

COMMISSION MEETING
August 11, 2020 – 5:30-7:30pm
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA 94590

In furtherance of the direction from Governor Newsom (Executive Order N-25-20) and pursuant to the Executive Order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom (Executive Order N-29-20), **public access to the First 5 Solano Commission Meeting will be limited.**

Commissioners and public may attend via remote meeting using the following options:

Join livestream via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5922775330>

Join via Phone:

1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 592 277 5330

Public Comments:

Public Comment may be provided by: During the meeting via the phone/computer audio when the Chair calls for Public Comment on an item; or submitting written public comments to First 5 Solano via email at cfcsolano@solanocounty.com by 4:00pm on the day of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER / SALUTE TO THE FLAG

I. Public Comment

Information

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.

II. Consent Calendar (5 min)

Action

- A. Approve the August 11, 2020 Commission Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the June 23, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes

III. Triple P Allocation of Funding (15 min)

Action

Consider approval of an allocation of funding of up to \$79,830 for FY2020/21 to Catholic Charities Yolo-Solano for Triple P Parent Education (*Source of Funds: 2018-2023 Program Investment Plan and Mental Health Services Act*)
Gene Ibe, Program Manager

IV. Barriers to Expanding Early Learning Opportunities in Solano County Follow-Up Report (20 min)

Action

Consider recommending to the Board of Supervisors to transition the administrative agency for the Local Child Care and Development Planning Council to the Solano County Office of Education from The Children's Network of Solano County
Michele Harris, Executive Director

V. FY2019/20 Annual Grants Final Report (25 min)

Information

Receive a final report on the FY2019/20 Annual Grants and their outcomes
Juanita Morales, Program Manager, Sharon Coleman, Ready Set Survive, Katherine Clark-Silveira, Care 4EM, Isabel Reyes, Eric Reyes Foundation

VI. Executive Director's Report (10 min)

Information

Michele Harris, Executive Director

Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Chair
Jennifer Barton, Vice Chair
Mina Diaz
Erin Hannigan
Gerald Huber



Lenesha Anderson
Aaron Crutison
Nicole Neff
Tyffany Wanberg
Michele Harris, ED

VII. Commissioner Remarks (5 min)

Information

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

Information

The next Commission meeting will be held on October 13, 2020 at 5:30PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Strategic Planning, Committee Report, Annual Report, Annual Audit.

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**

June 23, 2020, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Mina Diaz, Erin Hannigan.

Commissioners present via Zoom videoconferencing: Lisette Estrella-Henderson
Lenesha Anderson (joined 5:34 PM, left 6:54 PM) Jennifer Barton (left 6:56 PM), Aaron
Crutison, Jerry Huber, Nicole Neff, Tyffany Wanberg

Chair Estrella-Henderson called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM

I. Public Comment

No Public Comment

II. Consent Calendar

A. Approve the June 23, 2020 Commission Meeting Agenda.

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Agenda for June 23, 2020.

B. Approve April 7, 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve the Commission Meeting Minutes for April 7, 2020

Moved by Commissioner Barton; Seconded by Commissioner Crutison

Approved 8-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Commissioner Anderson joined.

Chair Estrella-Henderson recused herself and left the meeting. Vice-Chair Barton introduced the item and motion.

III. FY2020/21 Annual Grant Allocations of Funding

***A. Motion: Consider approval of allocations of funding of up to \$140,000 for
FY2020/21 Annual Grants in response to Request for Applications #2019-02 as
follows:***

- a. *Up to \$20,000 to Crum Bum Kids Co. to provide an art program for children to create their own story books*
- b. *\$20,000 to BIRTHFIT for Everyone to provide support and advocacy during pregnancy and postpartum*
- c. *\$20,000 to Solano County Office of Education to provide a wellness program for Early Care Educators*
- d. *\$20,000 to PreK2C to provide Parent Cafés to Adult Education students*
- e. *\$20,000 to Matrix Parent Network to provide videoconference trainings to parents of children with special needs*
- f. *\$20,000 to La Clinica de la Raza to provide the Centering Parent Program at their North Vallejo site*
- g. *Up to \$20,000 to The Immersive Learning Center to provide a nutrition education program*

Juanita Morales, First 5 Solano Program Manager, described the programs that were recommended by the panel for Annual Grant funding and outlined the process to arrive at the recommendations. Commissioner Hannigan asked for a description of Parent Cafes. Ms. Morales explained they are a facilitated safe space for parents to discuss their parenting challenges and focus on family-strengthening protective factors.

Moved by Commissioner Neff; Seconded by Commissioner Diaz

Approved 8-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Recuse: Commissioner Estrella-Henderson

Chair Estrella-Henderson returned and continued running the meeting.

B. Motion: Consider redirecting unallocated FY2020/21 Annual Grant funding of \$60,000 to the Emergency Response Fund for FY2020/21

Megan Richards, First 5 Solano Deputy Director, recounted that the Commission approved an Emergency Response Fund and Policy at the April 2020 meeting and that there was a very high level of interest. Far more applications came in for the FY2020/21 funds than the approved \$50,000 could cover. There remains \$60,000 in unspent funds from the FY2020/21 annual grants allocation. Staff is recommending these funds be reallocated toward the FY2020/21 Emergency Response Fund.

Chair Estrella-Henderson asked how the evaluation process works for these funds. Ms. Richards explained First 5 Solano Program Manager Lorraine Fernandez does an initial review and sends applications to Policy and Oversight Committee Chair Barton. Ms. Fernandez has determined fixed amounts to approve for commonly requested items such as hand-washing stations. All awardees complete a legal agreement and must return funds if unable to fulfill their contract. Commissioner Huber asked if any applicants had current contracts with First 5 Solano or the County, whether they were responding due to COVID-related cashflow issues, and

whether they have applied for COVID stimulus funding. Ms. Richards reported some did have contracts, but these funds are not for programs or activities, only for needs directly related to COVID-19, including basic needs assistance. Some childcare providers have been approved for staffing costs, but not for cashflow. Many agencies have reported that they have looked into the stimulus application process and determined it was very complex for the small amounts being requested by small childcare providers.

Moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Huber

Approved 9-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

IV. Public Hearing: First 5 California FY2018/19 Annual Report

Motion: Consider acceptance of the First 5 California Children and Families Commission's FY2018/19 Annual Report, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 130150

Chair Estrella-Henderson opened the public hearing.

Juanita Morales highlighted key areas of the FY2018/19 Annual Report and reminded Commissioners that the report predates COVID-19 and much has since changed. Ms. Morales explained how State dollars are distributed and allocated toward improved family functioning, child development, child health, and systems of care. The report revealed total numbers of services provided, total expenditures, and populations served. Ms. Morales also reviewed highlights of First 5 Solano's FY2018/19 Report to First 5 California.

Moved by Commissioner Barton; Seconded by Commissioner Anderson

Approved 9-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Chair Estrella-Henderson closed the public hearing.

V. First 5 Center Tenant Improvement Reconciliation

Deputy Director Megan Richards reported that the final tenant improvement expenditure for the First 5 Center in Vallejo came in approximately \$20,000 under budget at a total of \$1,750,140. Of this expenditure, fundraising efforts raised \$1,606,500, or 92%. The \$143,640 balance will come out of the First 5 Commission FY2019/20 budget via the Long-Term Financial Plan and be funded by the Commission's reserve.

The First 5 Center plans to reopen on a reduced scale July 13th and Center staff have been working through the Shelter-In-Home orders, developing lesson plans, completing trainings, and serving families remotely.

VI. Nonprofit Capacity Building- Vision & Impact Cohort

Lorraine Fernandez gave brief background of the four years of collaboration between First 5 Solano and Solano County Health & Social Services to bring nonprofit capacity building supports to Solano County. Nine nonprofits were selected to participate in the Solano Vision & Impact Cohort program held from November 2019 to May 2020 through in-person meetings, virtual meetings, and individual agency coaching sessions, culminating in a graduation and the completion of Theories of Change (TOCs). Ms. Fernandez introduced two of the nonprofit leaders who attended the program: Kathy Lago, Solano Family and Children's Services (SFCS) Executive Director (ED), and Colleen Berumen, Vacaville Solano Services Corporation ED, who both shared information on their agencies and the TOCs they developed during the Cohort.

Ms. Lago shared that the Cohort provided a great opportunity to think about how best to share the work SFCS does and their impact in the community. Ms. Berumen appreciated the opportunity to view participant outcomes in a different way and shared a recent success her agency had. Commissioner Hannigan expressed appreciation for the value of the program strengthening nonprofits throughout the County. Chair Estrella-Henderson congratulated all participants and declared the program a success and example of the fruit of the Commission's strategic thinking and allocation of resources.

