MAXIMIZING RESOURCES:
NAVIGATING THE SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

This document was developed for organizations that may be in a position to help low to moderate income families access an array of child care and development programs and programs specifically designed to prepare children for school and life. Specifically, it is intended to help community-based organizations match families to the most appropriate program based on their income eligibility and/or other criteria by prioritizing programs from the most restrictive criteria for determining their eligibility to those with the least restrictive criteria. As an example, Table 1 (see page 2) compares income ceilings between the federally funded Early Head Start and Head Start programs and the California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD) Programs with two scenarios for referring families.

The remainder of the document is organized as follows:

- Introduction
- Early Head Start and Head Start Programs
- California Department of Education/Child Development Division Programs (CDE/CDD)
- School Readiness/Pre-Kindergarten Programs
- California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Child Care
- Pregnant and Parenting Teens Programs
- School Age Programs

Introduction

Child care and development services are intended to meet two purposes:

1) Promote children's healthy growth and development while preparing them for school and life; and

2) Provide families with the support they need to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through employment and/or education.

Navigating the early education and child care and development system can be a complicated experience, particularly for low- and moderate-income families eligible for subsidized child care and development services. Their challenges are compounded by the lack of adequate federal and state government funding to support all of the eligible families. As a result, families are vying for limited resources that exist across most child care and development program types designed to serve them.

While some programs offer full-day, full-year services to support working families, others by design are purposely tailored to prepare children for kindergarten enrollment and success in school and are typically offered part of the day and part of the year. Ironically, there is a more generous supply of the part-day programs when most families are seeking full-day services to support their work schedules. Far from ideal, families unable to access full-day services due to the limited supply may find ways to create a patchwork of services that support parents while they work and contribute to their child's overall development.

An immediate option for low and moderate income families is to register them on the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL) to ensure that they are connected with

programs as space and funding becomes available. Programs holding contracts with the CDE/CDD are required to enroll families from the LACEL. Although not required, some Early Head Start and Head Start Programs and Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) sites use the LACEL to identify and call families eligible for their programs. More information about LACEL is included in the program summaries that follow.

The next sections are offered as a menu of options that may be available to the families you serve. Each section provides a brief description of the programs, a summary of the eligibility requirements and information on how to connect with the program.

Table 1. Comparing Income Ceilings across Child Care and Development Programs						
	Income Ceilings for Early Head Start and Head Start*				Income Ceilings for CDE/CDD Programs	
Family Size	Monthly Income (100% FPL)	Yearly Income (100% FPL)	Monthly Income (130% FPL)	Yearly Income (130% FPL)	Monthly Income (75% SMI)	Yearly Income (75% SMI)
1	$902	$10,830	$1,173	$14,079		
2	$1,214	$14,570	$1,578	$18,941	$3,518	$42,216
3	$1,525	$18,310	$1,983	$23,803	$3,769	$45,228
4	$1,837	$22,050	$2,388	$28,665	$4,188	$50,256
5	$2,149	$25,790	$2,793	$33,527	$4,858	$58,296
6	$2,460	$29,530	$3,199	$38,389	$5,528	$66,336
7	$2,772	$33,270	$3,604	$43,251	$5,653	$67,836
8	$3,084	$37,010	$4,009	$48,113	$5,779	$69,348
9	$3,395	$40,750	$4,414	$52,975	$5,904	$70,848
10	$3,707	$44,490	$4,819	$57,837	$6,030	$72,360
11	$4,019	$48,230	$5,224	$62,699	$6,156	$73,872
12	$4,330	$51,970	$5,630	$67,651	$6,281	$75,372

*Head Start determines family eligibility based on their annual income, not their monthly income; once the family is determined eligible, the child is considered eligible through the program year and the subsequent program year. On the other hand, CDE/CDD programs establish eligibility at the time of enrollment; families participating in full-day programs that require them to demonstrate a need (working, seeking employment, enrolled in school or a vocational job training program, seeking permanent housing, or incapacitated) are required to provide ongoing eligibility documentation as changes in income of family size occurs. Families with children participating in the part-day California State Preschool Programs remain eligible for the program year once eligibility has been determined.

