsidized child care data system, which may help improve access to child care.
- \$10 million to create a comprehensive “cradle-to-career” education data system.

RECOMMENDATION

2019-20 CALIFORNIA BUDGET^{liii}

-
- A workgroup from a variety of agencies and organizations will be convened to develop reports on the structure of the new data system (to be delivered by July 2020) and recommendations on how to develop and administer the system (to be delivered by January 2021).
-

Endnotes

- ⁱ Elango, S., Garcia, J. L., Heckman, J. J., & Hojman, A. (2015). *Early childhood education* (NBER Working Paper No. 21766). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.
- Weiland, C., & Yoshikawa, H. (2013). Impacts of a prekindergarten program on children's mathematics, language, literacy, executive function, and emotional skills. *Child Development*, *84*(6), 2112-2130.
- ⁱⁱ California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. (2018). *2017 California child care portfolio*. Retrieved from <https://rnetwork.org/research/child-care-portfolio>
- ⁱⁱⁱ American Institutes for Research. (2016). *Unmet need for preschool services in California: State and local analysis*. Retrieved from <https://www.air.org/resource/unmet-need-preschool-services-california-statewide-and-local-analysis>
- ^{iv} Children's Network of Solano County. (2019). Child Care in Solano County [fact sheet].
- ^v Solano Community College. (n.d.). Online factbook. Retrieved from http://www.solano.edu/research_planning/worksheet1test.php
- ^{vi} California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. (2019). Other educator supply: Child Development Permits. Retrieved from <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/reports/data/edu-supl-child-dev>
- ^{vii} Whitebook, M., McLean, C., & Austin, L. J. (2016). *Early childhood workforce index, 2016*. Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California at Berkeley.
- ^{viii} Bureau of Labor Statistics (2018). May 2017 metropolitan and non-metropolitan area occupational employment and wages estimates: Vallejo-Fairfield, CA. Retrieved from https://www.bls.gov/oes/2017/may/oes_46700.htm
- ^{ix} Whitebook, M., Phillips, D., & Howes, C. (2014). *Worthy work, STILL unlivable wages: The early childhood workforce 25 years after the National Child Care Staffing Study*. Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California, Berkeley.
- ^x U.S. Census. (2018). American Community Survey. Retrieved from <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>
- ^{xi} Solano County Child Care Planning Council. (2008). Child care needs assessment.
- ^{xii} Kipnis, F., Whitebook, M., Almaraz, M., Sakai, L., & Austin, L. J. E. (2012). *Learning together: A study of six B.A. completion cohort programs in early care and education. Year 4*. Berkeley, CA: Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California, Berkeley
- ^{xiii} MacGillvary, J., & Lucia, L. (2011). *Economic impacts of early care and education in California*. Center for Labor Research and Education, University of California, Berkeley.

^{xiv} National Association for Business Economics. (2019). *Economic policy survey*. Retrieved from <https://files.constantcontact.com/668faa28001/286fb75e-4f63-46ac-b351-7f6e78c57f67.pdf>

^{xv} California Department of Education. (July 2017). The budget act of 2017-18. Retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/el/le/yr17ltr0717.asp>

^{xvi} California Department of Education. (2018, October 8). The budget act of 2018-19. Retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fr/eb/yr18ltr1008.asp>

^{xvii} California Department of Education. (July 2018). Management Bulletin 18-03: Early Learning and Care Division. Retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/mb1803.asp>

Based on U.S. Census estimates, they are approximately 10,000 families in Solano County who earn between \$60,000 and \$75,000 per year and about 15% of households in the county have children 0-5 years old; thus approximately 1,500 new families would be eligible under the new income eligibility threshold (US Census, 2013-2017 American Community Survey).

^{xviii} California Resource and Referral Network. (2017). 2017 California Child Care Portfolio. Retrieved from <https://rrnetwork.org/research/child-care-portfolio>

^{xix} American Institutes for Research. (2016). *Unmet need for preschool services in California: State and local analysis*. Retrieved from <https://www.air.org/resource/unmet-need-preschool-services-california-statewide-and-local-analysis>

^{xx} California Department of Education. (2018, October 8). The budget act of 2018-19. Retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fr/eb/yr18ltr1008.asp>

^{xxi} Children's Network of Solano County. (2019). Child care in Solano County fact sheet.