In response to Ms. Fernandez's earlier report that First 5 and H&SS are pausing the next nonprofit capacity-building cohort, Board Development and Governance, Commissioner Crutison asked if the individuals on Boards of the agencies would continue to reflect upon their role and purpose in the community as the work pauses. Ms. Berumen said her board is very interested in moving forward with board development and bringing fresh voices is an ongoing effort. Ms. Lago reported her board will continue to use the resources from the program, with or without funding or another cohort.

Commissioners Anderson and Barton left.

VII. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Michele Harris reported that a Request for Proposals has been released for additional Triple P parent education providers. First 5 Solano will be partnering with Solano County Public Health to submit a proposal to First 5 California to strengthen home visiting coordination in the county. Ms. Morales gave an update on Pre-K academies, many of which had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Four contractors will be able to provide 8 sessions starting in July. Kwiana Algere, First 5 Solano's Health Education Specialist, recapped the multiday drive-through diaper and wipe distribution First 5 Solano coordinated in partnership with six sites. Ms. Algere thanked all the volunteers, including four Commissioners.

VIII. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Crutison expressed thanks for all the support during difficult times in Child Welfare. Commissioner Huber shared some welcome positive news from the budget negotiations between the Governor and the Legislature. Commissioner Wanberg reported greatly enjoying working of the diaper event. Chair Estrella-Henderson closed by reminding everyone to exercise self-care in difficult times.

IX. Future Agenda Items

The next Commission meeting will be held on August 11, 2020 at 5:30PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30 in Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Triple P New Provider Allocations of Funding, ECE Follow-up Report; Committee Report.

Adjourn

Chair Estrella-Henderson adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.

Luke Winders, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DRAFT

DATE: August 4, 2020
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Gene Ibe, Program Manager
SUBJ: Triple P Allocation of Funding

MOTION: Consider approval of an allocation of funding of up to \$79,830 for FY2020/21 to Catholic Charities Yolo-Solano for Triple P Parent Education *(Source of funds: 2018-2023 Program Investment Plan and Mental Health Services Act)*

Introduction

In December 2017, the Commission adopted its 2018-2023 Program Investment Plan which outlines the Commission's investments for the upcoming five-year funding cycle. Since FY2018/19, the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, an evidence-based program providing parents with practical approaches to build strong relationships with their children, has been a strategy to address mental health and family support initiatives within the plan.

Over the last two fiscal years, eight partner agencies have delivered Triple P services throughout the County. At the Commission's April 2020 meeting, funding for those partner agencies to continue provision of Triple P services in FY2020/21 was approved.

As reported at that time, funds from the Program Investment Plan were still available to be used toward Triple P services. Because of such positive response in the community to Triple P, First 5 Solano released a Request for Proposals (RFP) #2020-07 for up to \$80,000 in June 2020, providing an opportunity for additional agencies to offer Triple P services throughout the county.

FY2020/21 Triple P Recommendation

The RFP provided the opportunity for agencies to apply for one or more of the following levels of services: Level 2-Seminars; Level 3-Primary Care/Brief Intervention; Level 4-Groups; Level 4-Standard/Individual. Applicants would also be eligible to receive Triple P training and materials through First 5 Solano.

Two proposals were received in response to the RFP and met the minimum criteria to be forwarded to the review panel. A review panel consisting of First 5 Solano staff, Mental Health Services Act staff, as well as a parent education expert from outside the county, read and assigned preliminary scores to the applications. The review panel met to finalize their scores and rankings. Based on its rating as the apparent best-evaluated proposer, the review panel is recommending funding up to \$79,830 for Catholic Charities Yolo-Solano to provide Level 2 Seminars, Level 3 Brief Intervention, and Level 4 Groups parenting education.

The review panel also made recommendations for staff during contract negotiations, to further discuss some of Catholic Charities' proposed deliverables, as they had concerns about their ability to accomplish those goals as they would experience a later contract start date in the fiscal year and staff would still require training before services begin.

Conclusion/Next Steps

Should the Commission approve this recommendation of funding for Triple P Parent Education services, the next steps include:

- Negotiate Triple P contract, including final budget and scope of work, with Catholic Charities Yolo-Solano, Inc.
- Submission of all required documentation, such as most recent financial statement, proof of insurance
- Approval of contract by County Counsel
- Approval of contract by Board of Supervisors (or their delegated authority) by September 2020
- Services begin September 1, 2020
- Participation in practitioner training/accreditation and Triple P Collaborative network meetings

Note: All awardees will be notified that the award of funds by the Commission does not constitute approval to move forward with services. Contracts for services must be successfully negotiated and executed before work can begin. Furthermore, no funds may be expended prior to the execution of contracts approved by County Counsel and the Executive Director/County Administrator, as appropriate.

DATE: August 6, 2020

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Barriers to Expanding Early Learning Opportunities in Solano County Follow-Up Report

Motion: Consider recommending to the Board of Supervisors to transition the administrative agency for the Local Child Care and Development Planning Council to the Solano County Office of Education from The Children's Network of Solano County

Background: 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 of early childhood education (ECE). This report, *Expanding Early Learning Opportunities in Solano County* (Attachment A), was completed by Applied Survey Research in late 2019 and included recommendations for possible next steps for Solano to increase the availability of early learning opportunities for children and support working families.

In January 2020, the Commission received a presentation on the report and, noting a severe lack of available resources, discussed opportunities for expanded collaboration to increase Solano's ability to draw down additional funding from the state. The Commission noted in the report the administering agency for the Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) was identified as an area to consider further investigation. Specifically, the report found:

"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. 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 early childhood education 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."

The Commission asked staff to further investigate what a transition of the LPC to Solano's Office of Education would look like.

Function and History of the LPC in Solano County: The LPC is one of 58 Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils (LPCs) across the state, with one in every county. Across the state, 50 of the 58 LPCs are housed within their County Office of Education.

The primary mission of the LPC is to plan for child care and development services based on the needs of families in the local community. Functions of the LPC include (but are not limited to):

- Conduct an assessment of child care needs in the county no less than once every five years.
- Prepare local comprehensive countywide child care plans designed to mobilize public and private resources to address identified needs.

- Identify local funding priority areas for child care services for General Child Care and Development Programs and the State Preschool Program for new state and federal funds.
- Conduct local forums to encourage public input in the development of local priorities.
- Foster local partnerships with subsidized and non-subsidized providers, local and state children and families commissions, county welfare departments, human service agencies, regional centers, job training programs, employers, parent organizations, early start family resource centers, family empowerment centers on disability, local child care resource and referral programs, and other interested parties.
- Coordinate part-day programs, including state preschool and Head Start, with other child care and development services to provide full-day child care.

To support the work of the LPCs, the California Department of Education (CDE) provides some funding to each County's LPC specifically for coordination of child care services. After the Great Recession, there was reduced funding from CDE for LPCs across the state, also reducing the required and supplemental deliverables of LPCs. In addition to the funding from CDE, the Board of Supervisors provides \$12,500 annually as a required maintenance of effort amount to sustain this coordinating function.

Previous to 2008, funding for the LPC was received by the County and passed through to The Children's Network of Solano County. In 2008, the BOS formalized The Children's Network of Solano County as the "legal entity" administering the Solano LPC. The funding from CDE transitioned directly to the Children's Network with an annual allocation of \$12,500 from the General Fund also going to the Children's Network. The Children's Network currently staffs this coordinating function with a part-time LPC Coordinator. The 2008 staff report also suggested that the BOS revisit this decision after 10 years.

Solano County Office of Education's (SCOE) ECE Capacities: Over the last 12 years, SCOE has developed a strong early childhood education focus and presence with the Solano community, has taken the lead on early childhood education quality improvement efforts, and has secured additional state and federal funding for ECE efforts. SCOE has been the lead agency of Solano's Quality Rating and Improvement System known as Quality Counts Solano, which utilizes multiple state funding streams to increase quality in ECE settings across the county. Quality Counts Solano includes recruiting local ECE providers to participate in coaching, professional development, and meeting quality improvement goals, as well as regularly convening local stakeholders to provide input on the work.

The success of Quality Counts Solano positioned SCOE to take on other ECE initiatives, including:

- The Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program: \$1.9 million of state funding to increase access for young children birth to five years old into inclusive early learning and care programs. It supports the inclusion of children with disabilities and exceptional needs, including children with severe disabilities, in early learning and care settings.
- ECE Workforce Pathways: A stipend and support program for early childhood educators. (Note: LPCs had first right of refusal to apply for the state funded program. The current LPC did not have capacity to apply for and implement the program, so SCOE stepped in to apply.)

