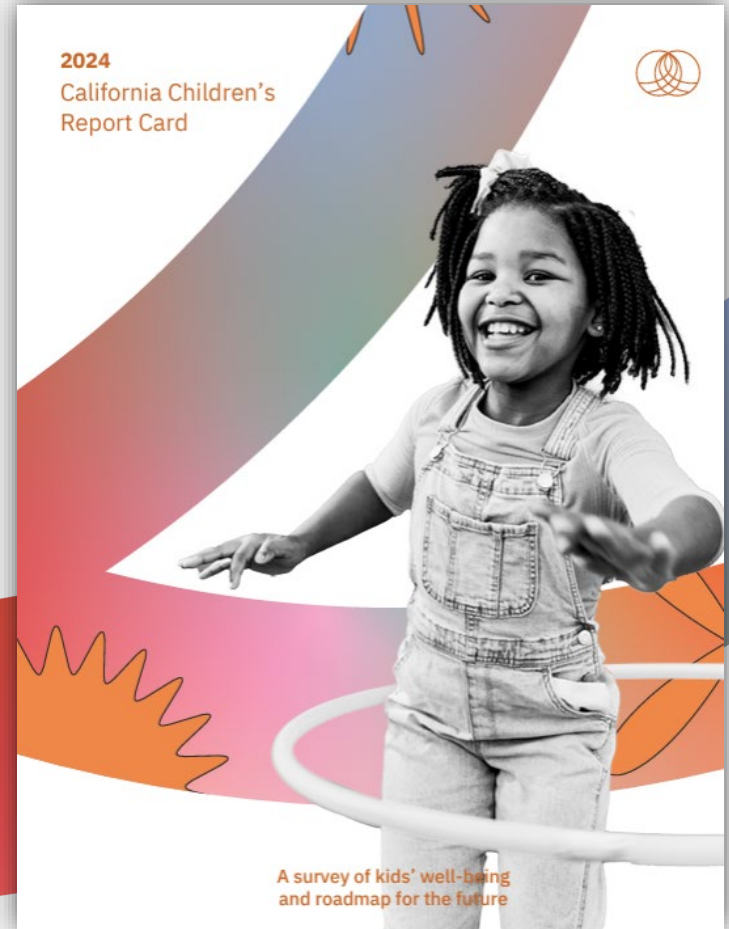


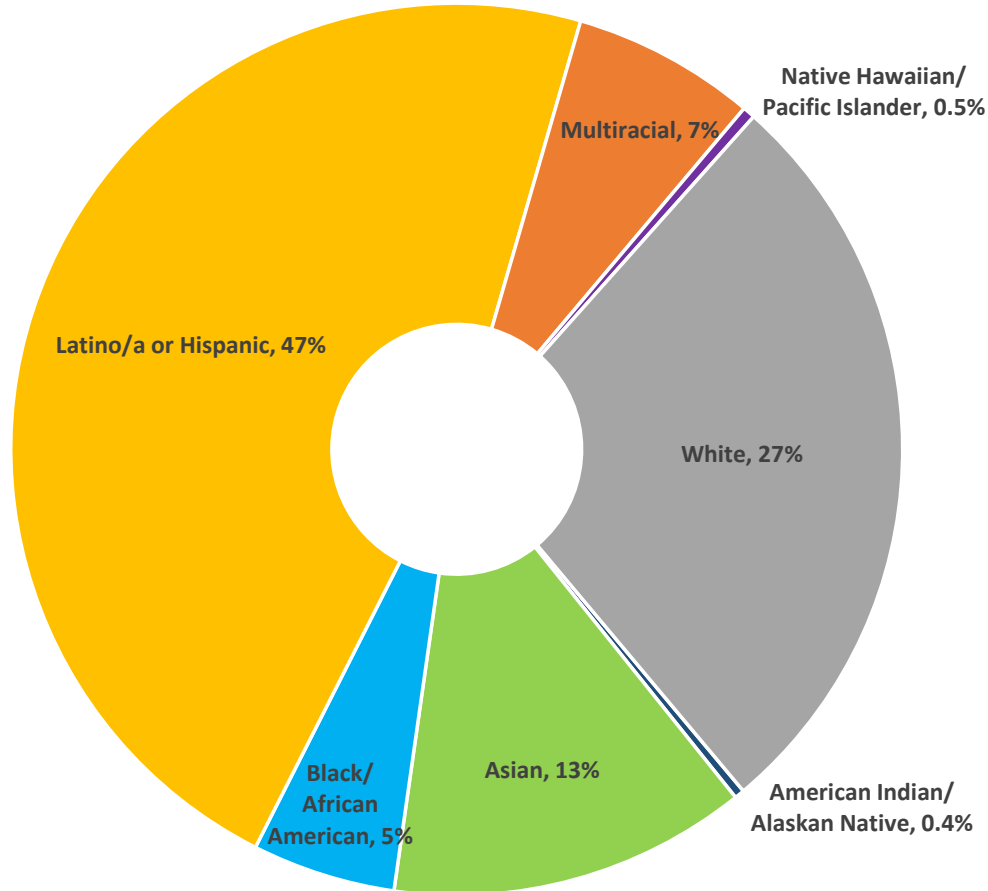
Children Now's 2024 Report Card

**Ted Lempert, President
Children Now
San Mateo County First 5
Commission**

March 25th, 2024



There are 13.7 million Californians ages 0-26.



HEALTH

- D Birthing Health
- C Environmental Health & Justice
- A- Health Insurance
- D+ Health Care Access & Accountability
- D Preventive Screenings
- D+ Supporting Mental Health
- D- Preventing Substance Abuse
- C Oral Health Care
- C- Relationships & Sexual Health

CHILD WELFARE

- C Stable Homes & Enduring Relationships
- C+ Health Care for Kids in Foster Care
- D Education Supports for Students in Foster Care
- D Transitions to Adulthood

FAMILY SUPPORTS

- C- Voluntary Evidence-Based Home Visiting
- B- Paid Family Leave
- B Income Assistance for Low-Income Families

EDUCATION

- C- Child Care
- B+ Preschool & Transitional Kindergarten
- B- Early Care & Education Workforce
- D Early Intervention & Special Education
- C- Education for Dual Language & English Learners
- C+ Education Funding
- B Expanded Learning Programs
- D STEM Education
- C Educator Pipeline, Retention, & Diversity
- D School Climate: Connections with Adults on Campus
- C School Climate: Discipline & Attendance
- B- Higher Education

