



AB 833 (Bonta)

Alameda County Child Care Subsidy Pilot Plan

Summary

AB 833 authorizes Alameda County to develop and implement an individualized county child care subsidy pilot plan. The plan maximizes allocated funding and efficiently uses child care subsidy funds to meet local conditions, providing children and their families access to quality child care.

Background

In Alameda County, children and families seeking quality child care are adversely affected by the high cost of living; families who earn just enough to meet housing costs are deemed ineligible for subsidized child care, and agencies receiving insufficient state reimbursement rates are unable to cover programming and operational costs. As a result, child care subsidy funds allocated to Alameda County are not fully expended, reducing access to quality child care.

Successful Pilot Plans

AB 833 is modeled after the successful individualized subsidy pilot plans in San Mateo and San Francisco counties, both of which implemented plans to address the unintended consequences for families living in a high cost county.

San Mateo County and the City and County of San Francisco were authorized to develop and implement an individualized county child care subsidy plan in 2003 and 2005, respectively. Reports from San Mateo and San Francisco County show they increased child days of enrollment and returned fewer funds to the state through the pilot program. Due to the success of the plans, the Legislature extended both county pilots until 2018.

Bill Details

AB 833 provides Alameda County limited local flexibility with increased state oversight to address local needs, conditions, and priorities of working families in the county through a child care subsidy pilot plan.

Without taking funds from other counties or increasing state costs, the local plan may supersede state law only with regard to the following factors:

- 1.) Family eligibility criteria
- 2.) Family fees
- 3.) Reimbursement rates
- 4.) Methods of maximizing the efficient use of subsidy funds.

The county must receive approval of the plan by the Department of Education and must annually submit to the Legislature, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Education a report that summarizes the success of the county's plan.

AB 833 provides Alameda County the ability to maximize the use of state funds and improve and stabilize child care in the county based upon local evaluation and assessment.

Support

Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council (Sponsor)

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