



The Alameda County Child Care Planning Council: An Overview

Council Purpose: Alameda County is a leader in the state and the country in early care and education policy, research and practice and the Child Care Planning Council is no exception. We act as a resource for decision makers by formulating best practices, monitoring legislation and advising policymakers on issues impacting early care and education. We also plan for early care and education services based on the needs of families in the local community.

Council Members and Staff: The County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools jointly appoint 35 individuals to the Council reflecting the diversity of Alameda County. We have a mandated composition of 20% consumers, 20% providers, 20% public agency representatives, and 20% community representatives. Twenty percent serve at discretion of the Board & Superintendent. Council staff is comprised of four individuals, as well as interns and consultants as needed.

The Early Care and Education Landscape in Alameda County: The County is home to **2,200 licensed programs**, including market rate and subsidized child care, preschool and afterschool programs serving up to **54,260 Alameda County children**. However, this number is estimated to serve only 33% of children who may need services. Federal and state subsidies currently amount to over **\$135 million dollars** in Alameda County.

What We Do:

- Provide local ECE impact analysis to providers and policymakers on state and federal budget and legislative issues at least three times per year.
- Co-manage the Race To The Top Early Learning Challenge pilot to place more high-need children in high quality ECE settings.
- Train over 600 staff working in subsidized ECE programs annually in evidence-based tools, interventions and other professional development activities.
- Work to include ECE services in local place-based cross-sector initiatives.

Mission: The Alameda County Child Care Planning Council advises and makes recommendations to policymakers to ensure that all children and families have access to quality child care that educates children and enriches their lives.

Vision: The Alameda County Child Care Planning Council will be a guiding force for excellence in the care and education of all children and will be regularly sought out for our expertise by local, state and national decision makers.

Three Year Goals (Not in Priority Order):

- Monitor, support and contribute to quality improvement initiatives
- Increase the knowledge, engagement and expertise of Council members
- Increase and retain funding
- Strengthen and increase relationships and collaboration

HISTORY: In 1991, the United States Congress established a federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) which allocated funds to states to assist low-income families in obtaining child care and development services. California specified that local communities should have a voice in the appropriation and allocation of CCDBG funds. In the same year, AB 2141 passed which established a Local Child Care and Development Planning Council in each County to identify priorities for CCDBG funds based on the needs of families. In 1997, welfare reform legislation was enacted, revising the membership and responsibilities of local planning councils and establishing the County Superintendent of Schools and the County Board of Supervisors as the governing and appointing bodies of the Council. There are currently 58 individual planning councils representing each county in California. As council members are appointed by public agencies, the councils are required to conduct business in accordance with The Brown Act. Although language governing Councils is found in state welfare reform legislation, we serve as a forum to address the child care needs of all families in the community and all child care programs - including both subsidized and non-subsidized child care.