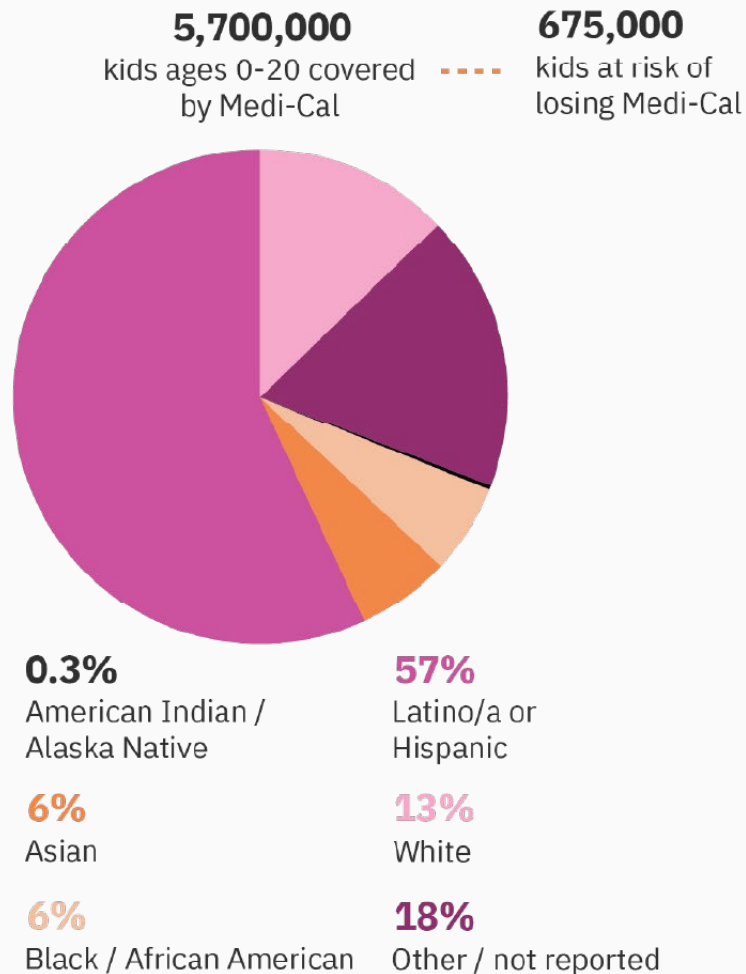
CROSS-SECTOR ISSUES

- D- Supports for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
- C+ Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth
- D+ Decriminalization of Youth
- B- Food Security
- B- Cradle-to-Career Data Systems

Health Insurance

Grade A-

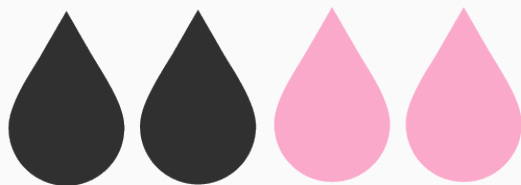
Due to the State's decades of success in expanding coverage, over half (55%) of all California children were enrolled in Medi-Cal health insurance during 2023



Environmental Health & Justice

Grade C

Environmental toxins
are especially
dangerous for kids.



53% of schools
tested had excessive
lead in their water



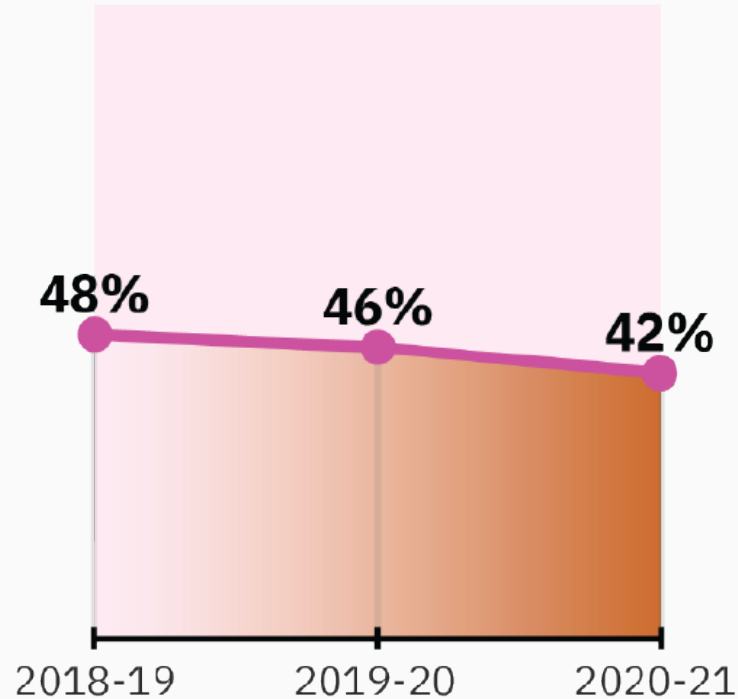
29% of child care
centers tested had
excessive lead in
their water

Health Care Access & Accountability

Grade D+

Too few kids are getting the health care they need to ensure that any problems are caught early, and they grow up healthy.

