



Quality, Safe, and Affordable Child Care

Lead Partners 4Cs, First 5, Big Lift

Support Partners Community-based organizations and nonprofits, cities, school districts, San Mateo County Office of Education

- Implementation Objectives**
- Support child care providers so they can remain solvent and meet the needs of the community
 - Support families in obtaining quality, safe, and affordable child care
 - Leverage state and federal resources and legislative opportunities
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Child care resources are critical for working parents, whether they are essential workers or working remotely. Prior to COVID-19, the demand for child care exceeded the need. Now, child care providers of all types are finding it difficult to understand and implement health orders while remaining a viable business. Many child care providers can no longer operate, which has widened the preexisting gap even further and created a critical shortage in available and affordable care. Providing resources to support child care providers supports families and furthers the community's economic recovery.

Challenges

- Child care providers find public health guidance and requirements unclear and difficult to navigate
- Many child care providers, both centers and family homes, are closed
- Class size requirements and increased health and safety regulations limit child care operators' income and create a potentially unviable business model
- Some parents have health concerns regarding group care
- Because COVID-19 tests are limited to people with symptoms by many providers and results take time, when an employee or a student at a child care center is exposed, the center must close for multiple days, creating hardships for parents and potential income concerns for the provider

Identified Needs

- Funding to keep child care centers open with reduced attendance and increased requirements
- Resources and information for providers to implement appropriate public health measures
- Additional resources to address staff shortfalls
- Recognition of child care providers as essential staff and prioritization of testing
- Information for families on how they can help ensure the health of their children and others who are using child care resources
- Financial assistance for essential workers to afford child care

Relevant Data

- Number of child care spots available
- Number of child care centers operating and percent capacity by geographic area
- Number of providers applying for financial assistance by geographic area
- Cost of available child care options
- Number of subsidized spots and percent filled

Current Programs

- ✓ [San Mateo County Child Care Relief Fund](#)
- ✓ [SMC Strong small business and nonprofit grant program](#)
- ✓ [4Cs and First 5 Emergency Child Care Supplies Program](#)
- ✓ [4Cs, First 5 San Mateo County](#), and San Mateo County [Office of Education](#) information and resource repositories
- ✓ San Mateo County COVID-19 Child Care Response Team
- ✓ San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council

Education and Child Care Committee Members

- Edith Arias, Padres en Accion
- Michelle Blakely, First 5 San Mateo County
- Janine Bruce, Stanford School of Medicine
- Jennifer Brust, Burlingame
- Vanessa Castro, Safe Routes to Schools
- Heather Cleary, Peninsula Family Service
- Christina Falla, Office of Supervisor Carole Groom
- Katie Goetz, Woodside United Methodist Church; Peninsula Solidarity Cohort
- Hon. Maurice Goodman, San Mateo County Community College District
- Hon. Giselle Hale, City of Redwood City
- Evan Jones, Mid-Peninsula Boys and Girls Club
- Samuel Leinbach, Belmont-Redwood Shores School District
- Kitty Lopez, First 5 San Mateo County
- Patricia Love, San Mateo County Office of Education
- Hon. Daina Lujan, South San Francisco Unified School District
- Moana Lupe, Institute for Human and Social Development
- Hon. Nancy Magee, San Mateo County Office of Education
- Hon. Sara McDowell, City of San Carlos
- Aubrey Merriman, Boys and Girls Club of North San Mateo County
- Jackie Nunez, San Mateo County Office of Sustainability
- Brian Oh, Get Healthy San Mateo County
- Meghan O'Reilly-Green, PTO President at Orion/Mandarin/ Immersion Parent Participatory School
- Christine Padilla, Build Up for San Mateo County's Children
- Jennifer Pifeleti, Institute for Human and Social Development
- Sarah Pistorino, San Mateo County Youth Commission
- Gina Quiney, Office of Supervisor Carole Groom
- Alyson Suzuki, San Mateo County Office of Education
- Randy Torrijos, Office of Supervisor Dave Pine
- Theresa Vallez-Kelly, San Mateo County Office of Education
- Ann Walden, The Primary School
- Jon Walton, San Mateo County Information Services
- Hon. Shara Watkins, San Mateo / Foster City School District
- Christy Wegener, SamTrans
- Hon. Sharifa Wilson, Ravenswood City School District



Provide

Quality, Safe, and Affordable Child Care

Objectives	Recommendations
1. Support child care providers so they can remain solvent and meet the needs of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1. Continue to provide timely resources and information to address child care provider questions about health orders including guidance related to procedures for closing and reopening after positive cases1.2. Utilize surveys, forums, panels, and other methods to solicit ongoing input from providers on the challenges they are facing including safety/health issues, marketing to families, development of business plans, budgeting, and licensing1.3. Provide technical assistance to child care providers based on their identified needs1.4. Host panel discussions and webinars and provide other opportunities for sharing information and best practices among child care providers1.5. When testing availability allows, prioritize child care staff and families for rapid COVID-19 testing1.6. Form a County Early Care and Education department to help with coordination between child care leadership groups1.7. Consider opportunities for child care programs to repurpose unused commercial spaces and other available facilities1.8. Identify and support a child care employee pipeline to address workforce issues1.9. Work with community colleges to use established child care pathways programs to increase the number of trained child care providers1.10. Consider options for expanding capacity of child care class sizes both in centers and homes
2. Support families in obtaining quality, safe, and affordable child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2.1. Understand unmet family needs and explore opportunities to meet the needs2.2. Provide an updated list of child care programs with open spaces2.3. Provide financial assistance for families in need2.4. Provide referral and navigation assistance to families for child care needs2.5. Provide health guidance and assistance for families that may need alternative care if a child or household member is ill or COVID-19 positive
3. Leverage state and federal resources and legislative opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3.1. Identify local, state, and federal funding opportunities to expand assistance programs for child care and build local capacity for quality, safe, and affordable child care3.2. Advocate for the state to classify child care providers as essential workers and provide hazard pay and health insurance coverage3.3. Support efforts to identify opportunities for longer term reform of the child care system (e.g., access, affordability, financial viability of centers)3.4. Fund and leverage the Child Care Partnership Council to support advocacy and policy change efforts