



Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council
THE STATUS OF EARLY CARE
& EDUCATION

Mission

We lead and collaborate in planning, coordinating and advocating for high quality, affordable and accessible early care and education for all children and families in Santa Barbara County.

Vision

We envision a community that values all children and families.

Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council
www.sbceo.org/ccpc/

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California Department of Education, Child Development Division

Operating under the authority of
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and
Santa Barbara County Education Office



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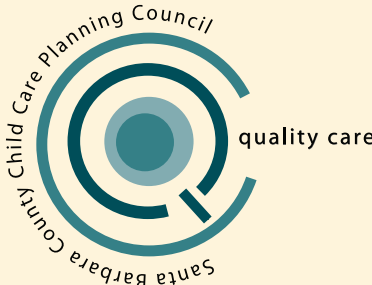
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Introduction

Early Care and Education Needed Now: Santa Barbara County

fulfills the requirement of the California Education Code, Section 8499.5 for local child care planning councils in all counties in California to complete a needs assessment of child care at least every five years. The needs assessments are submitted to the California Department of Education, Early Education and Support Division to give the state information on child care and development needs in each county. The report and subsequent updates are posted on the Council's website to enable timely changes of information to portray the current status of early care and education in the County. Thus, it is important to note the date associated with the tables and charts in the document.

.....

This report provides important data and information for the County and its regions to inform prioritization and planning for early care and education in Santa Barbara County. Findings in the current report are based on data gathered in 2013-15 at the regional and zip code level, covering the following topics:

- **Professional Development Opportunities**
 - **The Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)**
 - **County demographics**
 - **The need and capacity for early care and education programs**
 - **The cost of early care and education services and the need and capacity for subsidized programs**
 - **Special populations and their early care and education needs**
-



Early care and education is a critical concern for children, parents, employers and communities as a whole.

Extensive longitudinal research reports the positive outcomes for children participating in high quality early care and education programs: improved school performance¹, decreased need for special education, increased high school graduation rates, decreased crime rates, and increased earnings in adulthood. These findings are found to be magnified for children of families at the lowest income levels.² For many parents, child care is an ongoing challenge both in terms of finding reliable, high quality care that fits their needs, and the affordability of the care they would prefer. As the number of parents employed outside of the home continues to grow, there is an increasing need for available and affordable early care and education. The high cost of living in Santa Barbara County makes it particularly difficult for families to provide the basic necessities of life: food, shelter, and clothing. The difficulty of living on only one income exacerbates the pressure for both parents to work. In addition, employers depend on an available and reliable workforce to support productive business practices. However, problems with child care are a major reason for employee absenteeism and decreased performance, with resulting negative impacts on businesses. For all of these reasons, entire communities garner social and economic benefits if high quality early care and education programs are available and affordable for the families who need them.

¹The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University has created a two-page brief that substantiates the effectiveness of ECE not only on the healthy development of the child, but also the benefits to society. Go to: <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-early-childhood-program-effectiveness/>

²Karoly, L. A., & Bigelow, J. H. (2005). The economics of investing in universal preschool education in California, research brief for RAND Labor and Population.



“An investment in our earliest learners is prudent, keeps Californians working and prevents costly academic interventions and consequences later on.”

-SENATOR HANNAH-BETH JACKSON, SANTA BARBARA DISTRICT 19, MAY 2016

The Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council

Every county in California has a state-mandated child care planning council funded by the California Department of Education. The Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council (the Council) operates under the joint authority of the County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools. The overarching responsibility of the Council is planning and coordinating early care and education services in Santa Barbara County. Specific responsibilities include establishing local priorities for state-funded early care and education expansion, completing a needs assessment of early care and education every five years, and developing a countywide strategic plan for early care and education.

AB 1542, Chapter 2.3 of the Education Code, Sections 8499.3 and 8499.5 (Statutes of 1997) required the establishment of a Local Child Care Planning Council in every California county. Fortunately for children and families in Santa Barbara County, a similar body had been convened in 1991 to develop a local plan and priorities for distribution of the new Federal Child Care Block Grant Funds resulting from passage of the Federal Omnibus Budget Act in 1990. The Council was formally re-designated as the Local Child Care Planning Council by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools on April 28, 1998.

From the beginning, Council members have worked to coordinate and plan the delivery of early care and education services in Santa Barbara County. The Council also serves as liaison between the State Department of Education, Early Education and Support Division, and the local community.

In 1996, the Council prepared its first needs assessment: Status Report - Child Care in Santa Barbara County; this was followed by the 1999 Child Care Needs Assessment for Santa Barbara County; the Status of Early Care and Education, Santa Barbara County, 2005; and Early Education Now, Santa Barbara County in 2010, in response to specific requirements of the California Education Code.

This current report, Early Care and Education NEEDED Now, Santa Barbara County, 2016, responds to and expands on the requirements of the California Department of Education, Early Education and Support Division in an effort to support the Council and the community in planning for available, affordable, high-quality early care and education programs countywide. The Council will use findings from this report to create the Santa Barbara County strategic plan for early Care and Education, 2016-2020.

SUBTITLE

Data for this report were gathered in 2013-15. Demographic data were collected from the United States Census of 2010 and the American Community Survey. Additional data collected by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) were used for determining the numbers of children eligible for subsidized care, and data were supplied by the Santa Barbara County Education Office. Information about early care and education programs and special populations was gathered from local agencies and through a countywide survey of subsidized programs conducted in October 2013. Whenever possible, data were gathered at the zip code level, but in some cases, information was available only at the regional or county level.

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Overview of the Report

The Report is divided into six chapters, each chapter reporting on an aspect of early care and education or factors that impact early care and education. Given the critical role of quality for effective early care and education programs, the first chapter of the report addresses the Quality of Early Care and Education in Santa Barbara County. Chapter 2 uses demographic data to paint a picture of the children and families of Santa Barbara County and its regions. Chapter 3 describes the need for early care and education services and the availability of programs to fill those needs. Chapter 4 examines the cost of early care and education services, and the need for and capacity of subsidized programs for low-income families. Chapter 5 reports the numbers of special populations of children with exceptional needs and, when available, information about the availability of early care and education services that respond to their needs. Chapter 6 describes the infrastructure in the County that supports the myriad of local early care and education programs and services. The Conclusion summarizes critical findings and describes the next steps for supporting improved early care and education services in Santa Barbara County.



Santa Barbara County, encompassing an area of 2,774 square miles on the central coast of California, is a region of mountains and valleys with a moderate Mediterranean climate. The physical attributes of the County contribute to an economy based on agriculture, light industry, research and education, and tourism. The County is bordered on the north by San Luis Obispo County and on the east by Ventura County.

The Regions of Santa Barbara County

The North County region includes the communities of Santa Maria, Orcutt, Guadalupe, Cuyama, Casmalia, Sisquoc, and the surrounding rural areas. The agricultural areas surrounding the City of Santa Maria are some of the most productive in California, with primary crops that include strawberries, wine grapes, celery, lettuce, peas, squash, cauliflower, spinach, broccoli, and beans. Cattle ranches have long played an important role in North County agriculture, as do an increasing number of vineyards, wineries and winemakers. The City of Santa Maria has experienced a growing population, leading to increased retail opportunities and spending over the past decade and a half. In recent years, other industries have been added to the region's agricultural and retail mix, including aerospace, communications, high-tech research and development, energy production, and manufacturing. The North County is home to Allan Hancock College and Brandman University. Antioch University also offers some classes in North County.

The Santa Ynez Valley region includes the communities of Buellton, Solvang, Santa Ynez, Los Olivos and Los Alamos and the surrounding rural areas. The region depends primarily on agriculture and tourism, with the communities providing service centers and residential communities for people employed in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria. There is a thriving wine industry in the Valley, as well as horse breeding and training facilities and cattle ranches. Tourists are attracted by the scenery, climate, vineyards and wineries, the character of the communities, golf courses and other outdoor activities, and the casinos and other attractions on the Chumash Reservation. A branch of Allan Hancock College is also located in Solvang.

The South County region includes the communities of Carpinteria, Summerland, Montecito, Santa Barbara, Isla Vista and Goleta and the surrounding rural areas. The South County's economy has large education, tourist and service sectors. The City of Santa Barbara caters to tourism and business services. Goleta and Carpinteria have both technology industries and a productive agricultural sector producing a variety of fruits, including strawberries, oranges, lemons, and avocados; and vegetables, including broccoli, tomatoes, lettuce and beans. Tourists are attracted by the beauty of the community and its physical setting, the festivals, outdoor activities, restaurants and the variety of unique shops. South County is home to the University of California, Santa Barbara, which serves more than 20,000 students and employs a faculty of 700. Other institutions of higher education include Westmont College, Santa Barbara City College, the Fielding Institute, Antioch College, the Pacifica Graduate Institute, and a satellite campus of the California State University at Channel Islands.

The Lompoc Valley region includes the City of Lompoc, Vandenberg Village, Vandenberg Air Force Base, and the surrounding rural areas. The area is still famous for its flower production, although the flower fields have given way to other forms of agriculture in recent years. Early Lompoc was essentially agricultural, but the community economic and labor base grew and diversified largely due to the establishment and growth of Camp Cooke, now Vandenberg Air Force Base. The community continues to grow and diversify its economic base but its fortunes are still closely linked to those of Vandenberg Air Force Base. A branch of Allan Hancock College is located in Lompoc.

Insert Table Here With Zip Codes

The County of Santa Barbara is naturally divided by the east-west line of the Santa Ynez Mountains, which separates the southern coastal region from the rest of the County. Within the area immediately to the north of the mountains lies the valley of the Santa Ynez River, with its own distinctive area to the east of the Santa Rita Hills. The Lompoc Valley encompasses the lower reaches of the Santa Ynez River Valley west of the Santa Rita Hills to the north-south oriented coastline. The remaining area of the County to the north orients to the Santa Maria River Valley and the City of Santa Maria. The Santa Maria River is the northern boundary of Santa Barbara County.

Chapter One

Early Care and Education Program Quality

Research highlights the critical role of early care and education program quality for children’s successful outcomes.¹ Children who participate in high quality programs are more successful in school, are less likely to need special education services, and are more productive, successful adults.

Improving the quality of early care and education services in Santa Barbara County has been an ongoing effort by individuals, programs and agencies in Santa Barbara County for many years. Quality improvement is a continuous process undertaken by programs striving to provide the best opportunities for children’s optimal development.

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Early care and education program quality improvement in Santa Barbara County is supported by many projects, including the following:

- **Quality Rating & Improvement System**
- **Family Child Care Steps to Quality Network of Children’s Resource and Referral**
- **Early Care and Education Leadership Development Project**
- **California Preschool Instructional Network**
- **California Early Childhood Mentor Project**
- **AB 212 Stipend Program**
- **Child Development Training Consortium**
- **The Outdoor Classroom Project**
- **GreenCare for Children**
- **The Inclusive Child Care Action Team of the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council**

Descriptions and contact information for these program quality improvement efforts can be found in this chapter and in Chapter 6.

Table 1 to the right shows the number of child care centers and family child care homes either accredited as of early 2016, or in the process of becoming accredited, by region. It also shows the number of programs participating in GreenCare, the Outdoor Classroom Project, the Preschool Foods Initiative, and the Quality Rating and Improvement System.

There has been a steady improvement of early care and education quality resulting from the ongoing efforts of individual programs, the program quality improvement infrastructure, and supportive funders. The advances can be seen at high quality accredited programs and other programs in the process of improvement, and are reflected in measurable quality indicators, some of which are described on the next page.





National Accreditation of Early Care and Education Programs

Accreditation by either the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for centers or the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) for family child care is an important recognition of a high level of program quality. High quality is the key for successful outcomes for children enrolled in early care and education programs. NAEYC accredits early care and education centers and NAFCC accredits family child care homes.

As of June 2016, fifty-seven (57) early care and education programs in Santa Barbara County were accredited by either NAEYC (48) or NAFCC (9), up from 37 in June 2010. These programs represent 24% of centers and 2% of family child care homes. In contrast, only 5% of centers and .3% of family child care homes are accredited in California overall. In addition, 31 centers and 18 family child care homes were in the process of becoming accredited as of that date. The ongoing challenge is not only to achieve accreditation but also to retain it. Programs must go through the reaccreditation process every 3 to 5 years, a process which is expensive and time consuming. Funding and facilitation support are ongoing needs to maintain and increase the number of accredited programs in the County.

Santa Barbara County has accreditation as a requirement for attaining the top level of quality (Tier 5) in the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and has a long history of providing technical assistance and other resources to support accreditation attainment and retention.