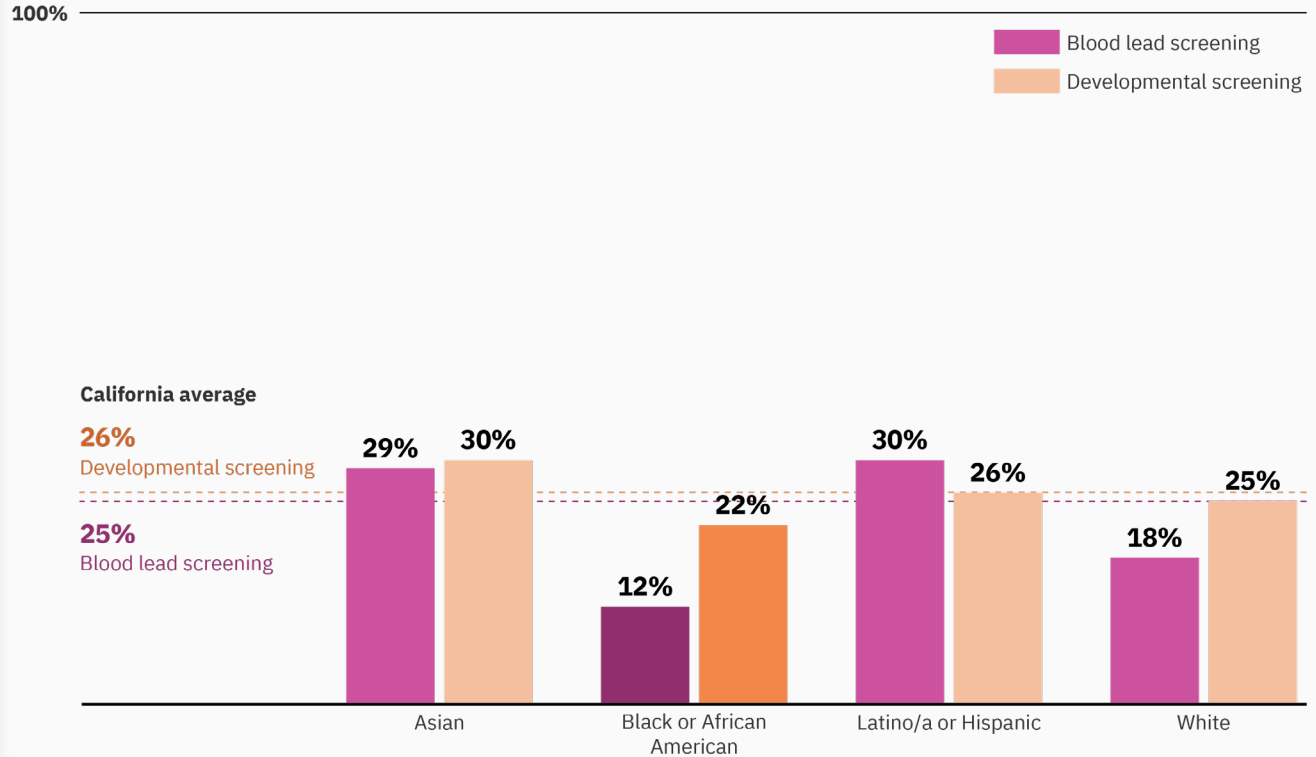
Just 4 in 10 kids in Medi-Cal received preventive health services in 2020-21



Preventive Screenings

Grade D

Only 1 in 4 California children in Medi-Cal receive important blood lead & developmental screenings.

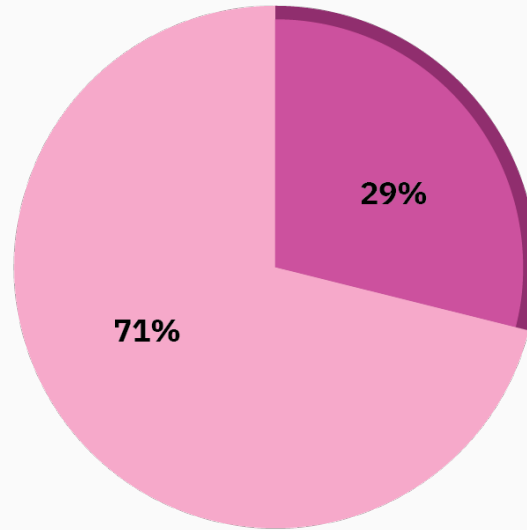


Preventive Screenings

Grade D

California ranked 51st (out of 50 states & D.C.) in percentage of kids with a timely visit to an eye doctor.

California ranked 51st (out of 50 states & D.C.) in percentage of kids with a timely visit to an eye doctor.



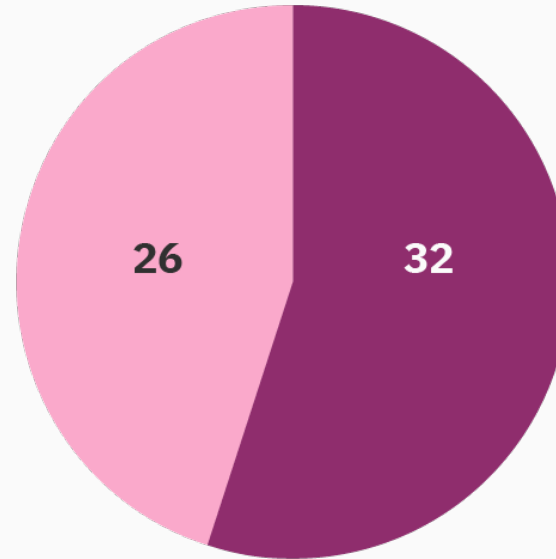
Less than a third of California's kids have had a timely visit to an eye doctor

Oral Health Care

Grade C

There are many “dental deserts” in California, where there are no or too few dentists to serve the Medi-Cal population.

45% of California’s 58 counties have NO pediatric dentists accepting Medi-Cal



Counties with no pediatric dentists accepting Medi-Cal

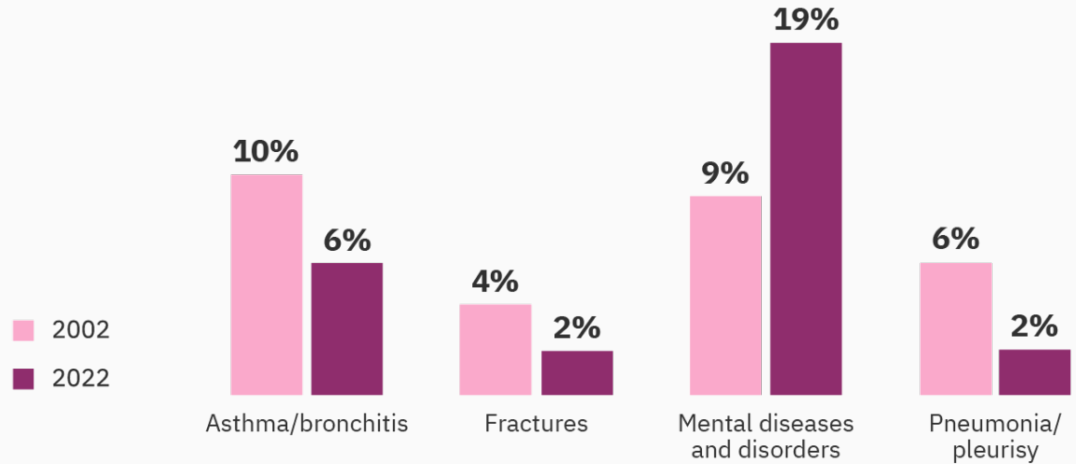
Counties with at least one pediatric dentist accepting Medi-Cal

Supporting Mental Health

Grade D+

Mental health issues are the #1 reason California kids are hospitalized.