^{xxii} Melnick, H., Tinubu Ali, T. Gardner, M., Maier, A., & Wechsler, M. (2017). *Understanding California's early care and education system*. Palo Alto, CA: Learning Policy Institute.

^{xxiii} Solano County Local Child Care and Development Planning Council. (2016). *Strategic framework*. Fairfield, CA: Children's Network of Solano County.

^{xxiv} California Department of Education. (2019). Transitional Kindergarten FAQs. Retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderfaq.asp>

^{xxv} California Department of Education. (2018). Solano County special education enrollment by age and grade. Retrieved from <https://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>

^{xxvi} Solano County Local Child Care and Development Planning Council. (2016). *Strategic framework*. Fairfield, CA: Children's Network of Solano County.

^{xxvii} California Department of Education. (2018, October 8). Budget act for 2018-19. Retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fr/eb/yr18ltr1008.asp>

-
- xxviii Whitebook, M., Austin, L. J., & Amanta, F. (2015). *Addressing infant-toddler teacher compensation*. Washington, DC: US Administration for Children & Families, Early Educator Central.
- xxix Solano Community College. (n.d.). Online factbook. Retrieved from http://www.solano.edu/research_planning/worksheet1test.php
- xxx Solano County Child Care Planning Council. (2008). Child care needs assessment.
- xxxi It should be noted that the county-level data reported here represent funding going to agencies headquartered in each county; with the available data we were unable to account for funding that goes to an agency in one county, but is used for services in another county.
- xxxii Austin, L. (2018). Supporting the infant-toddler workforce: A multipronged approach is urgently needed. Retrieved from <http://cscce.berkeley.edu/supporting-the-infant-toddler-workforce/>
- xxxiii Ibid.
- xxxiv Program for Infant/Toddler Care. (2018). Retrieved from https://www.pitc.org/pub/pitc_docs/home.csp#
- xxxv Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>
- xxxvi Bromer, J. & Porter, T. (2017). *Staffed family child care networks: A research-informed strategy for supporting high-quality family child care*. Washington, DC: National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance, Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S Department of Health and Human Services.
- xxxvii California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. (2017). California Child Care Initiative Project [fact sheet]. Retrieved from <https://rrnetwork.org/assets/general-images/CCIP-FACT-SHEET-March-2017-FINAL.pdf>
- xxxviii Office of the Administration for Children & Families. (2017). Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecl/early-learning/ehs-cc-partnerships>
- xxxix Garcia, J. L., Leaf, D. E, Heckman J. J., & Prados, M. J. (2017). *Quantifying the life-cycle benefits of a prototypical early childhood program*. Retrieved from https://heckmanequation.org/www/assets/2017/12/abc_comprehensivecba_JPE-SUBMISSION_2017-05-26a_sjs_sjs.pdf
- xl Elango, S., Garcia, J. L., Heckman, J. J., & Hojman, A. (2015). *Early childhood education* (NBER Working Paper No. 21766). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.
- xli Whitebook, M., Phillips, D., & Howes, C. (2014). *Worthy work, STILL unlivable wages: The early childhood workforce 25 years after the National Child Care Staffing Study*. Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California, Berkeley.

^{xlii} Whitebook, M., & McLean, C. (2017). *In pursuit of pre-K parity: A proposed framework for understanding and advancing policy and practice*. Center for the Study of Child Care Employment and National Institute on Early Education Research.

^{xliii} Ibid.

^{xliv} Santa Clara County Office of Education. (2017). *Individualized child care subsidy pilots in California*. Retrieved from https://healthyplacesindex.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2017_child_care_subsidy_pilots_california.pdf

Mission Analytics. (2015). *San Mateo County Individualized Child Care Subsidy Pilot Project*. Redwood City, CA: County of San Mateo.

^{xlv} Child Care Subsidy Plans: Counties of San Diego and Solano. California Assemb. B. 377 Chapter 701 (Cal. Stat. 2017).

^{xlvi} Mission Analytics. (2015). *San Mateo County Individualized Child Care Subsidy Pilot Project*. Redwood City, CA: County of San Mateo.

^{xlvii} Melnick, H., Meloy, B. Gardner, M., Wechsler, M., & Maier, A. (2018). *Building an early learning system that works: Next steps for California*. Palo Alto, CA: Learning Policy Institute.

