COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT
POLICY • PLANNING • PRACTICE

NOVEMBER 14, 2018 ♦ 10:00 a.m. to Noon
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration ♦ Conference Room 743
500 W. Temple Street ♦ Los Angeles, California 90012

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

10:00	1. Comments from the Chair		Terry Ogawa
10:10	2. Approval of Minutes – October 10, 2018	**Action Item**	Terry Ogawa

Pending Priority Item Updates

10:15	Measure H – Homeless Initiative – Child Care	Cristina Alvarado
10:35	Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children	Ellen Cervantes

Strategic Priority Work

10:55	3. Strategic Planning	Maura Harrington

Public Policy

11:35	4. AB 2626 (Approved: September 30, 2018; Chapter 945) – Statewide Equity Bill	Michele Sartell

Wrap-up

11:45	5. Announcements & Public Comments	Meeting Participants
11:55	6. Meeting in Review & Call to Adjourn	Terry Ogawa

Pending Priority Items:
- Status on Strategic Plan Development
- Measure H – Homeless Initiative – Child Care - Cristina Alvarado
- Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children
- Exploring Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
- Workgroup collaboration with Child Care Planning Committee
- Board Motion – Pregnant and Incarcerated Women and Girls
- Continued discussion regarding Portrait of Los Angeles County

Next Meeting:
SAVE THE DATE!! Joint Strategic Planning Retreat
Friday, December 14, 2018, 08:30 a.m. to 03:30 p.m.
Location to be Determined

Mission Statement: **The Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development builds and strengthens early care and education by providing recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on policy, systems and infrastructure improvement.**

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POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT
POLICY • PLANNING • PRACTICE

Meeting Minutes for October 10, 2018

Welcome and Introductions

1. Call to Order and Comments by the Chair

Chair Terry Ogawa opened the meeting of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable) at approximately 10:06 a.m. with self-introductions.

2. Approval of September 12, 2018 Minutes

Upon a motion by Dr. Robert Gilchick and second by Terri Nishimura, the minutes for September 12, 2018 were approved. Alex Himmel abstained.

Strategic Priority Work

3. Upcoming Annual Retreat

Maura Harrington, the strategic planning consultant, presented a brief overview of the robust discussions among the Strategic Plan Workgroup (Workgroup) that resulted in the decision to pause, allowing for more upfront planning time, and the proposal to develop a joint strategic plan rather than two plans. Shaping the proposal is the transition of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) to the Department of Public Health – Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division (DPH-MCAH), which introduces a broad lens of equity and social justice for the OAECE as well as the Planning Committee and Roundtable. She offered, "What will it mean to integrate early care and education with public health?" She added that the Workgroup struggled with a few options that started with separate yet aligned plans to the importance of weaving together the elements of a plan and then landed on going bold with a single plan that, in addition to a unified plan, will guide the work of the OAECE as a part of DPH. The Workgroup is currently exploring dates for the retreat to be scheduled for December and securing a location. For this meeting, the conversation is about the proposed design and outlining opportunities and challenges. In addition, the meeting participants will be asked to consider the integration of the work under the umbrella of DPH.

Maura transitioned the work to small group discussions, asking meeting participants to consider two questions: what are the pros and cons of the proposal to work on a joint strategic plan; and what does the Planning Committee bring to the strategic planning table? For reference, she distributed the notes from the previous meeting.

Dr. Gilchick shared that there is a draft job bulletin for the Director of the Office for Advancment of Early Care and Education position. He mentioned that the release of this job posting will be very soon.

Public Policy

4. Protecting Immigrant Families: Responding to Proposed Public Charge Regulations

Michele Sartell, staff with the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, provided a brief overview of public charge and the text of the proposed rule changes that were released by the federal Department of Homeland Security on September 22, 2018. She prefaced her comments by stating that she is neither an attorney or expert in immigration issues. However, given earlier rumors and the general anxiety of the pending rule changes among immigrant communities and the programs that serve them, considered it important to at least bring the information to the members, alternates and other stakeholders with references to additional resources. She then directed attention to the slide deck prepared by the Center on Law and Social Policy. "Public charge is a term used by U.S. immigration officials to refer to a person who is considered likely to become primarily dependent on the government for assistance." For immigrants in the pipeline to becoming lawful permanent residents, the test for public charge is the totality of their experiences including such things age, health, family status, education and more. Currently, the test is triggered in two situations, 1) when the person receives cash assistance for income maintenance; or 2) institutionalization for long-term care.

