

**Local Child Care and Development Planning Council
Local Funding Priorities
Los Angeles County
FY 2025-2026**

POPULATION

- *Infants and toddlers:* Births in 2022, 2023, and 2024 by ZIP of family residence.
- *Preschool-age children:* Births in 2021 and 2022 by ZIP of family residence.
- *School-age children:* 2024 U.S. Census American Community Survey, 5-year, by ZIP of family residence.

Rationale – Birth-based estimates are preferred for children under five because ACS 5-year estimates systematically overcount this population, particularly in higher-income areas, due to persistent population decline and multi-year averaging. The ACS also underestimates lower-income, “hard-to-reach” populations — precisely the families this analysis targets. For school-age children, where net migration bias is more pronounced and undercounting less severe, we use ACS estimates instead.

Eligible Population – We apply the CDSS 85% SMI eligibility threshold for infants and toddlers and school-age children, and the CSPP 100% SMI threshold for preschool-age children. Because SMI-based population counts are not available in the ACS 5-year, we use family income-to-poverty ratios as proxies, restricted to families with children: 400% FPL is approximately equivalent to 100% SMI, and 335% FPL to 85% SMI.

ENROLLMENT

Programs – Data include enrollment in CalWORKs Stages 1 – 3, CAPP, CCTR, CFCC, CSPP, Early Head Start, Head Start, and Transitional Kindergarten.

ZIP Code of Provider Site Location – Enrollment data in this analysis is attributed to the ZIP code of the service provider rather than the family's residence. A common critique of this approach is that families do not always use child care in their home ZIP, meaning provider-based counts may not reflect local demand. Cross-ZIP enrollment is not random. Lower-income families are less likely to travel further for child care, and subsidized providers tend to locate near the communities they serve. By contrast, attributing enrollment to the family's residence ZIP would require excluding Head Start/Early Head Start and Transitional Kindergarten, two of the largest subsidized programs serving low-income children, introducing a larger and more consequential bias.

PRIORITIZATION

Underserved – The count of underserved children by age group is measured by subtracting the count of children enrolled from the size of the eligible population.

Prioritization formula – We followed the prescribed prioritization formula from CDSS Management Bulletin 15-04.

Priority 1: $\geq 50\%$ underserved and $>1,500$ children underserved

Priority 2: $\geq 50\%$ underserved and >750 children underserved

Priority 3: ZIP codes not meeting Priority 1 or 2 thresholds are assigned Priority 3 if underserved counts are greater than zero (adapted from MB 15-04 Option 2).

Unmet need may be negative if reported enrollment exceeds the size of the population. We report 'no unmet need' for ZIP codes where underserved counts are zero or negative, though negative values may reflect data or coverage differences rather than true excess capacity.

Priority 1 – Zip code qualifies when there are 50% or more children not served AND more than 1,500 children not served.

Priority 2 – Zip code qualifies when there are 50% or more children not served AND more than 750 children not served.

Priority 3 – Zip code qualifies when there are 50% or more children not served AND more than 500 children not served.

Priority 3 Option:

Zip codes assigned a Priority 3* do not meet the threshold, yet have significant unmet need for subsidized services. Listing these zip codes may be beneficial when determining community-level need that exceeds the boundaries of any one zip code.

California Department of Education, Early Education and Support Division. *Management Bulletin 15-04 – Revised Local Child Care and Development Planning Council Funding Priority Setting Process.* June 2015. The Management Bulletin provides a revised standardized child care and development funding priority setting process for Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils (LPCs). LPCs are required to use the methodology developed based on county population; Los Angeles County uses the methodology for counties with populations of over 10 million residents. LPCs must submit their local funding priorities to the California Department of Education's (CDE) Early Education and Support Division (EESD) every year, on or before May 30. For more information, see <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/mb1504.asp>.