



The Sacramento Political and Policy Landscape Around Equitable Supports for Children

Ted Lempert, President
Children Now

First 5 Commission Meeting



2018-19 California County Scorecard of Children’s Well-Being

An interactive tool for tracking key indicators and mapping county-level data of child well-being across counties, over time, and by race and ethnicity.

scorecard.childrennow.org



How are Kids in San Mateo County doing?

Demographics

163,129 children live in this county.

Latinx 33%
Black 2%
Other 8%
White 34%
Asian 24%

89,924 with one or more immigrant parents
24% are living at or below 2X the poverty level
1,580 students experiencing homelessness

Key

Numbers and percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

(*) = Data suppressed due to small sample size or large margin of error
(-) = No data available

Data from the 2018-19 California County Scorecard of Children's Well-Being

scorecard.childrennow.org

Indicator	County Average	California Average	County Rank	Latinx	White	Black	Asian	Other
12th-graders who graduated high school on time	87	83	16	80	92	76	91	78
Students who were not chronically absent from school	91	89	4	86	93	82	90	87
Student suspensions not due to "defiance/disruption"	71	80	46	67	80	76	79	65
3rd-graders who read near or above grade-level standards	70	61	5	50	85	54	68	82
8th-graders who met or exceeded grade-level standards in math	50	36	7	26	66	19	53	45
Students who were ready or conditionally ready for college-level math courses	46	32	5	21	65	17	47	43



How are Kids in San Mateo County doing?

Indicator	County Average	California Average	County Rank	Latinx	White	Black	Asian	Other
Students who were college- or career-ready	48	41	16	33	59	17	51	59
Students who reported feeling connected to their school	60	50	4	52	65	49	58	54
Students who reported feeling like they do things at school that make a difference	38	34	12	31	45	42	30	42
English language learners who gained proficiency in English	45	47	20	-	-	-	-	-
Eligible students who received free or reduced-price meals during the school year	52	54	36	-	-	-	-	-
Eligible students who received free or reduced-price meals during the summer	13	8	2	-	-	-	-	-
Children who had health insurance	97	95	2	95	98	*	97	*
7th-graders who were not overweight or obese	68	61	13	53	80	55	62	69

Data from the 2018-19 California County Scorecard of Children's Well-Being

scorecard.childrennow.org



How are Kids in San Mateo County doing?

Indicator	County Average	California Average	County Rank	Latinx	White	Black	Asian	Other
Kindergarteners with up-to-date immunizations	97	95	11	-	-	-	-	-
Children who were not food insecure	87	81	1	-	-	-	-	-
Children, birth-5, of low-income families who had visited a dentist in the last year	25	26	39	31	16	20	20	16
Adolescents in the child welfare system who were placed in family-like settings	69	73	37	64	82	58	78	92
Youth in foster care who graduated high school on time	64	51	14	-	-	-	-	-
Children in the child welfare system who had a timely dental exam	74	62	8	75	80	69	72	38
Children in the child welfare system who had a timely medical exam	75	75	34	76	75	71	77	54
Children in the child welfare system who exited to permanency within one year	59	36	7	61	50	50	70	100

Data from the 2018-19 California County Scorecard of Children's Well-Being

scorecard.childrennow.org



How are Kids in San Mateo County doing?

Indicator	County Average	California Average	County Rank	Latinx	White	Black	Asian	Other
Children in the child welfare system who exited to permanency within one year	59	36	7	61	50	50	70	100
Children in the child welfare system who had been in one placement after 24 months in care	17	27	28	29	-	-	-	-
18-25-year-olds registered to vote	58	48	2	-	-	-	-	-
Children, birth-5, who were read to everyday by an adult	62	64	-	59	81	-	50	100
Newborns who were not low birthweight	94	93	22	93	95	87	93	93
3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in preschool or transitional kindergarten	63	49	2	*	*	*	*	*
Pregnant women who received prenatal care beginning the first trimester	91	84	1	88	94	88	90	89
Newborns who were exclusively breastfed while in the hospital	81	70	19	76	86	62	76	79
Children with parents in the labor force for whom a licensed child care slot was available	26	23	21	-	-	-	-	-

Data from the 2018-19 California County Scorecard of Children's Well-Being

scorecard.childrennow.org



California Children's Report Card

A review of kids' well-being & roadmap for the future.

Education

- Infant & Toddler Care (D+)
- Preschool & Transitional Kindergarten (B)
- Early Learning Workforce Compensation & Training (C-)
- Education for Dual Language & English Learners (D+)
- TK-12 Funding (C-)
- Academic Outcomes (D)
- STEM Education (C)
- Teacher Pipeline, Preparation, & Placement (D+)
- School Climate & Discipline (B-)
- Chronic Absence (B-)
- Afterschool & Summer Learning Programs (B-)
- Access to Higher Education (C)

Health

- Developmental Screenings (C-)
- Home Visiting (D+)
- Health Insurance (A)
- Health Care Access & Coordination (C-)
- Mental Health & Building Resilience (D+)
- Oral Health Care (C-)
- School-Based Health Services (D+)
- Food Security (C-)

Child Welfare

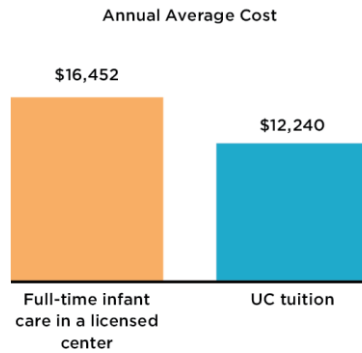
- Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention (D)
- Placement Stability & Permanent Connections (C)
- Health Care for Kids in Foster Care (C-)
- Education Support for Students in Foster Care (D+)
- Youth Justice (D)



Infant & Toddler Care
Grade: D+



The cost of child care is out of reach for many families.



Preschool & Transitional Kindergarten
Grade: B

Too few California 3- and 4-year-olds have access to preschool.

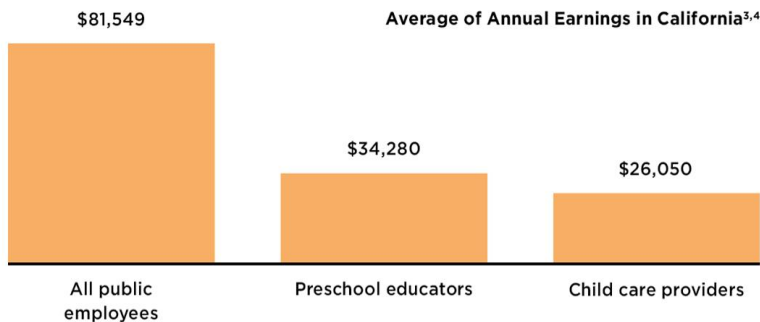


Only 49%
of all 3- and 4-year-olds in California attend preschool.¹



Early Learning Workforce Compensation & Training
Grade: C-

Early child care providers are responsible for kids during the period of their lives with the most rapid brain development, yet they are poorly compensated.



Home Visiting
Grade: D+



Home Visiting programs reach fewer than 3% of California families.

Home visiting programs:



support health of mom & baby



help parents understand child development



promote positive parenting



help families set future goals

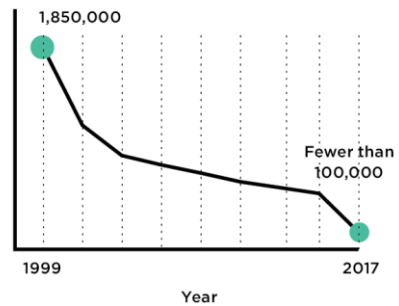


Health Insurance
Grade: A



California is making steady progress towards ensuring all kids have health insurance.