Scenario 1:

- Family of four, two parent family with two young children.
- Family's combined monthly income is approximately $1,700; yearly income varies, but is less than $20,000.
- While the family may be eligible for Early Head Start and Head Start as well as a CDE/CDD-contracted program, to maximize resources it is recommended that the family begin with exploring enrolling their child into an Early Head Start and/or Head Start Program depending on the ages of the children.
- Simultaneously, enroll the family on the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL); if no space is available in Early Head Start/Head Start, they may be picked up by a CDE/CDD contracted program.

Scenario 2:

- Family of four, two parent family with two young children.
- Family's combined monthly income is approximately $3,500; yearly income is less than $42,000.
- Family's combined income makes them ineligible for Early Head Start/Head Start; however based on income they may be eligible for a CDE/CDD-contracted program as well as others such as Los Angeles Universal Preschool. Again, to maximize resources, it is recommended that the family immediately register on the LACEL to be connected with a program as space and funding becomes available.

Early Head Start and Head Start Preschool Programs

Serving pregnant women, children ages birth to three and preschool age children

Program Descriptions

- ***Early Head Start:*** A "no cost to family" comprehensive early education program for low-income pregnant women and infants and toddlers from ages birth to three, including young children with disabilities. Services may be provided in the home of the family (home-based), a licensed family child care home, and/or a center. In addition to comprehensive early education services, other services include providing and linking families with health, mental health, disability, nutrition and social services. Early Head Start has a strong parent involvement component and services specifically designed for pregnant women.

- ***Head Start:*** A "no cost to family" part-day (3½ hours) or full-day (six plus hours) comprehensive child development program for low-income preschoolers ages three to five years old. Head Start generally operates from September to June. Some Head Start programs offer full-day programs that operate from 10 to 12 months. Children in foster care, families at risk and/or in crisis, homeless families, and children with disabilities receive priority for enrollment. Additional selection criteria may be used to determine priority for services. Comprehensive services include providing and linking families with social services, health, mental health, disabilities, and nutrition services. Head Start also has a strong parent involvement component.

Income Limits

Families are eligible for Early Head Start and Head Start Preschool Programs if their families' income is below the federal poverty level. Children in foster care, homeless or with families receiving public assistance are automatically eligible regardless of income. Early Head Start and Head Start Preschool Programs may serve families with incomes up to 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) if space is available and the needs of all other eligible children are met. At least 10% of enrollment must include children with disabilities. Table 2 shows the yearly income caps at the federal poverty level and up to 130% of the FPL by the size of the family.

Table 2. Income Ceilings for Early Head Start and Head Start

Family Size	Family Yearly Income (100% FPL)	Family Yearly Income (130% FPL)
1	$10,830	$14,079
2	$14,570	$18,941
3	$18,310	$23,803
4	$22,050	$28,665
5	$25,790	$33,527
6	$29,530	$38,389
7	$33,270	$43,251
8	$37,010	$48,113
9	$40,750	$52,975
10	$44,490	$57,837
11	$48,230	$62,699
12	$51,970	$67,651

* Based on 2009 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Head Start determines family eligibility based on their annual income; once the family is determined eligible, the child will be considered eligible through the end of the program year and the subsequent program year. Early Head Start and Head Start Preschool Program services are free.

How to Connect

There are ten Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (R&Rs) throughout Los Angeles County to provide families with referrals to child care and development programs, including referrals to Early Head Start and Head Start Programs. Families may call toll-free 1-888-922-4453 to be connected to their local R&R. For immediate access to information regarding Early Head Start and Head Start, contact the Los Angeles County Office of Education at (877) Pre-K-Kid (773-5543) or visit www.PreKKid.org.

California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD) Programs

Serving children from birth to three, preschool age children and school age children up to 13 years old

Program Descriptions

The CDE/CDD contracts with schools and organizations to provide child care and development services to children from low- to moderate-income families. The CDE/CDD holds contracts with schools and organizations for the following program types:

- ***California State Preschool Programs (CSPPs):*** Offer part-day, full-day – part-year or full-year - or both types of developmentally appropriate child development services to three- and four-year old children from low income families living in the local community. Families with case plans with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) receive priority for enrollment as space is available. CSPPs provide free meals and snacks, offer parent education, and encourage parent participation. Families are referred to health and social services, as needed. The following describes the unique features of the part-day programs, full-day programs, and the programs with the Prekindergarten and Family Literacy (PKFL) Program component.