Top diagnoses, as a percentage of all California child hospitalizations, 2002 vs 2022



Supporting Mental Health

Grade D+

California ranked 51st (out of 50 states & DC) for parents reporting it was not possible to obtain mental health care for their child. Denials by health plans are a major barrier to kids getting mental health care.

California parent-reported difficulty obtaining mental health care for their child



54%

Did not have difficulty



46%

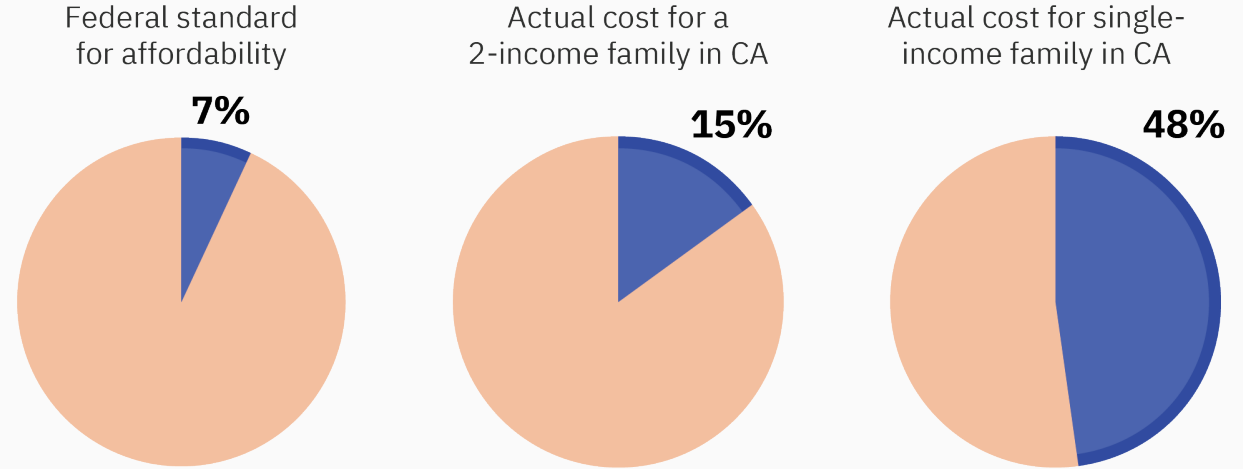
Somewhat difficult, very difficult, or not possible to obtain care

Child Care

Grade C-

Child care affordability is a major concern for California's families.

Child care is not affordable for most families
(percent of median income devoted to child care, 2021)

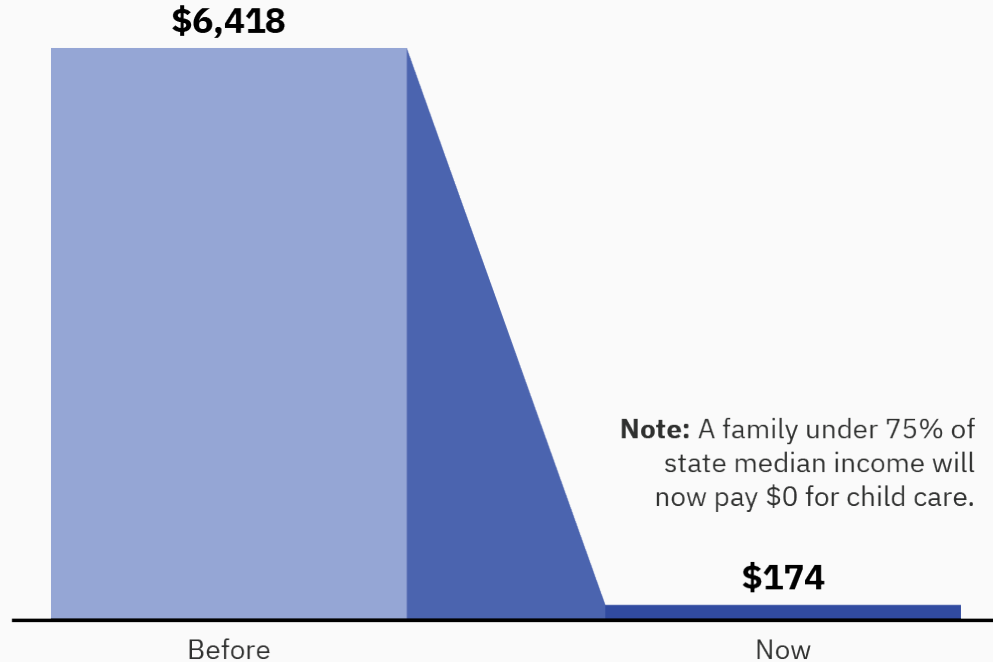


Child Care

Grade C-

New State investments in subsidized care are tremendously reducing the cost for families.

Huge reduction in annual family fees for subsidized child care (family of 4, 75% of state median income)

