

ALAMEDA COUNTY EMERGENCY CHILD CARE RESPONSE SYSTEM OVERVIEW

May 8th, 2020



In early March, the Alameda County Early Care and Education (ECE) Program convened the Alameda County Public Health Department, Alameda County Social Services Agency, Alameda County Office of Education, First 5 Alameda County and the County’s three child care resource and referral agencies Bananas, Community Child Care Council (4Cs) Of Alameda County, and Hively – to forge the Alameda County Emergency Child Care Response Team and concentrated planning to evaluate the COVID-19 impact on the child care field, and in a constantly changing health and regulatory environment develop and support:

- A child care supply for critical infrastructure employers and essential workers
- Children’s health, safety and development in high quality, child appropriate settings
- The health, safety and financial viability of child care programs and their staff
- A supply chain and resource request process for child care program health and safety supplies

TIERED CHILD CARE SYSTEM

The team has built a county and state funded County wide emergency child care system receiving **737** intake requests for **1,050** children to date and producing a growing number of placements initially supported with state and county financing through June 30, 2020. It outlined a three tier child care system, prioritizing leveraging the existing licensed supply in Tier One, supporting employer and pop-up care in Tier Two, and in the case of a medical surge rapidly requiring more essential workers needing child care than the capacity of the existing system—public agency brokered care sites with public agency (funded Disaster Service Worker) staff in Tier Three.

Tier One:

Leveraging existing licensed supply

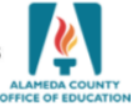
Tier Two:

Supporting employer and pop-up care

Tier Three:

Brokering care sites with public agency staff (funded Disaster Service Worker)

The Tier Three need for brokered care for essential workers has not yet materialized so the primary focus of the team has been on supporting essential worker referrals to current licensed programs in Tier One. A subset of the County’s community child care programs in the County’s mixed child care delivery system has also continued to serve children in essential worker families.



ALAMEDA COUNTY EMERGENCY CHILD CARE RESPONSE TEAM

On April 17th, Alameda County Alternative Payment agencies received state funding totaling almost \$2 million for child care payments for essential workers. Additionally, during the first week in May, the three resource and referral agencies received their portion of the state’s \$50 million for supplies, and are currently seeking to define their distribution mechanisms in compliance with complex state guidance.

First 5 Alameda County initiated and approved a multi-year \$3 million Resiliency Fund for community supply needs, and also advanced child care program supplies including masks, diapers and thermometers. The team continues to support open providers–prioritizing health and safety, planning for additional programs to safely reopen, and advocating for and securing public and private resources needed for provider economic recovery. Mental health and health technical assistance for centers and family child care homes is being finalized with the hope of broadening and sustaining these programs after the pandemic subsidies.

MILESTONES CHILD CARE SYSTEM FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

The strong partnership between the eight County and community based agencies composing the Alameda County Emergency Child Care Response Team initially met more than two hours daily for five weeks which resulted within two weeks in:

- A survey of voluntary licensed child care programs and volunteer teachers–which determined approximately 10% of centers and 14% of family child care homes were willing to take essential workers.
- A centralized intake form and data base from which the three agencies draw interested essential workers for supported program referrals.
- A tiered response system that mapped hospital adjacent child care programs and leverages the licensed system where there are voluntary providers. The team also supported quality and technical assistance for pop up sites, initially at: Gingerbread Preschool, Pleasanton; Pleasanton Unified School District, the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office in Dublin and Stanford Health Systems at a site in Livermore.

COORDINATED INFORMATION SHARING AND PLANNING, POLICY, AND FUNDING

The team:

- Benefited from early sustained and representation on County Office of Education calls with school leaders and daily communication with the County Emergency Operations Center as well as developing a regional contact with California Community Care Licensing (CCL).
- Through multiple stakeholders, communicated the County’s priority needs (including vouchers over center spaces and no income testing) for \$340 million in federal funds to the California Department of Education and CCL.
- Reviews the child care supply and demand dashboard daily.
- Periodically convenes an Alternative Payment Agency coordination meeting to assure uniform approach to distributing state and county vouchers funds.
- Supports a feedback loop with weekly Title 5 center based contractors and school based Title 5 contractors meetings to assist with interpretation and implementation of state guidelines and regulations.
- Has affirmed a local infrastructure which corresponds to the CDE 2020-07 guidance.



ALAMEDA COUNTY EMERGENCY CHILD CARE RESPONSE TEAM

COMMUNICATIONS

In the first month of response:

- Child care intake forms were distributed to 12-14 hospital and key health agencies and over 10,000 contacts on Response Team lists
- City staff were surveyed on plans, sites, and staff for essential workers
- Child care provider outreach and education and outreach was conducted:
 - 3/25/20 Webinar hosted for 30 school based programs through County Office of Education
 - 4/1/20 Webinar hosted for 420 licensed child care programs on COVID-19 Health issues, community care licensing, and local infrastructure
 - 4/3/20 Webinar hosted for 300 licensed providers on financial assistance
- Key Questions and Answers from webinars were posted and translated
- Comprehensive supply and demand dashboard was finalized and distributed
- Key stakeholders (hospitals and health systems) were notified of state funds
- The Team is developing an ongoing communications loop with city, county and state staff and elected officials on the status of the Essential Worker Response System with weekly metrics on city demand and supply



Hospital & Healthcare Communications



3 Webinars for Child Care Providers



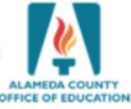
Provider Q&A Translated and Shared



Ongoing Supply & Demand Data Analysis

ONGOING AND NEXT STEPS: PROGRAM AND RESOURCE COORDINATION

- Ongoing evaluation of care needs of essential workers based on dashboard and analysis and hospital, health and other essential worker communication, and possible corresponding program development
- Continued coordination Alternative Payment (AP) (voucher) program methodology for maximizing essential worker enrollment
- Achieve consensus and provide policy and budget feedback to state
- Coordinate and deliver child care supplies and monitor needs on an ongoing basis
- Support program economic recovery and reopening through webinars and technical assistance
- Launch mental health and public health programs



ALAMEDA COUNTY EMERGENCY CHILD CARE RESPONSE TEAM

Please contact the Alameda County Early Care and Education Program for more information:

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The Alameda County Emergency Child Care Response Team:

- [Alameda County Early Care and Education Program](#)
- [Alameda County Public Health Department](#)
- [Alameda County Office of Education](#)
- [Alameda County Social Services Agency](#)
- [BANANAS](#)
- [Community Child Care Council \(4Cs\) Of Alameda County](#)
- [First 5 Alameda County](#)
- [Hively](#)