Table 1: Programs Accredited or in the Process of Accreditation

Region / Zip Code	GC		OC		PFI		QRIS		Accred. FCC ¹	FCC in Accred. Process	Accred. Center ²	Centers in Accred. Process
	FCC	Center	FCC	Center	FCC	Center	FCC	Center				
South County	23	26	2	54	46	46	3	42	1	0	18	14
Santa Ynez Valley	0	0	0	4	0	3	1	2	0	1	3	0
Lompoc Valley	0	4	0	15	0	15	4	14	0	3	10	2
North County	1	5	2	29	0	25	22	36	8	14	17	15
COUNTY TOTAL	24	35	4	102	46	89	30	94	9	18	48	31

Source: First 5 Santa Barbara County, Children's Resource & Referral, Green Care for Children, Outdoor Classroom &

¹Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children

² Accredited by the National Association for Family Child Care

Early Care and Education Workforce Education

An important indicator of early care and education program quality is the educational and professional development level of the program staff. This indicator can be measured by the educational attainment of the workforce and the numbers of the workforce holding Child Development Permits.

Teachers employed in Head Start and state funded early care and education programs are required to hold Child Development Permits. Permits have also been required for participants in the STAR (Stipends for Training and Retention) Project and CARES Plus, both of which are no longer operating, but this requirement has increased the number of teachers holding permits.

Child Development Permits are awarded to child care staff by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing based on their education and experience. Details of Child Development Permit education and experience requirements can be found at: https://www.childdevelopment.org/cs/cdte/print/htdocs/services_permit.htm

Research² has demonstrated that early care and education classrooms are of higher quality when the teacher holds a Bachelor's (BA) degree. It is increasingly likely that early care and education staff will be required to hold, minimally, Associate degrees with early childhood education units, and eventually BA degrees with an Early Childhood Education credential, equivalent to the requirements for K-12 teachers. By 2013, at least 50% of Head Start teachers nationwide were required to have a baccalaureate or advanced degree in Early Childhood Education or equivalent qualifications. For more details go to https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/standards/im/2011/resour_ime_003_090911.html

The new NAEYC Accreditation criteria for teacher education also specify holding or progressing toward Associate's or Bachelor's degrees. For more details go to http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/files/2009%20Professional%20Prep%20stdsRevised%204_12.pdf

In addition, a BA degree is a requirement for lead teachers or family child care home operators to achieve the highest points in the Quality Rating and Improvement System in California.

In Fiscal Year 2015-16, the last year of operation of CARES Plus, 17 of the 123 participants were enrolled in a BA degree program, and 9 BA degrees were conferred in child development or early care and education.

For information on other local supports for the ECE workforce, please see Chapter 6 of this report. Barnett, W.S. (2004), Better Teachers, Better Preschools: Student Achievement Linked to Teacher Qualifications, National Institute for Early Education Research, <http://nieer.org/resources/policybriefs/2.pdf>

Early Care and Education Workforce Salaries

Early Care and Education workforce salaries and benefits are critical factors in the retention of a well-educated and professional early care and education workforce, which in turn impacts the quality of early care and education (ECE) programs. However, in spite of increasing demands on teachers for higher education degrees and ongoing professional development – indicators of high quality programs – wages have neither kept pace with the cost of living, nor the increased education levels of ECE professionals.

A report issued in 2014 by the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, "Worthy Work, STILL Unlivable Wages: The Early Childhood Workforce 25 Years after the National Child Care Staffing Study," found that workers in early care and education have "...experienced no real increase in earnings" since the study by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in 1997. The median hourly wage of center-based teachers working with children of pre-kindergarten age was \$10.60 per hour in 2013. In addition, the report found that teachers who earn degrees seldom found an increase in their earnings. Many ECE staff experience income insecurity and are reliant on public subsidies for food and other supports. For the full report, go to <http://cscce.berkeley.edu/worthy-work-still-unlivable-wages/>

Environmental Program Quality

Since 2001, when GreenCare for Children surveyed family child care homes to assess potential environmental hazards, GreenCare has developed a program to improve the environmental quality of early care and education settings. See Chapter 6 for more information about GreenCare. GreenCare for Children developed 25 environmental standards that will help protect the children in early care and education settings from dangerous chemicals and other health hazards. By pledging to uphold at least 18 of the 25 GreenCare Standards, early care and education programs qualify as a GreenCare provider. Although there is no longer any funding for GreenCare for Children, a website is still maintained that has information on the program. Go to: http://www.greencareforchildren.org/greencareforchildren_home

Outdoor Classroom Project

The Outdoor Classroom Project (OCP) is dedicated to increasing the quantity, quality, and benefit of outdoor experiences for children in early care and education programs through providing educational and consulting services on the value and design of engaging outdoor learning environments to teachers, administrators, and parents. The program was initiated by the Child Educational Center in La Canada, California, and has been established in Santa Barbara County for many years. For more information go to: <http://outdoorclassroomproject.org/>

Critical Findings

Individual early care and education programs and the program quality improvement projects available in Santa Barbara County demonstrate an understanding and commitment to the importance of program quality improvement for positive outcomes for children.

- ✓ Program quality efforts have a big impact on children's ability to thrive and be successful in school and in life, as is demonstrated by multiple research studies. However, quality initiatives are still the highest priority in Santa Barbara County, as not all programs receive the resources and support they need to improve quality.
- ✓ Long term commitment of funding from State and private sources is needed to continue and expand current quality improvement efforts.
- ✓ The attainment of a higher education degree for the ECE workforce is an indicator of high quality in a program, but low wages make it very challenging without additional support.
- ✓ In spite of efforts to increase the education levels and professional development of the early care and education workforce, many center staff and family child care providers are inadequately prepared for the profession.
- ✓ Retention of a well-educated and trained early care and education workforce is compromised by low salaries and lack of benefits.



Chapter 2 The People of Santa Barbara County



Population

According to the U.S. Census, the estimated total population of Santa Barbara County in 2014 was 440,668, an increase of 3.9% since 2010. Of the total, 22.2%, or 98,047, were estimated to be under the age of 18 years. During the same time period the total population of California increased by 5.1% to 39,144,818.

Estimates of population change for communities within Santa Barbara County from 2010-2014 are shown to the right.

Table 2: Population Change, 2010-14

	Population 2010	Estimated Population 2014	Population Change
Santa Barbara (city)	88,411	91,196	3.2%
Lompoc (city)	42,438	44,013	3.7%
Santa Maria (city)	99,597	103,410	3.8%
Santa Barbara County	423,939	440,668	3.9%

Source: US Census Quick Facts



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL

Population data by age group is now available from the US Census Bureau and can be accessed at <http://www.census.gov/2010census/popmap/ipmtext.php?fl=06>

In addition, demographic information on children by age is available from the American Institutes for Research through a subscription to the Child Care Planning Council.

Table 3 to the right shows the number of children by age and zip code for the County.

A graphic distribution of children by age group and region is shown in Figure 1 below.

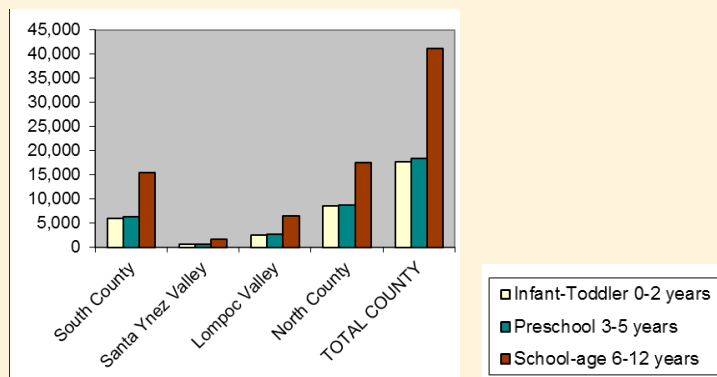
Table 3: Number of Children by Age

Region/Zip Code	City/Town	Est. < 1 year*	1 year (born 2011)	2 years (born 2010)	3 years (born 2009)	4 years (born 2008)	5 years (born 2007)	6-12 years
South County								
93013	Carpinteria	205	192	225	192	185	231	1,553
93067	Summerland	9	7	8	5	15	8	78
93101	Santa Barbara	500	472	437	506	548	492	3,635
93103	Santa Barbara	278	247	287	287	261	308	2,126
93105	Santa Barbara	220	210	217	210	239	223	1,720
93108	Montecito	49	48	47	49	50	51	407
93109	Santa Barbara	85	92	100	86	71	74	626
93110	Santa Barbara	145	150	122	144	171	140	981
93111	Santa Barbara	156	149	145	153	169	162	1,128
93117	Goleta / Isla Vista	423	393	394	426	434	468	3,256
Total		2,070	1,960	1,982	2,058	2,143	2,157	15,510
Santa Ynez Valley								
93427	Buellton	63	52	48	62	80	73	466
93440	Los Alamos	31	37	23	33	25	37	199
93441	Los Olivos	9	9	11	5	8	14	80
93460	Santa Ynez	42	31	40	44	48	45	373
93463	Solvang	69	53	77	54	78	81	453
Total		214	182	199	198	239	250	1,571
Lompoc Valley								
93436	Lompoc	761	759	683	807	802	754	5,198
93437	Lompoc	113	114	117	101	114	118	1,262
Total		874	873	800	908	916	872	6,423
North County								
93254	Cuyama	14	6	17	11	18	19	105
93429	Casmalia*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
93434	Guadalupe	150	142	148	147	157	157	1,067
93454	Santa Maria	763	670	754	804	732	854	6,306
93455	Santa Maria / Orcutt	456	438	453	444	485	459	2,728
93458	Santa Maria	1,476	1,505	1,504	1,445	1,487	1,440	7,311
Total		2,859	2,761	2,876	2,851	2,879	2,929	17,517
TOTAL COUNTY		6,017	5,776	5,857	6,015	6,177	6,208	41,058

Source: California Department of Public Health, Birth Records

* No Census data is available for this zip code.

Placeholder





Race and Ethnicity

Table 4 below shows the proportion of population of all ages by race and ethnicity and by region for Santa Barbara County, according to the 2010 US Census.

Table 4: Percent of County Population by Race/Ethnicity

Region	White, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	African American	Am. Indian & Alaska Native	Multi-Racial
South County	75%	15%	6%	1%	1%	2%
Santa Ynez Valley	85%	9%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Lompoc Valley	65%	22%	4%	5%	2%	3%
North County	62%	30%	5%	2%	2%	2%
Countywide	70%	21%	5%	2%	2%	2%

Source: US Census, 2010

However, the ethnic make-up of the county population has changed substantially in the past decade and is reflected in the school data on student race and ethnicity reported by Santa Barbara County Education Office in 2012.

The child population 0-12 years of age is likely to mirror the school population in race and ethnic make-up, with close to 68% of the countywide child population being Hispanic, 24% white (non-Hispanic), and remaining groups each constituting less than 4% of the population.

Table 5: Percent of Elementary School Population by Race/Ethnicity

Region	White, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	African American	Am. Indian & Alaska Native	Asian	Other*
South County	34%	59%	1%	<1%	3%	2%
Santa Ynez Valley	49%	32%	<1%	2%	<1%	16%
Lompoc Valley	25%	60%	3%	<1%	3%	8%
North County	14%	80%	<1%	<1%	2%	2%
Countywide	24%	68%	1%	<1%	3%	4%

Source: SBCEO, 2012

* Other includes no response to this question

Languages Spoken

Table 6 below shows the proportion of population by language spoken in different regions of Santa Barbara County, according to the 2010 US Census.

Table 6: Primary Languages Spoken in County Households

Region	English	Language Other Than English	Spanish	Other Indo-European Language	Other Languages
South County	70%	30%	22%	6%	3%
Santa Ynez Valley	75%	25%	20%	3%	2%
Lompoc Valley	75%	25%	21%	1%	3%
North County	45%	55%	51%	1%	3%

Source: US Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The percentage of children identified as English language learners by the schools in 2009 is shown below.

Table 7: Percent of English Language Learners, Grades K-12, by Region

South County	Santa Ynez Valley	Lompoc Valley	North County	Countywide
26%	16%	23%	44%	34%

Source: California Department of Education, 2015

As the table shows, the highest proportion of English Language Learners in County schools is in North County. Within that region Santa Maria-Bonita Elementary Schools has the highest percentage at 66%. Other school districts throughout the county with high percentages of English Language Learners include the Guadalupe Union Elementary at 54%, Cuyama Joint Unified at 45% and Carpinteria Unified School District at 36%. The K-12 population is representative of the child population speaking languages other than English as their first language but anecdotal reports suggest that the proportion of children 0-5 years of age speaking languages other than English may be even higher.



