

CHILD CARE AND YOUR CITY

HOW CITIES CAN INCREASE ACCESS
TO CHILD CARE



This Toolkit is sponsored by
**the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office for the
Advancement of Early Care and Education** in partnership with the
**Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning, Los Angeles County Department
of Public Works, Building & Safety Division, Los Angeles County
Fire Department, First 5 LA, and the California Department of
Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division.**



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PURPOSE OF THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit (“Toolkit”) is part of Los Angeles County’s efforts to reduce barriers to child care facility development, including family child care homes and child care centers. This Toolkit is intended for city and county planning staff and provides important legal updates and best practices on how cities and planning departments can make developing, renovating, and operating much-needed child care facilities in their communities easier to do.



INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION (ECE) IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF HEALTHY, ECONOMICALLY VIBRANT, AND LIVABLE COMMUNITIES.¹



Despite ECE's importance, there is a child care crisis in Los Angeles county, especially for infants and toddlers.

ECE is instrumental for child development, school readiness, and lifelong success.

90% of brain development occurs between the ages of zero to five.²



ECE is also essential for families and an economic driver. Parents who secure ECE services for their children are able to:

- work
- go to school
- ECE industry itself provides a significant number of jobs and generates considerable revenue.³



According to research shared by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, the current ECE system only has the capacity to serve 14% of families with children zero to three that are eligible for subsidized child care.⁴



ENSURING AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF CONVENIENTLY LOCATED QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE ECE PROGRAMS IS VITAL FOR BOLSTERING WORKING FAMILIES, CHILD CARE PROVIDERS, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY.

¹ The American Planning Association (APA) has long recognized that child care is a critical component of liveable communities for many families and that local policies can play an important role in ensuring adequate child care; <https://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/childcare.htm>.

² <https://www.first5la.org/article/first-5-explains-early-learning/>.

³ <https://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/pdf/2019/Investing-in-Early-Care-and-Education.pdf>.

⁴ December 14, 2022 Local Planning Council Child Care Needs Assessment - L.A. County; <https://childcare.lacounty.gov/prccd/#1473958079927-2d068513-1824>.

The median income of child care providers in California is \$27,940 per year.⁵

Challenging land use approval processes, including high fees for permits, applications, and plans as well as long wait times for zoning permit hearings exacerbate the child care crisis by imposing prohibitive fees and unreasonable demands on child care providers.



The American Planning Association recognizes that local planning policies can play an important role in ensuring adequate child care including:

- reducing zoning barriers and fees
- simplifying permitting processes
- incorporating child care policies within every community's long-range general plan.⁶



CITIES/PLANNING DEPARTMENTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Cities and planning departments are in a unique position to make review and approval of child care facilities more affordable and less burdensome for child care providers.

Child care facilities, unlike other uses for which zoning and building permits are required, fit within and enhance the character and vibrancy of surrounding neighborhoods.



The high and growing demand for quality ECE has created new opportunities for cities and planning departments to support child care facility development and build family-friendly communities.



⁵ <https://cscce.berkeley.edu/workforce-index-2020/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/02/Early-Childhood-Workforce-Index-2020.pdf>.

⁶ <https://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/childcare.htm>.

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES



DEFINITIONS



A “**Family Child Care Home**” is a facility that regularly provides care, protection, and supervision for fourteen or fewer children, in the provider’s own home, for periods of less than 24 hours per day, while the parents or guardians are away, and is either a small family child care home or a large family child care home.⁷ Home is defined as where the family child care provider resides and includes apartments, condos, townhomes, and single-family homes.⁸

IMPORTANT STATE LAW RELATED TO FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

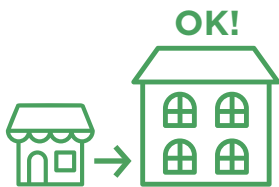
California Senate Bill (SB) 234: Keeping Kids Close to Home Act

California Senate Bill (SB) 234, Keeping Kids Close to Home Act, which went into effect January 1, 2020, made important changes to how local jurisdictions throughout California, including within Los Angeles County, regulate small and large family child care homes.⁹

The changes introduced by SB 234 include, but are not limited to the following:



- Local jurisdictions (e.g., cities and counties) in California **cannot require a zoning permit nor a business license, fee, or tax in order to operate a licensed family child care home, small or large.** Please note: zoning, building, and other permits may still be required for family child care home renovations and/or construction.