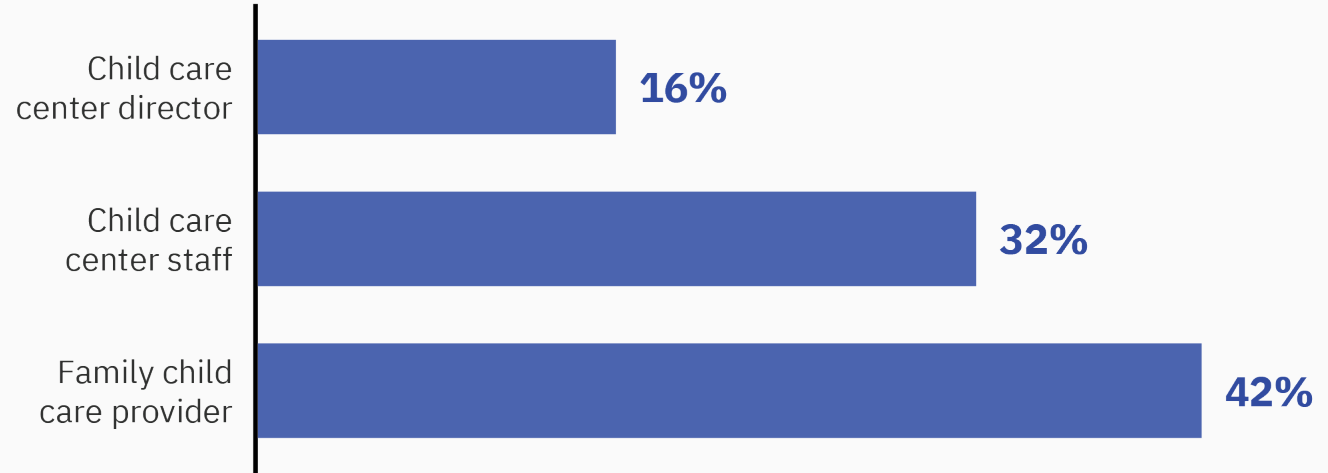


Early Care & Education Workforce

Grade B-

Many early childhood educators rely on Medi-Cal health coverage, food assistance, child care subsidies, or other public assistance to make ends meet.

Percentage of early childhood educators who relied on one or more public assistance programs, 2020



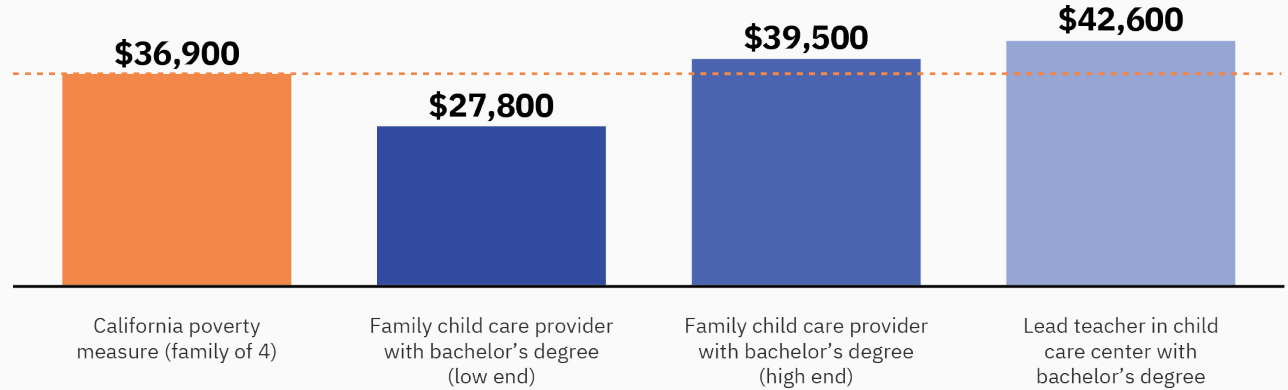
Early Care & Education Workforce

Grade B-

Child care workers are paid very low wages.

As ECE educators are predominantly women of color, these low wages are a racial and gender justice issue.

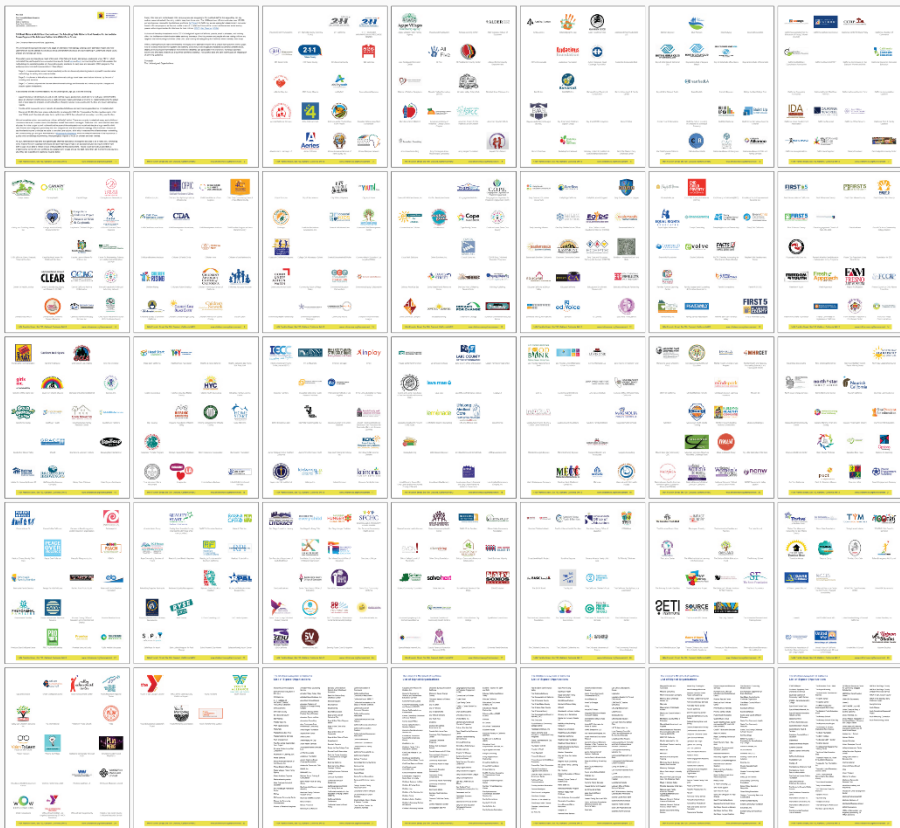
Median wages for California's child care workers are below or near poverty (2022 dollars)



Power Building Wins: Supporting Child Care (2023)

The Children's Movement coordinated a letter with [over 1,160 member organizations](#) signed on, resulting in over \$1.4 billion to support child care providers and a new equitable family fee system to make child care more affordable.

This was an unprecedented advocacy effort, both in terms of the number and diversity of organizations participating. The [LA Times](#) and [Politico](#) highlighted the Children's Movement campaign, including the fact that both the State Chamber of Commerce and SEIU signed on.