^{xlviii} California Department of Education. (2019). Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils. Retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/lpc.asp>

^{xlix} Melnick, H., Meloy, B. Gardner, M., Wechsler, M., & Maier, A. (2018). *Building an early learning system that works: Next steps for California*. Palo Alto, CA: Learning Policy Institute.

^l California Department of Education. (January 2019). California receives nearly \$11 million federal early childhood education grant. Retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr19/yr19rel05.asp>

^{li} Solano County Office of Education, and Napa County Office of Education, & Sonoma County Office of Education. (2019). Inclusive Early Learning and Care Coordination Program [Application Narrative].

California Department of Education. (2019). Funding results. Retrieved from <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/fr/>

^{lii} California Department of Education. (January 2019). California Child Care Coordinators Association Early Learning and Care Division, Quality Improvement Office and Quality Counts CA Updates [PowerPoint].

^{liii} California Budget and Policy Center. (2019). All budget content. Retrieved from <https://calbudgetcenter.org/issues/budget/>

California Department of Finance. (2019). California Budget 2019-20. Retrieved from <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/>

Legislative Analyst's Office. (2019). The 2019-20 Budget. Retrieved from <https://lao.ca.gov/Budget?year=2019>

^{liv} According to the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), non-LEAs tend to operate longer hours than school districts and COEs (on average, 10 hours per day versus 6.5 hours per day), so this will increase the number of slots available that better address the need for full-time working parents. The budget also shifts \$309.3 million in Proposition 98 General Fund for the State Preschool program to the non-Proposition 98 General Fund, which will allow non-LEAs to access the funding. However, the LAO also cautioned that non-LEAs may be unable to expand as quickly as proposed, in part due to challenges in finding additional facilities to accommodate the additional slots.

^{lv} Full-day kindergarten is typically 6 hours long and not available in the summer, so this proposal does not fully address the recommendation for care that meets the needs of working parents.

^{lvi} Although not specifically child care for infants and toddlers, state-funded home visiting programs promote the development of this age group by preventing child abuse and neglect, supporting positive parenting, and improving maternal and child health. The 2019-20 budget has the following earmarked for home visiting: \$89.6 million for home visiting for CalWORKS families with infants and toddlers, which would serve approximately 18,500 CalWORKS cases, and \$34.8 million ongoing reimbursements and \$30.5 million ongoing General Fund to expand the California Home Visiting Program and Black Infant Health program.



Expanding Early Learning Opportunities in Solano County

January 14, 2020



Agenda

- Unmet need and barriers to child care expansion
- Strategies/opportunities to address barriers
- Discussion and questions



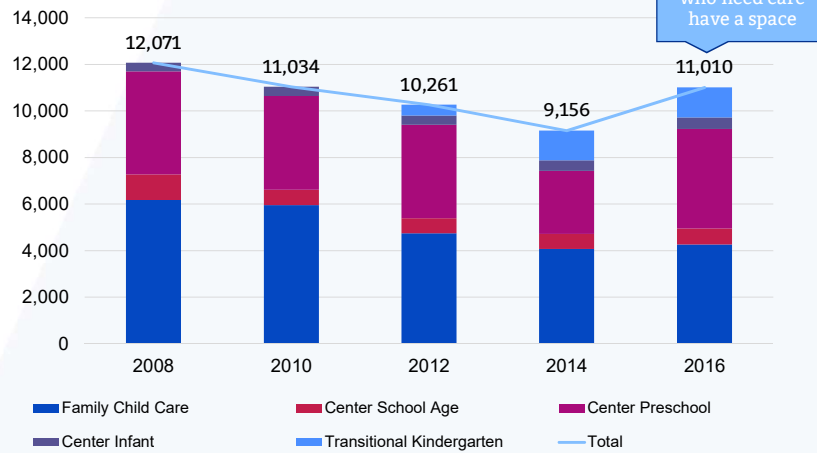
Unmet Need and Barriers to Child Care Expansion



3

Unmet Need for Child Care

Solano Licensed Care Slots (Including TK)



Source: California Department of Education; Resource and Referral Network.