- Development and leadership of a robust early learning professional development system, including an expansion of our annual ECE conference more recently attended by over 150 ECE professionals.
- Child care leadership during COVID-19: When First 5 Solano was called upon by the Office of Emergency Services to initiate a popup child care in response to essential workers needing child care during the Stay-at-Home orders, Solano County Office of Education played a key role with First 5 Solano in coordinating partners, including the Vallejo City Unified School District, Solano Family and Children's Services, and Child Start, Inc.

Recommendation: Building upon the findings in the report, further supported by COVID-19 learning which highlights the need for a large, coordinated response to childcare which aligns with the K-12 system, as well as considering state and federal expectations which require more complexity for the same amount or fewer state resources, the Commission should consider making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to transition the administrative agency for the LPC to SCOE from the current nonprofit agency, The Children's Network of Solano County. SCOE has developed the ECE expertise and infrastructure, as well as has the ability to access additional resources to support the role of the LPC in positioning Solano County to address the vast need of early learning and child care to support young children and working parents.

Next Steps: Should the Commission make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to transition the administrative agency for the LPC to SCOE, a DRAFT Letter of Recommendation (Attachment B) is attached and will be sent to the Solano County Administrator. The Solano County Board of Supervisors will then have the opportunity to consider the transition at their August 25, 2020 Board Meeting. The Solano County Board of Supervisors and the Superintendent of Schools would retain their responsibilities to appoint Council members, review and approve the by-laws of the LPC, review and approve the Child Care and Development Needs Assessments, establish local priorities for expansion funding every year, and review and approve the comprehensive child care and development strategic plan.

Attachment A: Solano Early Learning Assessment Report

Attachment B: DRAFT Letter of Recommendation to Solano County Board of Supervisors

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.

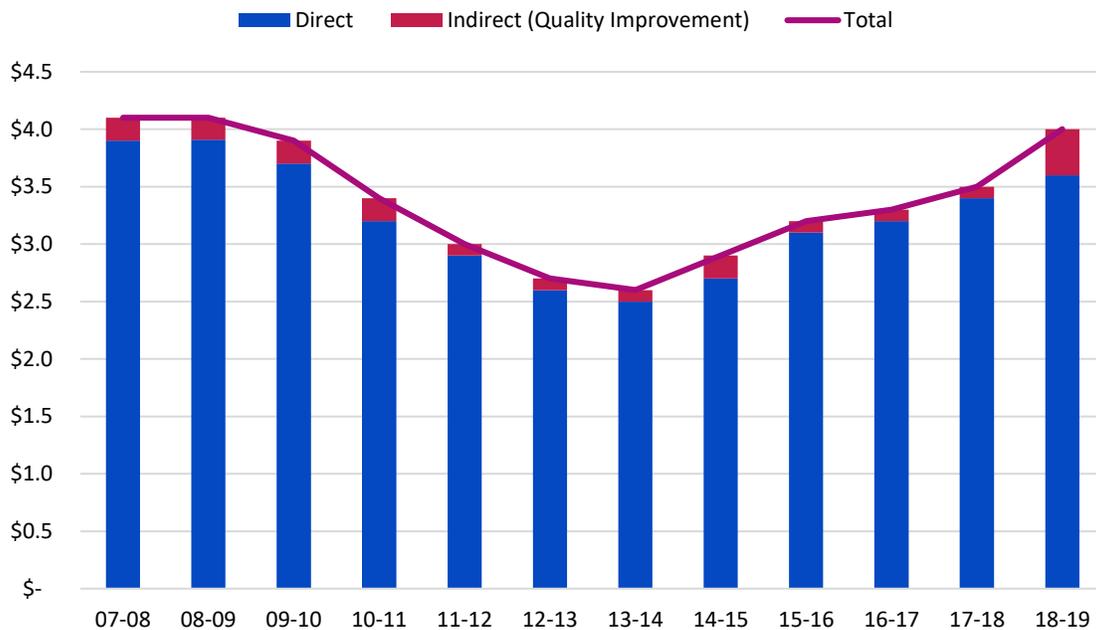
Two focus groups were conducted with ECE representatives in Solano County. The first focus groups was composed of nine members of Solano's Child Care Subsidy Pilot Plan committee and the second focus group was comprised of four family child care providers.

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)

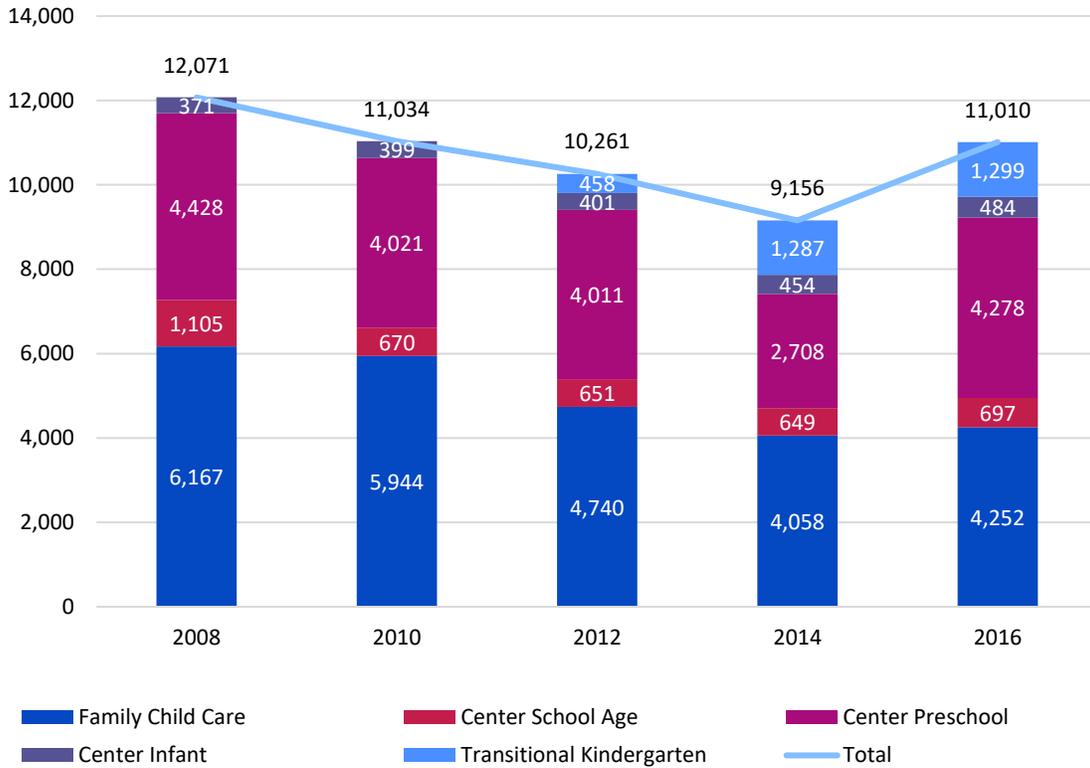


Sources: California Department of Education; Head Start Program Facts.

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)



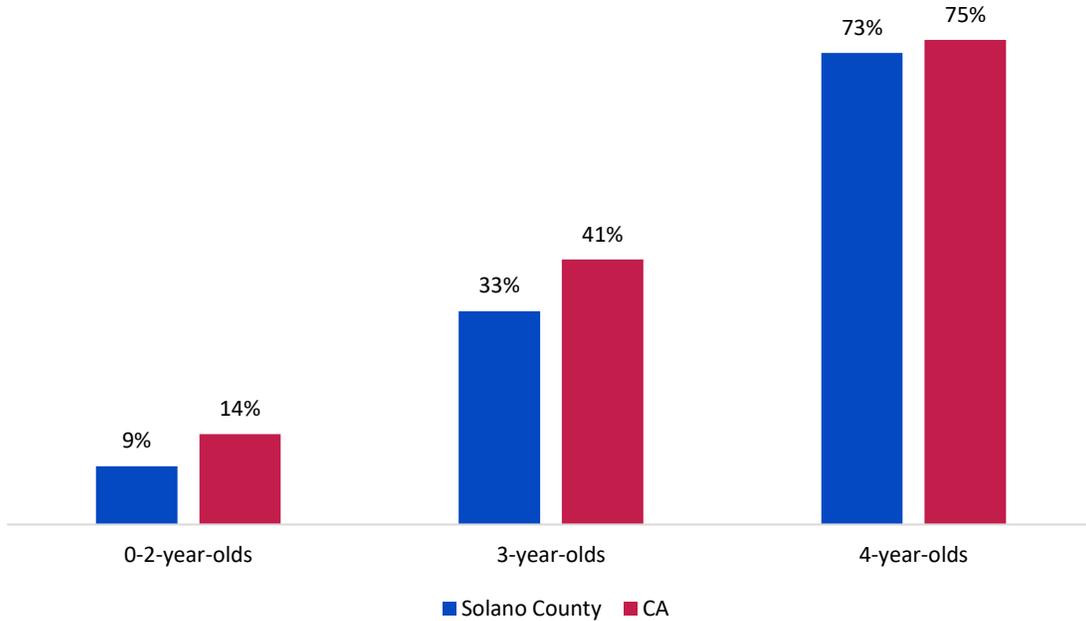
Source: California Department of Education; Resource and Referral Network.

