

Alameda County Early Care and Education Pilot Fact Sheet

October 30, 2019

What is State Contracted Child Care?

The California Department of Education (CDE) administers Title 5 contracts; which individual providers across the state may bid for, contingent on meeting priority eligibility criteria. These contracts include:

CCTR (Contract for serving infants, toddlers, and school age children)

CSPP (Contract for serving preschool age children)

CHAN (Contract for serving severely disabled children up to 21 years of age).

Only 3 left in the State, one in San Francisco and two in Alameda County)

CAPP (Contract for serving children 0-13 years-old)

C2AP (Contract for serving children 0-13 years-old whose parent(s) are on CalWORKs Stage 2)

C3AP (Contract for serving children 0-13 years-old whose parent(s) are on

CalWORKs Stage 3)

Alternative Payment programs administer CAPP, C2AP, and C3AP child care vouchers and parents may use those vouchers at a provider of their choice. Title 5 center base programs (CCTR, CSPP, and CHAN) administer services directly to children.

What is the Scope of Alameda County's State Contracted Programs?

In 2018, Alameda County had roughly \$120 million in contracts managed by dozens of community based organizations and school districts serving over 11,000 low income children.

What is the Pilot?

The AB 833 (Bonta) pilot, signed into law in 2015, enabled Alameda County to follow the precedent of San Francisco and San Mateo counties and modify some aspects of state child care contracts to retain state funds in the County rather than return them because the program criteria for state contracts did not meet our local needs, many of which are an outgrowth of our high cost of living relative to the rest of California. In exchange for the flexibility, the County must show increased child days of enrollment.

What is the Outcome to Date?

The County's pilot agreement with the California Department of Education (CDE) enables counties to make changes to the following areas:

1. Eligibility Criteria: age, family size, time limits, income level, inclusion of former and current CalWORKs participants and special needs considerations
2. Family Fees
3. Reimbursement Rate
4. Methods of maximizing the efficient use of subsidy funds: multiyear contracting and flexibility of interagency agreement for temporary transfer of funds

For more information, contact Lorita Riga loritariga@gmail.com or Ellen Dektar, ellen.dektar@acgov.org.

An evaluation on a number of factors related to Pilot outcomes will be available in December, 2019. At this time we estimate that an additional 1,000 children received child care subsidies due to the pilot program.

Why Does It Need to Be Permanently Extended?

The Pilot has enabled Alameda County to serve more children with existing state contract dollars and has paved the way for important program changes that increase access to child care for California's low-income families. In our view, the Pilot has been proven a success!

Since October 2016, when the Alameda County Pilot Plan was finally approved by CDE, Alameda County has made changes to the eligibility criteria to best serve our community. Soon after our Plan was approved, San Francisco and San Mateo requested modification to their Pilots, which are now permanent, to match what we have.

Last year, ten other counties received authorization through state legislation to have their own Pilots. Parents, contractors, legislators, and CDE have recognized the benefits of our changes and some of Alameda County's regulation changes have been adopted by CDE-- either through legislation such as AB 2626 or through internal division changes which now benefit all Title 5 contractors in California. CDE staff reportedly plan additional changes based on Alameda County's Pilot.

What Are Potential Objections to Making the Alameda County Pilot Permanent?

CDE could say that they are making changes and programs should be uniform statewide.

What Are Responses to the Objections?

Without the Pilot, CDE is only able to make changes slowly. It took CDE over 7 years to update the source they were using to determine the State Median Income (SMI) level through which families can qualify for services, for example.

By making our Pilot permanent we can continue to pilot regulation changes on a smaller scale which CDE can use to evaluate the statewide impact, as they are currently doing.

Will Other Counties Be Trying to Do This Once Their Pilots Expire, or This Year?

They may, but their needs may vary in scope and timing. For instance, unlike Fresno County, Alameda County does not have a CMIG contract, which is the migrant childcare contract. Fresno's pilot just received approval this year and they will continue to pilot regulation changes to their CMIG contract and start evaluating the impact on children and families. CDE will review those changes and evaluate impact for the entire state.

What Are The Mechanisms Through Which the Pilot Could Be Made Permanent?

San Francisco and San Mateo's Pilots were made permanent through Budget Trailer Bill language.