Number of Uninsured Children in California



**Why are kids
losing out?**

**Because they
lack power.**

**Imagine if every child had the
opportunity to reach their full
potential**



**We are employing proven
advocacy strategies to make
this change possible:**

1 Full Coverage of
the Issues

3 Two-Word
Messaging

2 Deep Research &
Policy Expertise

4 Outside Grassroots
Pressure



Full Coverage of the Issues

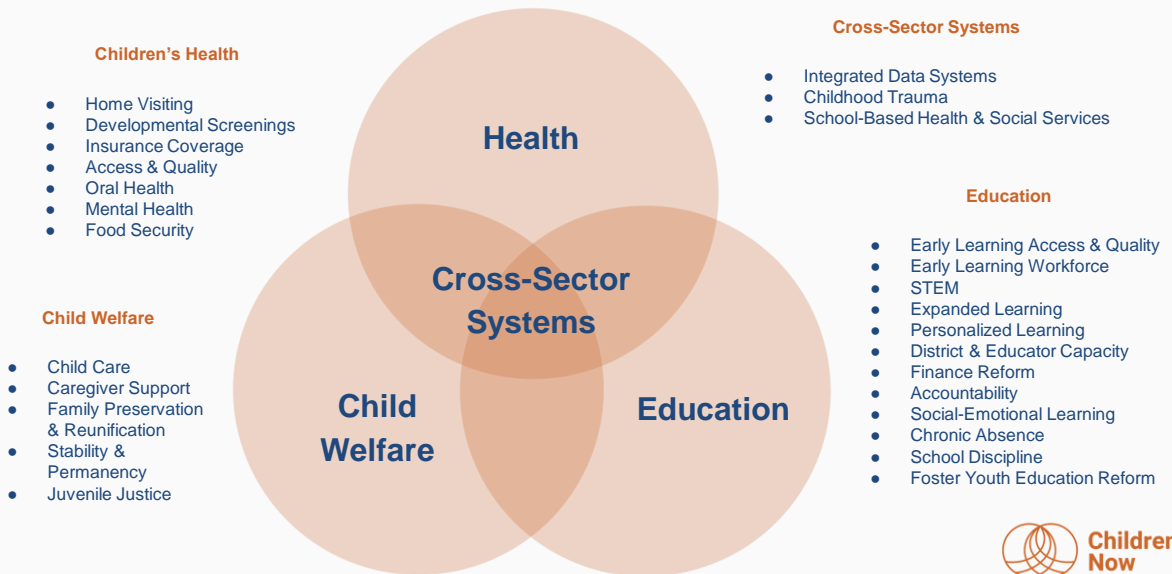


Children Now takes a whole-child approach, covering the full-range of key children’s issues, from prenatal through age 26, including early childhood development, education, children’s health, childhood trauma and resilience, foster care, and youth justice.

Working across sectors allows us to identify effective solutions that are not often visible when looking at the problems from just one sector. It also allows us to avoid the fragmentation that often pits single-issue organizations against each other causing strong solutions to be derailed.



Full Coverage of the Issues





2019-20 Pro-Kid Policy Agenda for California

The 2019-20 Pro-Kid Policy Agenda for California is the comprehensive roadmap at the state level to ensure that all children have the necessary supports to reach their full potential. California has an obligation to end systemic injustices that create barriers to kids of color, as well as kids living in poverty and undocumented kids, from growing up healthy and ready for college, career, and civic life. We urge policymakers to use the Pro-Kid Agenda as a guide to ensure California's systems for children are equitable, well-funded, high-quality, and accountable to kids' success.

Doing right by all kids is not only the right thing to do, it's essential to our state's ability to thrive. Our continued economic growth and strong democracy is dependent on a healthy and educated workforce. State policymakers urgently need to make smart, strategic, and quality investments in California's children to address poverty and close the widening income divide. Working together, we can build a California where all children have the chance to live out their dreams. The Pro-Kid Agenda can help us get there.

The Agenda was compiled by Children Now, the only research, policy development, and advocacy organization covering the full-range of key children's issues, from prenatal through age 26, including early childhood development, K-12, higher education, children's health, foster care, and youth justice. Children Now coordinates The Children's Movement of California—a member-based constituency supporting kids that now includes more than 3,000 business, parent, labor, civil rights, faith, and community organizations. The organization also leads, co-leads or participates in more than 80 coalitions around the state. The Agenda reflects the top priorities of each of those coalitions and their members. For questions or comments about the Agenda, please email agenda@childrennow.org

Full Coverage of Issues

The 2019-20 Pro-Kid Agenda

This agenda for California is the comprehensive, state-level whole-child roadmap for policymakers, similar to policy agendas of other powerful interest groups.

Available at: <http://bit.ly/2019pkagenda>

Deep Research & Policy Expertise



Our staff is highly respected across the state for their research, policy, communications, and network building expertise on child-serving systems, financing, programs, and practices. The organization develops deep relationships with state and local leaders and all the major relevant players across the health, education, early childhood, and child welfare fields, from researchers to other advocates to providers to parent groups to business interests to youth themselves.

This expertise allows us to gain the buy-in and support for the solutions we collectively develop, and elevate them to decision-makers who have trust that these solutions serve the best interest of kids.



Deep Research & Policy Expertise

Project Directors bring more than 175 combined years of experience in California policy

- **Ted Lempert**, President: Former Assemblymember & co-founder, EdVoice
- **Vince Stewart**, Executive Director of the STEM Network: Former Vice Chancellor of External Relations for the California Community Colleges
- **Kelly Hardy**, Senior Managing Director, Health: Former Budget Analyst, Alameda County Social Services Agency
- **Samantha Tran**, Senior Managing Director, Education: Former Senior Research & Policy Consultant, California School Boards Association
- **Eileen Espejo**, Senior Managing Director, Media & Health: Former Director of Youth Governance, Youth Leadership Institute
- **Stacy Lee**, Managing Director, Early Childhood Project Integration (Los Angeles): Former Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Integration, First 5 LA
- **Debra Brown**, Senior Managing Director, Education and Government Relations: Former Director, Government Affairs for CDE
- **Susanna Kniffen**, Director, Child Welfare: Former Legislative Analyst, CA Association of Realtors
- **Mike Odeh**, Director, Health: Former Research Associate, Georgetown University Center for Children & Families
- **Efrain Mercado**, Director, Education: Former Policy Director at California County Superintendent's Educational Services Association
- **Lishaun Francis**, Associate Director, Health Collaborations: Former Associate Director, California Medical Association
- **Rob Manwaring**, Senior Advisor, Education: former K-12 education director, California Legislative Analyst's Office]
- **Stephen Blake**, Senior Advisor: former executive director of the Governor's Commission on Education Excellence

Offices in Los Angeles, Oakland, and Sacramento



Two-Word Messaging



Children Now's whole-child representation allows us to position issues as "doing what's best for kids" which we boil down to **simple, two-word messaging: "Pro-Kid."** This messaging allows us to galvanize support for complex issues and sends a powerful message to policymakers about the importance of the issues.

We support Common Core

The Common Core State Standards were approved back in 2010 by California policymakers on a bi-partisan basis and with widespread support from educators and a wide range of stakeholders. The standards set expectations for students to help ensure they graduate from high school ready for college, career and civic life. The standards establish learning goals for all students and emphasize critical thinking, analysis and deeper understanding. Local districts and teachers have been leveraging the standards to better engage students and expose them to these important approaches to learning.

Over 500 diverse education, business, equity, parent and community organizations support Common Core because it's the right thing to do for California's kids.