4

Barriers to Child Care Expansion

- **Qualified Staff:** Finding staff is a challenge primarily due to low pay, lack of benefits, high stress, and low perceived value
- **Facilities:** Lack of suitable buildings for small children, high cost of real estate and renovation, and no grants from state
- **Limited Grants Application/Business Management Capacity:** Providers lack time, business/finance expertise, and documentation to successfully apply for/maintain grants, so state funding does not match share of the low income children

5

Strategies to Address Barriers to Child Care Expansion



6

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Workforce



- Invest in education and professional development to strengthen the child care workforce
- Outreach to potential providers at colleges and career fairs
- Train parents to become Early Childhood Education providers
- Help informal care providers become licensed and provide ongoing support to help them maintain/expand their business

7

Facilities



- Provide facilities technical assistance
- Locate free or low-cost facilities by partnering with other entities
- Partner with city planners and developers to provide space for child care
- Encourage local businesses to invest in child care

8



Funding

- Advocate for more funding for ECE
- Provide technical assistance (TA) in applying for/maintaining funding
- Increase collaboration among ECE stakeholders
 - Ensure existing collaboratives are effective
 - Learn from counties with strong collaboration (e.g., San Mateo)



9

Funding Outlook

- New funding in 2019-20 state budget for ECE including:
 - \$195m **workforce development** funding
 - \$245m **facilities** grants
 - \$31.4m in 2019-20 & \$124.9m ongoing for **full-day State Preschool slots**
 - \$93.3m to add **Alternative Payment Program slots**
 - **Expansion of CA Paid Family Leave** from 6 to 8 weeks



10

Summary

- Significant unmet need for licensed child care in Solano County
- Significant barriers to ECE expansion including workforce, facilities, and funding shortages
- Strategies to address barriers include:
 - Workforce development efforts
 - Facilities TA and co-location
 - Advocacy for more funding
 - Grant application/maintenance TA
 - Increased collaboration

11

Collaboration Successes!

- In early 2019, \$432,263 was awarded to a collaborative of Solano, Napa, & Sonoma COEs to help **increase access to ECE for children with special needs**
- In October 2019, **Solano County Office of Education applied for a subsequent grant for \$1,889,732 over 4 years to increase inclusive opportunities** for students with disabilities to participate in infant, toddler, and preschool programs with their same aged peers. Participating ECE sites include:
 - Benicia USD, Vallejo City USD, and Vacaville USD
 - Solano Community College Early Learning Center
 - Child Start, Inc.
 - Continuing Development, Inc., Circle of Friends, and Family Child Care Homes (Alternative Payment Program participants)
- Fairfield-Suisun and Vacaville USDs applied under the same grant to improve facilities

12

LOCAL CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL ENTITIES, BY COUNTY

Opportunities:

- Increase opportunities to collaborate, and align and leverage funding
- Continue support of grantwriting to access state funding
- Consider reassessing structure of convening bodies to maximize funding and efficiency



Discussion and Questions



Lisa Colvig-Niclai


lisa@appliedsurveyresearch.org

Christina Branom

Branom@appliedsurveyresearch.org

www.appliedsurveyresearch.org

 [@ASRImpact](https://twitter.com/ASRImpact)

 [@appliedsurveyresearch](https://www.facebook.com/appliedsurveyresearch)

 [ASRlinkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ASRlinkedin)



POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
December 11, 2019, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm
601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA 94533

CALL TO ORDER

I. Introductions, Public Comment, Commissioner Comment

II. Consent Calendar

Action

- A. Approve the December 11, 2019 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the September 18, 2019 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
- C. Receive the Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report

III. Co-Sponsorship of Training and Conferences Fund Application

Action

Motion: Consider approval of a request from A More Excellent Way Health Improvement Organization for an allocation of up to \$3,000 to support the 20-hour Love Support Breastfeeding training costs for community peer counselors to improve the education and support of breastfeeding to community mothers and infants in Solano County.

Kwiana Algere, Health Education Specialist

IV. Early Learning Expansion Assessment

Information/Discussion

Receive a presentation on barriers to expanding early learning opportunities in Solano County

Megan Richards, Deputy Director; Christina Branom Applied Survey Research

V. Strategic Plan Implementation Updates

Information/Discussion

Receive updates on the following:

- A. Program
 - 1. First 5 Center Update
 - 2. 2019 Pre-Kindergarten Academies Report
- B. Systems Change Implementation Plan
 - 1. First 5 Solano Legislative Platform
 - 2. Systems Change Activities Update
- C. Community Engagement
 - 1. Community Engagement Activities Update