The new definition expands the test to include the receipt of one or more public benefits, including non-emergency Medicaid, SNAP (i.e. food stamps), Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy, and housing assistance (Section 8 and rental assistance). Certain noncash assistance is not defined as a public benefit. Michele reviewed the children's use of benefits, which should not be a factor in the parents' public charge test. However, the child as the immigrant will have their use of benefits count toward their public charge determination. Skipping through the slide deck, Michele noted the information on messaging to help engage in conversations about the proposed rule changes and opportunities for advocacy. Pausing on the FAQs, she highlighted the question "Are educational programs included?" The response, "No. Non-cash benefits that provide education, child development, and employment and job training are excluded from the public charge determination under current law and in the proposed rule." Nevertheless, she suggested that the early care and education field diligently track the release of the proposed rules to be posted in the Federal Register and be prepared to comment within the 60-day window once the proposed rule changes are posted.

Nurhan Pirim of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) commented that I stated that DPSS staff have been instructed to refer inquiries on public charge to the Office of Immigrant Affairs at County Counsel because the federal rules are not yet finalized and speculation may only exacerbate people's concerns.

Wrap Up

5. Announcements and Public Comments

6. Meeting in Review

a. Action Items

Item Description	Lead
Continue the Strategic Planning Progress and Preparation for 2018 Retreat	Richard Cohen & Ellen Cervantes

b. Follow up Items

Item Description	Lead	Pending/Due
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	Kalene Gilbert	Updates
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles to present the updates on the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children	Ellen Cervantes Cristina Alvarado	Updates
Continue discussions with Cheryl Wold on strengthening and using data from the *Portrait of Los Angeles County*	Terry Ogawa	TBD
Continue discussions with the Office of Women and Girls Initiative	Terry Ogawa	TBD
Measure H – Homeless Initiative: Board of Supervisor's Child Care Motion	Cristina Alvarado	Updates

7. Call to Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Members Attending:
Boris Villacorta, First Supervisorial District
Dean Tagawa, Los Angeles Unified School District
Ellen Cervantes, Fifth Supervisorial District
Jackie Majors, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Jacquelyn McCroskey, Commission for Children and Families
Jeannette Aguirre, Probation Department
Nellie Ríos-Parra, Child Care Planning Committee
Nurhan Pirim, Department of Public Social Services
Richard Cohen, Third Supervisorial District
Robert Glichick, Department of Public Health
Terri Nishimura, Fourth Supervisorial District
Terry Ogawa, Third Supervisorial District

Alternate Members Attending:
Aden Michael for Kalene Gilbert, Department of Mental Health
Alex Himmel, Child360
Debi Anderson for Keesha Woods, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Liliana A. Hernandez, Southern Chapter of the CA Association for the Eduction of Young Children
Ofelia Medina, First 5 LA

Guests Attending:
Ariana Oliva, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Cristina Alvarado, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Jessica Barahona, Department of Mental Health
Yasmin Grewal-Kök, Early Edge California

Staff:
Marghot Carabali
Michele Sartell

Child Care Bridge Program
CHILD CARE ALLIANCE LOS ANGELES

County of Los Angeles
Department of Children and Family Services

En asociación con el Departamento de Servicios para Niños y Familias del Condado de Los Angeles

CHILD CARE BRIDGE PROGRAM

Cerrando la Disparidad de Acceso

AUMENTAR EL ACCESO PARA NIÑOS DE CRIANZA

Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA) y sus agencias asociadas están entusiasmadas de lanzar el nuevo programa, "Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program)." Este es un nuevo programa financiado por el Estado administrado a través del Departamento de Servicios Sociales de California (CDSS) y el Departamento de Servicios para Niños y Familias (DCFS).

El nuevo Bridge Program es un programa de tiempo limitado diseñado para aumentar el número de niños de crianza colocados con éxito en hogares de cuidado familiar, aumentar la capacidad de los programas de cuidado infantil para satisfacer las necesidades de los niños de crianza bajo su cuidado y maximizar los fondos para apoyar las necesidades de cuidado infantil de las familias elegibles.