Girls2Women • Brighter Beginnings • Building Futures Now • Butte County Child Abuse Prevention Council • CA- NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) • Cabrillo Education Foundation • California Alliance for Arts Education • California Alliance of Child and Family Services • California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce (CalAsian Chamber) • California Association of School Psychologists • Calif Roundtable • Calif Collaborative on Dist Relations • Caliform (CCSESA) • Caliform Schools • Caliform Educational Foundat • School-Age Consorti • California Women W • Community Center • Aids Connection, Inc • Associates • Carson Caulder Lamm Allian for Multicultural Coo • Education Associati • Center • Challenge To Family Policy Instit • Bureau • Children's C Learning Cottage • C School Housing (CA Solutions for Charter Path • Community in Compton Youth Acti • Council of Asian Pac • Crescent City-Del No • Youth Track Club • C • B. and Edward C. G • Photography • Discov • Early Math Learning • Education Pioneers • Research • EMO Fami • Wellness • Families in County • Family Con • Association of Califo • First 5 Sonoma Cour • Construction • Frie • Learning, LLC • Gall • Girls Inc of West Con • of Orange County • Resource Center • GR • Public Schools • Gr • Half Moon Bay Coast • Hayward Chamber of • Healthy Child Health • Francisco • Hispanic • Dream" Foundation • Public Schools • InPI • Uninsured Project • I • John Swett Unified S • Bill of America • Ju • Kids Own Wisdom • Council • La Habra B • American and Cariba • of Women Voters of • Family Foundation • Beach Council PTA • Network (LACIH) • League • Los Angeles Urban League • Los Angeles Youth Network • Louis L. Borick Foundation • LP Learning • Madres Coalition MarinKids • McLeod-Grant Advisors • MDC Consulting • Men & Women of Purpose • Merced County Superintendent of Schools • Merced Organizing Project (MOP) • Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) • Millrose Chamber of Commerce • Milpitas Unified School District • Mindspark • Mission: Readiness • Moler Barber College • Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce • Montessori of Calabasas, Top • Moreno Valley USD • Morgan Family Foundation • Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce • Mossy Thumbs • Mountain View Dreamers • Mountain View Los Altos Union High • Mt Diablo Community Child Care Advocates • Mulvaney's B&L • Museum of Children's Arts (MOCHA) • National Laboratory for Education Transformation • New Community Learning Center • New Start Group home • New Teacher Center • Newborn-Solutions • Nianguan American Chamber of Commerce • North Bay Leadership Council • North Orange County League of Women Voters • North San Diego

4

Outside Grassroots Pressure

The strongest interest groups call on a single, massive membership to take action at the right time. These grassroots voices are coordinated with the inside work, and mobilized at a strategic point in time to speak in unison to have greater influence.

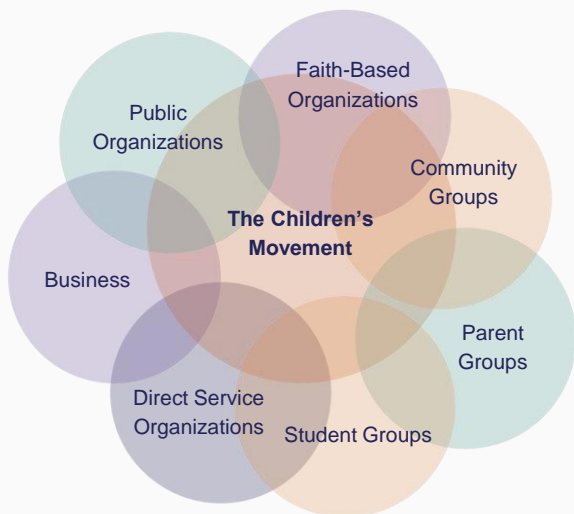
Children Now leads [The Children's Movement™](#) connecting more than **3,000 groups to speak at the right time with one voice on behalf of kids.** Together, the sheer number and diversity of these voices creates the most powerful interest group.

Participation is simple.

1. Join the movement
2. Get policy updates
3. Opt-in to campaigns



Outside Grassroots Pressure



Examples of Members in Santa Clara and San Mateo County

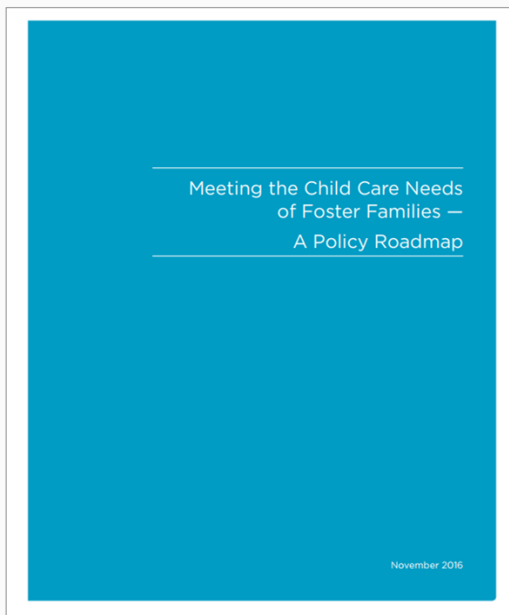




Pro-Kid Model: Expanding advocacy beyond providers

Historic home visiting investment (2018)

Children Now brought together **more than 500 diverse organizations and businesses** to support expanding investment in home visiting, resulting in the 2018-19 state budget deal that included the \$158.5 million CalWORKs Home Visiting Initiative – California’s first-ever statewide investment in evidence-based home visiting.



Pro-Kid Model: Breaking down the silos to develop better solutions for kids

Child care for children in foster care (2017)

Because the early childhood and child welfare fields are traditionally siloed, little trust between key players in the field existed. However, because Children Now had deep expertise and strong relationships with key players in both the early childhood and child welfare fields, we were able to bring together a range of groups and advocates from both silos to develop consensus on a proposal to provide vouchers for child care for caregivers of children in foster care who had been removed from their home in an emergency situation. This work led to \$31 million for a comprehensive statewide program that provides emergency vouchers and **support for foster families to access child care**, addressing one of the top barriers to the recruitment and retention of caregivers/foster parents.



For more information, visit

www.childrennow.org

To join The Children's Movement, visit

www.childrennow.org/thechildrensmovement/

Follow us on Social Media





Census 2020: Ensuring a Complete Count

First 5 San Mateo County
March 25, 2019



<https://youtu.be/pl4RO5EisCU>



DID YOU KNOW ...








HISTORICALLY UNDERCOUNTED GROUPS

- Immigrants
- People of color
- Households with low income
- Households with limited English proficiency
- Children under 5 years old
- Homeless and housing unstable



NEW CHALLENGES TO COMPLETE COUNT

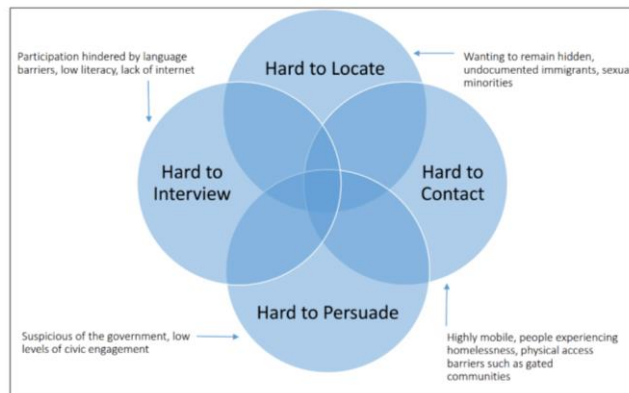
-  Dramatically underfunded (50% decrease per household from 2010)
-  Fewer local offices, less field staff, anticipated challenges recruiting qualified enumerators for non-response follow up
-  Moving to primarily online Census, raising concerns about data security and presenting challenges for those who lack digital access & literacy
-  Fear and lack of trust in federal government, including data privacy
-  Anxiety among immigrant communities due to Citizenship Question



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO



CENSUS BUREAU HARD TO COUNT FRAMEWORK



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO



CALIFORNIA CENSUS HARD TO COUNT / LEAST LIKELY TO RESPOND INDEX

- No broadband subscription
- Non-family households
- Renters
- Vacant units
- Crowded households
- Foreign-born population
- Adults (25+) not high school graduates
- Income 150% below poverty level
- Receiving public assistance
- Persons 16 or over unemployed
- Limited English speaking
- Moved into county in past year
- Population 0-5
- 3 or more units in a multi-unit structure