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

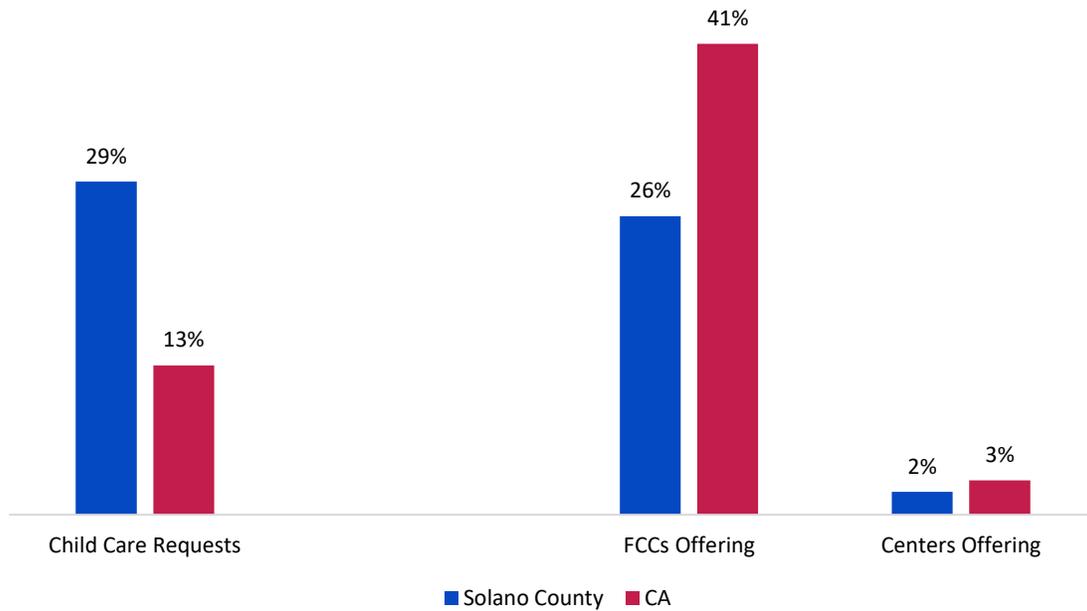


Sources: American Institutes for Research; Children’s Network of Solano County; Learning Policy Institute.

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.

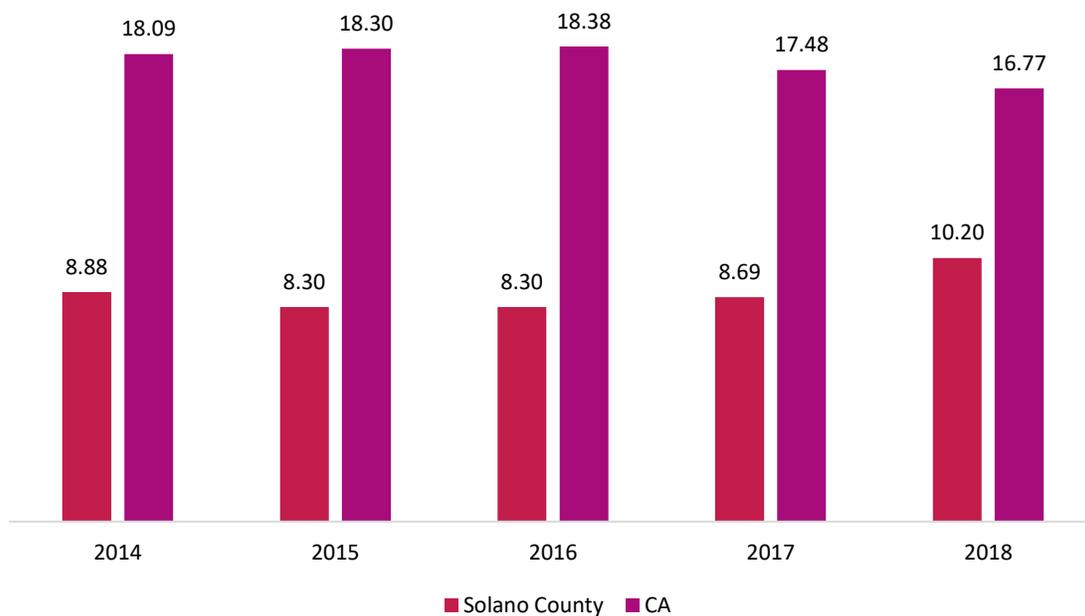
Another unmet need mentioned by seven key informants was child care for children with special needs. Although only 3% of the child population 0-5 has a special need (1,091 children),^{xxv} key informants said that finding enough providers who have the skills and confidence to meet the needs of these 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

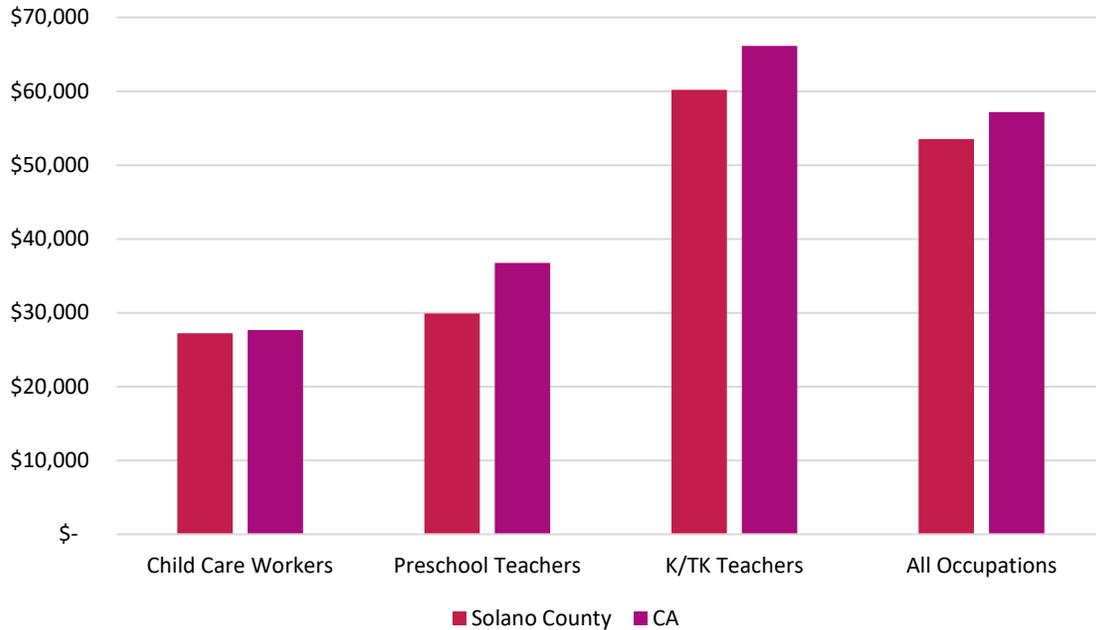


Source: California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

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



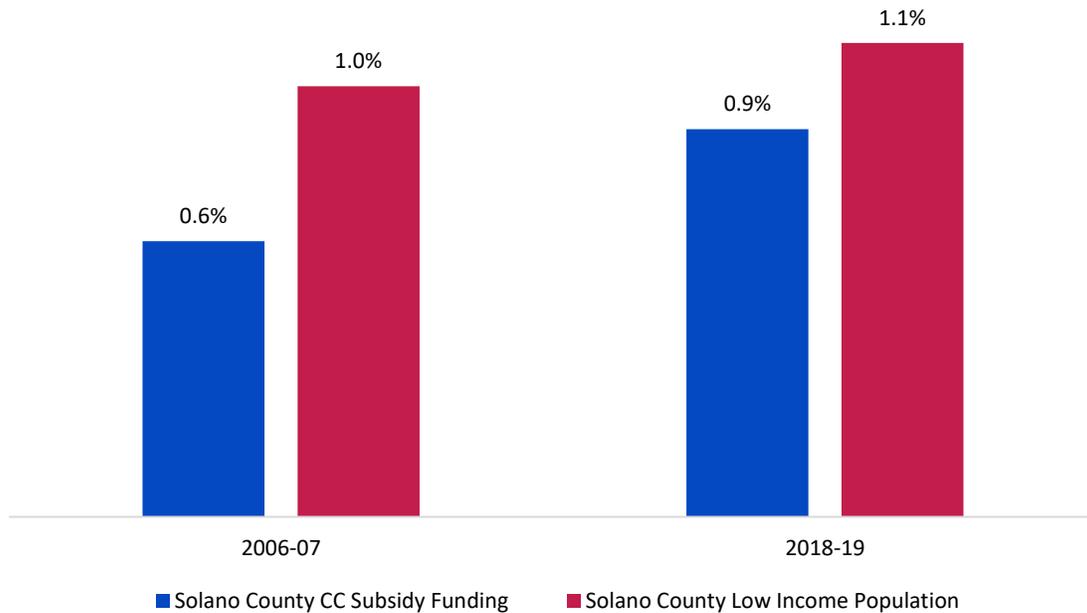
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2018). May 2017 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates: California and Vallejo-Fairfield.