- A child care provider expanding from a small to a large family child care home no longer needs to get permission for the expansion from their local jurisdiction unless physical changes will be made that require approval from zoning and building departments.



- Large family child care homes can no longer be subject to special rules and requirements by local jurisdictions in the areas of spacing and concentration, traffic control (e.g. drop-off/pick-up areas), parking, and noise control. Specifically, the use of a home as a small or large family child care is considered a residential use of property and a use by right for the purposes of all local ordinances, including, but not limited to, zoning ordinances. Use of a home as a family child care also does not constitute a change of occupancy for purposes of local building codes.¹⁰



- SB 234 did not change any of the state licensing or fire requirements for operating family child care homes. However, the Office of the State Fire Marshall has issued guidance regarding family child care homes which clarifies that no fees can be charged for large family child care home fire clearances and annual fire inspections are not required.¹¹

7 Cal. Health & Safety Code Section 1596.78(a).

8 Cal. Health & Safety Code Section 1597.45(f).

9 Cal. Health & Safety Code Section 1597.30 et. seq.

10 Cal. Health & Safety Code Section 1597.45(c).

11 State Fire Marshall Guidance: https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/d5jhx1ld/ib_day_care_guidelines_osfm-final.pdf.



CHILD CARE CENTERS



DEFINITIONS



A **child care center** is a child care facility of any capacity, other than a family child care home, in which less than 24-hour per day non-medical care and supervision are provided to children (persons under the age of 18) in a group setting.¹²

ZONING BEST PRACTICES

Navigating land use approval processes and paying high fees can be difficult for child care center operators and poses a barrier to increasing the amount of child care offered in a jurisdiction. Some communities are also considered "**child care deserts**," meaning an area where the need for child care far outpaces the supply. [These maps](#) of child care deserts in California show that more than 6 in 10 Californians live in a child care desert.¹³

Planning policies can be structured to eliminate zoning barriers to child care center development across Los Angeles County. This section includes best practices in child care center zoning throughout California.

1 PERMIT CHILD CARE CENTERS BY-RIGHT

■ Permit Child Care Center By-Right:



- In San Francisco, child care centers are principally permitted by right in most zoning districts, including in single family/low density residential areas.¹⁴ In Redwood City, **child care centers are permitted by right in conjunction with any public or quasi-public use in residential areas**, when operated in conjunction with adjoining businesses in non-residential zoning districts, and for care of up to sixty children when located in non-residential zoning districts not operated in conjunction with nor used by such businesses.¹⁵ These examples are a natural extension of SB 234, which made all family child care homes permissible by right throughout California.



- A number of jurisdictions, including San Francisco¹⁶, Santa Monica¹⁷, Redwood City¹⁸, Oakland¹⁹, and Hayward²⁰ have streamlined their review of ECE facilities zoning requests by establishing additional by right or ministerial site plan review processes for child care facilities.

¹² Cal. Code Regs. tit. 22, div. 12, ch. 3, Section 101152(c)(7).

¹³ <https://www.childcareforall.org/childcaredeserts/>

¹⁴ <https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3066206&GUID=5B95BA82-9095-4575-BE0F-0F9415246C33>.

¹⁵ City of Redwood City Zoning Code Section 39.3, https://library.municode.com/ca/redwood_city/codes/zoning_code?nodeId=ART39CHCAFA_39.3CHCACE.

¹⁶ <https://sfplanning.org/sites/default/files/documents/legis/code-summaries/170693.pdf> and https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/san_francisco/latest/sf_planning/0-0-0-49015.

¹⁷ https://library.qcode.us/lib/santa_monica_ca/pub/municipal_code/item/article_9-division_3-chapter_9-31-9_31_120 and [https://www.smgov.net/uploadedFiles/Departments/PCD/Zoning/z%20ZO%20Updated%20Final%20Full%20Document%20\(Mar%202017\).pdf](https://www.smgov.net/uploadedFiles/Departments/PCD/Zoning/z%20ZO%20Updated%20Final%20Full%20Document%20(Mar%202017).pdf).

¹⁸ <https://www.redwoodcity.org/departments/community-development-department/planning-housing/planning-services/zoning-code-amendments> and

https://library.municode.com/ca/redwood_city/codes/zoning_code?nodeId=ART39CHCAFA_39.3CHCACE.

¹⁹ https://www.acgov.org/ece/documents/Final_Land_Use_Report.pdf

²⁰ https://acgov.org/ece/documents/final_land_hayward.pdf.