Hay tres partes del Bridge Program:

NAVEGADOR

Agencias de Recursos y Referencias de todo el condado de Los Angeles tendrán navegantes de cuidado infantil para ayudar a las familias de recursos de cuidado de crianza elegibles con:

- Encontrar un proveedor de cuidado infantil,
- Asegurar una colocación subsidiada de cuidado infantil,
- Completar aplicaciones del programa de cuidado infantil, y
- Desarrollar un plan para el cuidado de niños a largo plazo apropiado a la edad y necesidades del niño

ASISTENCIA SUBSIDIADA

Las familias elegibles pueden recibir subsidio de cuidado infantil por tiempo limitado para ayudar a pagar los costos de cuidado infantil para niños de crianza desde el nacimiento hasta los 5 años y sus hermanos. Esto también incluye niños de crianza con necesidades excepcionales y niños severamente discapacitados hasta la edad de 21 años.

- Las referencias al Bridge Program deben hacerse a través del Trabajador Social de Niños (CSW) de la familia de recursos en DCFS
- Los subsidios serán aprobados por un período inicial de hasta seis meses, con una posible extensión de seis meses
- El padre del recurso trabajará con un navegador para localizar una colocación de cuidado infantil apropiada para el niño

TRAUMA-INFORMADO

Programas de cuidado infantil que participen en el Bridge Program recibirán acceso a consejería y talleres de cuidado informado sobre el trauma. Los temas de los talleres incluyen, pero no se limitan a:

- Desarrollo de bebés y infantiles
- Prácticas de cuidado mejores basadas en la investigación y basadas en el trauma

Proveedores de cuidado infantil también recibirán acceso a consejería para ayudarlos a aplicar el plan de estudios y aprender estrategias para trabajar con niños en cuidado de crianza.

PROCESO DE REFERENCIA

El Bridge Program asegurará que los servicios de cuidado infantil de emergencia estén disponibles para los siguientes cuidadores fuera del hogar con niños ubicados en el DCFS, desde recién nacidos hasta los 5 años y sus hermanos:

a. Padres de recursos, en espera de aprobación de RFA que ya tienen una colocación de niños;
b. Los padres de recursos existentes, que ya tienen una colocación de niño o están considerando una colocación; y
c. Padres adolescentes / dependientes no menores bajo la supervisión del DCFS

El proceso de referencia del Bridge Program será administrado conjuntamente entre DCFS, CCALA y la agencia local de Recursos y Referencias (R & R) al servicio de la oficina regional de DCFS.

DCFS referirá a las familias a Bridge Program:

a. Como condición para aceptar una nueva ubicación; o
b. Para aceptar la colocación de hermanos juntos en la misma casa; o
c. Para preservar una ubicación existente

El objetivo del programa es proporcionar acceso inmediato al cuidado infantil mientras se ayuda a las familias de recursos a obtener cuidado infantil a largo plazo, dentro de las reglas de elegibilidad. El programa Bridge está separado y aparte de, y no debe confundirse con el Programa de Cuidado Infantil de DCFS.

Trabajando juntos para fortalecer a las familias y garantizar el cuidado infantil de alta calidad y el aprendizaje temprano en todo el condado de Los Angeles

COLABORACIÓN EN EL CONDADO

En el Condado de Los Angeles, el Bridge Program es una colaboración entre CCALA, las oficinas locales de DCFS y su respectiva agencia de Recursos y Referencias (R & R). Hay ocho agencias en el condado de Los Angeles (ver mapa).

Para encontrar su R & R local, llame 1 (888) 92- CHILD o visita www.ccala.net

Child Care Bridge Program

CHILD CARE ALLIANCE LOS ANGELES

County of Los Angeles
Department of Children and Family Services

In partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services

CHILD CARE BRIDGE PROGRAM

Bridging the Access Gap

EXPANDING ACCESS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA) and its partner agencies are excited to launch the new Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program). This is a new State funded program administered through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

The new Bridge Program is a time-limited program designed to increase the number of foster children successfully placed in home-based family care settings, increase capacity of child care programs to meet the needs of foster children in their care, and maximize funding to support the child care needs of eligible families.

There are three components to the Bridge Program:

NAVIGATOR

Resource & Referral agencies throughout Los Angeles County will house child care navigators to assist eligible foster care resource families with:

- Finding a child care provider,
- Securing a subsidized child care placement,
- Completing child care program applications, and
- Developing a plan for long-term child care appropriate to the child's age and needs

VOUCHER

Eligible families may receive a time-limited child care voucher to help pay for child care costs for foster children birth through age 5 and their siblings. This also includes foster children with exceptional needs and severely disabled children up to age 21.