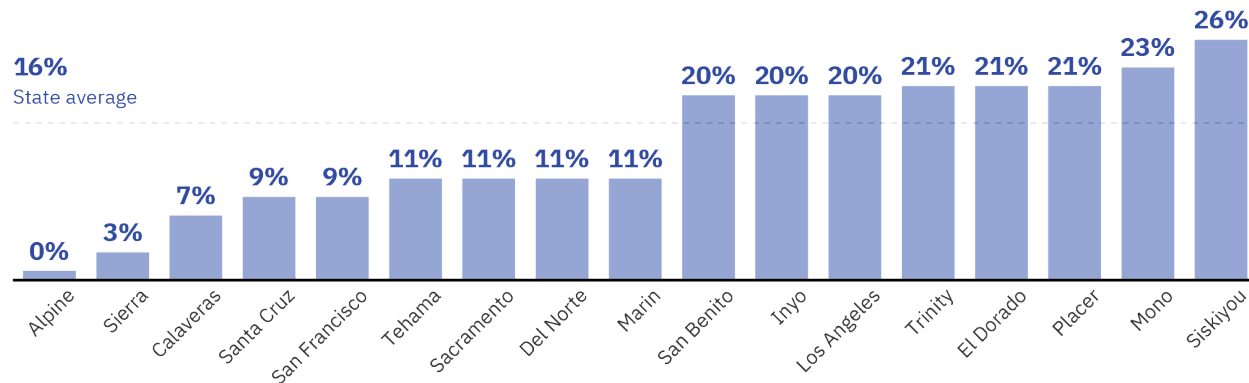


Preschool & Transitional Kindergarten

Grade B+

Implementation of TK has been uneven thus far, with TK enrollment in some counties at one-quarter of kindergarten enrollment, and others not yet starting.

TK enrollment as a percent of kindergarten enrollment, selected counties, 2021-22



Preschool & Transitional Kindergarten

Grade B+

California's TK program policies fail to meet major national quality benchmarks.

Major quality benchmarks for TK that California does NOT meet

1. Maximum class size of 20
2. Staff-to-child ratio of 1:10 or better
3. Teacher specialization in pre-K and child development
4. At least 15 hours of staff professional development per year
5. Vision, hearing, & health screenings with follow-up referrals
6. System of quality improvement informed by data

Early Care & Education Workforce

Grade B-

Recruitment of qualified early childhood educators is not yet meeting need.

Only about 1 in 5

Local Educational Agencies reported they already have enough qualified staff to teach Transitional Kindergarten.

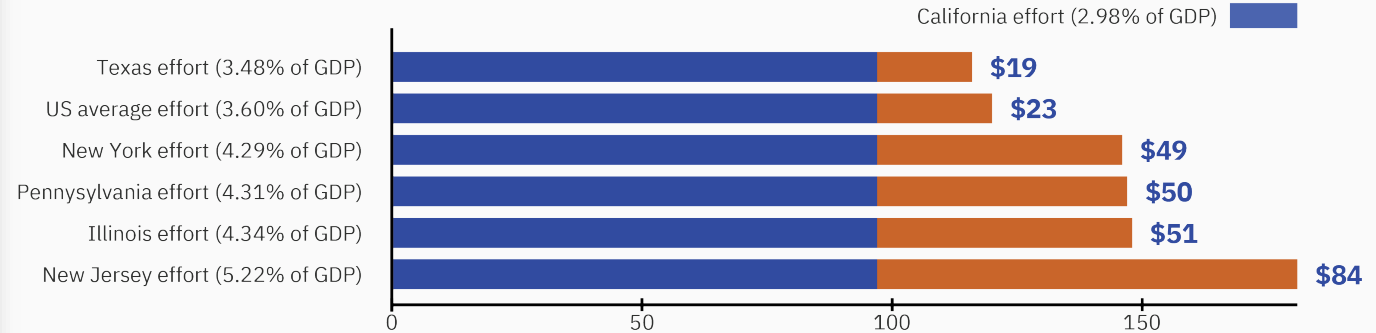


Education Funding

Grade C+

State spending on the TK-12 school system has increased over time, but still represents only 3% of state wealth.

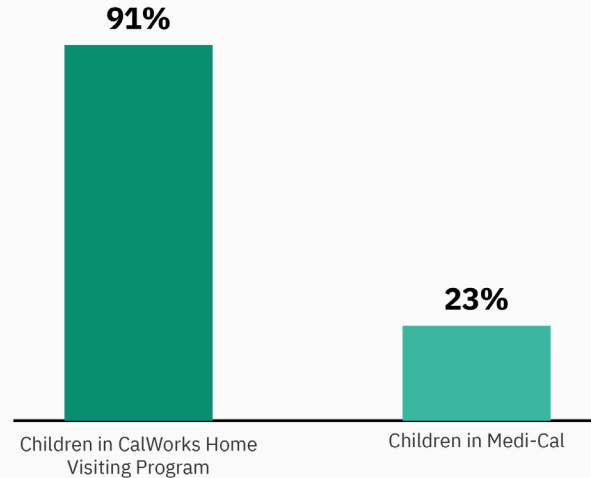
Additional annual spending for the California TK-12 education system if the state increased funding effort to match other large states (2020, \$ in billions)



Voluntary Evidence- Based Home Visiting Grade C-

Despite research proving the benefits of home visiting programs, they do not reach enough California families.

Children in CalWORKS Home Visiting Program were far more likely to receive at least one developmental screening



In FY 2022, the Department of Public Health California Home Visiting program reported that:

81% of parents/caregivers were screened for depression.

70% of people who gave birth received a postpartum visit with a health care provider within 8 weeks of delivery.

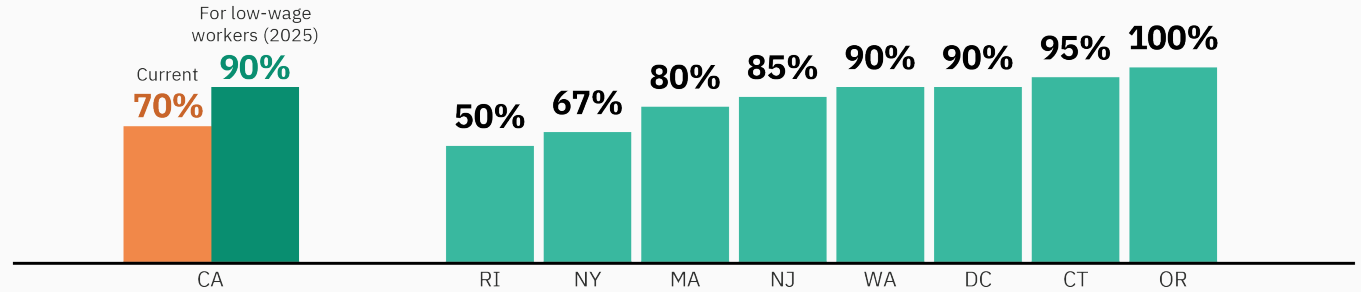
70% of children enrolled in California Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) received their well child visits.