■ Permit Child Care Center By-Right (continued):

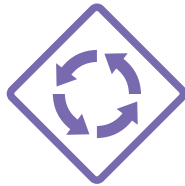


- Los Angeles County is exploring amending the County's zoning code to allow child care centers by right or with a ministerial review in all applicable zones.²¹

■ Permit Child Care Centers By-Right in All Zones, but only with Specific Conditions.²² Require only ministerial approval for child care centers solely to confirm compliance with a standard set of conditions such as:



- **Hours of Operation** – A facility meets the conditions of approval for opening a child care center when the hours of operation fall between 7am-7pm.



- **Traffic and Circulation** – Drop-off hours are from 7am-9am and pick-up hours are from 5pm-7pm, during which the majority of drop-offs and pick-ups for the child care center will occur. If a site does not have a parking lot or driveway that can accommodate at least two cars simultaneously for drop-off and pick-up, centers that have curbside space for drop-off and pick-up also satisfy this condition, so long as it does not obstruct a major intersection or bus lane/stop. Centers shall have the right to place “loading zone” signs along the curbside drop-off and pick-up areas. Additionally, the loading zone for drop-off and pick-up should allow for at least two but not more than three cars at a time to safely enter and exit the designated area and is to be monitored by a staff member of the facility during the hours of drop-off and pick-up.



- **Parking** – A center meets the standard for parking if it has at least one parking spot per staff member. Number of staff will vary depending on the number of children being served. Given that on-site parking is extremely limited – particularly in denser areas of the County – an exemption for this condition will be allowed if:
 - Staff commute using public transit
 - Staff plan on carpooling
 - There is ample street parking within the local jurisdiction's parking limits



²¹ <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/166378.pdf>.

²² http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2020/20-0652_mot_05-27-2020.pdf.

2 PERMIT CHILD CARE CENTERS WITH ADMINISTRATIVE USE PERMIT



- Require only an Administrative Use Permit (AUP), with limited discretionary review and no hearing. The City of Burbank only requires child care centers to apply for an AUP, which is specifically intended to have the City “exercise...limited discretion and control...where the type of permitted use is generally less intrusive and out of character with the surrounding neighborhood than are those uses for which a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is required.²³ An AUP has a substantially lower fee than a CUP (\$1,622 as compared to \$6,082 for a CUP).²⁴
- No hearing should be required unless the local jurisdiction's initial decision to grant an AUP is appealed. Although the Burbank AUP process requires notice to all property owners within 1000 ft, only those within 100 ft (including the applicant) may appeal the AUP determination (which goes before the Planning Board, and if appealed further, to the Council).

3 SATISFY COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION (CCLD) OUTDOOR SPACE REQUIREMENTS WITH USE OF ADJACENT PARKS



- California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) requires 75 square feet of outdoor space per child for child care centers. In many cities within Los Angeles County, it is difficult for child care providers to find facilities that satisfy this outdoor space requirement. Cities can help alleviate this problem by establishing agreements with CCLD and the local Parks and Recreation Department that allow child care center facilities to satisfy their outdoor space requirements using adjacent parks as is done in San Francisco.²⁵



²³ <https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Burbank/html/Burbank10/Burbank100119.html>.

²⁴ <https://www.burbankca.gov/web/community-development/forms-and-fees>.

²⁵ <https://sfrecpark.org/1200/SF-Children-Nature>.

CHILD CARE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

BEST PRACTICES



There are a number of ways that planning policies, fees, and processes can be structured to support the development, renovation, and operation of child care facilities, including family child care home and child care centers, across Los Angeles County.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND SIMPLIFY THE CHILD CARE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The current child care facility development and renovation approval process can be challenging for child care providers and local jurisdiction staff alike because there are multiple departments, systems, and processes to navigate, including the [Planning Department](#), [Building & Safety](#), the [Fire Department](#), and the [California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division \(CCLD\)](#).



Planning departments can utilize several strategies to improve access to information and simplify the child care facility development process.

1 USER-FRIENDLY ECE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT GUIDE



- Multiple cities and counties throughout California, including Los Angeles County, have developed guides that provide user-friendly and relevant information about how to develop child care facilities.²⁶ Los Angeles County's toolkit, [Child Care for All: How to Develop and Renovate Early Care & Education Facilities in Los Angeles County](#), can be used as a template by cities that are interested in creating guides for their own jurisdictions. Such guides have proven extremely helpful to agency staff and prospective and current child care providers and can serve as a useful framework for other municipalities seeking to develop their own such resources.