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO



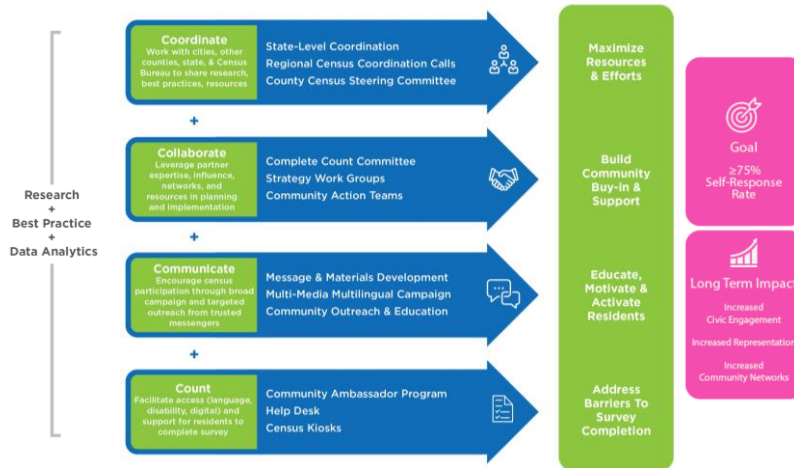
COMPLETE COUNT STRATEGY



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

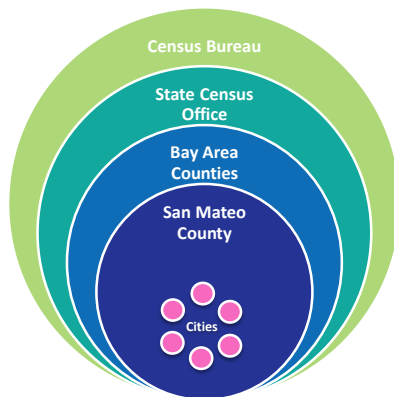


STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



COORDINATION

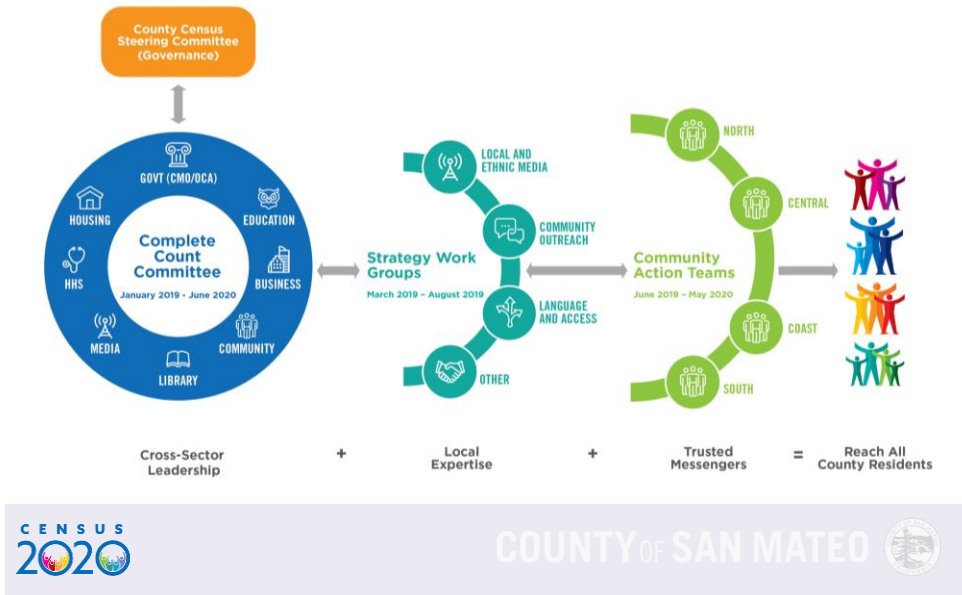
- Share best practices, research
- Avoid duplication of efforts
- Ensure consistency in information dissemination
- Real-time response tracking



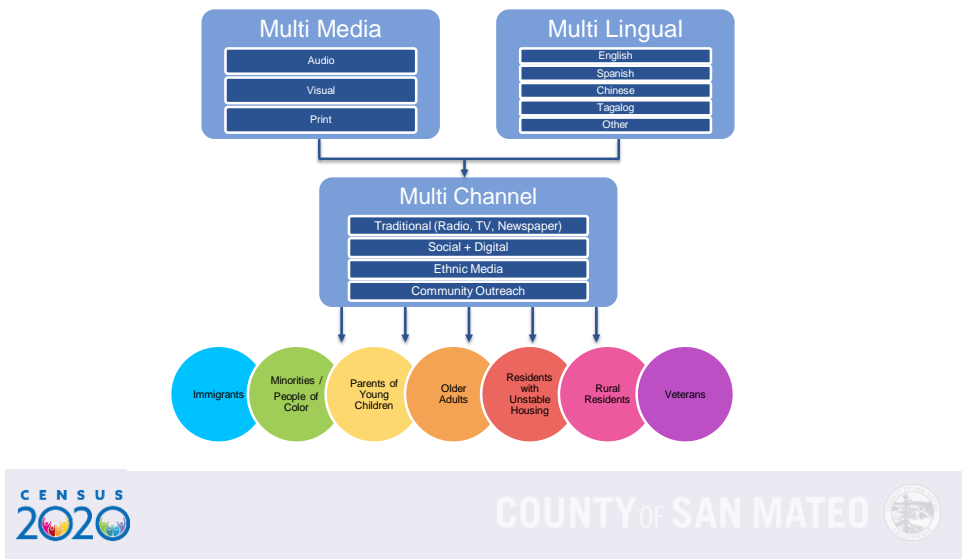
- Create strategy, messaging, materials
- Develop communication templates, toolkits, training
- Guide and support outreach efforts
- Provide technical expertise (GIS/SWORD)



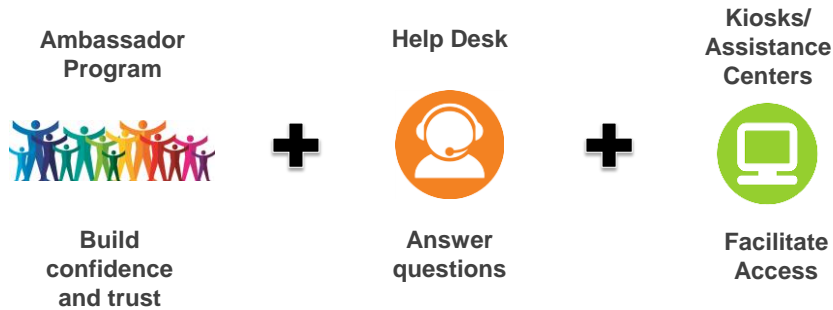
COLLABORATION



COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN



GET OUT THE COUNT



Supporting Strategy: Census Recruitment

**April 6:
JobTrain
Menlo Park**

JOIN THE 2020 CENSUS TEAM
Jobs Available in San Mateo County





WHEN: Saturday, April 20th from 9am – 1pm
WHERE: San Mateo Adult School, 789 E. Poplar Avenue, in San Mateo
WHAT: Meet US Census Bureau representatives & get help with application

One application qualifies you for any of the following positions:

Position	Pay Rate
Office Clerk	\$24.00 per hour
Office Operations Supervisor	\$31.00 per hour
Census Field Supervisor	\$33.00 per hour
Enumerator (Census Takers)	\$30.00 per hour
Recruiting Assistant	\$33.00 per hour

**April 20:
San Mateo
Adult School**



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT



Coordination



Collaboration



Communication


EVERYONE COUNTS!



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO






[EVERYONE COUNTS: CENSUS 2020 COMMUNITY LAUNCH](#)




Event to be held at the following time, date, and location:
Monday, April 1, 2019 from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM (PDT)
FOX Forum
2411 Broadway
Redwood City, CA 94063

[View Map](#)

Share this event:
  

[Attend Event](#)



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO





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Census Mgmt Analyst
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650-363-4886




COUNTY of SAN MATEO
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

THANK YOU




**STRATEGIC PLAN
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SPIP)
FY 2018 - 2020 PLANNING TIMELINE**





PHASE 1: FINALIZATION OF SPIP



Early Learning	\$1,060,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Improvement • Expand Access to Early Learning Settings for Children with Special Needs and for Infants and Toddlers 	
Child Health and Development	\$1,060,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral Health Access and Utilization • Early Mental Health Systems and Infrastructure Enhancements • Integrated Systems for Children with Special Needs and their Families 	

2



PHASE 1: FINALIZATION OF SPIP



Family Engagement

\$1,060,000

- Intensive Support for Families with Multiple Risk Factors
- Parent Connectivity
- Family Engagement Capacity Building

Partnership, Advocacy, Communications

\$380,000

- Leadership on Early Childhood Advocacy & Policy Development
- Community Partnership
- Community Education

Emerging Projects and Evaluation

\$220,000

Total \$3,780,000

3



PHASE 1: FINALIZATION OF SPIP



November 2018 - February 2019

- Met regularly to discuss SPIP allocation, strategies and key deliverables
- Met with grantees, community partners and funders to hear status of funding for similar efforts or alignment with SPIP (Ongoing)
- Identified opportunities for securing additional funding for SPIP (Ongoing)
- Began to determine sub-budgets for strategy areas.