- Referrals to the Child Care Bridge Program must be made through the resource family's Children's Social Worker (CSW) at DCFS
- Vouchers will be approved for an initial period of up-to six months, with a possible six-month extension
- The Resource parent will work with a Navigator to locate an appropriate child care placement for the child

TRAUMA-INFORMED

Child care programs engaged in the Bridge Program will receive access to trauma-informed care training and coaching. Topics of the training include, but are not limited to:

- Infant and toddler development
- Research-based, trauma-informed best care practices

Child care providers will also receive access to coaching to assist them in applying training curriculum and learn strategies for working with children in foster care

REFERRAL PROCESS

The Bridge Program will ensure that emergency child care services are made available to the following out-of-home caregivers with DCFS-placed children, ages birth to 5 and their siblings:

a. Resource Parents, pending RFA approval who already have a child placement;
b. Existing Resource Parents, who already have a child placement or are considering a placement; and
c. Parenting teens/non-minor dependents under DCFS supervision

The Bridge Program referral process will be collaboratively administered between DCFS, CCALA and the local Resource & Referral (R&R) agency serving the DCFS Regional Office.

DCFS will refer families to the Bridge Program:

a. As a condition of accepting a new placement; OR
b. In order to accept placement of siblings together in the same home; OR
c. In order to preserve an existing placement

The goal of the program is to provide immediate access to child care while assisting the resource families in obtaining long-term child care, within eligibility guidelines. The Bridge Program is separate and apart from, and not to be confused with the DCFS Child Care Program.

Working together to strengthen families and ensure high-quality child care and early learning across Los Angeles County

COUNTYWIDE COLLABORATION

In Los Angeles County, the Bridge Program is a collaboration between CCALA, local DCFS offices and their respective Resource & Referral (R&R) agency. There are eight agencies in Los Angeles County (see map).

To find your local R&R, call 1 (888) 92- CHILD or visit www.ccala.net

Child Care Resource Center — Quality · Support · Development · Education; connections for children; Crystal Stairs, Inc.; Children's Home Society of California; MAOF Mexican American Opportunity Foundation; Pathways LA; Options for Learning; Pomona Unified School District

CCWRO Welfare News -
2018-09 - September 17, 2018

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.
1111 Howe Ave • Suite 150 • Sacramento • CA 95825-8551
Telephone (916) 736-0616 • Cell (916) 712-0071 • Fax (916) 736-2645

CalWORKs WtW Sanctions, County Barriers to Reengagement & Potential County Administrative Fiscal Incentives from Sanctions

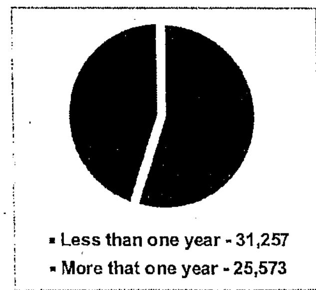
In 2007, the State budget appropriated an additional $90 million a year for counties to invest in reengaging WtW participants by reengaging sanctioned CalWORKs families. The $90 million allocation has been a part of the annual county single allocation since 2007. What was the sanction rate in July of 2007 when the county got their $90 million gift? 25%. What was it a years later in 2018? 43%. The $90 million new allocation resulted in the unintended result of more sanctions not less. See Table #1.

TABLE # 1

June 2007	2-Parent	1-Parent	Total
Sanctions	6533	34026	40559
Active Participants	31725	89515	12124
Sanction Rate	17%	28%	25%
June 2018	**2-Parent**	**1-Parent**	**Total**
Sanctions	16579	39508	56087
Active Participants	19389	53756	73145
Sanction Rate	46%	42%	43%

During June 2018, the CW 237 reported that 25,377 WtW CalWORKs beneficiaries have been sanctioned for more than one year. The CW 237 reflects the counties monthly data. During June 2017 a total of 56,830 CalWORKs families enrolled in WtW were sanctioned with 75,823 families actually participating. This is a 57% engagement rate. Once recipients are sanctioned, about 45% of them are not reengaged for over one year. Why? Counties have a financial interest in making sure that the CalWORKs beneficiaries are not reengaged because a reengaged person costs counties money while the sanctioned person costs the county $0 dollars. Meanwhile, counties receive over $1,000 a month for each sanctioned or participating CalWORKs family.