2 A CENTRALIZED ECE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE WITH INFORMATION FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS



- The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH), Office for the Advancement of Early Care & Education (OAECE) shapes policy recommendations, facilitates planning, and provides a range of services aimed at improving the availability, quality, and access to early care and education programs. LADPH has proposed creating a web page housed on the OAECE website that would include: user-friendly summaries of state and local code requirements, permitting processes, potential fees, and a directory of designated staff that help with processing ECE facilities development plan reviews and requests for permits.²⁷ A centralized source of user-friendly information for ECE providers is helpful because all relevant information is found in one place along with contact information to get further support. Cities can contact [OAECE](#) for more information on the needs of child care providers.

²⁶ City of Alameda, https://www.acgov.org/ece/documents/Final_Land_Use_Report.pdf; City of Santa Monica, <https://www.smgov.net/uploadedFiles/Departments/PCD/Applications-Forms/Guide-Child-Care-Center.pdf>.

²⁷ <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/166378.pdf>.

3 ECE COORDINATORS



- The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning), Department of Public Works, Building & Safety Division (Building & Safety), and Fire Department have designated ECE Coordinators to support child care providers in understanding and following their respective department's land use and/or child care center permitting requirements.



- These ECE Coordinators are also members of the County's ECE Facilities Development Workgroup (members include OAECE, Regional Planning, Building & Safety, Fire, CCLD, Public Counsel, and First 5 LA).²⁸ For example, in Los Angeles County, it is recommended that ECE providers start with the Regional Planning staff to obtain basic information, and then after submitting their application, work with the Regional Planning ECE Coordinator so that there is a single point of contact to ensure applications are processed consistently and expeditiously.²⁹ ECE Coordinators support child care providers in navigating the child care facility development process by providing knowledgeable and dedicated staff to facilitate connections between child care providers and relevant local and state agencies.



²⁸ <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/166378.pdf>.

²⁹ Ibid.

4 A “ONE-STOP” SHOP FOR ECE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT



- An extension of the ECE Coordinators idea, a “one-stop” shop centralizes the child care facility development process in one place. Various municipalities have created centralized “one-stop” shops where staff from multiple departments provide coordinated assistance to applicants to guide them through the permit process with advice tailored to their specific needs.³⁰

- Santa Monica offers a **pre-submittal review process** for child care providers that explores project viability, major requirements, fees, and timeframes up front with a dedicated staff person with ECE expertise.³¹
- Union City provides an **in-house review** forum for new child care providers where providers are presented with all potential application costs and given an understanding of any building or landscaping modifications that might be required for a child care center use permit to be approved.³²

Such a process, with a dedicated staff person with expertise in the requirements to establish or renovate/construct a child care facility can save applicants substantial time and money and encourage more prospective child care operators who might otherwise be dissuaded by the substantial upfront cost and uncertainty. During these “one-stop” sessions, child care providers can also learn how to anticipate and resolve concerns that may arise from adjacent property owners who may oppose the use of a site as a child care.³³

- In Los Angeles County, child care providers are encouraged to meet with Regional Planning staff at each Field Office to obtain basic information such as application requirements and contact information for other departments, followed up by “**one stop**” **meetings** with designated Regional Planning, Building & Safety, and Fire ECE Coordinators. Through these meetings, child care providers can obtain more detailed, site-specific information before submitting applications and committing financial resources.³⁴



30 Cities of Berkeley, Oakland, and Hayward - https://www.acgov.org/ece/documents/Final_Land_Use_Report.pdf.

31 <https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Permits/Plan-Check/Pre-submittal-Review/>

32 https://www.acgov.org/ece/documents/Final_Land_Use_Report.pdf.

33 https://www.acgov.org/ece/documents/Final_Land_Use_Report.pdf.

34 <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/166378.pdf>.

REDUCE FINANCIAL BARRIERS

Child care facility development fees for obtaining necessary zoning, building, and fire permits create financial barriers for child care providers. These fees can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars and child care providers often abandon their plans to open or expand a child care facility because fees are too high to undertake or continue their projects. Reducing financial barriers would allow more child care providers to offer or expand much-needed child care services in communities throughout the County.