4



PHASE 2: PROCUREMENT PREPARATION



March 2019 - August 2019

- Subcommittee: Review SPIP planning process
- Commission: Update on SPIP planning process, timeline and procurement strategies
- Continue sub-budget allocation for strategies
- Meet with grantees, community partners and funders to hear status of funding for similar efforts or alignment with SPIP
- Identify opportunities for securing additional funding for SPIP
- Subcommittee: Recap Long Term Financial Plan allocation
- Begin final determination for first set of procurement process
- Write language for new procurement process

5



PHASE 3: EXECUTION OF PROCUREMENT PROCESS



September 2019 - June 2020

- Finalize and release all remaining procurement strategies by November 2019
- Hold informational conferences
- Host review panels
- Final funding recommendations to Commission/Subcommittees
- Contract negotiations and execution
- Strategic Plan and SPIP 2020-2025

6

PROCUREMENT STRATEGIES

- Request for Application (RFA)
- Request for Proposal (RFP)
- Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
- Intent to Negotiate/ Partner (ITN/ITP)



First 5 San Mateo County uses a competitive selection, negotiation and approval process whereby potential contractors and/or grantees may submit applications for Commission funding. This process is to ensure that all qualified contractors and/or grantees are given an opportunity to be considered for providing services to the Commission.

7



QUESTIONS?

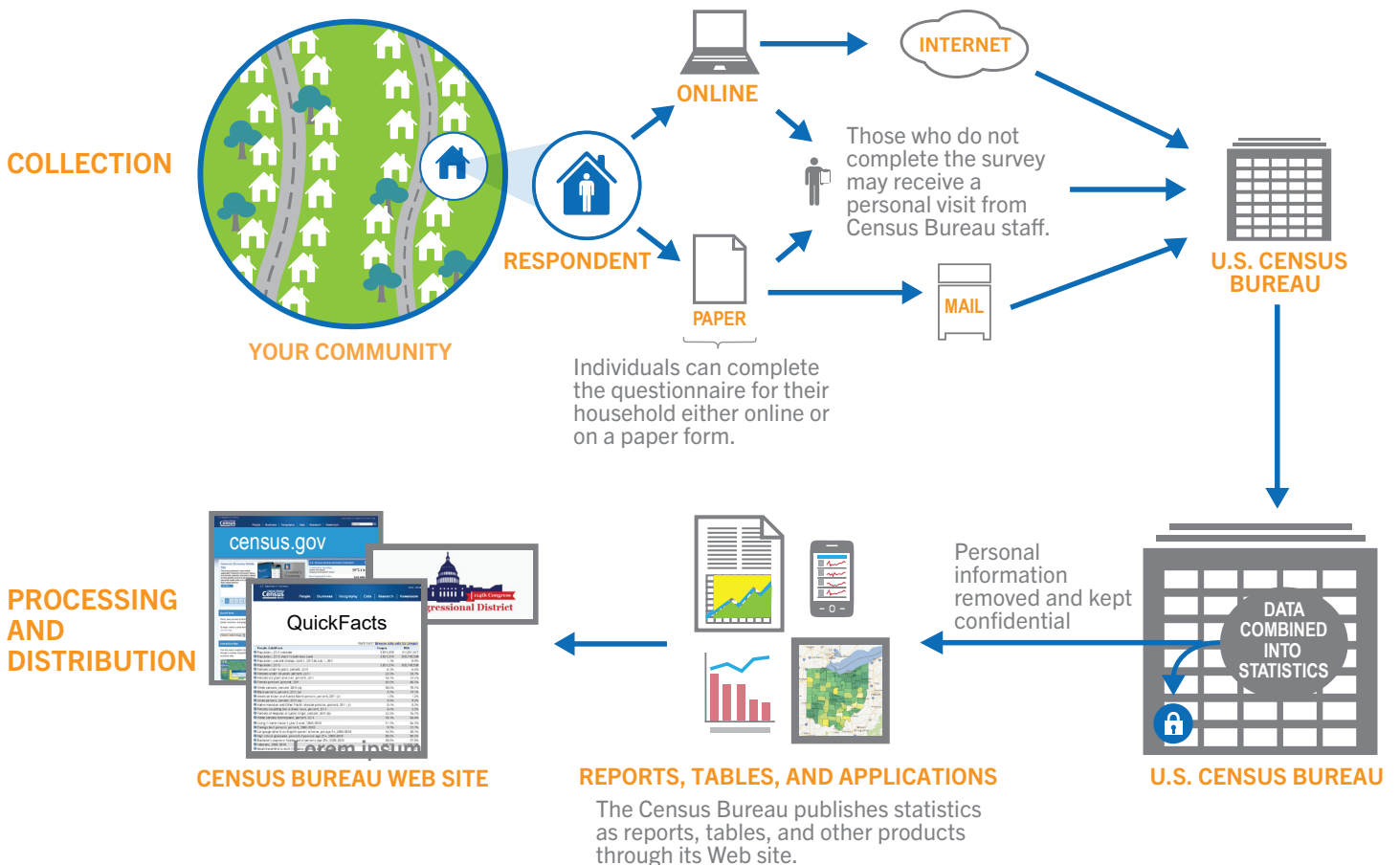
CENSUS 2020

What You Need to Know



What is It?

- Every ten years the federal government is required to count everyone living in the United States.
- The U.S. Census Bureau collects information from every residence about who is living there and **basic information** about each member of the household.
- This information is combined into **statistics** that are used to make important policy and budget decisions.



Why is it Important?

- Political representation
- Federal funding for critical community programs
- Redistricting
- Sampling and analysis for population research

What will be Asked?

- Basic information will be collected about each household, such as:
- number of people living there
 - home ownership
 - phone number

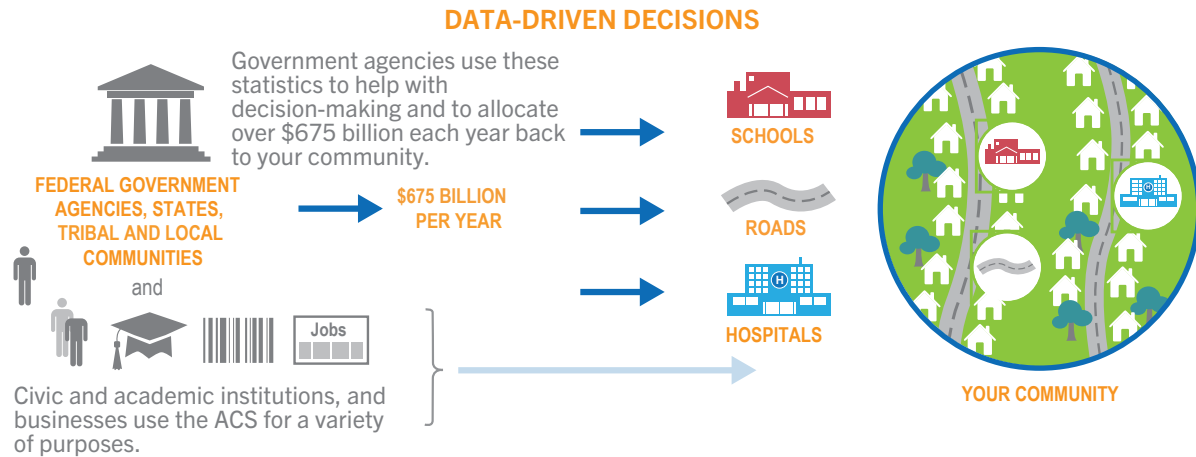
As well as for each person:

- name
- sex
- age
- ethnicity



How is the Data Used?

Census data is used by local governments, businesses, and other organizations to make decisions about community programs and services.



Who gets Counted?