Sanctions Over One-Year



Yes. It is true. Sanctioned CalWORKs beneficiaries do not participate in any WtW activities, do not receive case management services or supportive services. Yet, each month, the county receives $1,000 or more for each non-participating CalWORKs beneficiary. This is a big windfall for counties and it is devastating for CalWORKs families being forced to live in deep-deep poverty. See table #2 on page 3 for more details.

Counties told CDSS that they need the money for sanctioned CalWORKs beneficiaries just in case the sanctioned CalWORKs beneficiary decided to participate.

Some CalWORKs beneficiaries cure their

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sanctions and reengage. If CDSS used the number of formerly sanctioned CalWORKs beneficiaries who reengaged last year as an estimate as to what to pay counties, the counties would have an incentive to reengage sanctioned CalWORKs beneficiaries. There are two major reasons for this:

1. Counties have a fiscal incentive to sanction WtW enrollees. See Table #1.
2. CDSS' policies and county's policies erect barriers to WtW engagement.

Barriers to WtW Curing Sanctions

CalWORKs applicants are sanctioned for alleged non-compliance

During the development of AB 1542, which enacted the WtW program, there was a proposal to require applicants to participate in a WtW activity. This proposal was rejected. However, CDSS regulations allow counties to reinstate sanctions when former recipients who were being sanctioned reapply for CalWORKs. The reinstated sanctions continue until the former sanction is cured. Assistance units who were sanctioned in the 20th century, left CalWORKs while still under a sanction and then reapply in the 21st century are required to cure the 20th century sanction. In the 20th century there was no OCAT, Family Stabilization.. It appears that policy makers are more interested in carrying out the WtW punishment in lieu of rapid engagement by treating all applicants alike in the 21st century.

STEPS	CalWORKs Beneficiary & County Actions	Barrier?
STEP # 1	Call the worker to request to cure the sanction	No
STEP # 2	Reaching the worker	Yes*
STEP # 3	Ask to cure the sanction	n/a
STEP # 4	Eligibility Worker (EW) says to call the GAIN/WtW office	n/a
STEP # 5	The EW gives the CalWORKs beneficiary the GAIN/WtW phone number	n/a
STEP # 6	CalWORKs beneficiary calls the GAIN/WtW office, only to be told that the CalWORKs beneficiary does not have an open case.	Yes
STEP # 7	The CalWORKs beneficiary calls the EW to ask how to open the GIAN/WTW case. Eligibility worker says to call the GAIN/WtW office. **A real circle.**	Yes

** Major barriers in 2018. About 33 counties have call centers. Many have long waiting periods. Many calls are dropped. Many are disconnected for failure to authenticate.*

To reengage in the WtW program, the CalWORKs beneficiary must perform the activity that the CalWORKs beneficiary failed to perform. The WtW 29 and WtW 31 forms must-be completed to start the process of re engagement. The CalWORKs beneficiary wishing to cure the sanction, must complete the following process in most counties before they can even get the WtW 29 and WtW 31:
The other major barrier is counties afford sanctioned CalWORKs beneficiaries very limited opportunities to cure the sanction.
What can policy makers do to reengage sanctioned CalWORKs beneficiaries who are not applicants? These are common sense suggestions:

1. At the time of recertification or when completing the SAR 7, the counties should make an effort to cure the sanction.
2. After the CalWORKs beneficiary performs the activity that triggered the sanction, aid for the CalWORKs beneficiary shall be restored from the date that the CalWORKs beneficiary signed the WtW 29 or the revised WtW 31.
3. Each quarter, sanctioned CalWORKs beneficiaries shall receive a revised WtW 31 that shall include the reason for the initial sanction, a proposed county plan to cure the sanction, a space for CalWORKs beneficiaries to their own suggest a plan to cure the sanction, and space for the CalWORKs beneficiary to request supportive services needed to cure the sanction. Approximately 60% of the sanctions are for failure to sign a WtW 2. For these CalWORKs beneficiaries the combined form should include the WtW 2 that can be signed and returned, starting the

(Cont'd on page 3)

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engagement process.