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.

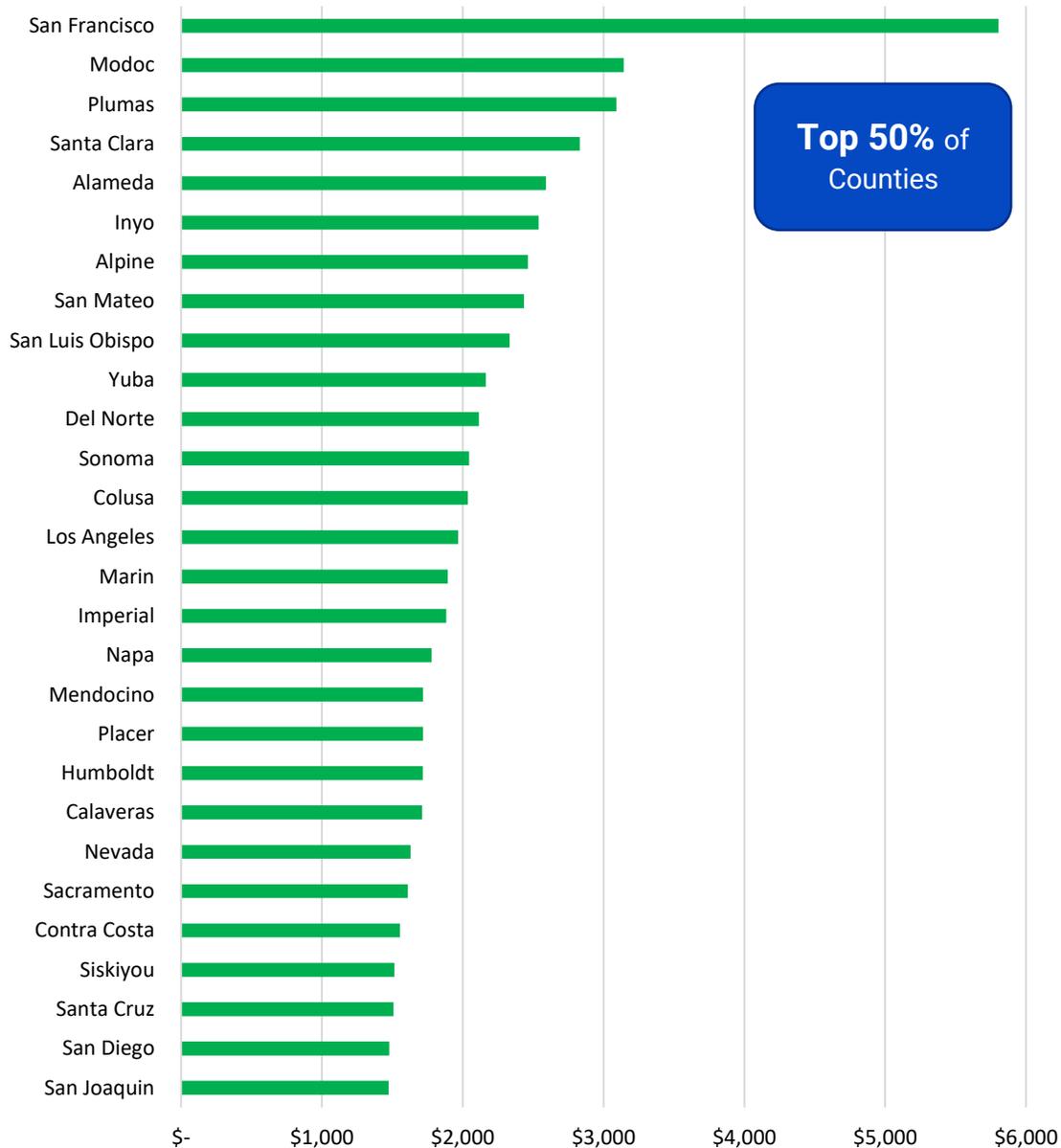
PERCENT OF STATE'S SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE FUNDING AND LOW INCOME CHILD POPULATION IN SOLANO COUNTY



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.^{xxxi} 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**

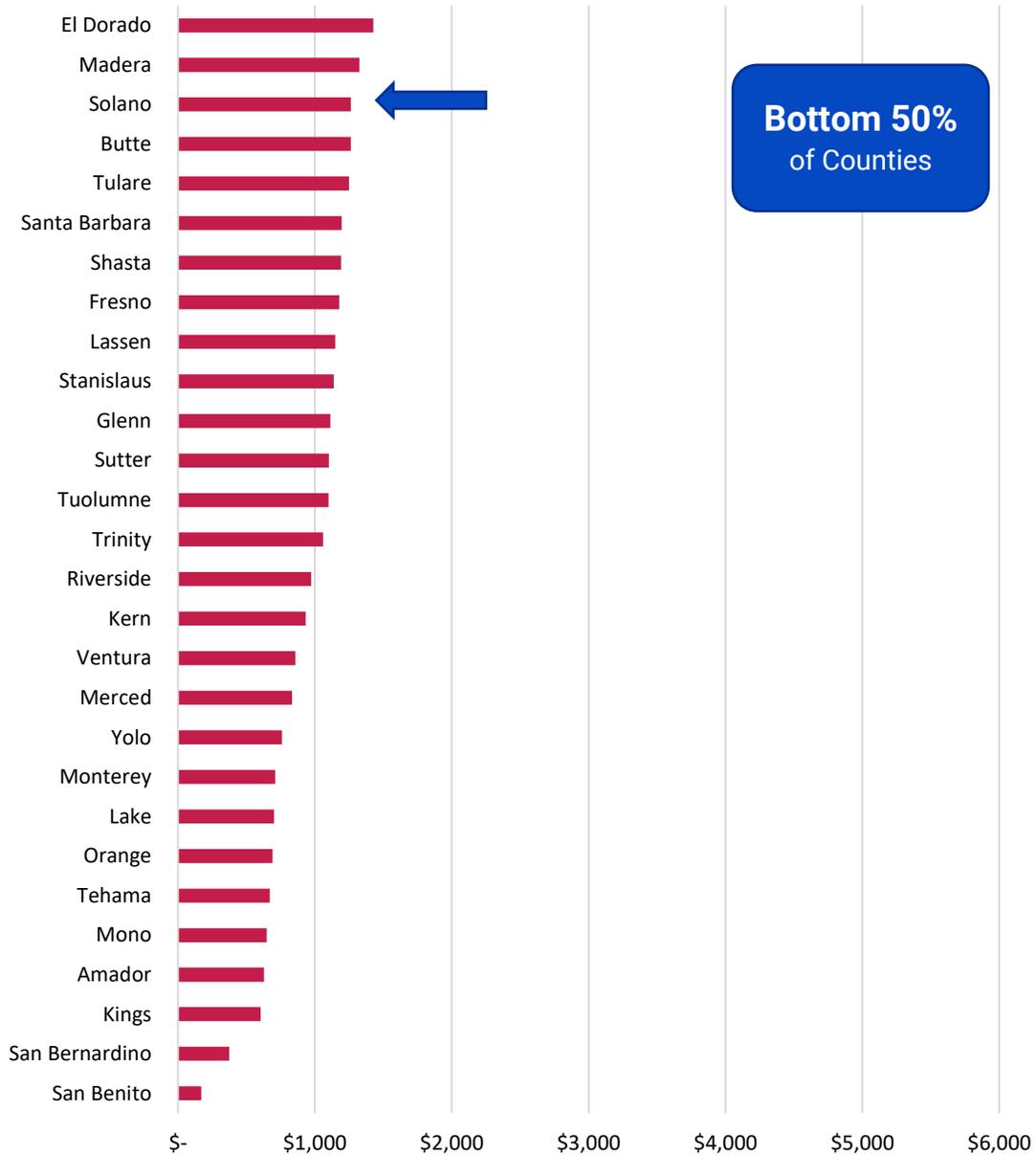


Source: California Department of Education.

