



EXPANDING AND IMPROVING EARLY LEARNING FACILITIES IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

BUILD UP FAMILY CHILD CARE EXPANSION GRANTS

In San Mateo County, there is a childcare shortage. The lack of access to licensed child care, preschool, and afterschool programs impacts families, children, and the overall wellbeing of the region. Families rely on childcare to participate in the workforce. Accessible childcare boosts community development, sustainability, and economic growth.

To meet childcare needs, San Mateo County would need about 14,000 new spaces for young children by 2025, requiring \$428.4 million in capital funding. Early learning programs looking to expand face significant challenges—lack of usable, affordable space and extreme development expenses and timelines. Many give up on their expansion plans and dreams.

Build Up San Mateo County (Build Up SMC) works to grow and improve the supply of childcare facilities in San Mateo County so that all families can benefit from a strong, well-supported, and accessible early care and education system.

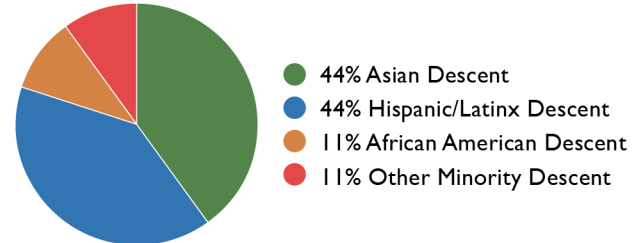
Community Partner: Gilead Sciences, Inc.

In 2020, Gilead Sciences, Inc. provided a \$50,000 grant to increase access to childcare. With Gilead's investment, ten \$5,000 Family Child Care (FCC) Grants were awarded to small at-home childcare programs. The goal was to help recipients expand their program license to a large family child care home, doubling the number of children each can serve. The grants were designed with flexibility, so that recipients could make the changes they needed to prepare their homes and programs for expansion.

Grant Recipients

- Little Steps Daycare
- Ping An Family Daycare
- Paola Bustos Family Child Care
- Castro's DayCare
- Growing Together Childcare and Preschool
- Playsmart Childcare
- Ronsonely Family Daycare Center
- Mimi Daycare
- Pinita's Daycare
- Happy Kids Family Daycare

Grant Recipient Demographics



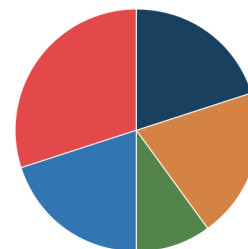
8 out of 10 providers serve infants



9 out of 10 are women-owned small businesses

“ It was a great feeling to be a recipient and to have the opportunity to renovate with hope for better times. [This grant] made me feel valued and important in what I do.”

— Little Steps Daycare



How many years have you been working in the ECE field?
10 responses

- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- 20+ years

Even while facing the challenges of COVID-19, this program funded the successful expansion of 4 Family Child Care Home providers for a combined 22 new spaces.

Build Up SMC's partnership with Gilead Sciences Inc. came at a perfect time, offering hope to small business owners during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Castro's DayCare

Teresa Castro, owner of Castro's DayCare, began caring for her grandchildren while her daughter worked and went to school. She noticed many parents in her community needed childcare, and that motivated her to become a childcare provider. Teresa finds joy in giving children a loving, fun, and understanding environment to learn and grow in. As an FCC Grant recipient, she bought classroom furniture and educational materials. This helped to maximize facility space. Teresa plans to expand Castro's DayCare to serve more children and families in San Mateo County.

“The grant has helped me with my personal goals. I wanted to expand my daycare, but I didn't have the money to buy the necessary things to make more room for the kids.”

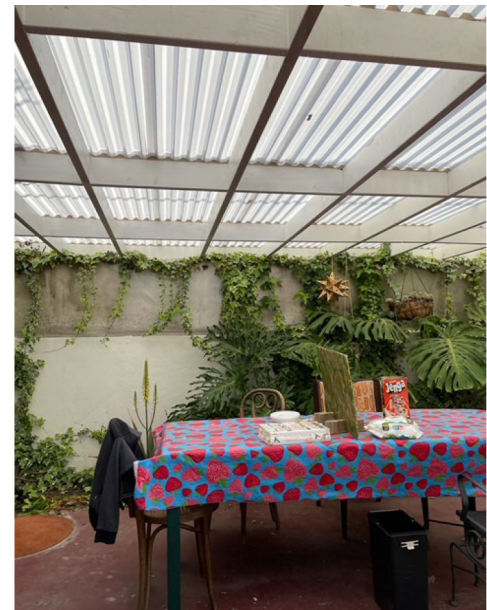
— Castro's DayCare

Playsmart Childcare

Ana Deocampo's Playsmart Childcare provides children quality care and a safe space for healthy development. Ana has completed the requirements to expand her program as a large licensed family child care home and wants to serve more children, but like many childcare providers, her business has experienced challenges during the pandemic. The FCC Grant helped her to continue operating and remain financially steady. She used her grant to make repairs and renovations to provide a safe outdoor space where children can play and learn safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.



BEFORE



AFTER

San Mateo County is well-positioned to thrive when businesses and organizations partner to invest in young children. Our shared commitment leads to healthy families, a vital workforce, and strong communities.

— Christine Padilla, Build Up SMC Director