Megan Richards, Deputy Director; Juanita Morales, Program Manager

VI. First 5 Solano Staffing and Finance Update

Information

Receive a report on First 5 Solano staffing and financials

Megan Richards, Deputy Director

VII. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location

Information

The Policy and Oversight Committee is scheduled to meet next on Wednesday, February 19, 2019, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm, at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA. Future agenda items include: Co-Sponsorships of Training and Conferences; Program Update, Systems Change Implementation Update; Community Engagement Update; and Staffing and Finance Update

ADJOURN

Vision: *All Solano County children are loved, healthy, confident, eager to learn, nurtured by their families, caregivers and communities.*
Mission: *First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission creates and fosters programs and partnerships with community entities to promote, support and improve the lives of young children, their families and their communities.*

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you require a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, please call (707) 784.1332 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. Non-confidential materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Commission are available for public inspection at the First 5 Solano business office, 601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA during normal business hours.

**First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
Policy & Oversight Committee (POC) Meeting**
December 11, 2019, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
601 Texas Street, Suite 210, Fairfield, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Erin Hannigan, Gerald Huber, Lisette Estrella-Henderson

First 5 Solano Staff present: Michele Harris (Executive Director), Megan Richards (Deputy Director) Juanita Morales, Kwiana Algeré, Luke Winders

Members of the public present: Lisa Eckhoff (Solano County Office of Education)

Chair Huber called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM

I. Introduction, Public Comment, Commissioner Comment

There were no public or commissioner comments.

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

- A. Approve the December 11, 2019 POC Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the September 18, 2019 POC Meeting minutes
- C. Receive the Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report

**Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson
Approved 3-0-0**

Yea: Commissioners Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Co-Sponsorship of Training and Conferences Fund Application

Kwiana Algeré, First 5 Solano Health Education Specialist, described and recommended a training co-sponsorship request from A More Excellent Way Health Improvement Organization.

Motion: Consider approval of a request from A More Excellent Way Health Improvement Organization for an allocation of up to \$3,000 to support the 20-hour Love Support Breastfeeding training costs for community peer counselors to improve the education and support of breastfeeding to community mothers and infants in Solano County.

**Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson
Approved 3-0-0**

Yea: Commissioners Estrella-Henderson, Hannigan, Huber

Nay: None
Abstain: None

IV. Early Learning Expansion Assessment

Christina Branom from Applied Survey Research presented on barriers to expanding early learning opportunities in Solano County. The Committee discussed opportunities for collaboration to increase Solano’s ability to draw down additional funding from the state. In particular, the Committee noted that 10 years ago the Board of Supervisors, at the request of the County Superintendent of Schools, authorized the Local Childcare Planning Council (LCCPC) be housed at a local nonprofit, due to staff capacity constraints at the time. Currently, the majority of LCCPC’s across the state are housed within their Office of Education, which allows for maximization of resources and alignment with the K-12 and other systems. Since that time, the local Office of Education has taken the lead on quality improvement efforts and securing additional state and federal funding, developing an expertise in-house.

The Committee made a recommendation to share the information in the report with the Commission and the Board of Supervisors to further explore the alignment of the early care and education policy bodies. The Committee also discussed the potential opportunities to develop the childcare workforce and recommended to present the report to the Workforce Development Board.

V. Strategic Plan Implementation Updates

A. Update on First 5 Center

Megan Richards, First 5 Solano Deputy Director, gave an update on progress of construction at the First 5 Center in Vallejo. The Administrative suite is near completion with floors, furniture, and signage installed. First 5 Solano is planning to move into the rear suite in the next month, while construction concludes in the front half. The funding gap continues to close and is currently within \$500,000 of the goal. First 5 Solano Executive Director Michele Harris and Bay Area Community Resources staff have met with multiple outside agencies about partnering at the Center and have many additional scheduled or planned. A grand opening is being planned for February.

B. Update on Systems Change Implementation Plan

1. First 5 Solano Legislative Platform

Ms. Richards reported no changes to the platform are being recommended.

2. Systems Change Activities Update

North Bay Healthcare will provide \$5,000 for 2020 Pre-K Academies. Ms. Richards described some of the work being done by the Complete Count Committee to ensure children 0-5 are counted on the 2020 Census. Ms. Harris commended Commissioner Diaz’s participation in the efforts.

C. Community Engagement

Juanita Morales, First 5 Solano Program Manager presented the 2019 Pre-K Academy report. The Committee discussed simplifying consent forms for next year's programs. Ms. Morales presented the 2020 First 5 Solano calendar and distributed copies to the Committee.