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}

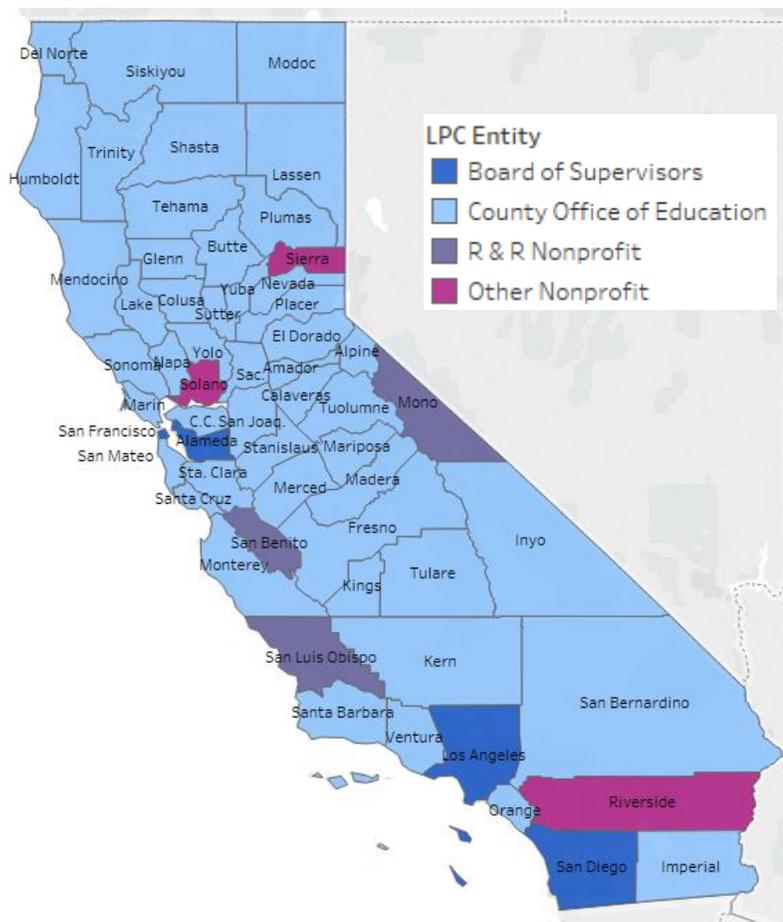
San Mateo County was a pioneer in the pilot program, which raised the income eligibility threshold for subsidized child care and increased reimbursement rates to providers.^{xvi} It also allows funding that is not spent by some ECE programs to be reallocated throughout the county. In addition, administrators 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

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^{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.

COMMISSIONERS

August 12, 2020

Lisette Estrella-Henderson
Chair

Lenesha Anderson

Jennifer Barton

Aaron Crutison

Mina Diaz

Erin Hannigan

Gerald Huber

Nicole Neff

Tyffany Wanberg

Birgitta E. Corsello
Solano County Administrator
675 Texas St.
Fairfield, CA 94533

Re: Solano County Local Child Care and Development Planning Council Administrator - Recommendation to Solano County Board of Supervisors

STAFF

Michele Harris
Executive Director

Megan Richards
Deputy Director

Juanita Morales
Program Manager

Gene Ibe
Program Manager

Lorraine Fernandez
Program Manager

Kwiana Algeré
Health Education Specialist

Luke Winders
Office Assistant III

Dear Ms. Corsello,

On August 11, 2020, the First 5 Solano Commission voted to recommend that the Board of Supervisors consider transitioning the administrative agency for the Solano County Local Child Care and Development Planning Council (SCLPC) to the Solano County Office of Education from The Children's Network of Solano County. This letter is to convey that recommendation and provide information to support the recommendation.

In January 2020, the First 5 Solano Commission received a report entitled *Expanding Early Learning Opportunities in Solano County* which included recommendations for possible next steps for Solano to increase the availability of early learning opportunities for children and support its working families. Along with several other recommendations, the Commission noted in the report the administering agency for the Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) was identified as an area to consider further investigation. Specifically, the report found:

“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. 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 early childhood education 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.”

The Commission asked staff to further investigate what a transition of the LPC to Solano's Office of Education would look like.



First 5 Solano is a
Division of the Solano
County Administrator's
Office

Function and History of the LPC in Solano County: The LPC is one of 58 Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils (LPCs) across the state, with one in every county. Across the state, 50 of the 58 LPCs are housed within their County Office of Education.

The primary mission of the LPC is to plan for child care and development services based on the needs of families in the local community. Functions of the LPC include (but are not limited to):

- Conduct an assessment of child care needs in the county no less than once every five years.
- Prepare local comprehensive countywide child care plans designed to mobilize public and private resources to address identified needs.
- Identify local funding priority areas for child care services for General Child Care and Development Programs and the State Preschool Program for new state and federal funds.
- Conduct local forums to encourage public input in the development of local priorities.
- Foster local partnerships with subsidized and non-subsidized providers, local and state children and families commissions, county welfare departments, human service agencies, regional centers, job training programs, employers, parent organizations, early start family resource centers, family empowerment centers on disability, local child care resource and referral programs, and other interested parties.
- Coordinate part-day programs, including state preschool and Head Start, with other child care and development services to provide full-day child care.

To support the work of the LPCs, the California Department of Education (CDE) provides some funding to each County's LPC specifically for coordination of child care services. After the Great Recession, there was reduced funding from CDE for LPCs across the state, also reducing the required and supplemental deliverables of LPCs. In addition to the funding from CDE, the Board of Supervisors provides \$12,500 annually as a required maintenance of effort amount to sustain this coordinating function.

Previous to 2008, funding for the LPC was received by the County and passed through to The Children's Network of Solano County. In 2008, the BOS formalized The Children's Network of Solano County as the "legal entity" administering the Solano LPC. The funding from CDE transitioned directly to the Children's Network with an annual allocation of \$12,500 from the General Fund also going to the Children's Network. The Children's Network currently staffs this coordinating function with a part-time LPC Coordinator. The 2008 staff report also suggested that the BOS revisit this decision after 10 years.

Solano County Office of Education's (SCOE) ECE Capacities: Over the last 12 years, SCOE has developed a strong early childhood education focus and presence with the Solano community, has taken the lead on early childhood education quality improvement efforts, and has secured additional state and federal funding for ECE efforts. SCOE has been the lead agency of Solano's Quality Rating and Improvement System known as Quality Counts Solano, which utilizes multiple state funding streams to increase quality in ECE settings

across the county. Quality Counts Solano includes recruiting local ECE providers to participate in coaching, professional development, and meeting quality improvement goals, as well as regularly convening local stakeholders to provide input on the work.

The success of Quality Counts Solano positioned SCOE to take on other ECE initiatives, including:

- The Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program: \$1.9 million of state funding to increase access for young children birth to five years old into inclusive early learning and care programs. It supports the inclusion of children with disabilities and exceptional needs, including children with severe disabilities, in early learning and care settings.
- ECE Workforce Pathways: A stipend and support program for early childhood educators. (Note: LPCs had first right of refusal to apply for the state funded program. The current LPC did not have capacity to apply for and implement the program, so SCOE stepped in to apply.)
- Development and leadership of a robust early learning professional development system, including an expansion of our annual ECE conference more recently attended by over 150 ECE professionals.
- Child care leadership during COVID-19: When First 5 Solano was called upon by the Office of Emergency Services to initiate a popup child care in response to essential workers needing child care during the Stay-at-Home orders, Solano County Office of Education played a key role with First 5 Solano in coordinating partners, including the Vallejo City Unified School District, Solano Family and Children's Services, and Child Start, Inc.

Recommendation: Building upon the findings in the report, further supported by COVID-19 learning which highlights the need for a large, coordinated response to childcare that aligns with the K-12 system, as well as considering state and federal expectations which require more complexity for the same amount or fewer state resources, at its August 2020 meeting, the First 5 Solano Commission voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to transition the administrative agency for the LPC to SCOE from the current nonprofit agency, The Children's Network of Solano County.

SCOE has developed the ECE expertise and infrastructure, as well as has the ability to access additional resources to support the role of the LPC in positioning Solano County to address the vast need of early learning and child care to support young children and working parents.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. Should you have additional questions, please contact me at mdharris@solanocounty.com or (707) 784-1340.

Sincerely,

Michele Harris, Executive Director, First 5 Solano

DATE: August 11, 2020

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Juanita Morales, Program Manager

CC: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJ: **FY2019/20 Annual Grants Final Report**

In FY2019/20, the Commission allocated \$200,000 toward its Annual Grants Program. The intent of the Annual Grants Program is to provide agencies with flexibility in responding to community need between funding cycles, fill gaps in the community with small grants, pilot new and innovative ideas and/or engage with new community partners. In this second year of funding, the initial response to the RFA did not allocate all the funding. Staff sought direction from the Commission's and a recommendation to release a second RFA was made. As a result, 10 agencies received funding for a total of \$153,200. Staff continued to monitor programs for learning opportunities as well as to mitigate risk associated with new programming and/or partners.