Paid Family Leave

Grade B-

California's PFL wage replacement rates have improved, but continued work is needed to keep up with the handful of peer states that lead the nation on PFL policies.

Paid Family Leave wage replacement by state



Stable Homes & Enduring Relationships

Grade C

Too few first-time placements are with relatives.

Percent of first time placements with relatives

32%



2022

Health Care for Kids in Foster Care

Grade C+

Children in foster care are more likely to have physical and mental health needs because they have experienced trauma.

A national study found that kids who had been in foster care were:

7x more likely to experience **depression**

6x more likely to exhibit **behavioral problems**

5x more likely to feel **anxiety**

3x as likely to have an **attention deficit disorder, hearing impairments** and **vision issues**

2x more likely to suffer from **learning disabilities, developmental delays, asthma, obesity** and **speech problems**

April 23, 2019

The Honorable Richard Pan, Chair
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Sub. 3
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes, Interim Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1
State Capitol, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814



The Children's
Movement
of California®

Re: Family Urgent Response System – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan and Assembly Member Gómez Reyes,

We are writing in support of the Family Urgent Response System, a \$15 million budget proposal in 2019-20 and \$30 million ongoing, to support children and youth in foster care and their caregivers and help strengthen their relationships. The purpose of this Response System is to provide children and youth in foster care and their caregivers with the immediate trauma-informed support they need when issues arise, in order to preserve the family unit and link youth and families to longer-term, community-based supports and services needed to support them and foster a healing environment. This Response System supports the goals of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) to provide timely, in-home supports and services to help families thrive.

Children and youth in the foster care system have been removed from their homes and placed in new environments with caregivers that are often unfamiliar to them. Adapting to a new home can be challenging, especially for youth who are struggling to process their entry into foster care, and can make bonding difficult. As a result of their maltreatment, trauma, and loss, both children and youth in foster care and their caregivers may not be equipped with the skills and knowledge that will allow them to easily adapt to their new living situation. Children, youth and caregivers may quickly feel alone, confused and overwhelmed. This threatens the family unit and presents a barrier to providing loving care for traumatized youth. A placement disruption would have profound, negative consequences for the child or youth, resulting in feelings of abandonment and deepening the trauma. Moreover, in critical moments, caregivers may contact law enforcement because they lack other, more appropriate options for immediate help, resulting in the inappropriate criminalization of traumatized youth.

The Family Urgent Response System would provide current and former foster youth and their caregivers with immediate supports, by: (1) establishing a statewide hotline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for caregivers and youth who are experiencing emotional, behavior or other difficulties and need immediate help. The hotline will be staffed with operators who are trained in conflict resolution and de-escalation and can provide immediate assistance to preserve the family unit and determine whether mobile, in-home support is needed; and (2) requiring counties to establish mobile response teams to provide face-to-face, in-home support on a 24/7 basis to help stabilize the living situation, assess the caregiver's and child's needs, and develop a plan of action. Counties will then connect the family to ongoing services through the existing local network of care.

CCR envisions that all children and youth in foster care and their caregivers receive immediate and timely supports and services regardless of the placement setting, to support long-term permanency and improved outcomes. The Family Urgent Response System for current and former foster youth and their caregivers provides these needed services to help keep families together and to promote a healing environment that allows children, youth and families to grow and thrive. Importantly, the Response System will reduce the likelihood of re-traumatization of children and youth, reduce law enforcement calls and needless criminalization of youth, and prevent placement disruption.

For these reasons, we, the undersigned, support the Family Urgent Response System.

Sincerely,
The Undersigned Organizations

cc: Members and Staff of the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and
Human Services

Members and Staff of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No.1 on Health and
Human Services

1404 Franklin Street, Ste 700, Oakland, California 94612

www.childrennow.org/themovement/

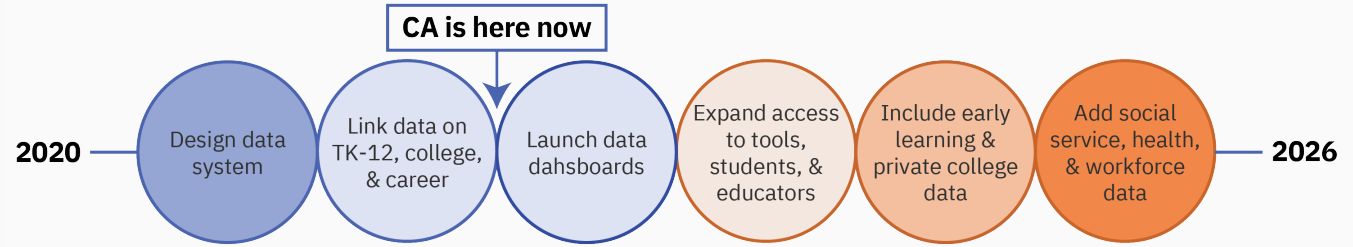
Power Building Wins: Secured Crisis Hotline for Kids in Foster Care (2019)

With the united advocacy of over 730 Children's Movement Members, we established the Family Urgent Response System, a 24/7 statewide hotline and county mobile response system that will help ensure youth in foster care and caregivers can access trauma-informed supports when they need them.

Cradle-to-Career Data Systems

Grade B-

The Cradle-to-Career data system is in the early phases of implementation. Connecting education data to social services, health, & workforce data is what makes the C2C system unique & particularly valuable.