VI. First 5 Solano Staffing and Finance Update

Ms. Richards announced that First 5 Solano College Intern, Andrea Azurdia, is completing her master's degree and graduating this month, which will result in the end of her internship. Bay Area Community Resources has hired her for a limited term as Vallejo First 5 Center Coordinator.

Ms. Richards reported that Proposition 10 disbursements are delayed at the State level, so revenues are lower than usual at this date. Staff is monitoring the release of payments and a shortage is not anticipated for the year.

VII. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location

The next Policy and Oversight Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm, at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA. Future agenda items include: Co-Sponsorships of Training and Conferences; Program Update; Systems Change Updated; Community Engagement Update; and Staffing and Finance Update.

Adjourn

Chair Huber adjourned the meeting at 5:02 PM.

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DATE: January 9, 2020
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Juanita Morales, Program Manager
SUBJ: **IMPACT 2020 RFA**

Motion: Consider approval of a First 5 Solano Application to the First 5 California IMPACT 2020 anticipated Request for Applications (RFA) in the amount of \$664,207 for FY2020/21-FY2022/23 with a required local match not to exceed \$221,402

First 5 IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) is program to increase the number of high-quality early learning settings, including alternative settings, family, friend, and neighbor care, family child care homes, centers, and preschools. This program utilizes the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) framework. The current grant with First 5 California is expiring in June 2020 and First 5 California has announced plans to release a RFA for continued funding. This motion would allow First 5 Solano staff to submit an application to the RFA and continue to access state funds to continue this work.

Background: In 2015, First 5 California approved \$190 million in funding statewide to support First 5 IMPACT over five years (FY2015/16 to FY2019/20) and released a Request for Applications (RFA) for local consortia to apply for the funds, as well as a separate RFA for regional hubs to lead training and technical assistance. All 58 counties participated in the local funding.

First 5 Solano applied as the lead agency in Solano County. Over the 5 years, the First 5 Solano Commission allocated \$40,000 annually to provide the required match to draw down approximately \$220,000 annually from First 5 California for a total grant amount of \$1,093,121. For implementation of the program, First 5 Solano partnered with Solano County Office of Education (SCOE). SCOE receives other funding toward the Solano County QRIS. SCOE is able to braid the funding to create an overall system, which is now known as Quality Counts Solano.

Current Status: First 5 California's initial five-year investment in First 5 IMPACT sunsets in June 2020. In July 2019, the First 5 California Commission approved \$103 million for IMPACT 2020, a renewed commitment to First 5 IMPACT. First 5 California has announced that they are working on releasing a RFA for future funding over the next three years (FY2020/21 to FY2022/23). The RFA is anticipated to be released "winter 2019-20."

First 5 California has released preliminary amounts available to each county as well as the match requirement and target number of sites. They have identified that Solano County will have available \$664,207 in First 5 IMPACT 2020 funding and require \$221,402 in local match funding; this equates to approximately the same annual amount available, but a higher match funding. Staff has inquired about the rationale for the higher match funding, as this is contrary to what was

previously announced, and is awaiting response. The target number of sites for Solano is identified as 44, a 12 site reduction from the previous target of 56.

While much of the program will be the same as currently being implemented, First 5 California has noted some changes will be occurring, including:

- The California Department of Education's (CDE) California State Preschool Program QRIS Block Grant will not qualify as an IMPACT 2020 match funding source, but other funding sources may still be used.
- With IMPACT 2020, there will be less of a focus on formal rating. Unlike in the previous RFA, counties will not be eligible for more funding if they have more rated sites.
- The RFA will include several funding streams in one RFA, including the CSPP Block Grant and the Quality Counts California (QCC) Block grant, both funded by the California Department of Education (CDE). There will be the opportunity for more than one lead agency to apply, so First 5 Solano can continue to be the lead agency for First 5 IMPACT and SCOE can continue to be the lead agency for the CDE grants.

These are just a few of the high-level changes for IMPACT 2020 and further details and clarification will be included in the IMPACT 2020 RFA.

First 5 Solano continues to be in a position to act as the lead agency for IMPACT 2020 and partner with SCOE to implement the work. In the 2018-2023 Program Investment Plan, the First 5 Solano Commission has allocated \$40,000 annually toward quality early learning to use at match funding. In addition, the Commission can use other quality early learning funds, such as the funds toward Raising a Reader and professional development for providers serving children with special needs to meet the full match requirement of approximately \$73,800 annually.