All grantees were required to report data at midyear and at the end of the project year. At midyear all grantees were on target to meet desired outcomes. In mid-March, many of the grantees had to shift their focus and service delivery as stay in place orders were delivered by the Governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A few agencies did not utilize the full grant and one agency returned a portion of the initial funding as delivering services virtually was not a viable option, and therefore was not able to complete the project. All other grantees completed their project and met a majority of their deliverables.

This item brings forward a summary of outcomes for the FY2019/20 Annual Grants program (Attachment A).

Attachment A: Annual Grants End Year Summary Presentation

2019/20 FIRST 5 SOLANO ANNUAL GRANTS FINAL REPORT



First 5 Solano Children and
Families Commission
Juanita Morales, Program Manager
August 11, 2020

2

Annual Grants Program

- \$200,000 available annually
- Grants of up to \$20,000
- Provides flexibility in responding to community needs between funding cycles
- Fills gaps in the community with small grants
- Pilots new and innovative ideas
- Engages with new community partners



3 **Funded Programs**

- ▶ Fairfield Suisun Adult School \$20,000
- ▶ Solano County Library \$14,865
- ▶ United Way \$20,000
- ▶ Innovative Health Solutions \$8,000
- ▶ Eric Reyes Foundation \$17,320
- ▶ Solano Family and Children's Services \$16,070

Total: \$96,255



4 **Funded Programs**

- ▶ Ready, Set, Survive...\$19,905
- ▶ Rio Vista CARE \$10,000
- ▶ Care4EM \$18,540
- ▶ Childplay Institute \$8,500

Total: \$56,945



5

2019/20 Annual
Grants Funding Total:
\$153,200

A stylized tree with a black trunk and branches. The leaves are green and yellow, and many of them contain a white dollar sign (\$). To the left of the tree is a green puzzle piece, and to the right is a dark green puzzle piece. The background is light blue with some faint, thin lines on the left side.

6

FSUSD Adult School SPACE program

- Fairfield Suisun Adult School received \$20,000 to upgrade the SPACE program playground
- 166 children enjoyed the playground from January 6th (the day it was open for play) to March 13th (the day they closed due to COVID-19).
- The new play structure was completed to ensure accessibility and compliance.
- Children will be able to safely use the play structure for years to come.

Two photographs of a playground. The top photo shows a red and yellow play structure with a slide. The bottom photo shows a blue and yellow play structure with a slide and a small blue structure in the foreground. The background is a clear blue sky and a fence.

7

*Solano County Library



- Received \$14,865 to provide Kidding Around Yoga Training to 15 children's library staff at 8 branches and provide 5 library yoga programs per branch (40)
- Trained 12 staff at 8 branches
- Launched the initiative in 1 branch (Sprinstowne library in Vallejo) and provided 2 programs in March (8 children and their parents attended)
- 1 virtual FB live event
- COVID-19 prevented them from continuing to offer the scheduled programming.
- Trained staff and purchase material so will reschedule programming when it is safe to do so.

8

United Way of the Bay Area

- United Way received \$20,000 to train 15 staff in the Family Centered Coaching model and provide services to 20 families
- 10 Staff were trained in the Family Centered Coaching Model
- 76 families received some type of service and 46 families participated in the model.
- 25 Families made progress toward debt reduction, 3 months of savings, improved credit score or increased income.



9

Innovative Health Solutions

- Received \$8,000 to provide trauma informed nutrition education to 20 women recovering from substance abuse.
- Transitioned to virtual service delivery model.
- Provided (5) 20 minute phone sessions to 20 mothers enrolled in FBP's "Creating a Beloved Community: Family and the Road to Resilience" program.
- Provided incentives for families to purchase food, kitchen items, utensils, etc..



10

Eric Reyes Foundation

- Received \$20,000 to provide bilingual art classes to 100 children and their grandparents/caregivers.
- Provided art classes to 136 children
- Due to COVID-19 classes shifted from offerings at the Library and First 5 Center to presenting storytime via zoom and delivering art supplies to each child's home



"We had an 18 month old that had never held a paintbrush, but with a little direction from the instructor and mom she started painting and wouldn't stop."



11

*Solano Family and Children's Services



- Received \$16,070 to provide baby signs and Mindful movement classes to 40 parents and 20 exempt care providers and their children for a total of 24 workshops.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic 10 workshops were completed.
- 84 parents, 15 providers and 104 children attended a workshop.
- 85% of attendees reported an increase in understanding how baby signs and mindful movement can be used in everyday routines and the benefit of these strategies.



12

Ready Set Survive



- Received \$19,905 to train 150 parents/caregivers of children 0-5 in CPR
- Provided CPR classes and certified 143 people in Adult & Pediatric CPR.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic changed service delivery to "Backyard CPR"
- 90% of participants had never been trained in CPR .
- Participants, included new parents, grandparents, and caregivers of young children.

13



Care 4EM

- Received \$18,540 to provide mindful music classes to 120 parents and children.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic changed service delivery to “Social Distance Mindful Music,” utilizing outdoor space.
- Provided classes to 118 children and 118 parents/caregivers.



“Witnessing resiliency in my community and experiencing my own resiliency.”



14

*Rio Vista CARE

- Received \$10,000 to bring ACEs awareness to 60 parents/caregivers in the Rio Vista community.
- Hosted 1 Kick-off event, and 2 group presentations for a total of 46 parents reached.
- One on one telephone outreach to 14 parents with children ages 0-5.
- Translated pamphlet “Understanding Trauma” to Spanish



15

The Childplay Institute

- Began planning and was prepared to deliver services to 36 children and their parents for 8 weeks in Spring 2020.
- The project required use of outdoor space. Parks were closed due to COVID-19 pandemic
- A portion of the funding was utilized to purchase materials, and program planning.
- Unused funds will be returned to First 5 Solano



16

Services provided

- 532 children served
- 512 parents/caregivers served
- In most cities in Solano County



17

Funding Summary Table

Agency	Allocation	Expenditure	Measures met
FSUSD	\$20,000	\$20,000	Yes
Library	\$14,865	\$8,208	No
United Way	\$20,000	\$20,000	Yes
Innovative Health Solutions	\$8,000	\$8,000	Yes
Eric Reyes Foundation	\$17,320	\$14,906	Yes
SFCS	\$16,700	\$9,640	No
Ready, Set, Survive	\$19,905	\$19,399	Yes
Care4EM	\$18,540	\$16,933	Yes
Rio Vista Care	\$10,000	\$7,922	No
Childplay Institute	\$8,500	\$3,900	No

18

Funding Summary

- Commission allocated \$200,000 in Annual Grants funding for FY2019/20
- Commission funded 10 agencies for a total of \$153,200
- Total actual expenditures was \$128,907
- Remaining \$46,800 + unspent \$24,292.15 = \$71,092.15



Questions



DATE: August 6, 2020

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director

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

The First 5 Network shows up for families: When the COVID-19 crisis took hold in March 2020, local First 5s sprang into action to make sure young children and their families were supported. First 5's across the state organized activities such as: supply drives so that families could have diapers & wipes and childcare providers could have cleaning and safety supplies; led the creation of pop-up child care sites; and set up emergency funds in our communities. The First 5 Association has created a presentation to tell this story which can be viewed at: <http://first5association.org/>

CARES Act Funding: First 5 Solano staff have been recording activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as time spent coordinating the pop-up child care efforts and the Emergency Response Fund. The County has been able to access CARES Act funding and First 5 Solano will be reimbursed for some of these activities. It is estimated that FY2019/20 expenses that will be reimbursed by the CARES Act include: \$12,572 in staff time for coordination of the popup child care; and \$35,176 of the Emergency Response Funds. First 5 Solano continues to track staff time and expenses and will submit allowable expenses in FY2020/21.

In addition to activities that First 5 Solano is doing for COVID-19 response, Solano County Public Health put out a request to all County staff for staff to be trained at contact tracers. First 5 Solano staff Kwiana Algere and Luke Winders have volunteered to act as part time contact tracers. First 5 Solano will be reimbursed for all costs related to contact tracing.

Emergency Response Fund Grant: Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the First 5 Solano Commission allocated a total of \$110,000 to the FY2020/21 Emergency Response Fund. For the FY2020/21 Emergency Response Fund, First 5 Solano received 38 applications in the one week period from 6/1/20-6/8/20. Funding was approved for 34 applications received from childcare providers, Family Resource Centers, and other agencies serving children 0-5 and their families in Solano County. Please see Attachment A for a list of these grants.