EVERYONE! Immigration status, age, or criminal history DO NOT matter. Every single person living in the United States on April 1, 2020 should be counted. Make sure the head of your household counts everyone living there including:

- All children and parents
- Extended family members like grandparents, aunts/uncles and cousins
- Non-family members such as friends, roommates or workmates

When and How Should I Respond?

You can begin responding in late March 2020:

- Complete online (English + 12 languages)
- Complete paper form (English or Spanish)

If you do not respond by May 2020, Census Bureau employees will come to your home directly to follow-up.

Will the Information be Confidential?

By law, information you give on the census form is confidential.

The Census Bureau takes many steps to protect your personal information and does not share household or individual data.

Where Can I Learn More?

United States
**Census
2020**

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census.html>



<https://census.ca.gov>



<https://smccensus.org> OR smc_census@smcgov.org



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2019-20 Pro-Kid Policy Agenda for California

The 2019–20 Pro-Kid Policy Agenda for California is the comprehensive roadmap at the state level to ensure that all children have the necessary supports to reach their full potential. California has an obligation to end systemic injustices that create barriers to kids of color, as well as kids living in poverty and undocumented kids, from growing up healthy and ready for college, career, and civic life. We urge policymakers to use the Pro-Kid Agenda as a guide to ensure California’s systems for children are equitable, well-funded, high-quality, and accountable to kids’ success.

Doing right by all kids is not only the right thing to do, it’s essential to our state’s ability to thrive. Our continued economic growth and strong democracy is dependent on a healthy and educated workforce. State policymakers urgently need to make smart, strategic, and quality investments in California’s children to address poverty and close the widening income divide. Working together, we can build a California where all children have the chance to live out their dreams. The Pro-Kid Agenda can help us get there.

The Agenda was compiled by Children Now, the only research, policy development, and advocacy organization covering the full-range of key children’s issues, from prenatal through age 26, including early childhood development, K-12, higher education, children’s health, foster care, and youth justice. Children Now coordinates The Children’s Movement of California—a member-based constituency supporting kids that now includes more than 3,000 business, parent, labor, civil rights, faith, and community organizations. The organization also leads, co-leads or participates in more than 80 coalitions around the state. The Agenda reflects the top priorities of each of those coalitions and their members. For questions or comments about the Agenda, please email agenda@childrennow.org

Education

Infant & Toddler Care

California policymakers must ensure all families with infants and toddlers have access to enriching, stable, and affordable child care, especially foster families, families in poverty, and other families experiencing circumstances of need or risk. In the near-term, the state should at least triple the number of infants and toddlers that receive state-funded child care services while simultaneously investing in the infrastructure necessary to ensure all eligible infants and toddlers in the state have access to quality care, including workforce development and facilities. Restructuring the rate system for financing programs and to incentivize quality improvement is also critical.

Preschool & Transitional Kindergarten

While California policymakers have expanded investments in its State Preschool Program and established a transitional kindergarten program, the state must align and elevate quality standards across programs and build out the workforce and infrastructure necessary to ensure that all 3- and 4-year olds have access to high quality early learning opportunities. Providing more resources to State Preschool and Head Start, particularly focused on 3-year-olds, can help achieve this goal, as well as facilitating the expansion of early learning programs in all school districts. In doing so, districts must be incentivized to lower student-teacher ratios in Transitional Kindergarten classrooms and ensure developmentally appropriate, full-day experiences for students.

Early Learning Workforce Compensation & Training

California must develop a coherent strategy to unify and advance the early care and education workforce, including scaling quality improvement and workforce development initiatives that support improved skills, professional growth, and economic well-being of these currently undervalued educators. In the short term, a restructured reimbursement rate system for the state's subsidized system must account for higher compensation to improve workforce stability and reduce turnover. The state must also invest in strengthening the ability of higher education institutions to train the current and upcoming workforce, as well direct supports to incentivize further training and professional development, raise permit and credentialing standards over time, and ensure pay is commensurate with higher qualifications.

Education for Dual & English Language Learners

California policymakers must promote bilingualism by incentivizing bilingual educational opportunities for all children. At a minimum, this should include ensuring children who are dual language and English learners have the support necessary to develop their knowledge and skills in both their home language and in English, all while ensuring access to rigorous core content and with a focus on eliminating achievement gaps. To make progress toward this goal, policymakers should invest at the state and regional levels to help build the capacity of educators (PreK-12) to implement integrated and designated English Language Development (ELD) and leverage the recently-adopted English Language (EL) Roadmap.

Integrated Data & Information Systems

Practice, policy, and research needs to be informed by useful and timely information to enable transparency, identify needs, and improve outcomes. Policymakers must ensure that both the early learning and higher education sectors have effective information systems in place and that those systems are linked to TK-12 and workforce data. With the foundation of a comprehensive education information system in place, children would be more effectively served with data linkages to health and social services as well. Simultaneously, policymakers should provide resources and training to help integrate, use, and protect available data to support improvements in local policies and practices, building upon existing data collaborative efforts.

TK-12 Funding

California schools have fewer educators and caring adults on campus per student than almost any other state in the country. The deficiency of staffing has the most impact on students in poverty, with language barriers, with special needs, who are foster youth or experience other factors that require targeted support. California policymakers must provide sufficient funding to address understaffing of our schools. In the near term, the state should change recent practices that have led to the Proposition 98 minimum funding guarantee being treated as a maximum, instead of a minimum, funding level. Overall funding needs to increase faster than the general cost pressures schools face, including those of special education, pensions, health benefits, facilities, and other costs. Policymakers should also set a new, higher target for the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), including ensuring that LCFF Supplemental and Concentration dollars actually provide a higher level of service and ultimately improve outcomes for the students that generate those funds.

Academic Outcomes

California policymakers are obligated to ensure that all students graduate from high school ready for college, career, and civic life. To track this goal, in the near-term state leaders should continue to build a state accountability system that uses multiple measures, not just academic achievement. Additionally, they should adopt a growth model to ensure that individual students are making sufficient progress from year to year in order to more accurately report student achievement and gaps based on racial inequities. Policymakers must also continue to develop the Statewide System of Support to be comprehensive and infuse continuous improvement across the state. This system must provide greater transparency on whether gaps in achievement are closing. When improvement is needed, all schools, districts, charters, and county offices should have access to timely support to meet their unique needs.

STEM Education

California policymakers must make continuous, high-quality Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) instruction a core element of every child's education, especially for children of color and girls. In the near-term, policymakers must build statewide capacity to prepare, support, and deliver teaching and learning to the new math, science, and computer science standards. Meanwhile, district leaders must plan for, and increase, their investments in multi-year implementation of standards-based curriculum and instruction.

Community Schools

California policymakers must support the development of student- and community-focused schools by promoting parent engagement and high quality instruction, while at the same time enabling better coordination and collaboration between schools, afterschool and summer programs, early learning programs, medical, dental, and mental health care providers, and social services. In the near term, policymakers should establish a California Children's Cabinet to develop a shared vision on child outcomes from birth to college and career, ensure better data sharing, promote investment in children's services and work to align resources and systems.

Teacher Pipeline, Preparation, Placement & Retention

California policymakers must ensure that preparation and ongoing professional learning for all teachers and administrators is based on restorative, trauma-informed, culturally-responsive practices that promote social-emotional learning. Further, suspensions and expulsions for defiance/disruption should be eliminated for all students. Policymakers must also develop and require common surveys to measure school climate and student engagement, continue to make substantial investments in research-based practices through the Multi-Tiered System of Support framework and the Proposition 47 grant program and consider other sources of support such as Proposition 64.

School Climate & Discipline

California policymakers must ensure that preparation and ongoing professional learning for all teachers and administrators is based on restorative, trauma-informed, culturally-responsive practices that promote social-emotional learning. Further, suspensions and expulsions for defiance/disruption should be eliminated for all students. Policymakers must also develop and require common surveys to measure school climate and student engagement, continue to make substantial investments in research-based practices through the Multi-Tiered System of Support framework and the Proposition 47 grant program and consider other sources of support such as Proposition 64.