REDUCE OR ELIMINATE PLANNING FEES



- For example, child care centers are exempt from the Planning Division's permit fees in Santa Monica.³⁵ Los Angeles County is in the process of establishing a system to cover the cost of planning fees for child care providers. Further, OAECE has recommended that the County conduct a child care facility development fee study to explore different funding sources to offset the fees that have been historically passed onto child care providers.³⁶

ESTABLISH A CHILD CARE LINKAGE FEE PROGRAM



- Santa Monica has a child care linkage fee program where developers of new residential and workplace development projects either pay fees or participate in the construction of child care facilities. The goal of the program is to address the increased demand for child care that results from development projects by requiring that developers provide an equitable share of child care facility spaces to help the local community meet its child care needs.³⁷

INTEGRATE CHILD CARE INTO LAND USE AND LONG-TERM PLANNING



- Incorporating child care in a municipality's General Plan, which governs current and future development, is an important step towards supporting the development of child care facilities and addressing the child care crisis. For example, the Los Angeles County General Plan recognizes that early care and education falls short of meeting demand and that there is a need to ensure that all households have access to a sufficient supply of quality early care and education and supervised school-age enrichment options for children from birth to age 13. The County General Plan encourages and facilitates the development of early care and education in the unincorporated areas.³⁸

35 <https://www.smgov.net/uploadedFiles/Departments/PCD/Applications-Forms/Guide-Child-Care-Center.pdf>.

36 <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/166378.pdf>.

37 https://library.qcode.us/lib/santa_monica_ca/pub/municipal_code/item/article_9-division_6-chapter_9_65-9_65_010.

38 https://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/gp_final-general-plan-ch6.pdf.

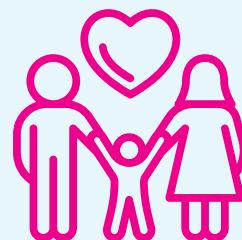
INVESTING IN CHILD CARE

The Challenges And The Opportunities

An investment made in our children

TODAY

is an investment in both
our present and future success.³⁹



Investing in child care ensures that children of all backgrounds have equitable opportunities for lifelong success, that parents can work, and that families and communities thrive.⁴⁰

There are challenges to investing in and supporting the development of child care facilities:

- lack of financial and physical resources to update municipal codes and streamline processes
- potential community opposition to child care facility development



However, the amount of staff time dedicated to evaluating child care zoning and permitting applications and administering public hearings can be quite onerous—simplifying these processes makes the system less burdensome both for child care providers and planning departments.



THE HARMS OF FAILING TO INVEST IN CHILD CARE FAR OUTWEIGH THE IMMEDIATE RESOURCES THAT MAY BE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS TOOLKIT AS THE CHILD CARE CRISIS ADVERSELY IMPACTS CHILDREN, PROVIDERS, FAMILIES, AND THE LONG TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY.⁴¹



39 <https://www.impact.upenn.edu/early-childhood-toolkit/why-invest/what-is-the-return-on-investment/>.

40 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/06/upshot/child-care-biden.html>.

41 <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/07/why-does-america-invest-so-little-in-its-children/490790/>.

This Resource Directory includes links, contact information, and summaries about the government and nonprofit agencies relevant to this Toolkit.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD)

(916) 654-1541 | www.cdss.ca.gov

The Community Care Licensing Division's (CCLD) mission is to promote the health, safety, and quality of life of each person in community care through the administration of an effective collaborative regulatory enforcement system. The Child Care Licensing Program provides oversight and enforcement for licensed child care centers and family child care homes through 19 Regional Offices located throughout California. A list of local Regional Offices can be found [here](#).



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

(213) 974-1411 | www.bos.lacounty.gov

The Board of Supervisors is the governing body of the County of Los Angeles, a charter county. As such, it has the unique function of serving as the executive and legislative head of the largest and most complex county government in the entire United States. A civil service staff which performs the duties for the County departments and agencies serves the needs of the County's population of more than 10 million people. The Board of Supervisors also oversees zoning appeals and is responsible for municipal services for the county's 88 unincorporated areas.



Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning)

(213) 974-4103 | www.planning.lacounty.gov

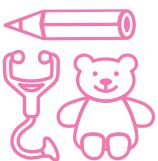
The Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) performs all land use planning functions for the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Their services include long range planning, land development counseling, project/case intake and processing, environmental review, and zoning enforcement for each of the County unincorporated communities. A list of Regional Planning field offices can be found [here](#).



Los Angeles County Fire Department (Fire Department)

(323) 881-2411 | www.fire.lacounty.gov

The Fire Prevention Division focuses on educating the community about the benefits of proper safety practices and identifying and eliminating all types of hazardous conditions, which pose a threat to life, the environment, and property. The Fire Prevention Regional Units have offices located throughout Los Angeles County and are divided into three geographical regions: North, Central, and East Regions.