One problem with the WtW 31 and WtW 32 is that they do not have space for the CalWORKs beneficiary to propose his/her own participation plan. Both forms do not explain the magnitude of the sanction. Often, CW beneficiaries have no idea they are being sanctioned. They believe the amount of aid they're getting each month is what they are entitled to receive. Counties should also send the revised WtW 3 with the SAWS 2 for annual redetermination and the SAR 7 for semi-annual reporting.

4. A previously sanctioned individual who now applies for CalWORKs shall be treated as an applicant and once aid is approved, be scheduled for engagement. Applicants shall not be required to complete a revised WtW 31.

CDSS is now reevaluating the way counties are funded for Welfare-to-Work portion of the CalWORKs program. We are hopeful that incentives for counties to sanction CalWORKs families will be carefully reexamined and corrected to assure that there is not even an appearance of counties sanctioning CalWORKs families living in deep poverty to enhance their coffers.

TABLE # 2

County- June 2018 Source: WtW 25 WtW & 25A	Participating	Sanctioned	Sanctioned + one year	Percentage of Sanctions + 1 year
Statewide	75,823	56,830	25,573	31%
Fresno	6,367	1,078	1420	57%
Solano	360	156	155	50%
Contra Costa	1,407	580	449	44%
Del Norte	106	15	11	42%
Santa Cruz	521	68	49	42%
Yolo	389	122	81	40%
San Diego	6,294	1,414	874	38%
Lassen	10	18	11	38%
Santa Barbara	529	71	43	38%
Tulare	2,407	697	407	37%
Glenn	21	23	13	36%
San Joaquin	1,109	3,165	1705	35%
Imperial	934	1,133	608	35%
Orange	3,534	1,148	610	35%
San Mateo	240	51	27	35%
Placer	298	69	35	34%
Modoc	16	26	13	33%
Madera	211	473	228	33%
Stanislaus	1,355	1,488	712	32%
Tehama	151	144	67	32%
Kern	2,039	5,619	2587	32%
Merced	766	1,390	635	31%
Lake	160	194	87	31%
Alameda	1,980	887	399	31%
Monterey	446	389	174	31%
Shasta	356	512	226	31%
Sacramento	6,891	1,846	801	30%

County- June 2018	Participating	Sanctioned	Sanctioned + one year	Percentage of Sanctions + 1 year
San Francisco	1,066	213	91	30%
Nevada	87	59	25	30%
Butte	402	569	233	29%
Plumas	4	22	9	29%
Los Angeles	19,920	16,735	6802	29%
San Bernardino	6,001	9,618	3907	29%
Mendocino	173	166	66	28%
Santa Clara	1,237	469	179	28%
Colusa	10	21	8	28%
San Benito	74	40	15	27%
Kings	522	286	107	27%
Yuba	360	226	84	27%
Humboldt	390	194	71	27%
El Dorado	194	197	72	27%
Mariposa	49	23	8	26%
Riverside	4,268	3,755	1286	26%
Napa	36	44	15	25%
Mono	3	3	1	25%
Marin	97	82	27	25%
Sutter	208	215	70	25%
Sonoma	444	93	29	24%
Ventura	959	758	229	23%
Siskiyou	55	63	19	23%
San Luis Obispo	130	33	9	21%
Tuolumne	49	71	19	21%
Amador	14	16	4	20%
Calaveras	117	51	12	19%
Trinity	48	13	3	19%
Inyo	6	17	3	15%

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ASSEMBLY BILL 2626 – THE STATEWIDE EQUITY BILL

Synopsis

On September 30, 2018 Governor Jerry Brown approved AB 2626 (Chapter 945), the statewide equity bill that extends the early learning and care subsidy program exceptions afforded to 13 counties to children and families throughout the state. The bill's provisions become operative on July 1, 2019.

Provisions of the Bill[1]

- Defines three- and four-year-old children as those with their third or fourth birthday on or before December 1st of the fiscal year in which they are enrolled in a state preschool program. Allows children with third birthdays on or after December 2nd of the fiscal year to be enrolled in a state preschool program on or after their third birthday (a change from September 1st).

- Deletes requirement that at least one half of children enrolled at a state preschool site must be four-year old children.

- Allows for intra-agency adjustments between California State Preschool Program contracts and General Child Care contracts for the same agency.