Chronic Absence

As a state priority under LCFF, California policymakers and district leaders must carefully monitor the recently reported increase in chronic absenteeism, provide support for a professional learning community, and provide incentives for improving attendance. Chronic absence data should also be counted for accountability purposes in high school, in addition to the existing grades K-8, and used by all schools as an early warning sign for systemic and individual student needs.

Afterschool & Summer Learning Programs

California policymakers must sustain and build on proven afterschool and summer programs so all kids, particularly children of color, children living in poverty, and other children experiencing circumstances of need or risk, have access to safe environments that allow them to be active and engaged after school and during the summer. In the near-term, policymakers should support quality improvement efforts to increase investments in afterschool and summer programs and ensure all students have access.

Access to Higher Education

California policymakers must make good on the promise of an accessible and affordable system of public higher education. Our leaders need to reinvest in the University of California, California State University, and community colleges, and remove the often insurmountable barriers of attending college, such as the high cost of tuition and housing, food insecurity, and limited access to childcare for students with children. Our state leaders must also develop long-term plans to accommodate more students, close the attainment gap, provide adequate and stable funding, increase graduation rates and create accountability through transparency and measuring performance.

Health



Home Visiting

California policymakers should significantly expand voluntary, evidence-based home visiting programs that match new and expectant parents with trained professionals that provide one-on-one support and education during these critical early years. The state must identify sustainable funding, prioritize families most in need of support and ensure that programs are effective, high-quality and responsive to the diverse needs of families.

Developmental Screenings & Early Intervention

California policymakers must ensure that young children receive routine developmental, behavioral and other health screenings at the intervals recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, and invest in robust referral and early intervention systems to connect kids with services they may need for supporting their healthy growth and development. In the near-term, the California Health and Human Services Agency should leverage all available data to improve the rate of kids receiving developmental screenings and needed early intervention services.

Health Insurance

California policymakers must ensure that every single kid is enrolled in health coverage and is receiving comprehensive and consistent benefits across public and private insurance carriers, so that all families can access high-quality, affordable care for their children. In the near-term, the California Department of Health Care Services should work to enroll all eligible-but-currently-uninsured California children and pregnant women into Medi-Cal coverage. It is also critical that federal investments in and commitments to Medicaid and other health care programs remain strong. The state should continue to fight against damaging federal changes, such as the proposed changes to the public charge rule, to protect California children's health coverage and wellbeing.

Health Care Access & Accountability

California policymakers must invest the resources needed to ensure that families can access culturally-appropriate health care for their children in a timely way, and ensure the collection of data that will hold the Medi-Cal system accountable for actually delivering quality medical, dental and mental health care for children. There must also be a commitment to reducing the racial, socioeconomic, language and geographic disparities in children's health care access and outcomes. In the near-term, the California Department of Health Care Services must proactively promote quality improvement of health care services delivery for children, and innovatively use Medi-Cal policy options to address the health care, social and environmental determinants of burdensome, chronic pediatric conditions, like asthma.

Mental Health & Building Resilience

California policymakers must help children stay well and build resilience by providing mental health prevention and treatment services to support children's social, emotional and developmental health, especially for children with exposure to trauma. Policymakers must identify ways to improve care coordination between medical and mental health, expand the availability of mental health and trauma screenings in pediatric offices, early learning settings and schools, and reform how counties provide care.

Oral Health Care

California policymakers must ensure all kids have access to timely dental care and should invest in preventive services to treat kids where they are more likely to be, including screenings in schools, early learning programs, and pediatrician's offices where problems can be identified and children can be referred to dental providers. Policymakers must also scale local models like data-sharing agreements between a child's doctor and dentist, using community health workers to help parents and caregivers make and keep appointments, and using virtual dental homes to bring care to areas where there is limited access.

School-Based Health Services

California policymakers should increase access to health services and screenings in all early learning settings and schools as well as dramatically increasing the number of school-based health centers, so that more kids are able to access physical, mental, vision and dental health services. In the near-term, the California Departments of Education and Health Care Services should work together to streamline financing for school districts that want to provide health care services to their students. Policies should also be in place that promote and leverage Medi-Cal reimbursement to schools for their role as important sites for health screenings, administrative linkages, and care coordination. The state should also invest in increasing the capacity and infrastructure of county health departments to provide and coordinate more health services in early learning settings and schools.

Food Security

California's policymakers must dramatically increase our state's low participation rates in child and family nutrition support programs. Policymakers must also focus on increasing access to healthy food choices for kids in and out of school, and supporting children's physical activity. In the near-term, policymakers should reduce the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages by implementing a statewide soda tax.

Child Welfare

Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention

More than 67,000 California children are confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect each year, underscoring the need for policymakers to support a statewide prevention program for kids at risk of abuse and neglect. The program should support families, enhance parenting skills, promote healthy relationships, expand early identification and intervention services, keep kids safe from maltreatment, and, when possible, work to keep kids and families together.

Placement Stability & Permanent Connections

California policymakers must ensure children and youth in foster care and their caregivers have access to the resources, supports and services they need to build strong family relationships. The state must develop and implement policies to minimize both placement instability and youth institutionalization, including access to childcare, immediate trauma-informed supports, and comprehensive assessments of children's needs and strengths. The California Department of Social Services must also carefully implement Continuum of Care Reform to create a system of supports and services that help improve the outcomes for our children and youth in care.

Health Care for Kids in Foster Care

California policymakers must ensure that children in foster care—who may experience a myriad of health difficulties due to their past trauma, abuse, and neglect—have appropriate access to comprehensive health care, including the mental health services they need to heal from trauma. In the near-term, policymakers should increase state oversight and accountability to ensure children in foster care have timely access to the full continuum of physical, mental, and oral health services.

Education Support for Students in Foster Care

California policymakers must ensure that children in foster care, who face unique educational barriers related to school instability and trauma that can impair their ability to focus, receive the supports they need to succeed in school. In the near-term, policymakers must ensure that LCFF benefits students in foster care as intended, by keeping schools accountable for success of youth in foster care.

Housing Instability for Youth in Foster Care

California policymakers must ensure youth currently and formerly in foster care can easily access transitional housing programs and remain in these programs. While the state has a continuum of transitional housing programs for this population, many of these young people still experience homelessness after age 18. Young adults often encounter long program waitlists and multiple other barriers to get into transitional housing programs, and, once admitted, they may be kicked out for minor infractions. Policymakers must increase the capacity of transitional housing programs to address these barriers which, coupled with California's shortage of affordable housing options, leave vulnerable young people homeless during critical junctures in their lives.

Youth Justice

California policymakers must incentivize the use of evidence-based youth justice programs and increase oversight of juvenile justice agencies. Trauma-responsive justice systems grounded in adolescent development yield better outcomes for youth, reduce racial inequities, and increase public safety more effectively than punishment alone.

Governor Proposes Pro-Kid Budget for 2019-20

On January 10, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom introduced his inaugural state budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Children Now applauds the Governor's proposed budget which makes needed pro-kid investments in supports and services – including expanded home visiting, developmental and ACEs screenings, paid parental leave, and quality child care and preschool – that will improve the lives of California's young children. Nearly three-quarters of California's 1.5 million infants and toddlers are children of color, and nearly two-thirds are born into low-income households. It is critical that we make these initial investments to support young children now and ensure a strong future for all Californians.

We must also ensure that we are making strong investments from cradle to career as part of a whole-child agenda. We commend Governor Newsom's support of improved mental health services, establishing a longitudinal data system, greater support for special education, protecting immigrant families, improving the juvenile justice system, insuring undocumented young adults through Medi-Cal and increasing subsidies for affordable health coverage.

The budget proposes about \$145 billion in state spending that, in Governor Newsom's words, is a disciplined approach to building a strong foundation and clearly demonstrates that he is a pro-kid Governor. In his announcement, the Governor emphasized that a greater portion of the proposed spending is one-time in nature than in previous budgets. While the use of one-time funding is prudent for these investments, Children Now supports the Governor and Legislature's meaningful planning to advance system improvements and ensure any expansion of programs is ongoing and promotes stability for children and families.