Next Steps: Should the commission approve this item, First 5 Solano staff will apply as the lead agency to apply for IMPACT 2020. First 5 Solano intends to continue to partner with SCOE for implementation to allow for braided funding. Staff will report back at an upcoming meeting the status of the Application, including the amount of the funding, and the amount of the match.

DATE: January 9, 2020

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJ: **Executive Director's Report for January 2020**

Trauma Transformed: As part of the Resilient Solano Strategic Plan, First 5 Solano and Solano County Public Health partnered to bring Trauma Transformed to Solano County to lead a Trauma Informed Systems Initiative. The Initiative will include training on trauma and its affects, as well as policy and environmental changes that reduce trauma experienced by staff and clients.

Due to overwhelming interest by county and community partner agencies to participate in this effort, Solano County Public Health identified a new H&SS Planning Analyst to coordinate this work. This individual will be working closely with Trauma Transformed over the next few months to prepare for next steps in this initiative.

Fighting Back Partnership (FBP) OCAP Grant: First 5 is working in collaboration with Fighting Back Partnership and multiple community partners on *Creating a Beloved Community: Family and the Road to Resilience*, a 3-year grant funded by the Office of Child Abuse Prevention. This grant will provide interventions and resources to all pregnant women with a focus on women of color who are impacted currently or have had history of substance use.

First 5 Solano's role is to provide facilitation of Solano Kids Thrive (SKT)/FBP advisory group meetings to contribute to development, outreach referral systems and continuous improvement of the grant. The advisory group will meet regularly nine times this year and will continue to do so for the duration of the grant.

NorthBay Healthcare Community Benefit Grant for 2020 Pre-K Academies – On October 17th First 5 Solano submitted a grant request to NorthBay Healthcare Community Benefit for \$5,000 to support the 2020 Pre-K Academies. This application was approved on October 30th. NorthBay Healthcare has contributed to the Pre-K Academies since 2014, and this grant of \$5,000 is an increase in funding over previous years.

First 5 Solano Grantwriting Fund Application – In August 2019, the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) received an approval of an award of up to \$5,000 to support grantwriting for a grant application under the Inclusive Early Education and Expansion Program (IEEEP), Early Learning and Care Division of the California Department of Education. This grant opportunity is for up to \$1,889,732 over 4 years to increase access to inclusive early learning and care programs, particularly in low-income and high need communities, for children with disabilities, including children with severe disabilities. SCOE applied for this grant on behalf of its own preschool and special education programs, as well as several school districts and preschool /child care contractors in Solano County.

Solano County Vision & Impact Cohort: The second session of the "Solano County Vision and Impact Cohort" was held on Tuesday, November 5th. The agenda was focused on the work that agencies are doing on their Theory of Change. The nine participating agencies have been placed in three groups with a coach assigned to each group. The training included a short group coaching

session for each group, followed by individual coaching sessions for each group. This cohort is being funded through collaboration between First 5 Solano and Solano County Health & Social Services.

2019 Cohort Government Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE): First 5 Solano staff member Lorraine Fernandez attended the GARE training sessions on October 10th and November 14th. Training topics included a refresher on the fundamentals of the racial equity tool, strategies to advance racial equity, action plan implementation, and community engagement strategies. The participants in this year's Introductory Cohort also participated in a short commencement ceremony.

Census 2020 Solano Complete Count Committee: First 5 Solano staff member Lorraine Fernandez attended the October 29th meeting of the Census 2020 Solano Complete Count Committee. The agenda included updates on the strategy and implementation plan, and information from committee members on training and outreach activities.

Contract with the Children's Network for Census 2020 "Solano Kids Count": In October 2019, First 5 Solano entered a contract for \$30,654 with the Children's Network to coordinate countywide efforts to increase response rates from families with children in the upcoming Census. Deliverables include: developing and implementing a plan for reaching Hard-to-Count families with children 0-5; convening an Implementation Committee; providing training and outreach materials to partner agencies; and implementing a media campaign, including social media. The funding from First Solano will be blended with funding that the Children's Network received from the Northern California Grantmakers Bay Area Census Funders Collaborative (\$40,000); and, the United Way Bay Area (\$65,000). The first convening of the Solano Kids Count Implementation Sub-committee of the Solano Complete Count Committee was held on Thursday, November 21st.