Socio-economic Status

In 2014 24.5% of the children aged birth to 17 years old in Santa Barbara County were reported to live in poverty¹ compared with 22.7% for California overall (<http://www.kidsdata.org/region/273/santa-barbara-county/summary#37/family-economics>). The most recent income data available at the zip code level is from the US Census report of household income in 2010 and is shown below in Table 8.

Table 8: Percent of Households by Income by Increments*

Region/Zip Code	Town/City	Families with Income				
		< \$20,000	\$20,000-\$39,999	\$40,000-\$59,999	\$60,000-\$74,999	> \$75,000
South County						
93013	Carpinteria (6,311*)	11%	17%	15%	11%	45%
93067	Summerland (355)	0%	8%	14%	29%	49%
93101	Santa Barbara (12,162)	19%	18%	15%	13%	34%
93103	Santa (6755)	9%	21%	15%	10%	45%
93105	Santa Barbara (10,683)	12%	17%	12%	7%	53%
93108	Montecito (4,259)	10%	9%	7%	8%	66%
93109	Santa Barbara (4,328)	10%	12%	13%	6%	58%
93110	Santa Barbara (6,399)	11%	16%	15%	7%	51%
93111	Santa Barbara (6,326)	7%	10%	12%	11%	60%
93117	Goleta / Isla Vista (15,252)	23%	15%	15%	10%	38%
Total		14%	16%	14%	10%	47%
Santa Ynez Valley						
93427	Buellton (1,942)	13%	24%	9%	8%	46%
93440	Los Alamos (578)	8%	21%	14%	16%	40%
93441	Los Olivos (442)	7%	16%	15%	9%	30%
93460	Santa Ynez (2,116)	8%	7%	10%	8%	67%
93463	Svang (3,413)	16%	9%	18%	12%	45%
Total		12%	13%	14%	10%	51%
Lompoc Valley						
93436	Lompoc (17,635)	18%	21%	16%	10%	35%
93437	Vandenberg (952)	8%	17%	23%	17%	35%
Total		17%	21%	16%	10%	35%
North County						
93254	Cuyama (231)	14%	39%	27%	11%	9%
93429	Casmalia (29)	0%	41%	0%	28%	31%
93434	Guadalupe (1,853)	16%	28%	20%	17%	19%
93454	Santa Maria (11,661)	18%	21%	22%	9%	30%
93455	Santa Maria/Orcutt (15,357)	10%	12%	21%	12%	46%
93458	Santa Maria (12,841)	20%	25%	17%	12%	26%
Total	130,219	14%	19%	19%	12%	35%

Source: U. S. Census (2010).

* Numbers in parentheses indicates total families

¹Federal Poverty threshold in 2014 was \$23,850 in annual income for a family of four

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL

The percentage of children eligible for free or reduced price lunch is another indicator of the economic status of families in the different regions of the county. Table 9 below shows the percentage of children eligible for free or reduced price lunch at schools in the different zip codes of the county.

Table 9: Percent of Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch

Region/Zip Code	City/Town	Number of Schools ¹	Children Receiving Free or Reduced Price Lunch ² at each School
South County			
93013	Carpinteria	4	24%, 71%, 63%, 61%
93067	Summerland	1	22%
93101	Santa Barbara	4	100%, 37%, 79%, 88%
93103	Santa Barbara	5	24%, 72%, 63%, 61%, 54%, 80%
93105	Santa Barbara	2	74%, 40%
93108	Montecito	2	3%
93109	Santa Barbara	3	100%, 73%, 31%
93110	Santa Barbara	5	31%, 28%, 25%, 31%, 38%
93111	Santa Barbara	4	76%, 19%, 37%, 8%
93117	Goleta / Isla Vista	9	6%, 40%, 16%, 20%, 51%, 61%, 26%, 63%, 42%
Santa Ynez Valley			
93427	Buellton	2	32%, 34%
93440	Los Alamos	1	85%
93441	Los Olivos	2	17%, 6%
93460	Santa Ynez	3	45%, 49%, 1%
93463	Solvang	2	1%, 46%
Lompoc Valley			
93436	Lompoc	12	47%, 87%, 33%, 88%, 27%, 84%, 82%, 81%, 64%, 81%, 54%, 63%
93437	Lompoc ³	1	67%
North County			
93254	Cuyama	1	84%
93429	Casmalia	1	34%
93434	Guadalupe	2	90%, 90%
93454	Santa Maria	8	53%, 90%, 82%, 73%, 86%, 86%, 85%, 76%
93455	Santa Maria / Orcutt	10	50%, 30%, 51%, 53%, 37%, 51%, 38%, 90%, 89%
93458	Santa Maria	10	93%, 73%, 77%, 96%, 94%, 90%, 94%, 91%, 94%, 87%

Source: California Department of Education, 2012 <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/sd/filessp.asp>

¹ Elementary, Middle, and Junior High schools.

² Children from a family of 4 with income at or below \$23,920 are eligible for free school meals; children from a family of 4 with income at or below \$34,040 are eligible for reduced

North County has the highest overall eligibility for free or reduced price lunch. Zip Code 93458 has the highest percentage with all 10 schools having more than 65% of the children eligible for free or reduced price lunch. The Santa Ynez Valley has the lowest percentage of children eligible with the exception of Los Alamos. South County zip codes vary, with some schools having a high percentage of eligibility and some a low percentage. Table 10 below shows the overall percentages of eligibility by region.

Table 10: Percent of Schools with 65% or more of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch

South County	Santa Ynez Valley	Lompoc Valley	North County	Countywide
26%	16%	23%	44%	34%

Source: CDE, 2012

Critical Findings

North County has the largest proportion of children 0-12 years and has experienced the most significant population increases since 2010, but all areas of the County have experienced increases.

The ethnicity of the child population of the county is increasingly Hispanic and almost a third of the children countywide speak a language other than English. Santa Maria has a larger proportion of children who are dual language learners than other regions of the county.

North County and the Lompoc Valley have the largest percentage of families with incomes \$40,000 or less, and have the largest proportion of families receiving public assistance.



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL

Additional indicators of economic status are shown in Table 11 below. All measures of family support, including public assistance for cash aid, food, housing and medical care, show that North County has exhibits the highest utilization rates for these services.

		CalFresh	Housing Assistance	TANF/ CalWORKs	MediCAL
South County					
93013, 93014	Carpinteria	242	101	57	864
93067	Summerland	13	0	1	29
93101, 93102, 93120, 93121, 93190	Santa Barbara	1,087	983	324	2,584
93103, 93140	Santa Barbara	665	191	164	1,437
93105	Santa Barbara	237	98	41	716
93108, 93150	Montecito	28	8	1	101
93109	Santa Barbara	99	129	19	239
93110	Santa Barbara	570	201	69	716
93111, 93160	Santa Barbara	195	43	49	653
93117, 93116	Goleta / Isla Vista	496	190	127	1,490
93106	UCSB	5	0	0	1
Total		3,637	1,944	852	8,830
Santa Ynez Valley					
93427	Buellton	101	24	17	251
93440	Los Alamos	60	40	16	151
93441	Los Olivos	8	0	0	17
93460	Santa Ynez	61	5	4	182
93463, 93464	Solvang	82	13	16	292
Total		312	82	53	893
Lompoc Valley					
93436, 93438	Lompoc	2,782	1,088	925	4,683
93437	Lompoc / Vandenburg	0	0	0	8
Total		2,782	1,088	925	4,691
North County					
93254	Cuyama	31	1	14	86
93429	Casmalia	18	0	3	22
93434	Guadalupe	469	157	167	1,003
93454	Santa Maria	2,254	829	815	4,499
93455, 93457	Santa Maria / Orcutt	1,323	196	285	2,205
93458, 93456	Santa Maria	4,331	800	1,557	8,826
Total		8,426	1,983	2,841	16,641
COUNTY TOTALS		15,157	5,015	4,671	31,055

Sources: CalFresh, CalWORKs, MediCal: Santa Barbara County Dept. of Social Services 2013,
Housing Assistance: Housing Authority of Santa Barbara County 2014

NOTE: All Healthy Families enrollees have transitioned to Medi-Cal pursuant to AB 1494 (2012) as allowed by federal law.

Chapter Three Early Care & Education: Need and Capacity

The Need for Early Care & Education

Of the total 77,108 children aged birth to 12 years residing in Santa Barbara County, 35,415 are estimated to need early care and education services because their parents are working, are in school or training, or have other reasons for wanting early care and education services. Of the children estimated to need care, 6,528 are infants or toddlers (birth-2 years), 12,873 are preschoolers (3-5 years) and 16,037 are school-age (6-12 years). Table 12 below shows the number of children by age in each zip code and region estimated to need care.

Table 12: Estimated Numbers of Children Needing Early Care and Education

Region/ Zip Code	City/Town	Est. Number of Children Needing Child Care			Total Estimated Need 0-12 years
		0-2 years	3-5 years	6-12 years	
South County					
93013	Carpinteria	230	426	606	1,262
93067	Summerland	9	20	30	59
93101	Santa Barbara	521	1,082	1,418	3,021
93103	Santa Barbara	300	599	829	1,728
93105	Santa Barbara	239	470	671	1,380
93108	Montecito	53	105	159	317
93109	Santa Barbara	102	162	244	508
93110	Santa Barbara	154	319	383	856
93111	Santa Barbara	166	339	440	945
93117	Goleta / Isla Vista	148	930	1,270	2,348
Total		2,222	4,452	6,050	12,724
Santa Ynez Valley					
93427	Buellton	6,060	151	182	393
93440	Los Alamos	34	67	78	179
93441	Los Olivos	11	19	31	61
93460	Santa Ynez	42	96	145	283
93463	Solvang	74	149	177	400
Total		221	482	613	1,316
Lompoc Valley					
93436	Lompoc	815	1,654	2,027	4,496
93437	Lompoc	127	223	492	842
Total		942	1,877	2,519	5,338
North County					
93254	Cuyama	14	34	41	89
93429	Casmalia	0	0	0	0
93434	Guadalupe	163	323	416	902
93454	Santa Maria	809	1,673	2,459	4,941
93455	Santa Maria / Orcutt	498	972	1,064	2,534
93458	Santa Maria	1,659	3,060	2,851	7,570
Total		3,143	6,062	6,832	16,037
TOTAL COUNTY		6,528	12,873	16,014	35,415

Source: Numbers of children, 2010 US Census estimate* of need recommendations from Review of Literature and Studies
The current estimation is based on need formulas recommended by the research reported in the "Review of Literature and Studies on Child Care Demand," Michelle Nilsson and Joanne Brion, Brion & Associates, December 19, 2005

Early Care & Education Capacity

Children are enrolled in a variety of settings while their parents are working or attending school or training: informal care by family, friends or neighbors; licensed family child care homes; licensed early care and education centers; or license-exempt school-aged programs. In Santa Barbara County, just as in the rest of California and the nation, many parents depend on informal, unlicensed care for their children while they are working or otherwise unable to provide parental care. While no data are available for Santa Barbara County, it is estimated that in California, almost one-third of children under the age of five with employed parents are cared for in informal settings (also referred to as family, friend and neighbor care). Such care is unregulated except for caregivers who receive a public subsidy as payment for providing care. Caregivers other than grandparents, aunts and uncles who receive public subsidies as payment must go through the state-operated TrustLine background check.

This report focuses on licensed programs, which are regulated and monitored by the Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, and school-based license-exempt settings, but also includes data on some subsidized programs such as CalSAFE, CalWORKs and the Alternate Payment Program, which may be license-exempt or include subsidized children in informal care settings. Table 13 below shows the number of spaces by age group served and program type for each zip code and region of the county.