EARLY EDUCATION, K-12 and HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Early Learning

- Child Care: **\$490 million** to build up the state's child care infrastructure, including \$245 million for workforce development and \$245 million for facilities, and an additional **\$247 million** for college infrastructure that can be utilized for child care for students.
- Pre-kindergarten: **\$124.9 million** non-Proposition 98 funding toward establishing full-day preschool for all income-eligible four-year-old children over a three-year period.
- Strategic Planning: **\$10 million** for development of long-term strategic plan to implement a well-aligned, comprehensive subsidized child care system and universal preschool.

K-12 Education

In education, the Governor's proposed budget provides \$80.7 billion and invests in some critical areas, including:

- Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF): A continued commitment to LCFF with a **\$2 billion** increase (COLA), which translates to an increase of \$435 per pupil over 2018-19 funding levels. Total funding for LCFF would be \$63 billion.
- Pensions: There are two different teacher pension contributions the State would make. First, **\$3 billion** non-Proposition 98 to pay down a portion of the pension obligations for school districts. This would also allow for lower district contribution rates for 2019-20 and 2020-21. In addition, the State would contribute an extra **\$1.1 billion** non-Proposition 98 to pay down the State share of teacher pension obligations. This represents a positive, significant departure from how the state has operated with respect to pensions and provides the start of much needed pension relief for schools.

- Full-Day Kindergarten: **\$750 million** one-time General Fund to address facilities barriers to full-day kindergarten.
- Special Education: **\$576 million** to expand special education services in school districts with both a high concentration of special education students and a high concentration of low income, English learner and foster youth, including a focus on providing support to preschool age children.
- Accountability/System of Support: **\$350,000** in one-time funds to create a unified online platform that integrates the Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs), California School Dashboard and School Accountability Report Cards.
- Student Information: **\$10 million** to plan for and develop a longitudinal data system that connects student information from early education providers, K-12 schools, higher education institutions, employers, other workforce entities, and health and human services agencies.
- Proposition 98 certification process: Proposes changes to the Proposition 98 certification process to allow future appropriations above the minimum guarantee to become permanent instead of those “over-appropriations” being temporary and used to cover future minimum guarantee obligations.

Higher Education

- Cal Grants: **\$121.6 million** to increase or provide access awards for students with dependent children attending UC, the CSU or the CCC. Cal Grant B access awards would be increased from \$1,648 to \$6,000 and Cal Grant C book and supply awards from \$1,094 to \$4,000.
- California Community Colleges: First-year implementation of the Student Centered Funding Formula, **\$40 million** on-going General Fund augmentation to fund Two Free Years of Community College, and **\$5 million** one-time General Fund support to expand the California College Promise.
- California State University: **\$300 million** on-going General Fund augmentation to fund operating costs, enrollment growth, and continued support of the Graduation Initiative, and **\$15 million** one-time General Fund support for the Basic Needs Initiative to address student food insecurity and homelessness.
- University of California: **\$240 million** ongoing General Fund augmentation to the UC to fund operating costs, efforts to increase student success, improve student mental health services, and better address student hunger and homelessness, and **\$15 million** one-time General Fund support for degree completion and certification programs at UC Extension.

HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

The proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 has a strong focus on health and education for the youngest Californians. Some of the relevant historic health care investment highlights include:

Early Childhood Health

- Early Childhood Screenings: **\$105 million** for children and adults in the Medi-Cal program, including:
 - \$60 million (\$30 million Proposition 56 funds) to provide early routine **developmental screenings** for children in Medi-Cal.
 - \$45 million (\$22.5 million Proposition 56 funds) for **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) screenings** for children and adults in the Medi-Cal program at least once every three years, and supports increased referrals to appropriate services depending upon screening results. The Department of Health Care Services will work with stakeholders to develop a screening tool for children.

- Home Visiting and Black Infant Health Program: **\$109.4 million** including \$78.9 million to expand the newly enacted CalWORKs Home Visiting Initiative serving CalWORKs pregnant and parenting families with a child under age 2 and \$30.5 million to expand home visiting through local public health departments for low-income families, including \$7.5 million specifically to expand the Black Infant Health Program

Children’s Mental Health

- Mental Health Research Grants: \$25 million General Fund for **mental health research grants** on how to better detect and intervene when young people have had, or are at high risk of experiencing psychosis.
- Training for Mental Health Practitioners: \$50 million General Fund to increase **training opportunities for public mental health practitioners** and mental health workforce programs.

Improvements to Medi-Cal

- Expanding Full-Scope Coverage: **\$260 million** (\$196.5 million General Fund) to expand full-scope Medi-Cal coverage to approximately 138,000 eligible young adults aged 19 through 25 regardless of immigration status, building on the successful implementation of SB 75/Health4All that expanded Medi-Cal to undocumented children.
- Family Planning Services: **\$50 million** in Proposition 56 funds for family planning services in the Medi-Cal program.
- Managed Care Providers: **\$360 million** (\$180 million in Proposition 56 funds) for a value-based program that encourages Medi-Cal managed care providers to meet goals in critical areas, such as management of chronic disease and behavioral health integration.
- Payments and Rate Increases: **\$3.2 billion** (\$1.05 billion Proposition 56 funds) for supplemental Medi-Cal payments and rate increases for physicians, dentists, family planning services, Home Health, pediatric day health services, and other services, that continue investments established in the 2018 Budget Act.
- Oversight and Monitoring: **\$3.8 million** (\$1.8 million General Fund) to strengthen fiscal forecasting of the Medi-Cal and Family Health estimates and to improve the oversight and monitoring of Medi-Cal program expenditures at the Department of Health Care Services.

Health Care Affordability

- Increase in **health coverage affordability subsidies** through Covered California for individuals with incomes between 250 and 400 percent of the federal poverty level, and expand subsidies to individuals with incomes between 400 and 600 percent of the federal poverty level to increase coverage and promote affordability (funded by revenues generated by establishing a state individual mandate).

CHILD WELFARE HIGHLIGHTS

Some key child welfare and juvenile justice investment highlights include:

Child Welfare

- Continuum of Care Reform (CCR): Continue the state’s commitment to implementation of CCR to meet the goal of reducing the state child welfare system’s dependence on congregate care with a total budget of \$416.9 million.

- Dependency Counsel: An additional **\$20 million** to reduce caseloads for dependency attorneys representing abused and neglected children in the child welfare system.

Juvenile Justice

- Reorganization of the Division of Juvenile Justice to Health and Human Services Agency: Move the Division of Juvenile Justice from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to the Health and Human Services Agency to enable the state to better provide youth with the services they need to be successful.
- California Volunteers Partnership: **\$2 million** in matching funds for a California Volunteers/AmeriCorps federal grant to support 40 AmeriCorps members serving in organizations assisting youth released from the Division of Juvenile Justice.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING and ECONOMIC STABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

- CalWORKs grant levels: **\$347.6 million** to increase CalWORKs grant levels to 50% of the federal poverty level.
- Paid Family Leave: Adjust reserve requirement for the fund that supports the Paid Family Leave program to enable a down payment in expanding Paid Family Leave and convening a taskforce to plan for expand access and increased leave length.
- Child Savings Accounts: **\$50 million** to support pilot cost-effective models that can be replicated or expanded to increase access to Child Savings Accounts among incoming kindergartners.
- Working Families Tax Credit: Doubles the size of the state's Earned Income Tax Credit to **\$1 billion** to support 2.4 million families, including providing a \$500 credit for families with children under the age of six.
- 2020 Census: **\$54 million** to support full participation by all Californians in the upcoming 2020 Census, including those with young children and others under participating populations.

STATE FISCAL STABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Rainy Day Fund: **\$1.8 billion** (\$4.8 over next 3 budget years) to add to the existing \$13.5 billion currently set aside in the Budget Stabilization Account.
- Safety Net Reserve: **\$700 million** to the Safety Net Reserve created in the 2018, bring the total reserve amount to \$900 million.
- Debts and Deferrals: **\$4 billion** to eliminate debts and reverse the deferrals of the past decade.
- Pensions: **\$4.8 billion** to pay down unfunded retirement liabilities, \$4.1 billion of which will support schools.

Children Now will be continuing to pursue further details and clarifications. We look forward to continuing to work with and support the new Administration in the months to come to ensure this big vision for young children gains momentum and that these and other foundational steps are put into place through the 2019-20 budget.