  - ☼ *CSPP Part-Day:* Free part-day (3½ hours) comprehensive child development program for income eligible families that generally operates from August through June or September through June. Families establish income eligibility at the time of enrollment; the child remains eligible for the part-day program for the remainder of the year. Some CSPPs have a PKFL Program component that promotes family literacy, encouraging parents to work on interactive literacy activities both in the classroom and at home with their children.

  - ☼ *CSPP Full-Day:* Full day comprehensive child development program for three- to four-year-old children from low-income families. To qualify, parents must be working, seeking employment, enrolled in school or a vocational job training program, seeking permanent housing for family stability, or be incapacitated. Families establish eligibility at the time of enrollment and provide ongoing eligibility documentation as changes in income, family size, or occupation occurs. Families are assessed a fee based on their income; families that become ineligible due to income changes are required to pay the full cost of care to remain in the full-day program. Some CSPPs have a PKFL Program component that promotes family literacy, encouraging parents to work on interactive literacy activities both in the classroom and at home with their children.

- ***Child Care and Development Centers:*** Comprehensive child development program for low-income infants and toddlers (birth to three), and school age children (up to 13 years old) in a group setting. Centers may serve one age group or combination of age groups,

separating children into classrooms by age group. The centers provide developmentally appropriate activities, nutrition, health screening, parent education, staff development and referrals to social services. To qualify, parents must be working, seeking employment, enrolled in school or a vocational job training program, seeking permanent housing for family stability, or be incapacitated. Families establish eligibility at the time of enrollment and provide ongoing eligibility documentation as changes in income or family size occurs. Families are assessed a fee based on their income; families that become ineligible due to income changes are required to pay the full cost of care to remain in the full-day program.

- ***Family Child Care Home Education Networks (FCCHENs):*** Groups of family child care homes that operate under sponsoring organizations. The sponsoring organization, such as a center or local R&R, provide consultation, training, resource materials and support services to participating family child care providers and enrolled families. Participating family child care homes are licensed to serve up to eight or 14 children from birth through 12 years old. Services are offered full-day and year round.

- ***Alternative Payment (AP) Programs:*** Subsidized child care provided primarily in private centers, family child care homes, or by a license-exempt provider such as a family member, relative, friend, or neighbor to children from birth through 12 years old. In Los Angeles County, there are 13 agencies (including the 10 R&Rs) that administer AP Programs. Additionally, the Department of Children and Family Services (see description unique to DCFS in next section) administers an AP.

Income Limits

Families must be at or below 75% of the State Median Income (SMI) to enroll in a CDE/CDD-contracted program. Table 3 delineates the monthly and annual income ceilings by family size used to determine their eligibility for enrollment in a program contracted by the CDE/CDD.

Table 3. Income Ceilings for California Department of Education Child Development Division (CDE/CDD)-contracted Programs

Family Size	Family Monthly Income	Family Yearly Income
1-2	$3,518	$42,216
3	$3,769	$45,228
4	$4,188	$50,256
5	$4,858	$58,296
6	$5,528	$66,336
7	$5,653	$67,836
8	$5,779	$69,348
9	$5,904	$70,848
10	$6,030	$72,360
11	$6,156	$73,872
12	$6,281	$75,372

* Based on 75% of the 2007 State Median Income

As previously mentioned, the CSPPs are free to eligible families. Families enrolled in a CSPP Full-Day Program, a Child Care and Development Center, AP Program, or a family child care home participating in a FCCHEN are required to pay a monthly fee on a sliding scale depending on their income unless they are exempt from paying fees.

Families exempt from paying fees are as follows:

- Families below 40% of the SMI do not pay fees.
- Families under the supervision of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) may be exempt from paying fees for up to 12 months if determined necessary by the DCFS Children Services Worker (CSW).
- Families with children at risk of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation as determined by a legally qualified professional in a legal, medical, or social services agency or emergency shelter may be exempt from fees for up to a total of 12 cumulative months.
- Families receiving CalWORKs cash aid.

Fees may range from $2 to $19.20 per day for full day or $1 to $9.60 for part-day depending on family size and income. Full day is defined as enrollment for 6 to 6½ or more hours per day, while part day is defined as enrollment for less than 6 to 6½ hours per day depending on program type. Fees are usually paid to the program; some AP Program agencies have the contracted provider collect the fees directly from the parents.