Table 13: Early Care and Education Capacity - Licensed and License-exempt After School Programs

Region/Zip code	City/Town	Family Child Care Spaces			ECE Centers Spaces			Total Spaces			Total Capacity 0-12 years
		Infant-Toddler*	Preschool-age*	School-age*	Infant-Toddler	Preschool-age	School-age**	Infant-Toddler	Preschool-age	School-age	
South County											
93013	Carpinteria	20	40	20	84	348	283	104	388	303	795
93067	Summerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
93101	Santa Barbara	42	84	42	24	266	507	66	350	549	965
93103	Santa Barbara	17	43	14	0	391	617	17	434	631	1,082
93105	Santa Barbara	23	61	18	71	486	230	94	547	248	889
93108	Montecito	8	16	8	0	247	75	8	263	83	354
93109	Santa Barbara	12	24	12	11	136	243	23	160	255	438
93110	Santa Barbara	36	90	30	89	439	52	125	529	82	736
93111	Santa Barbara	38	100	30	12	246	253	50	346	283	679
93117	Goleta/Isia Vista	42	108	34	98	815	196	140	923	230	1,293
93106	UCSB	0	0	0	60	158	90	60	158	90	308
Total		238	566	208	449	3,532	2,546	687	4,098	2,754	7,539
Santa Ynez Valley											
93427	Buellton	13	29	12	0	43	50	13	96	122	231
93440	Los Alamos	0	0	0	0	26	140	0	24	140	164
93441	Los Olivos	11	31	8	0	40	0	11	55	8	74
93460	Santa Ynez	11	31	8	0	56	0	11	87	178	276
93463 & 93464	Solvang	8	22	6	0	201	80	8	202	46	256
Total		43	113	34	0	366	270	43	464	494	1,001
Lompoc Valley											
93436 & 93438	Lompoc	167	451	128	23	507	399	190	958	527	1,675
93437	Vandenburg	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	26	0	26
Total		167	451	128	23	533	399	190	984	527	1,701
North County											
93254	Cuyama	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	36	0	36
93429	Casmalia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
93434	Guadalupe	24	54	22	0	48	250	24	102	272	398
93454	Santa Maria	144	372	116	70	681	790	214	1,053	545	1,812
93455	Santa Maria/Orcutt	130	320	110	8	554	1,190	138	874	80	1,092
93458	Santa Maria	183	459	270	16	612	1,230	199	1,071	970	2,240
Total		481	1,205	518	94	1,931	3,460	575	3,136	3,978	7,689
COUNTY TOTALS		929	2,335	888	566	6,347	6,865	1,495	8,682	7,753	17,930

Sources: Community Care Licensing, October 2013 (licensed spaces); Children's Resource and Referral, July 2015

*Numbers of children by age in FCC (Family Child Care Homes) estimate based on licensing requirements.

** Includes After School Education and Safety (ASES) Programs funded by the California Department of Education & located on school sites

There are 17,930 early care and education spaces¹ in Santa Barbara County.

About 48% of these spaces are dedicated to preschool-age children, 43% are for school-age children, and less than 8% are available for infants and toddlers. The early care and education spaces reported here are in one of three settings: licensed family child care homes, where children receive care and education services in a private home licensed for either 8 or 14 children; they are in a licensed child care center; or they are enrolled in a school-based program serving larger numbers of children, which is determined by space and staff available. In Santa Barbara County 23% of the spaces are in family child care homes and 77% are in early care and education centers or school-based programs. No data are available on the numbers of children cared for in informal, unregulated settings (family, friend and neighbor care) in Santa Barbara County; but it has been estimated that in California almost one-third of children under the age of 5 needing care are in informal settings.

Overall, the number of early care and education spaces countywide has decreased since the 2010 “Early Care and Education Now” report by 1,245 spaces.

The number of infant-toddler spaces in early care and education centers increased from 366 in October 2009 to 566 in October 2015, an increase of almost 55%. However, the overall capacity for infants and toddlers falls far short of the need. Preschool spaces in centers decreased by almost 5%, from 6,675 in 2009 to 6,347 in 2015. School-age spaces decreased by about 2% from 2009 to 2015, with a drop from 7,007 to 6,865.

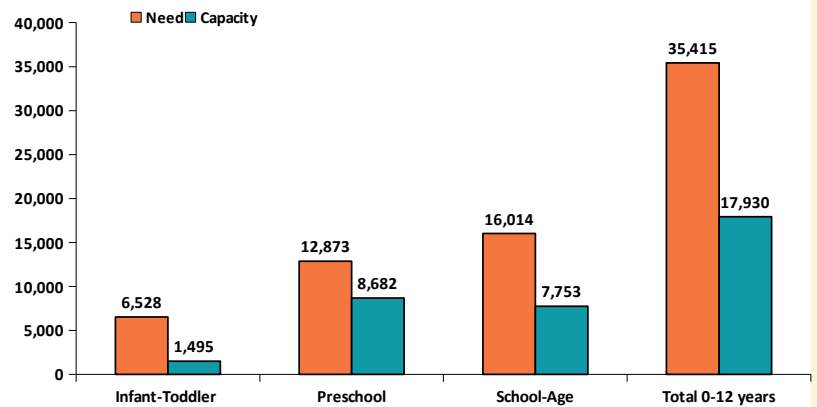
The largest decrease in capacity in Santa Barbara County was in family child care homes, which dropped from 5,127 potential spaces in 2009 to 4,152 in 2015.



Early Care & Education Need vs. Capacity

Although there has been a decrease in capacity for Early Care and Education over the past five years, the need continues to grow. The following chart shows the overall need and capacity by age group for Santa Barbara County. We are serving only slightly more than 50% of children aged birth to 12 years who need care. Figure 2 below shows the overall need versus capacity in the County.

Figure 2: Need and Capacity for Early Care and Education



In Santa Barbara County, there are two children needing care for every space available. The table below demonstrates the need by age group and region. The greatest deficit is for infants and toddlers (children birth to 2 years old), with almost five babies needing care for every space available. Before- and after-school care, for children 6-12 years of age, became more accessible when the After School Education and Safety programs were funded by the State starting in 2005, but there are still more than 7,000 school-age children county-wide for whom no formal care is available. The capacity for preschool-aged children (3-5 years) is somewhat better than for the other age groups, with space for about two-thirds of children of that age group.



Table 14: Early Care and Education Need vs. Capacity by Region

Region	Infant-Toddler		Pre- school		School-Age		Total	
	Need	Capacity	Need	Capacity	Need	Capacity	Need	Capacity
South County	2,222	687	4,452	4,098	6,050	2,754	12,724	7,539
Santa Ynez Valley	221	43	482	464	613	494	1,316	1,001
Lompoc Valley	942	190	1,877	984	2,519	527	5,338	1,701
North County	3,143	575	6,062	3,136	6,832	3,978	16,037	7,689
Countywide	6,528	1,495	12,873	8,682	16,014	7,753	35,415	17,930

Critical Findings

There is still a critical shortage of licensed early care and education spaces for all age groups of children in Santa Barbara County.

- ✓ The greatest shortage is for infant-toddler spaces.
- ✓ The greatest decline of available spaces in the past five years has been in family child care homes.
- ✓ The number of school-age spaces increased with the inception of the After-School Education and Safety programs but there is still a serious shortage of regulated spaces for school-age children.
- ✓ Many children are cared for in unregulated settings where there is no monitoring of basic health and safety standards or program quality. The quality of any early care and education program is critical for children's positive outcomes. See Chapter 1 and Chapter 6 for information about early care and education program quality in Santa Barbara County.

Chapter 4 The Cost of Early Care and Education and Subsidized Care



Cost of Care

Table 15 below shows the monthly cost of early care and education in different regions of the county. The rates reported are for full-time services (30 hours or more per week), in centers and family child care homes, for infant-toddlers (0-23 months), preschoolers (2 years - 5years 11 months) and school-age children (6-13 years).

Table 15: Average Monthly Cost of Early Care and Education

	Infant		Preschool		School-Age	
	Centers	FCC	Centers	FCC	Centers	FCC
North County/ Lompoc Valley	\$720	\$706	\$515	\$654	\$439	\$603
South County/ Santa Ynez Valley	\$1,154	\$865	\$902	\$799	\$535	\$693
Countywide	\$1,008	\$735	\$704	\$677	\$429	\$610

Source: Children's Resource and Referral, August 2015

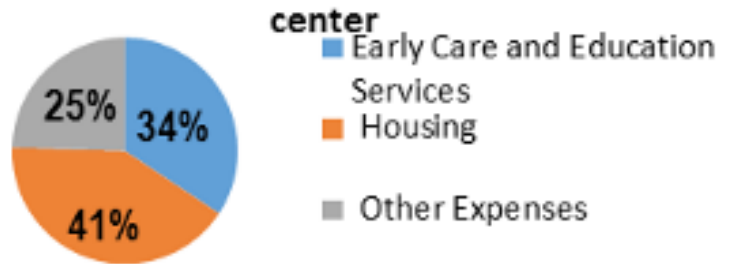
The cost of early care and education services varies with the type of program providing the services (center or family child care home), the age of the child, and the region of the county. Infant-toddler services are most expensive because of the required high ratio of adults to children. Services are generally more costly in centers than family child care homes, and costlier in South County than North County. High quality programs with well-educated staff are necessarily expensive to operate.

Examples of family expenditures, including early care and education expenses based on average costs in 2015 are shown in Figure 3 to the right.

Expenses for a family with median income, 1 preschool child and 1 infant in family child care



Expenses for a family with median income, 1 preschool child and 1 infant in an ECE center



A family at the median income of \$61,782 and with a preschool age child and an infant cared for in a family child care home, will spend as much as 28% of their annual income for the early care and education services. That same family enrolling their children in an early care and education center will spend as much as 35% of their annual income for early care and education services.

Regardless of program, age of child, or region of the county, the cost of early care and education services is prohibitively expensive for many families. However, depending on their income and family size, some families are eligible for subsidized early care and education services.



Children Eligible for Subsidized Care

Criteria for eligibility for subsidized early care and education services vary among different programs. For example, the income eligibility for federally funded Head Start programs (currently \$24,250 for family of four) is lower than the income eligibility for State funded programs (approximately \$47,000 for a family of four); some programs serve only a particular age-group; and some programs require families to not only be income eligible, but also for parents in the home to be employed or in a job training program.

Table 16: Children Eligible for Publicly Funded Early Care and Education

Region/Zip Code	City/Town	Children Income Eligible* for Subsidized Early Care and Education Services			Children Income Eligible* and Needing Care		
		Eligible 0-2 years old	Eligible 3-5 years old	Eligible 6-12 years old	Eligible 0-2 years old	Eligible 3-5 years old	Eligible 6-12 years old
South County							
93013	Carpinteria	149	184	373	55	129	145
93067	Summerland	8	10	18	3	7	7
93101	Santa Barbara	293	361	732	108	253	285
93103	Santa Barbara	185	229	465	68	160	181
93105	Santa Barbara	232	285	576	86	200	225
93108	Montecito	103	127	258	38	89	101
93109	Santa Barbara	99	122	249	37	85	97
93110	Santa Barbara	154	192	387	57	134	151
93111	Santa Barbara	160	198	401	59	139	156
93117	Goleta/Isla Vista	506	619	1,252	187	433	488
Total		1,889	2,327	4,711	699	1,629	1,837
Santa Ynez Valley							
93427	Buellton	84	90	173	31	63	67
93440	Los Alamos	31	33	64	11	23	25
93441	Los Olivos	23	25	48	9	18	19
93460	Santa Ynez	80	85	164	30	60	64
93463	Solvang	116	124	241	43	87	94
Total		334	357	690	124	250	269
Lompoc Valley							
93436	Lompoc	818	870	1,692	303	609	660
93437	Lompoc	51	54	106	19	38	41
Total		1,468	1,520	3,534	322	647	701
North County							
93254	Cuyama	12	13	26	4	9	10
93429	Casmalia	3	4	6	1	3	2
93434	Guadalupe	108	114	222	40	80	87
93454	Santa Maria	1,211	1,294	2,279	448	906	889
93455	Santa Maria/Orcutt	1,387	1,485	2,620	513	1,040	1,022
93458	Santa Maria	1,708	1,828	3,248	632	1,280	1,267
Total		4,429	4,738	8,401	1,639	3,317	3,276
TOTAL COUNTY		7,521	8,346	19,790	2,783	5,842	7,718

Sources: US Census, American Institutes for Research

Estimate of need recommendations from Review of Literature and Child Care Demand, Nilsson and Brion, 2005

*Children in families with income < or = 70% State Median Income

Table 16 on the left page shows numbers of children estimated to be eligible for subsidized early care and education programs either by income level alone, or by income level and parents working or undertaking an alternative qualifying activity. These numbers are estimated, by zip code, from numbers of children by age, percent of families with income below \$50,000 in the 2000 Census, and the percent of children in families who need care¹.