First 5 California Home Visiting Coordination Request for Applications (RFA): In May 2020, First 5 California announced a non-competitive RFA for Home Visiting Coordination funding to help counties create a sustainable, unified system that supports families with home visiting services and maximizes available funding to serve more families. First 5 Solano partnered with H&SS Public Health Division and submitted a proposal for \$100,000 a year for two years focusing on integration and strengthening coordination of home visiting program across the county. It is anticipated that First 5 California will process agreements with applicants by September 2020.

Community Partners at the Vallejo First 5 Center: On July 29th, Diaz & Loera Centro Latino, Another Chapter, and Solano County Public Health joined the staff at the Vallejo First 5 Center for an outdoor, socially distanced, produce distribution, special giveaways, and fun activities for families. Commissioner Mina Diaz from Centro Latino participated and provided emergency preparedness kits and census information. Natalie Kidder from Another Chapter provided free books, and staff from Solano County Public Health provided dental kits with toothbrushes, toothpaste and information on dental hygiene. Approximately 75 families participated in this event.



Commissioner Mina Diaz and Natalie Kidder handing out giveaways and census materials



Children enjoying the Wobble Boards

Census Outreach 2020: In partnership with First 5 Solano, the Children’s Network has continued to lead the census outreach efforts to Solano’s families with an emphasis on Hard-to-Count census tracts. This “Solano Kids Count” outreach campaign has adapted due to the COVID-19 challenges. Alternative outreach methods have been implemented, including Facebook Live events, targeted social media outreach, phone banking, and mailings. In addition, partner agencies that are part of the Solano Kids Count Implementation Subcommittee are providing opportunities for distributing census outreach materials to families. The Solano Economic Development Corporation who is overseeing the countywide Census effort reported on July 29th that Solano reached an important milestone as one of only 10 counties in the State of California that has surpassed its 2010 benchmark, meaning more residents have responded to the Census this year than participated 10 years ago.

Solano Funders Forum: As part of First 5 Solano’s continued efforts to raise the profile of Solano and to continue networking with Bay Area funders, First 5 Solano hosts a quarterly meeting with funders who have expressed an interest in collaborating to strengthen these efforts. Regular participants include staff from the Callison Foundation, Kaiser Community Benefit Program, Union Bank, Solano County Public Health, Travis Credit Union Community Engagement, Travis Credit Union Foundation, Wells Fargo Community Giving & Philanthropy, and Westamerica Bank.

The quarterly meeting was held on Thursday, July 23rd. Discussions included the many adjustments that funders have made due to COVID-19 activities. Some of these adjustments include pausing certain grant programs, re-directing funds from program to general operating support, and directing new funding to COVID-19 support for basic needs, rental assistance, and small business assistance. Several members were interested in scheduling additional meetings

to continue a conversation regarding potential support for immigrant communities. That subgroup met on July 29th and received a presentation from Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) on Cash Aid for the Bay's Undocumented Families: a regional COVID-19 Response Priority. Discussions were led by Solano County Public Health for potential financial assistance/support for immigrant communities in Solano County. This subgroup meets again on August 12th to continue their discussions.

Pre-K Academies: Since 2006, First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission has consistently provided funding to offer Pre-K Academies in Solano County. These Academies are 4-week sessions and are offered to children that have never had a pre-school experience, are English Language Learners or considered “high-risk” due to factors such as poverty, remoteness, substance abuse, family violence, child abuse or neglect and special needs. Pre-K Academies help prepare children and families for the transition to Kindergarten. This summer 8 school districts and 2 private agencies were contracted to provide 20 Pre-K sessions with close to 400 children expected to attend.

Although many of the agencies were prepared to provide the academies, most were not able to, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, citing closed campuses, shelter at home orders, and challenges with staff recruitment. Fortunately, 2 school districts, Fairfield Suisun Unified School District and Benicia Unified School District, went on to provide the Academies following COVID-19 guidelines for group care including a smaller cohort of 10 children per session. A total of seven Pre-K Academy sessions (6 by FSUSD and 1 by BUSD) were offered this year with close to 70 children attending. Children that attended a Pre-K Academy received books, pencil packs and dental kits through funding from First 5 Solano.

As multiple pre-k academies did not occur, over half of the \$200,000 allocated to this strategy has gone unspent. A small workgroup is discussing other ways to support school readiness of incoming kindergarteners who will be engaged in distance learning. Additionally, a more in-depth report of the results from the Pre-K Academies that were held will be provided at a future Committee meeting.



FSUSD Pre-K Student and staff



FSUSD SPACE program group picture

First 5 CA IMPACT 2020 (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive): In January 2020, the Commission approved First 5 Solano application to apply to First 5 California to continue the IMPACT program. On June 30, 2020, First 5 Solano was notified of the award of funding and on July 28, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved the revenue agreement for up to \$664,207 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023 with First 5 Solano to receive the funding.

Supply Bank.Org Emergency Supplies Program Distribution: On July 24th, First 5 Solano received its third distribution of COVID-19 Emergency Supplies from SupplyBank.Org funded by First 5 California. This delivery included over 11,000 adult face masks, 1,700 child face masks, 1,100 spray cleaners that were distributed to grantees and child care providers. In addition, individual sized hand soap and sanitizers were packaged together with First 5 Solano community engagement supplies and books provided by Solano County Office of Education into bags that were distributed to over 400 families across the county.

Attachment A: FY2020/21 Emergency Response Fund Grants

FIRST 5 SOLANO FY2020/21 EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND GRANTS		
Grantee	Grant Amount	Funds Utilization
A Better Way	4,000	Basic needs assistance, technology assistance
Amber Corral Family Childcare	1,700	Handwashing station, tables and chairs, utilities, learning materials, cleaning supplies
Benicia Family Resource Center	7,500	Basic needs assistance
Bright Beginnings Childcare	5,000	Staff costs
Bundles of Joy Daycare	7,500	Tenant improvements to convert garage for additional space for social distancing
Candleberry Daycare	150	Cleaning supplies
Care Bear Daycare	460	Air purifier, germicidal lamp, air conditioner hose
CARE4EM Childcare Provider	700	Handwashing station
Carson Child Care Home	1,700	Handwashing station, air purifier, tables and chairs, outdoor sun shades
Davis Family Childcare	4,450	Staff costs, utilities and cleaning supplies
Divine Nature Family Childcare	2,850	Handwashing station, staff costs
Eric Reyes Foundation	6,500	Basic needs assistance
Fighting Back Partnership	7,500	Basic needs assistance
Four Corners Academy	400	Learning materials, cleaning supplies
Jazzy's Lil Monkeys Childcare	6,300	Staff costs, utilities
Joyful's Infant & Toddler	4,150	Staff costs, utilities, learning materials
Just Like Home Childcare	2,562	Handwashing station, table top dividers, room dividers, tables and chairs, hand sanitizer dispensers
Les Petits Papillons Daycare	5,578	Staff costs, air purifier, touchless soap dispensers, learning materials
Let the Children Come Childcare	5,516	Handwashing station, staff costs, sleep mats, children's face masks, learning materials
Linda's Love Christian Preschool and Childcare	1,660	Indoor & outdoor tables and chairs, outdoor carpet mat squares, touch free faucets, touchless thermometer
Little Adventures Daycare	1,584	Indoor and outdoor tables and chairs, hand sanitizer station, learning materials
Little Gems Family Child Care	2,959	Handwashing station, tables and chairs, outdoor shade structure
Little Loves Daycare	1,660	Handwashing station, tables and chairs, touchless thermometer, hand sanitizer dispenser, sleep mats and covers, cleaning supplies
Miss Onedia's Learning Daycare	250	Learning materials
Ms. Jazzy's Daycare	400	Learning materials, cleaning supplies
Nani's Quality Childcare	1,682	Portable sink, touchless soap dispensers, touchless thermometer, high chairs, utilities, learning materials
Napa Solano SANE/SART	6,150	Basic needs assistance for displaced victims of crime with children 0-5
Safe in My Hands Family Childcare	5,150	Handwashing station, staff costs, learning materials, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer dispenser

FIRST 5 SOLANO FY2020/21 EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND GRANTS		
Grantee	Grant Amount	Funds Utilization
Sheree Baisden-Nickelberry Childcare	250	Backpacks, personal cups and dishes
Special Touch Daycare	310	Learning materials, touchless thermometer
Taylor Made Family Daycare	2,800	Handwashing stations, hand sanitizer dispensers, reading nooks, touch free faucets, touchless thermometers, activity mats
Tiny Tots Family WeeCare Daycare	250	Learning materials
Toddler University	1,050	Tables and chairs, reading nook, hand sanitizer station
Vacaville Family Resource Center	7,500	Basic needs assistance for immigrant families
TOTAL APPROVED	\$108,171	