AB 1004 Medi-Cal Developmental Screenings (McCarty): AB 1004 was signed by the Governor on September 30th. This legislation requires that developmental screening services provided as an EPSDT benefit must include screenings for children 0-3; and, requires that health care providers screen children enrolled in Medi-Cal for development delays at 9 months, 18 months, and 30 months. There is also a requirement that health care providers must use a validated screening tool and adhere to the Bright Futures best practices. The bill was sponsored by the First 5 Association, First 5 LA, and Children Now.

Press Release – Governor Newsom Appoints New State Early Childhood Policy Council: On November 22, 2019 Governor Newsom announced the selection of diverse experts, practitioners, and parents to guide California's efforts on early learning and care. This Early Childhood Policy Council will be led by Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, California's first Surgeon General and renowned expert in the field of child trauma. See Attachment A.

First 5 Association Summit – First 5 Solano staff member Lorraine Fernandez attended the Annual First 5 Association Summit on December 9th to 11th. Highlights of the event included a discussion of the draft of "First 5 Network Values"; a team "Design Challenge" activity that utilized a value lens; a Census update meeting; breakout meetings for the Communications, Help Me Grow, and Fiscal teams; and, a Statewide All-Regions Meeting. The Executive Director of the First 5 Association, Ms. Moira Kenney, was honored at a special dinner as she is moving on after serving in her position since 2012.

First 5 Solano 2020 Calendar - The 2020 First 5 Solano calendar is now available for distribution. The calendar is organized around quarterly themes which cover physical health, child development, parenting and family support. The calendar provides tips for parents and caregivers, as well as recognizes observances for young children. There is also information on how to connect with local community resources to support children and families. We have included a tear out page that can be used to engage children in social emotional learning and a developmental milestones page to help parents monitor their child's development. Pictures of local children and families are used when possible. The calendar is FREE for the community and available in English and Spanish. Calendars may be ordered by calling First 5 Solano or via our website at First5Solano.org.

Attachment A: Press Release Early Childhood Policy Council



For Immediate Release
November 26, 2019

Contact: Erin Gabel
916.708.8895

Governor Newsom Appoints New State Early Childhood Policy Council

Many First 5 Experts Included to Design State Master Plan

SACRAMENTO – Governor Newsom recently announced the appointment of a wide-ranging group of Californians in the formation of the State’s new Early Childhood Policy Council.

The Council will be led by Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, California’s first Surgeon General and renowned expert in the field of childhood trauma. The Early Childhood Policy Council was established to gather input from a multitude of participants that will advise the Governor, Legislature, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond on statewide issues specific to early learning and care, and children’s health and well-being.

“Governor Newsom has demonstrated his commitment to the success of all California families beginning at birth. First 5 California is excited to see 20 years of First 5 partners at this crucial table,” said First 5 California Commission Chair George Halvorson.

“Every child in our state should have the resources and support they need to live happy and healthy lives,” said Governor Newsom when he announced the Early Childhood Policy Council. “We are bringing together experts from diverse backgrounds to create a Master Plan for Early Learning and Care that will be rooted in lifting up California’s children and families today, tomorrow and into the future.”

First 5 representation is welcomed across the diverse field of 20 appointed members, including current and former commissioners, and current and former staff. They are:

- Mayra E. Alvarez, First 5 California Commissioner and president of The Children’s Partnership
- Lupe Jaime-Mileham, senior director of early care and education at the Fresno County Office of Education and former First 5 California Commissioner
- Kim Pattillo-Brownson, vice president for policy and strategy, First 5 LA

- More –

- Sarah Neville-Morgan, deputy superintendent of public instruction of the Opportunities for All Branch at the California Department of Education and former First 5 California deputy director of programs

“With these First 5 champions for children providing input on this important Council, First 5 California is confident the deliberations, discussions, and direction of this Council will be productive and considerate, and will keep California in the forefront as the nation’s leader in early childhood policy,” added Chair Halvorson.

###

About First 5 California

First 5 California was established in 1998 when voters passed Proposition 10, which taxes tobacco products to fund services for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. First 5 California programs and resources are designed to educate and support teachers, parents, and caregivers in the critical role they play during a child's first five years – to help California kids receive the best possible start in life and thrive. For more information, please visit www.cfc.ca.gov.