Capacity of Subsidized Early Care and Education Programs

There are six types of state or federally funded programs providing early care and education services for children of eligible families in Santa Barbara County. Subsidies may be in the form of spaces in state or federally funded early care and education centers, or they may be provided as vouchers that support children in settings of the parents' choice. Vouchers may be used in licensed family child care homes or centers, or in unregulated family, friend or neighbor settings. Subsidized early care and education programs in Santa Barbara County include the following:

California State Preschool is funded by the California Department of Education, Early Education and Support Division. State Preschools offer center-based part-day or full-day early care and education programs for children aged 3 to 5 years, to help prepare them for kindergarten. These preschools also emphasize parent education and involvement. Priority is given to four-year-olds and to children who are recipients of child protective services or are at risk of being neglected or abused.

The General Child Care program is funded by the California Department of Education, Early Education and Support Division, and provides center-based full-day early care and education services for children younger or older than preschool age. This program provides comprehensive child development services for low-income parents who are working, looking for work, in training, or are homeless. These center-based programs provide nutrition and parent education, as well as information on child development and care.

Head Start and Early Head Start Head Start programs are federally funded part-day programs and full day programs. Head Start programs are offered primarily to children of low-income families. Early Head Start serves children aged birth to 3 years, and Head Start serves children ages three and older. At least 90% of the children enrolled in Head Start must be from low-income families, based on federal poverty guidelines. Most of the children enrolled in Head Start are in center-based programs, but some are in family child care homes where they receive the full-range of Head Start services. Head Start and Early Head Start services are also provided in a weekly Home Visitation model. Parent participation is cultivated for all families enrolled in Head Start.

The Alternative Payment Program is a voucher program funded by the California Department of Education, Early Education and Support Division. Parents choose the type and style of child care best suited for their needs and the needs of their child. Eligible child care providers include in-home care by license-exempt family, friends and neighbors, licensed family child care homes, licensed center-based care, and license-exempt school-age care.

CalWORKs (California Work Opportunities and Responsibility for Kids), a welfare-to-work program, provides early care and education as needed for qualified families. The services may be in licensed centers or family child care homes, or in license-exempt school-age programs, or in more informal family, friend or neighbor care. There are three stages in CalWORKs that provide varying degrees of support depending on the parents' stage of entering the workforce and their job stability. CalWORKs funds originate from the California Department of Social Services in Stage 1 and transition to the California Department of Education for Stage 2 and 3 child care services.

After School Safety and Education (ASES) provides after school education and enrichment programs for school-age children. These programs are created through partnerships between schools and local community organizations to provide literacy, academic enrichment and safe constructive alternatives for students in transitional kindergarten through ninth grade (K-9). Programs provide tutoring and/or homework assistance to help students meet state standards in one or more of the core academic subjects and offer additional services, programs, and activities that reinforce and complement the school's academic program. In some ASES programs priority is given to working families but there is no income eligibility requirement.



Table 17 below shows the number of early care and education spaces by subsidy type (voucher or non-voucher), age of child and zip code.

Table 17: Publicly Funded Early Care and Education Spaces by Type

Zip	Community	Infants		Toddlers		Preschool			School-Age	
		Non-Voucher	Voucher	Non-Voucher	Voucher	Part-Day	Full-Day		Non-Voucher	Voucher
						Non-Voucher	Non-Voucher	Voucher		
South County										
93013	Carpinteria	4	4	9	4	44	40	11	282	4
93067	Summerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
93101	Santa Barbara	8	3	0	7	138	40	22	100	15
93103	Santa Barbara	0	1	0	3	200	0	18	349	14
93105	Santa Barbara	0	0	0	0	38	9	6	333	5
93108	Montecito	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
93109	Santa Barbara	0	1	0	1	36	20	0	133	0
93110	Santa Barbara	0	0	0	1	0	0	17	0	15
93111	Santa Barbara	0	2	0	1	24	0	9	0	6
93117/93106	Goleta/UCSB	32	1	24	3	103	60	23	317	30
Total		44	12	33	20	583	169	106	1,514	89
Santa Ynez Valley										
93427	Buellton	0	0	0	0	20	0	1	0	4
93440	Los Alamos	0	0	0	1	24	0	3	0	2
93441	Los Olivos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
93460	Santa Ynez	0	0	0	0	48	0	3	20	2
93463	Solvang	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total		0	0	0	1	92	0	7	20	10
Lompoc Valley										
93436	Lompoc	13	16	15	36	252	84	78	392	84
93437	Lompoc	0	0	0	1	48	0	3	0	4
Total		13	16	15	37	300	84	81	392	88
North County										
93254	Cuyama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
93429	Casmalia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
93434	Guadalupe	0	2	0	5	34	20	6	160	7
93454	Santa Maria	28	24	9	44	272	80	69	545	100
93455	SM/Orcutt	0	9	0	11	94	0	35	80	59
93458	Santa Maria	16	11	8	33	375	80	62	970	87
Total		44	46	17	93	775	180	172	1,755	253
CountywideTotal		101	74	65	151	1,750	433	366	3,681	440

Source: Subsidized program survey, October 2013

Non-voucher includes Head Start, Migrant Head Start, General Child Care, State Preschool and After School Safety and Education programs

Voucher includes CalWORKs, Stages 1, 2 and 3 and the Alternate Payment Program. Parents receiving voucher subsidies for their children may use licensed family child care homes or centers, or they may use unregulated family, friend or neighbor settings.

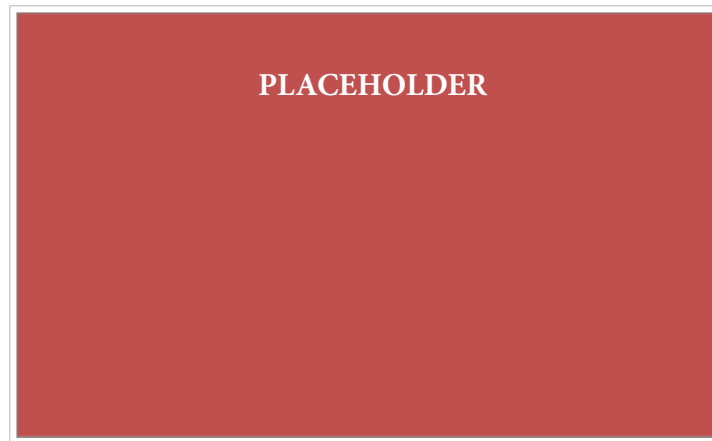
Other more limited sources of early care and education subsidies/scholarships include private foundations, the United Way, the faith-based community, employers, and individual ECE programs.

Subsidized Early Care and Education: Need vs. Capacity

Figure 4 below compares the number of children eligible for subsidized early care and education, by age group, and subsidized spaces available.

Children are eligible for part-day preschool on the basis of family income and age but a portion of those children are also eligible for full-day preschool if parents in the home are working or engaged in other eligible activities. To better estimate the number of children eligible and needing part-day preschool, the total number shown has been adjusted to reflect eligible children enrolled in full-day preschool.

Figure 4: Need and Capacity for Publicly Funded Early Care and Education



Children eligible for full-day and part-day preschool may be duplicated

As Figure 4 demonstrates, the 24,000 children ages 0-12 years eligible for state or federally funded early care and education services vie for less than 13,000 funded spaces in Santa Barbara County.

The capacity figures shown includes both voucher and non-voucher spaces. Only 17% of the 2,748 infants and toddlers receiving subsidized care are enrolled in early care and education centers. The other 83% receive vouchers that parents may use in licensed family child care homes or centers, or they may use unregulated, license-exempt, family, friend or neighbor settings. Of the subsidized preschoolers, 27% are enrolled in centers, with the other 73% receiving vouchers; 44% of the subsidized school-age children are enrolled in centers and 56% receiving vouchers.

Vouchers may be used by families to access spaces in unlicensed care, often called Family, Friend and Neighbor care. These unlicensed caregivers may provide care that fits the needs of the family, but they are not monitored by Community Care Licensing, as are licensed family child care homes and centers, and there is no education or even health and safety training requirement for these providers. Therefore, this type of care cannot be determined to be of high quality, which is essential for assuring positive outcomes for children.



As shown in Table 18 below, all regions of the county need additional subsidized early care and education services for all age groups. However, the greatest overall need is for infant and toddler care, for which there are spaces for only 14% of eligible children. In North County only 12% of eligible infants and toddlers are being served, and only one receives care in the Santa Ynez Valley.

There are more spaces for preschool and school-age care, but only 43% and 67% respectively of those age groups are being served.

In addition to the current lack of subsidized spaces, the fact that the state’s eligibility guidelines have not been updated for many years indicates that many families that should be eligible for services are not being served because they do not qualify.

Table 18 : Early Care and Education Need vs. Capacity for Publicly Funded Programs by Region

Region	Infant-Toddler		Preschool		School-Age	
	Need	Capacity	Need	Capacity	Need	Capacity
South County	699	109	1629	858	1837	1603
Santa Ynez Valley	124	1	250	99	269	30
Lompoc Valley	322	81	647	465	701	480
North County	1639	200	3317	1127	3276	2008
Countywide	2,784	391	5,843	2,549	6,083	4,121

Source:



The Centralized Eligibility List

The Centralized Eligibility List is no longer funded by the CA Department of Education. However, Children’s Resource and Referral continues to maintain a list of families eligible for and needing care in Santa Barbara County. In addition, many programs maintain their own waiting lists, rather than contributing information to a comprehensive centralized list.

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Critical Findings

- ✓ The greatest need for care overall in Santa Barbara County is for infants and toddlers. Capacity for this age group is only 14% of estimated need.
- ✓ All regions of the county need additional subsidized early care and education services for all age groups; the greatest need for all age groups is in North County.
- ✓ Working parents need full-day care, yet many of the state- and federally-funded programs offer only part-day care. Part-day State Preschool is typically three to three and one-half hours per day; Head Start is moving to a longer program, but at six hours per day will still require additional caregiving for working parents.
- ✓ Vouchers make up 83% of subsidized infant care. Many families use family, friend or neighbor care because that is what they prefer, or because the full cost of licensed care may be prohibitive. Families frequently use unlicensed care because of the lack of spaces in centers and licensed family child care available.
- ✓ Many children receiving subsidized care are in unregulated settings where there is no monitoring of basic health and safety standards or program quality. Therefore, there is no way to determine the quality of such programs, yet high quality is linked to positive outcomes for children.
- ✓ After School Education and Safety for school-age children has helped to fill much of the school-age need, yet the need is much greater than the capacity, especially in North County.
- ✓ The Centralized Eligibility List, which is no longer funded by the state, served a critical purpose in not only helping families locate the care that meets their needs, but also in assisting licensed child care programs to be fully enrolled.
- ✓ Because the state has not updated its eligibility criteria for access to subsidized programs, many families that should be eligible for care are not, because they have incomes above 70% of the State Median Income (SMI), which is based on 2008 levels.

Chapter Five

Special Needs for Early Care and Education

This chapter describes five special populations of children in Santa Barbara County.

These populations include:

- (1) children eligible for special education services;
- (2) children who are abused, neglected, or at risk of abuse or neglect;
- (3) children of homeless families;
- (4) children of migrant families; and
- (5) children with teen parents.

These five groups have special needs that impact their need for, and access to, early care and education services. In addition, we would like to highlight the critical needs of the children of Santa Barbara County who are Dual Language Learners. It is also critical to note that some children may have more than one special need and therefore require additional supports from caregivers and service providers.