- Allows families establishing initial or ongoing eligibility on the basis of seeking employment to receive 12 months of continuous eligibility (a change from up to six months).

- Sets initial income eligibility for early care and education services at 85 percent of the state median income, adjusted for family size.

- Provides up to two days of staff training per contract period to California Department of Education (CDE)-contracted center-based programs using their state reimbursement funding. Training topics include procedures for emergencies in child development programs, licensing regulations relating to child development programs, recognition and reporting of suspected abuse of children in child development programs, managing challenging behaviors and preventing expulsion of children, and addressing items on the program's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Quality Plan.

- Strengthens the language pertaining to the voluntary, temporary transfer of funds between agencies with like contracts. The CDE is to establish timelines for interagency contract fund transfers. In addition, the CDE may implement and administer the issuance of guidance or other written directives that may include establishing timelines for the submittal of requests to transfer funds.

Analysis – What this means for Los Angeles County

Over the past 14 years, several pieces of legislation have passed allowing now 13 counties[2] to pilot individualized subsidy plans. The pilot plans provided the respective counties the opportunity to modify the use of their subsidy dollars to address local needs, conditions, and priorities of working families in their communities. Initially, the pilots were proposed as a means for addressing the high cost of living in San Mateo and San Francisco, where large populations of low-income working families exceeded the income eligibility cap to access early care and education services. However, the pilots gained increased consideration by other counties across the state wishing to expand eligibility to additional low-income working families and raise the reimbursement rates of the programs that served them. While legislation moved forward on the efforts by multiple counties that were eventually approved by the Governor, there was concern that they detracted from much needed statewide reforms to the broader system. Additional concerns were raised about introducing a pilot program in large, complex counties such as Los Angeles and the challenges that would be faced by smaller rural counties lacking the infrastructure to administer a local subsidy pilot.

AB 2626 addresses the inequity of services available to children of low-income families across the state resulting from the individualized pilot programs by amending certain provisions of child care and development sections of the California Education Code. Based on 2016 data, approximately 123,000 more babies and toddlers of working families with incomes up to 85 percent in Los Angeles County are likely to become eligible for subsidized early care and education services subsidized by the CDE.[3] For three- and four-year-old children, an estimated 15,800 additional children are projected to become eligible for the part- or full-day California State Preschool Program (CSPP) in the County.[4] Raising the eligibility cap to 85 percent of SMI offers a greater scope of the need for early care and education services to low- to moderate income families in Los Angeles County and expands the number of children eligible for CSPP. Further, lowering the age of preschool eligibility allows programs to enroll additional three-year-old children to make up for the gap in four-years-old's who may be attending Transitional Kindergarten.

Certain provisions provided to the pilot counites under previously approved legislation, including 24 months of continuous eligibility and increased reimbursement rates, will not be available under AB 2626.

Recommended Next Steps

The Joint Committee on Legislation will closely monitor any directives for implementing the changes to the California Education Code released by the CDE.

For More Information

Questions and comments regarding this summary may be referred to Michele Sartell, staff with the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, by e-mail at msartell@ph.lacounty.gov or by telephone at (213) 639-6239.

Endnotes

[1] Assembly Bill No. 2626 (Approved: September 30, 2018; Chapter 945). Retrieved on October 23, 2018 from http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2626.

[2] The 13 counties are Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Marin, Monterey, San Benito, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma.

[3] As of 2016, 96,703 babies and toddlers of working families earning up to 70 percent of the SMI were eligible for state subsidized early care and education services. When calculated at 85 percent of SMI, 220,273 children of low-income working families would have been eligible. American Institutes for Research (AIR). Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool. Exported on November 13, 2018.

[4] As of 2016, 144,716 preschool age children (76,307 three-year-olds and 68,409 four-year-olds) of families with incomes up to 70 percent of the SMI were eligible for the California State Preschool Program. Families earning up to 85 percent of the SMI accounted for 160,523 preschoolers (84,642 three-year-olds and 75,881 four-year-olds). American Institutes for Research (AIR). Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool. Exported on November 13, 2018.

CHILD CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND
POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

SAVE THE DATE!

Joint Strategic Planning Retreat
Friday, December 14, 2018
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Almansor Court
700 South Almansor Street
Alhambra, CA 91801

* The retreat will occur in lieu of the regularly scheduled December meetings of both bodies.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health