Los Angeles County Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE)

(213) 974-6411 | <https://childcare.lacounty.gov/>

The Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) shapes policy recommendations, facilitates planning, and provides a range of services aimed at improving the availability, quality, and access to early care and education programs. OAECE supports efforts to promote informed parents' choice of early care and education services and the meaningful engagement of parents in those services. And finally, OAECE works across disciplines to promote access to concrete supports that families need.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (continued)



Los Angeles County Public Works, Building & Safety Division (Building & Safety)
 (626) 458-3173 | www.dpw.lacounty.gov

The Department of Public Works, Building & Safety Division (Building & Safety) has been providing services to ensure safe building design, construction, approval of completed building projects and providing code enforcement since the adoption of County building codes and standards in March 1933. Building & Safety provides building permits, review and monitoring of the design, construction, installation, demolition, and maintenance of privately-owned buildings and structures through the enforcement of the County’s building codes and regulations. Building services are provided to unincorporated communities at the Public Works headquarters, at one of the 11 Building and Safety District Offices serving unincorporated communities, and at the 14 Contract City Offices serving incorporated cities. Permit applications and permits may be submitted and obtained online through the [EPIC-LA website](#).

NONPROFIT AGENCIES

Child Care Law Center
 (415) 558-8005 | www.childcarelaw.org

The Child Care Law Center focuses on increasing affordable child care for families with low incomes, equitable pay for family child care providers, and rights for children with disabilities through legislation, advocacy and litigation. The Child Care Law Center provides resource guides and no-cost legal advice to child care providers.

Public Counsel
 (213) 385-2977 x 300 | www.publiccounsel.org

Founded in 1970, Public Counsel is the nation’s largest provider of no-cost legal services, utilizing an innovative legal model to promote justice, hope, and opportunity in lower-income and communities of color. Public Counsel’s Early Care and Education Law Unit is the only provider of free legal services for child care providers in LA County. The program’s goal is to maintain and increase the supply of quality early care and education in Los Angeles County by helping providers overcome barriers to opening and operating child care programs. Public Counsel assists with issues to support both family child care providers and nonprofit child care centers, including: landlord discrimination against in-home day care providers; land use/zoning barriers imposed by local jurisdictions; compliance with state licensing regulations; navigating business issues related to liability and risk management; drafting contracts and other transactional documents that will protect the provider and their business; and understanding and complying with employment laws.

California Child Care Resource and Referral Network (R&R)

(415) 882-0234 | www.rrnetwork.org

Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (R&R) are state-funded, community-based programs that exist in every county in California. R&Rs make up a well-developed system that supports parents, child care providers, and local communities. Local resource and referral agencies maintain comprehensive databases of child care providers in their communities, including licensed family child care homes and child care centers; track providers' licensing status, the languages they speak, the age groups they serve, the schedules they offer, and the number of spaces available in centers or family child care homes; work with child care providers to improve the quality of care and to maintain and expand the supply in their county; provide training and other services that help child care providers stay in business; and educate local communities and leaders to understand child care issues and plan to address child care needs. R&R services are free and available to all child care providers. There are 8 R&Rs in Los Angeles County: 1) Children's Home Society of California, www.chs-ca.org; 2) Connections for Children, www.connectionsforchildren.org; 3) Crystal Stairs, Inc, www.crystalstairs.org; 4) Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, www.maof.org; 5) Options for Learning, www.optionsforlearning.org; 6) Pathways, www.pathwaysla.org; 7) Child Care Resource Center, www.ccrcca.org; 8) Pomona Unified School District, www.pusd.org. More information about the zip codes covered by each Los Angeles County R&R can be found [here](#).

The Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles

(323) 274-1380 | www.ccala.net

The Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA) is a partnership of ten Resource and Referral and Alternative Payment agencies in Los Angeles County. Together, the ten agencies deliver services to thousands of families and child care providers across Los Angeles County. Services include assisting families in finding and identifying quality child care and other existing supportive services in the community; offering comprehensive training and other workforce professional development for child care providers; providing subsidized child care vouchers to eligible families; and conveying information to families and child care providers on topics such as advocacy, health, nutrition, and other family-strengthening initiatives. CCALA's countywide, partner agencies have the ability to provide comprehensive child care and early learning services and programs, reach providers, families, and children at a grass-roots level in multiple languages, and have the cultural competencies and strong understanding of their unique communities to work effectively with diverse clientele.