Children Eligible for Special Education Services

Families with children identified as eligible for special education services through either the Tri-Counties Regional Center or Santa Barbara County Education Office have an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Table 19 to the right shows the number of children with an IFSP or IEP by age and zip code.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL

Table 19: Number of Children with IFSP or IEP*

Region/Zip Code	City/Town	0-2 years	3-5 years	6-12 years	13-17 years	18-22 years
South County						
93013	Carpinteria	4	35	122	91	14
93067	Summerland	0	1	3	0	0
93101	Santa Barbara	10	76	327	266	28
93103	Santa Barbara	3	51	197	166	22
93105	Santa Barbara	4	33	100	78	10
93108	Montecito	1	5	73	31	2
93109	Santa Barbara	3	9	55	23	4
93110	Santa Barbara	4	26	102	71	5
93111	Santa Barbara	4	21	108	91	13
93117	Goleta/Isla Vista	17	50	231	289	21
unknown	South County	0	1	20	28	3
Total		50	308	1,338	1,134	122
Santa Ynez Valley						
93440	Buellton	0	8	49	47	4
93441	Los Alamos	0	0	20	17	4
93427	Los Olivos	0	6	3	5	0
93460	Santa Ynez	0	3	11	26	2
93463	Solvang	1	8	58	48	4
Total		1	25	141	143	14
Lompoc Valley						
93436	Lompoc	20	111	546	352	48
93437	Lompoc	3	21	50	14	0
Total		23	132	596	366	48
North County						
93254	Cuyama	1	9	11	3	5
93429	Casmalia	0	0	3	3	2
93434	Guadalupe	0	20	77	60	14
93454	Santa Maria	11	110	308	200	39
93455	Santa Maria/Orcutt	12	81	373	220	47
93458	Santa Maria	17	140	615	327	49
unknown	North County	0	5	39	35	3
Total		41	365	1,426	848	159
unknown	County Wide	254	178	0	0	0
TOTAL COUNTY		369	1,008	3,501	2,491	343

Source: Tri-Counties Regional and Special Education Local Planning Area, SBCEO

*Children with an Individual Family service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Children with an IEP or IFSP receive special development and education services but may still need early care and education services beyond the hours of their special education program. For example, children with special needs are included in the full range of activities and services provided by the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Any modifications needed to provide these services or activities are made by the program. A parent’s need for full day services is accommodated even when the child attends a special education program for a portion of the day at a location other than the child’s enrollment location. Head Start programs have a mandate that at least ten percent of the children served are identified as requiring special needs support. Best practices dictate that children of all abilities are included in child development programs.

The numbers of children with an IEP or IFSP are shown by age group and region in Table 20 below, with estimates of numbers who may need additional hours of care beyond their special needs programs. The estimates are based on the same percentages of children needing care used for estimating need in Chapter 3.1

Table 20: Children with IFSP or IEP* Estimated to Need Early Care and Education Services

Region	0-2 Years		3-5 years		6-12 years		13-17 years	
	IFSP	Est. Need Care	IEP	Est. Need Care	IEP	Est. Need Care	IEP	Est. Need Care
South County	50	19	308	231	1338	522	1134	445
Santa Ynez Valley	1	0	25	19	141	55	143	34
Lompoc Valley	23	9	132	99	596	232	366	105
North County	41	15	365	274	1426	556	848	376
Unknown Countywide	254	94	178	134	0	0		
TOTAL COUNTY	369	137	1008	756	3501	1365	2491	971

* Children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

No data are available for enrollment of children with an IFSP or IEP in early care and education programs overall. Table 21 below shows the number of children with an IEP or IFSP enrolled in publicly funded early care and education programs.

Families with children with an IFSP or IEP often experience great difficulty finding high quality programs able to address their children’s special needs. There may be a lack of teachers and caregivers who are trained and have experience including children with special needs in their programs.

Table 21: Children with IFSP or IEP Enrolled in Funded Early Care & Education Programs

Region	Number of Children
South County	63
Santa Ynez Valley	2
Lompoc Valley	25
North County	86
TOTAL COUNTY	176

Source: Survey of Subsidized programs, October 2013

¹Estimation is based on need estimates recommended by th reported in the “Review of Literature and Studies on Child C Demand,” Michelle Nilsson and Joanne Brion, Brion & Assoc December 19, 2005

Ongoing efforts to improve the availability and quality of early care and education services for children with special needs have been in effect in Santa Barbara County since 2003. The Inclusive Child Care Project offered training for family child care providers and center teachers, with follow-up support from an Inclusive Child Care Specialist as needed. However, although funding is no longer available for a Specialist, training is periodically held under the auspices of Children’s Resource and Referral of Santa Barbara County and the Child Care Planning Council’s Inclusive Child Care Action Team. In addition, some support is available through the Quality Rating and Improvement System, which focuses on children with high needs.

Another recent trend is that school districts in the County have been taking back the special education funds to provide services that in the past were delivered by the Santa Barbara County Education Office. This trend has raised issues for families to be able to access services through school districts that may have limited resources.

Children at Risk of Abuse and Neglect

Table 22 below shows the numbers of children at risk of abuse or neglect, by allegations of abuse or neglect, substantiated cases of abuse or neglect, and the numbers of children who were taken into foster care. Compared with the past years the total number of children taken into care has declined from 381 in 1999, a high of 423 in 2001, and 362 in 2004, to 297 in 2009.

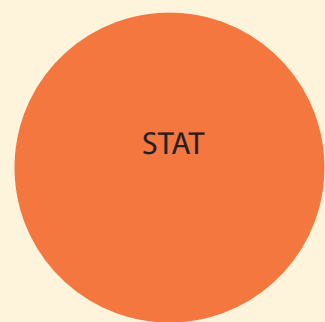


Table 22: Children at Risk of Abuse or Neglect*

	<1 year	1-2 years	3-5 years	6-12 years	TOTAL
Allegations	366	522	1032	2365	4285
Substantiations	89	83	120	255	547
Entered Care	57	33	50	82	222

Source: University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research Website

*Children with Maltreatment Allegations, Substantiations and Entering Care, January 1-December 31, 2013



In Santa Barbara County, the Differential Response Program, called Front Porch, allows social workers to connect families to resources and supports in the community before child abuse and neglect has occurred. Child Welfare Services (CWS) partners with community agencies to refer families in need based on selected criteria.

Children identified by CWS as abused, neglected or at-risk for abuse or neglect have priority for enrollment in subsidized early care and education programs. The October 2013 survey of center-based subsidized programs showed 46 such children were enrolled. Of those, 30 were in North County, 13 in Lompoc and 3 in South County.

Hope4Kids in Santa Barbara (93110) opened in 2008 with a special interest in providing early care and education services for children in foster care. Typically, they are serving five to six children with special needs each year.



All early care and education programs offer resources to families to help prevent child abuse and neglect. Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education is an evidence-based approach first introduced by the Center for the Study of Social Policy. Strengthening Families is based on developing the Five Protective Factors known to prevent child abuse and neglect through providing support to families whose children are enrolled in Early Care and Education programs. For the past several years, the Child Care Planning Council has been engaged with the Child Abuse Prevention Council and the Network of Family Resource Centers in the Family Strengthening Partnership. A Memorandum of Understanding supports the organizations' collaborative efforts that include holding joint meetings, cross-training for staff, and sharing of information and resources. More information about this collaboration can be found in Chapter 6.



Children of Homeless Families

Table 23: Children of Homeless Families 2013-2014

	0-2 years	3-5 years	6-12 years	13-18 years	TOTAL
Carpinteria	NA	NA	90	44	134
Santa Barbara	NA	NA	917	1298	2215
Goleta	NA	NA	81	0	81
Santa Ynez Valley	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lompoc	NA	NA	271	145	416
Cuyama	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Guadalupe	NA	NA	69	12	81
Santa Maria	NA	59	4910	1700	6669
Countywide	0	59	6248	3155	9462

Source: Transitional Youth Services, SBCEO May 2015

NOTES:

- 1) No accurate 0-5 numbers are available since only K-12 schools are required to make a count.
- 2) includes children who, at some point during the year, lived in a) a homeless shelter, b) a hotel or motel, c) were unsheltered

As Table 23 shows, more than 9,000 children were reported as homeless in the 2013-14 school year, which is more than double the number counted in the previous report, based on 2009-10 data. As the notes attest, even those numbers might be under-counted in specific areas of the County, and children under five years of age are likely to be under-reported because the data are based on reports of families with children enrolled in school. Thus, children of homeless families with no school-age children are not identified through this source.

Of the homeless children reported, 94% are children of families living in a residence with other families out of economic necessity, which arrangement is defined as "doubled-up." The remaining families lived in a homeless shelter, a hotel or motel, in a car, at a campground, or on the street at some time during the school year. See Table 24 to the right

Table 24: Children of Homeless Families by Type of Shelter 2013-14

	Shelter	Doubled up	Un-sheltered	Motel	TOTAL
Carpinteria	2	129	3	0	134
Santa Barbara	124	2,074	8	9	2,215
Goleta	17	62	2	0	81
Santa Ynez Valley	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lompoc	47	337	0	32	416
Cuyama	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Guadalupe	5	73	3	0	81
Santa Maria	99	6,432	50	88	6,669
Countywide	292	8,978	63	129	9,462

Source: Transitional Youth Services, SBCEO May 2015

NOTES:

- 1) Confusion over the definition of "doubled up" sometimes leads to inaccurate counts of this category
- 2) Children who are unsheltered (including in substandard housing) are often difficult to identify.

Anecdotal reports suggest that the true numbers of children in families sharing accommodations with other families out of economic necessity are much greater than reported.

The North County region has the largest number of the families described as homeless, or 71% of the countywide total overall. That region also has 79% of the children from unsheltered families, i.e. living on the street, in cars or at campgrounds. Although the percentages for North County have not changed much since the 2010 report, the totals are much higher: 6,750 for North County compared to 2,917. South County has seen an increase from 829 in 2009-10 to 2,430 in 2013-14.

The difficulties and instability experienced by homeless families means that children move frequently, making it more difficult to identify and enroll them in early care and education programs. Even when children are enrolled, their attendance may be short-term and/or inconsistent. Their family circumstances make the benefits of high quality early care and education services even more critical for these children, yet dedicated spaces are in very short supply.

Three child care programs in South Santa Barbara County give priority enrollment to children from homeless families: Transition House and St. Vincent's, which also provide shelter services for mothers and their children, and Storyteller Children's Center. In other regions of the County, there are no licensed child care centers dedicated to homeless children; however they are eligible for, and frequently enrolled in, Head Start and state funded early care and education programs.

Children of Migrant Families

Table 25 below shows the number of children of migrant families by age. The numbers of children 0-5 years of age are under-reported because the data are based on reports of families with children enrolled in public schools. North County has almost 95% of the identified children of migrant families.

Table 25: Children of Migrant Families

Location of School District	Number of Children						REGIONAL TOTALS
	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Ages 6-12	Ages 13-17	
South County	0	1	0	1	3	1	6
Santa Ynez Valley	0	0	0	1	4	5	10
Lompoc Valley	6	7	16	10	85	30	154
North County	111	233	275	282	2212	895	4008
TOTAL COUNTY	117	241	291	294	2304	931	4178

Sources: *Migrant Education Program, Region 22 (2014-15); Santa Maria Bonita School District (2014-15).*

Finding child care is particularly difficult for the many parents, both migrant and non-migrant, who work in the fields for 12 hours, starting very early in the morning. Center-based and Family Child Care Migrant Head Start Programs are available for children of migrant families in Santa Maria, Guadalupe and Lompoc. These programs have schedules that more closely accommodate the working hours of the parents. They open at 5:00 a.m. and close at 5:00 p.m. and are in operation from March through October.

Children of School-Age Parents

School-age parents are at high risk for school dropout and their children are at risk for a number of health, educational, and social problems. Table 26 shows the number of teen births in each region of the county from 2009-2013. As the data indicate, the percentage of teen births over this period fell from about 4% of all births in Santa Barbara County to about 2.4%.

Table 26: Teen¹ Births in Santa Barbara County

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Teen Births in South County	65	26	31	22	17
Total Teen Births in Santa Ynez Valley	**	**	**	**	**
Total Teen Births in Lompoc	37	36	16	26	19
Total Teen Births in North County	132	126	124	89	87
Total Teen Births in Santa Barbara County	234	188	171	137	123
Total Teen Population in Santa Barbara County	N/A	8442	8079	7675	7765
Percent of Teen Births to Teen Population	N/A	2.2%	2.1%	1.8%	1.6%
Total Births to Santa Barbara County Residents	5,813	5,819	5,121	4,901	5,113
Percent Teen Births of Total Births	4.0%	3.2%	3.3%	2.8%	2.4%

Source: Santa Barbara County Public Health Department

¹Teen is defined as ages 15-17

**case count too small to report

Over the five years documented above, North County continued to have the largest number of births to teen mothers at 70%.

Although we can report success in preventing teen pregnancies demonstrated by the above data, unfortunately services for teen parents also have decreased. The California School-age Families Education Program (CalSAFE) was a state funded program providing academic support services for expectant and parenting male and female teens and early care and education services for their children. What was once a Categorical Program, with dedicated funding from the CA Department of Education, the CalSAFE program was eliminated with the implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). LCFF allows county offices of education and school districts to choose how to allocate this funding. This development has led to a decline in the numbers of teen parents served, but Santa Barbara County is fortunate to still have CalSAFE-type services for these families in Santa Maria, Lompoc and Santa Barbara.

Table 27 shows the number of children by age group and region who were receiving early care and education services in 2013. Almost half of teen parents in the County received these services.