Learn more and get involved:

The California Children's Report Card

<https://go.childrennow.org/2024-california-childrens-report-card>

County Scorecard of Children's Well-Being

<https://scorecard.childrennow.org>

Join The Children's Movement™

www.childrennow.org/thechildrensmovement/

Follow us on social media:





San Mateo County Community Focus Groups: Summary of Findings 2024

Developed by: EVALCORP

Agenda

I. Introduction

II. Methods

III. Participant Demographics

IV. Findings

V. Connection to Current First 5 San Mateo County Work

Introduction

To support First 5 San Mateo County better meet the shifting needs of families and children and determine:

1. Strengths of current services
2. Families' current top needs
3. Families' experiences regarding diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the County
4. Families' recommendations for the County to better meet their needs

Methods – Participant Recruitment

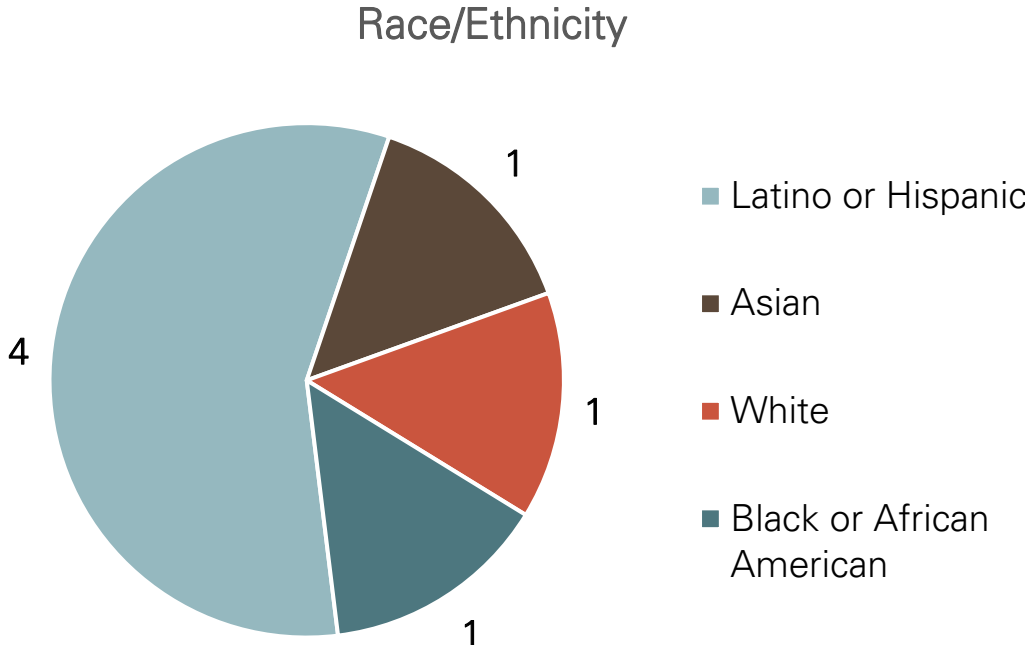


Methods – Data Collection and Analysis

Data Collection and Analysis

- Focus groups conducted virtually via Zoom
- Participants informed about purpose and planned dissemination of findings
- Responses coded qualitatively for themes

Participant Demographics



City of Residence	n
Burlingame	1
East Palo Alto	1
Foster City	1
San Carlos	1
South San Francisco	2
Woodside	1

Number of Children Age 0-5 in Family	n
One Child	6
Two Children	1

A photograph of two young girls sitting on a patterned rug in a bedroom, reading books. The girl on the left is sitting cross-legged, wearing a pink top and floral pants, reading a book. The girl on the right is lying on her stomach, wearing a white shirt and blue overalls with a red polka-dot headband, also reading a book. The room has a white wall and a bed with white linens in the background. The word "Findings" is overlaid in white text in the center of the image.

Findings

Strengths of San Mateo County

Participants were asked to share where they go first when they need help or support for their families.

Sources of Support

- Community Centers
- 4Cs
- Schools
- Department of Social Services

Most Helpful Supports

- Childcare
- Basic Needs

Families' Current Needs

Next, participants reflected on how their families are doing post-pandemic.

Their top needs were:

- Childcare (access & affordability)
- Afterschool programs
- Financial assistance
- System navigation support

“ In my case, I was left alone from one day to the next... I couldn't work because I had no one to leave my baby with.

“ I'm not eligible for services, but I don't have enough to cover basic needs.

Families' Current Challenges

The participants shared that they had difficulty accessing services due to:

- Lack of awareness of resources
- Issues with service application process
- Agency staff turnover



For the most part, I don't know where I can go for resources or support. I don't know where to start.

Families' Experience with Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) - Strengths

Participants shared their opinions regarding DEIB with services in the County.

Families appreciated:

- Opportunities to provide input for services
- Tailored support for their families' needs



I am almost always asked in surveys if I have anything to add or recommendations.



[They are] very good at being individualized. They cared about my child and asked 'What does he need to work on?'

Families' Experience with Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)- Challenges

Families had **challenges** with:

- Issues when engaging with staff
- Lack of culturally competent services
- Lack of sense of belonging in their community

“ I didn't feel like there was compassion from the staff when I shared my story. It was not a trauma-informed conversation.

“ Sometimes it's difficult to understand services... the translation is sometimes not accurate.

Summary of Key Findings

Strengths

- Formal support sources
- Childcare linkage
- Basic needs assistance
- Opportunities to provide input for services
- Receive tailored support for their children.

Needs

- Childcare (access & affordability)
- Afterschool programs
- Financial assistance
- System navigation support
- Culturally competent and sensitive services

Families' Recommendations for San Mateo County

Lastly, participants discussed their recommendations that would best support their needs for San Mateo County decision makers.

Their recommendations included:

- Conducting community outreach
- Providing extracurricular programs for children
- Providing training to service provider staff
- Providing financial support
- Providing childcare for infants



They could contact schools in the area to put resources in their newsletter so families can see services available.



Connection to Current First 5 San Mateo County Work

Families' Needs

Childcare (Access & Affordability)

System Navigation Support

Culturally Competent and Sensitive Services

Financial Assistance



First 5 San Mateo County's Current Efforts

Build-Up for San Mateo County Kids
F5CA's IMPACT Program
Sueños Unidos at Puente de la Costa Sur
Peninsula Family Service's Therapeutic Child Development Centers at San Mateo County's Family Shelters
4Cs Enhanced Referrals Program

Help Me Grow managed by AbilityPath
StarVista's Healthy Homes

TRISI Program

Baby Bonus Project

A woman with dark curly hair tied back, wearing a purple cardigan over a white top, is sitting at a desk. She is smiling and looking towards the right. She is holding a baby in a light pink sweater. The baby is looking at a laptop screen. The woman's hands are on the laptop keyboard. On the desk, there is a baby bottle with a blue cap and a white base, a white pen holder with several pens, and a woven basket. The background is a bright, out-of-focus room.

Thank you!