Table 27: Children of Teen Parents Receiving Services by Region*

Region	Infant-Toddler	Preschool	Ages 6 - 12	Regional Totals
South County (in Santa Barbara)	6	0	0	6
Santa Ynez Valley	0	0	0	0
Lompoc Valley (in Lompoc)	20	0	0	20
North County (in Santa Maria)	32	0	0	32
COUNTY TOTALS	58	0	0	58

Source: Subsidized Child Care Survey, October 2013

Children Who Are Dual Language Learners

Based on data collected for this report, we estimate that more than 30,000 children in Santa Barbara County are Dual Language Learners. This poses not only a challenge in ensuring that these children are getting the support they need, but also an opportunity for the children themselves and for our community as a whole. Children who have support in their home language are better able to also learn English. Children can more easily learn more than one language at a young age than at any other time in their lives, and being bilingual or multi-lingual offers a multitude of opportunities to them throughout their lives. Research also shows that bilingual children develop stronger thinking skills.

For more information on this critical topic, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families, Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, offers numerous resources at this link: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc>

Critical Findings

✓ **Children with an IEP/IESP**

- Families often have difficulty finding ECE services to fit their needs
- Ongoing funding is needed for training and mentoring for providers who care for children with special needs
- Providers caring for children with an IEP or IFSP are not consistently included in the IEP/IFSP process
- The trend of moving special education services from the Santa Barbara County Education Office to individual school districts appears to have resulted in decreased services to families

✓ **Children of migrant families**

- Children of migrant families under five years of age are not identified if they do not have siblings in the school system
- Many families working in agriculture cannot find care that meets their needs

✓ **Children of homeless families**

- Children of homeless families under five years of age are not identified if they do not have siblings in the school system
- There is a critical need for additional spaces dedicated for children of homeless families, particularly in North County and Lompoc
- More resources are needed to provide affordable housing for the families of Santa Barbara County

✓ **Foster children and at risk children**

- Foster children and children identified as being "at risk" by Child Welfare Services are under-enrolled in high quality ECE programs
- Foster families often cannot afford the high cost of high quality early care and education

✓ **Children of Teen Parents**

- Services for teen parents and their children have decreased due to the elimination of dedicated CalSAFE funding
- Although the teen birth rate has declined in recent years, teen parents need to be supported in continuing their education, to their own benefit as well as that of their children

✓ **Children who are dual language learners**

- Children need support in their early care and education centers in their home language, not just in English
- Learning more than one language is easiest at a young age and provides valuable later opportunities for children

Families of all children with special circumstances experience the same challenges as other families (a shortage of high quality early care and education services that fulfill their needs and are affordable), but their challenges are exacerbated by the special needs of their children and their family circumstances.

Chapter SIX

The Early Care and Education Infrastructure in Santa Barbara County

In Santa Barbara County, early care and education services are supported by a network of state and local agencies that work collaboratively to improve the services available to the children and families in our communities. Many of these agencies have responsibilities well beyond early care and education. In the brief descriptions below, only activities directly impacting the early care and education services in the County are described.

AB 212 Workforce Retention Project

The AB 212 workforce retention project was enacted with the passage of Assembly Bill 212 (Aroner) in 2000, with the purpose of retaining staff in state-funded programs by providing financial incentives and other resources to support their professional development through higher education or other training. The AB 212 project was previously seamlessly aligned with First 5 Santa Barbara County's STAR and CARES Plus programs, which offered similar opportunities for family child care and private sector providers. However, as of Fiscal Year 2016-17, AB 212 is administered by the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council.

California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing

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.

Community Care Licensing is responsible for the licensing of child care centers and family child care homes. Licensing focuses on program facilities and basic health and safety regulations. The agency is responsible for monitoring licensed programs and responding to complaints lodged against a program.

When the agency was better funded, annual visits were made to all licensed centers and triennial visits were made to family child care homes. Funding reductions in recent years have severely impacted the number of visits made by licensing staff to centers and family child care homes and the thoroughness of the review during the visit, as well as the provision of non-mandatory services such as program support from Child Care Advocates.



There is a great need in Santa Barbara County, just as in other counties of California, for closer monitoring of, and support for, programs by Community Care Licensing. This will require increased state funding, which has begun to occur over the past few years and will be further augmented due to the recent update of the federal regulations related to the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

Community Care Licensing has several regional offices around the state, including in Santa Barbara County for the Central Coast region that also serves San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties. The regional office can be reached at 805-562-0400. For more information on licensing go to the agency's website at: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Child-Care-Licensing>



California Early Childhood Mentor Project

The Early Childhood Mentor Program is a statewide effort supported by federal quality funds from the Child Care and Development Block Grant and is administered through the CA Community Colleges System. The program provides resources and support to both aspiring and experienced teachers and administrators in child development programs. There are two components to the program: the Director Mentor, who is an ECE administrator, and the Mentor Teacher, who is a classroom teacher. Mentor teachers support ECE students with their practicum learning, and Director Mentors work with other administrators who may be facing challenges. Both receive stipends for their work. For more information go to: www.ecementor.org

Locally, the Mentor Program is contracted to Santa Barbara City College. For more information contact Kathy King at 8056-965-0581 or kingk@sbcc.edu

California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN)

The California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) is brought to Santa Barbara County by the California Department of Education, Early Education and Support Division, in collaboration with the Center for Child and Family Studies at WestEd and the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA).

CPIN provides high quality professional development for preschool administrators and teachers highlighting current research-based information, resources, and effective instructional practices that are focused on preparing children to flourish in early childhood and succeed in elementary school and beyond. Resources include, but are not limited to: California Preschool Learning Foundations and Preschool Curriculum Framework, volumes 1, 2 & 3 (addressing eight domains of development); Preschool English Learners (PEL) Guide; and California Preschool Program Guidelines. For more information, visit <https://cpin.us/> or call 805-746-2565.

Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC)

The Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) is a community council with the primary purpose of coordinating efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect. The CAPC is open to anyone who is interested. Current membership includes representatives from public and non-profit agencies, community groups and parents.

The Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council works to: Raise community awareness about child abuse and neglect; provide resources and education to organizations and community groups to assist parents and educate the public; encourage and facilitate public and community support for child abuse and neglect prevention that responds to local needs; educate service providers working with families about the Mandated Reporting Law, about risk factors and Protective Factors for families and how to prevent child abuse and neglect; and engage parents as leaders in child abuse and neglect prevention activities. For more information go here: <http://www.preventchildabusesb.org/>

Child Care Planning Council

The Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council (Council) is one of 58 local child care and development planning councils funded by the Early Education and Support Division of the California Department of Education. The Council is responsible for planning and coordinating early care and education services in the county, and its volunteer members represent a diverse cross section of stakeholders representing parents, providers, public agency representatives and community representatives. The Council is jointly governed by the County Board of Supervisors and Superintendent of Schools, and members are appointed by both.

The major responsibilities, which are mandated by the California Education Code, include establishing local priorities for state-funded child care and development expansion, completing a needs assessment of early care and education every five years, and developing a countywide strategic plan for early care and education. In addition, Council members are active in developing, supporting and collaborating on new initiatives to increase or improve services for children, and for advocating for more available early care and education services for children and families countywide.

The Council is responsible for implementing several state and locally funded programs:

- The AB 212 Retention Program
- The CA Transitional Kindergarten Stipend Project
- The ECE Leadership Development Program
- The LPC Training Modules Project

The Council also has established sub-committees that focus on areas such as inclusive child care, workforce and leadership development, and communication, outreach and advocacy. For more information go to: www.cdep.sbceo.org/ccpc



Children's Resource & Referral of Santa Barbara County

The Children's Resource and Referral Program is funded by the Early Education and Support Division of the California Department of Education. The Program offers services to both parents and child care providers.

Parent services include: referrals to licensed caregivers in Santa Barbara County; the use of the Child Development Lending Library, which has developmentally appropriate toys, books and videos; and access to consumer educational materials on child development and early care and education topics. Services are available at no cost to all families regardless of income level. Additionally, financial assistance for child care is available to qualifying families through the Alternative Payment Program. (Note that the Santa Barbara County Education Office also administers the Alternative Payment Program). Provider services include: assistance to potential child care providers to become licensed; on-going training and technical assistance; the Child and Adult Care Food Program; and the use of the Child Development Lending Library that also houses staff training materials. Children's Resource and Referral recruits and trains family child care providers through the Child Care Initiative Project and Family Child Care Steps to Quality Program to improve the quality of their program and environment. Additionally, the Children's Resource and Referral Program processes TrustLine background check applications for license-exempt providers. Children's Resource & Referral is also a partner in the implementation of Quality Counts, Santa Barbara County's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).

One of the most important roles of the Children's Resource and Referral Program is data collection, including information on child care need and supply and the cost of child care, which is useful to the community for planning purposes.

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The Early Care and Education Leadership Development Project

First begun in 2007 with funding to support staff in state-funded programs, the ECE Leadership Development Project has been actively supporting those in current leadership positions in ECE, or those aspiring to be leaders. The project has been administered by the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council, funding has been secured by the Orfalea Foundation, which has ceased its operations, and the Santa Barbara Foundation. The goal of the project is to increase the quality of early care and education programs by strengthening the leadership skills of program administrators, directors and site supervisors. Countywide trainings, generally held quarterly, provide in-depth focuses on topics such as Reflective Practice and Learning Stories.

The Family Child Care Steps to Quality Network of Children's Resource & Referral

The Family Child Care Steps to Quality Network (FCCSTQ) is a quality improvement project that provides support for family child care program improvements at all levels of quality and experience – from program start up through enrollment in the QRIS, and attainment of national accreditation. FCCSTQ is designed to create a family child care quality system that is inclusive of family childcare providers throughout the development of their professional careers and the ongoing improvement of their programs. The program focuses on four elements of success: education of the provider; high quality environments; strong business practices and planning; and the development and maintenance of positive relationships with both children and their parents. Mentorship, assessment, professional development opportunities and stipends are available to providers to help support and guide them toward their improvement goals. For more information call (805) 925-7071.

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Family Strengthening Partnership

The Family Strengthening Partnership was established in 2010 by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Child Care Planning Council and the Child Abuse Prevention Council. The following year, the Network of Family Resource Centers joined in the effort to promote the Strengthening Families Framework, also known as the Protective Factors.

The purpose of the collaboration is to coordinate efforts to strengthen families through the promotion of the Protective Factors, to protect children from the risk of abuse and neglect. These efforts include developing key messaging, sharing resources, convening joint training sessions, and encouraging early care and education providers to adopt the Protective Factors in their programs.

An emerging practice supported by the Partnership is trauma-informed care, which employs tools such as the Adverse Childhood Experiences Survey (ASES), to better meet the needs of the entire families that we serve.

First 5 Children and Families Commission, Santa Barbara County (2005)

First 5 Santa Barbara County (First 5) was established in 1999 after California voters passed Proposition 10, which imposed a sales tax on tobacco products and directed that those revenues be used to support early childhood development focusing on children prenatal through age five. Since its founding in 1999, First 5 Santa Barbara County has distributed more than \$60 million dollars to programs that support the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of local children and their families.

Previously, First 5 Santa Barbara County housed the Office of Early Care and Education, which was created by the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council in 2000. The Office served as a clearinghouse of information, expertise, and resources on early care and education issues and worked to promote high quality early care and education services for children in Santa Barbara County

Currently, Early Care and Education, including expansion and quality, is one of the focus areas of First 5 Santa Barbara County funding, along with Family Strengthening and Communications. First 5 has continued to lead in coordinating quality initiatives in the County, such as the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and the IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) grant, which is funded by First 5 California to support the QRIS. However, its Manager position is being eliminated as of June 2017, and First 5 Santa Barbara County will transition quality program funding and implementation to its local partners.





Institutions of Higher Education

Santa Barbara County has two community colleges that provide unit-based classes and professional development opportunities for the current and future early care and education workforce countywide. Courses are offered on the main campuses of the two colleges. Santa Barbara City College is in the City of Santa Barbara, and Allan Hancock College has its main campus in Santa Maria. Courses are also held at Hancock's satellite sites in Lompoc and Solvang, and on-line. Lab sites are available on-site at both colleges for students to complete their required field experience. Students may complete Certificates or Associate degrees in Early Childhood Studies at both Allan Hancock and Santa Barbara City College. Currently, plans are being developed to better facilitate the articulation to four year colleges of students wishing to complete a Bachelor's degree through the Curriculum Alignment Project. The Curriculum Alignment Project, whose purpose is to provide a foundational core for all early care and education professionals has resulted in standardizing the core 24 units of Early Childhood Education across the state.

Visit Allan Hancock College's website at: <http://hancockcollege.edu/>

Visit Santa Barbara City College's website at: <http://www.sbcc.edu/>

Other institutions that are located or accessible to the early care and education workforce include:

Antioch University: Located in Santa Barbara, Antioch offers a BA in Liberal Studies, Child Development & Education, plus certificate and graduate programs. For more information go to: <https://www.antioch.edu/santa-barbara/>

Brandman University: Brandman has a campus in Santa Maria and offers a BA in Early Childhood Education, an MA in Leadership in ECE, and several credential programs. For more information go to: <https://www.brandman.edu/santa-maria>

California State Polytechnic: Better known as Cal Poly, the main campus is located in San Luis Obispo and offers a BA in Child Development. For more information go to: <http://calpoly.edu/>

California State University, Channel Islands: CSUCI has its main campus in Ventura County, in the city of Camarillo, and offers a BA in Early Childhood Studies. They sometimes hold classes at a satellite campus in Goleta. For more information go to: <http://www.csuci.edu/>

The Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at the University of California Santa Barbara: Master's degrees and PhD degrees are offered on a variety of educational topics. For more information go to: <http://education.ucsb.edu/>

University of LaVerne: The ULV offers a BS and a MS degree in Child Development and a Transitional Kindergarten Certificate, which offers courses fully online. The main campus is located in the City of LaVerne, in Los Angeles County, but offers many online options. For more information go to: <http://laverne.edu/>

KIDS Network

Created by the Board of Supervisors in 1991 as an advisory body on children and family issues, the KIDS Network is a countywide umbrella organization including members from public agencies, the courts, law enforcement, education, community-based organizations, school-linked programs and parent groups. The Network was formed to coordinate existing services and strategically determine priority needs and concerns in the areas of human services, health, education and juvenile justice for children and families.

For more information go to: <http://countyofsb.org/kidsnet/default.htm>



Quality Rating and Improvement System

The Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), also known as “Quality Counts,” has been built on a foundation of many years of quality initiatives that have supported the ECE community in improving services for children in Santa Barbara County. The current system was initiated in 2012, when Santa Barbara County became one of sixteen in the state to participate in the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC), which was a federal grant awarded to the CA Department of Education (CDE) to establish a QRIS. The RTT-ELC ended in 2016, but the state, through funding from both CDE and First 5 California, has continued to support these local efforts.

Participation in the QRIS is voluntary, and includes the full spectrum of ECE programs in the County serving children from birth to age five: federally-funded Head Start and Early Head Start; state-funded preschools and general child development programs; family child care; faith-based programs; and private for-profit and nonprofit programs.

Participation requires a commitment to being rating on seven elements in the QRIS, and an ongoing effort towards continuous quality improvement, including becoming nationally accredited. Ratings are based on the use of child observation and screening tools, teacher education, teacher-child interactions, classroom environments, and director qualifications.

Implementation of the QRIS has included the establishment of a local consortium of dedicated stakeholders to provide advice and guidance on rolling out the program. The intent is to increase program participation as more resources become available.

There are several grants that support Quality Counts in Santa Barbara County:

IMPACT: The Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) grants is funded by First 5 California to support the QRIS participation of ECE programs other than state preschool.

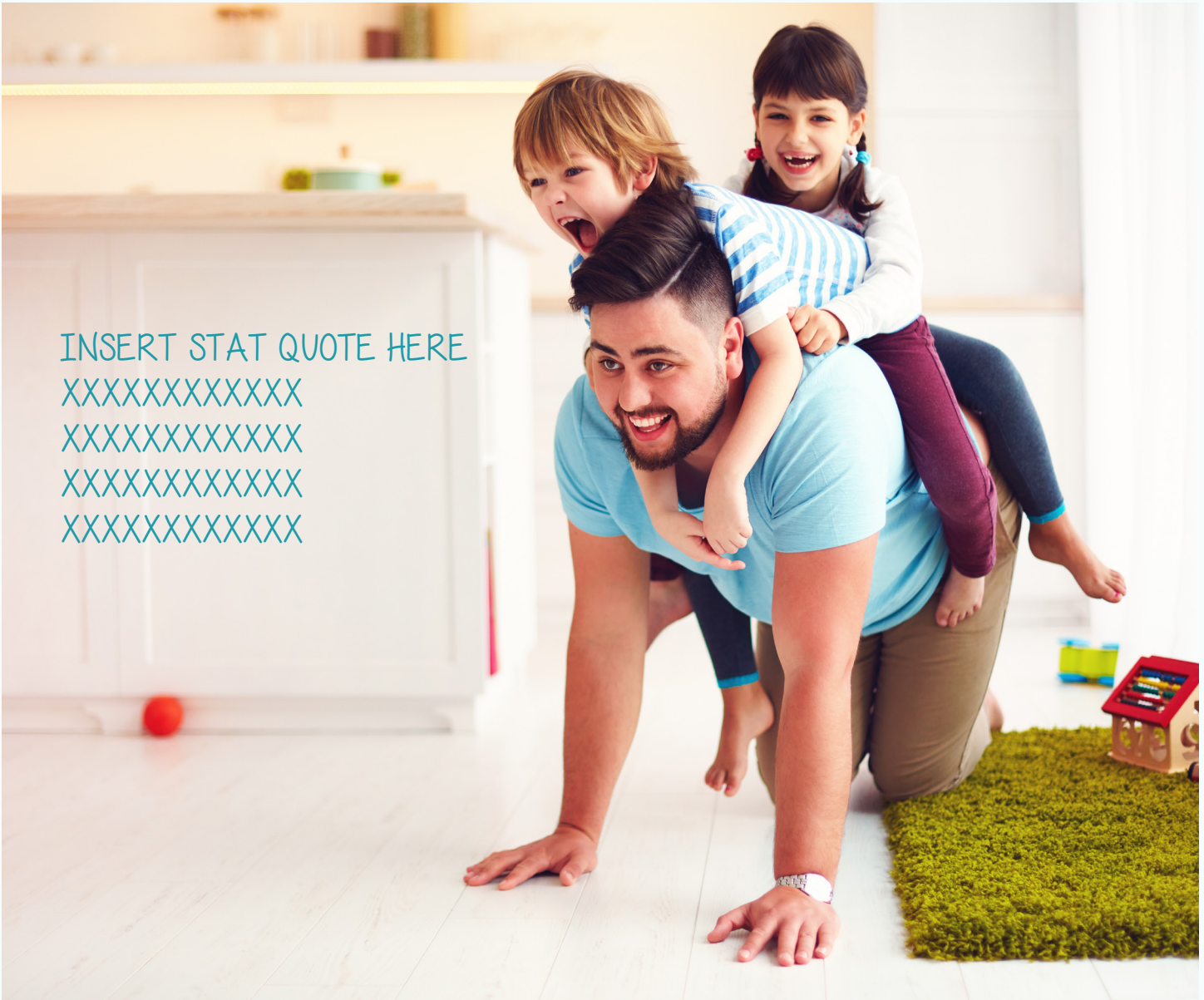
CSPP QRIS Block Grant: The CA State Preschool Program QRIS Block Grant is funded by the CDE through legislation that allocated \$25 million annually around the state to provide direct grants and other supports to CSPP programs.

Infant and Toddler QRIS Block Grant: The grant of \$25 million statewide, authorized by legislation in 2015, provides direct grants to state-funded programs serving infants and toddlers, and other resources to all QRIS programs in the form of training and materials. The funding, which comes through a grant from CDE, was set to end in 2017, but there is a plan to fund it at a lower level moving forward.

Santa Barbara County Education Office – Child Development Programs

Child Development Programs operated by the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) include:

- The Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council
- QRIS grants, including the CA State Preschool (CSPP) QRIS Block Grant, the Infant and Toddler QRIS Block Grant
- Parts of the IMPACT implementation, in collaboration with First 5 Santa Barbara County and Children’s Resource & Referral
- The Alternative Payment Program
- The Food Program
- State Preschool Programs
- Infant and Toddler Programs, funded by state and local dollars



Conclusion Critical Findings

This report, *Early Care and Education Needed Now: Santa Barbara County*, fulfills the requirement of the California Education Code, Section 8499.5 for local child care and development planning councils in all counties in California to complete a needs assessment of child care at least every five years. The report also goes beyond the state requirements to highlight local quality initiatives, which enhance the child development services offered in Santa Barbara County.

The conclusion consolidates all of the critical findings from the report.



Early Care and Education Program Quality

Individual early care and education programs and the program quality improvement projects available in Santa Barbara County demonstrate an understanding and commitment to the importance of program quality improvement for positive outcomes for children.

Program quality efforts have a big impact on children's ability to thrive and be successful in school and in life, as is demonstrated by multiple research studies. However, quality initiatives are still the highest priority in Santa Barbara County, as not all programs receive the resources and support they need to improve quality.

The attainment of a higher education degree for the ECE workforce is an indicator of high quality in a program, but low wages make it very challenging without additional support.

In spite of efforts to increase the education levels and professional development of the early care and education workforce, many center staff and family child care providers are inadequately prepared for the profession.

Retention of a well-educated and trained early care and education workforce is compromised by low salaries and lack of benefits.

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The People of Santa Barbara County

North County has the largest proportion of children 0-12 years and has experienced the most significant population increases since 2010, but all areas of the County have experienced increases.

The ethnicity of the child population of the county is increasingly Hispanic and almost a third of the children countywide speak a language other than English.

Santa Maria has a larger proportion of children who are dual language learners than other regions of the county.

North County and the Lompoc Valley have the largest percentage of families with incomes \$40,000 or less, and have the largest proportion of families receiving public assistance.

Early Care & Education: Need and Capacity

There is still a critical shortage of licensed early care and education spaces for all age groups of children in Santa Barbara County.

The greatest shortage is for infant-toddler spaces.

The greatest decline of available spaces in the past five years has been in family child care homes.

The number of school-age spaces increased with the inception of the After-School Education and Safety programs but there is still a serious shortage of regulated spaces for school-age children.

Many children are cared for in unregulated settings where there is no monitoring of basic health and safety standards or program quality. The quality of any early care and education program is critical for children's positive outcomes. See Chapter 1 and Chapter 6 for information about early care and education program quality in Santa Barbara County.



The Cost of Early Care and Education and Subsidized Care

The greatest need, and yet the greatest cost, for care overall in Santa Barbara County is for infants and toddlers. The cost is higher due to the higher cost of operation, such as the need for higher teacher to child ratios.

All regions of the county need additional subsidized early care and education services for all age groups; the greatest need for all age groups is in North County.

Working parents need full-day care, yet many of the state- and federally-funded programs offer only part-day care. Part-day State Preschool is typically three to three and one-half hours per day; Head Start is moving to a longer program, but at six hours per day will still require additional caregiving for working parents.

Vouchers make up 83% of subsidized infant care. Many families use family, friend or neighbor care because that is what they prefer, or because the full cost of licensed care may be prohibitive. Families frequently use unlicensed care because of the lack of spaces in centers and licensed family child care available.

Many children receiving subsidized care are in unregulated settings where there is no monitoring of basic health and safety standards or program quality. Therefore, there is no way to determine the quality of such programs, yet high quality is linked to positive outcomes for children.

After School Education and Safety for school-age children has helped to fill much of the school-age need, yet the need is much greater than the capacity, especially in North County.

The Centralized Eligibility List, which is no longer funded by the state, served a critical purpose in not only helping families locate the care that meets their needs, but also in assisting licensed child care programs to be fully enrolled.

Because the state has not updated its eligibility criteria for access to subsidized programs, many families that should be eligible for care are not, because they have incomes above 70% of the State Median Income (SMI), which is based on 2008 levels.





Special Needs for Early Care and Education

Children with an IEP/IFSP

Families often have difficulty finding ECE services to fit their needs

Ongoing funding is needed for training and mentoring for providers who care for children with special needs

Providers caring for children with an IEP or IFSP are not consistently included in the IEP/IFSP process

The trend of moving special education services from the Santa Barbara County Education Office to individual school districts appears to have resulted in decreased services to families

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Children of migrant families under five years of age are not identified if they do not have siblings in the school system

Many families working in agriculture cannot find care that meets their needs

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There is a critical need for additional spaces dedicated for children of homeless families, particularly in North County and Lompoc. More resources are needed to provide affordable housing for the families of Santa Barbara County

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Foster families often cannot afford the high cost of high quality early care and education

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