How to Connect

Families who may be eligible to enroll their child in a CDE/CDD-contracted program should contact their local R&R to register on the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL). The LACEL, with funding from the CDE, is the entry point for connecting low-income families with child care and development programs that offer subsidized services as funds and openings become available. Families may call toll-free 1-888-922-4453 to be connected to their local R&R. The R&Rs also provide referrals to licensed child care and development programs – centers and family child care homes.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Child Care Assistance Program

Serving children from birth up to 13 years old

Program Description

DCFS administers an AP Program funded by the CDE to serve “at risk” children and families. “Home of parent” cases, relative caregivers, and teen parents under the supervision of DCFS and living with their birth parent, a relative, or in a basic rate licensed foster home may be eligible for free child care for up to six, 12, or 18 months. Families must use licensed child care and development programs. If the Children’s Services Worker (CSW) decides child care is a necessary part of the family’s case plan, the CSW will submit a child care referral form to the DCFS Child Care Unit. For more information, call (562) 345-6629.

School Readiness/Pre-kindergarten Programs

Serving four year old children

The programs listed in this section are specifically intended to prepare young children before kindergarten entry.

Program Description

- ***Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP):*** Part-day (3½ hours) child development programs for four year old children that generally operate from September to June; some offer summer programs as well. LAUP operates in existing child care and development

programs, including publicly subsidized centers, private centers, faith-based programs, Head Starts, and family child care homes.

- ***School Readiness Language Development Program (SRLDP)/Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD):*** Free, part-day oral language program for students who will be four years old on or before December 2nd of the year of enrollment. The goal of the program is to ensure that students entering kindergarten are ready for school through a quality pre-kindergarten program taught by an experienced teacher with an early childhood education background. It provides a parent involvement and education program that helps meet the needs of parents to positively facilitate the pre-kindergarten child's developmental potential and school readiness.

- ***First 5 LA's School Readiness Initiative (SRI):*** First 5 LA funds 42 school readiness communities throughout Los Angeles County to provide a range of services to help children birth to five prepare for school. SRI builds upon existing early childhood development programs by integrating them with parenting/family supports and health and social services. Children and families residing within the targeted zip code of the School Readiness Program receive priority for services.

Income Limits

- ***LAUP:*** Enrollment in some programs – CSPP and Head Start – is limited to families that meet the eligibility factors described in the previous sections of this document. LAUP sites located in non-subsidized programs may require parents to pay a one-time Annual Investment Fee based on the family median income in that preschool program's neighborhood. Annual fees range from $100 to $3,000 (where the median family income is over $150,000). Fees are not assessed in communities where the median family income is below $27,000. Additionally, any family can request a fee waiver and LAUP programs are ***free*** to families with foster children, children under the supervision of the DCFS, children with current Individual Education Programs (IEPs), and teen parents (18 years old and under).

- ***SRLDP/LAUSD:*** There are no income eligibility requirements. Priority is given to children who live within the boundary of a PHBAO (Predominantly Hispanic, Black, Asian or Other Non-Anglo) resident school.

- ***First 5 LA's SRI:*** First 5 LA funds 42 school readiness communities throughout Los Angeles County to provide a range of services to help low income children birth to five prepare for school.

How to Connect

- ***LAUP:*** A program with a LAUP site may be located by visiting the Web site at www.laup.net or by calling, toll free, 1-866-581-LAUP (5287). The R&Rs also provide referrals to child care and development programs with LAUP sites.

- ***SRLDP/LAUSD:*** For more information, call (213) 241-8172.

- ***First 5 LA's SRI:*** Visit www.first5la.org/Programs/School-Readiness for links the School Readiness grantees and information on the services they provide. You may also contact First 5 LA at (213) 482-5902.

California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Child Care

Serving children from birth up to 13 years old

Program Descriptions

CalWORKs provides temporary cash aid to families with children under the age of 19. For families with income and property, the amounts must be below the State limits. Most adults are limited to receiving up to five years of cash aid over a lifetime. Unless exempt, CalWORKs participants are required to participate in welfare-to-work activities. Parents or other relative caregivers with primary responsibility for providing care to one child up to 24 months old or two or more children under six years old are exempt from welfare-to-work activities. However, parents of young children may volunteer to participate; parents volunteering to participate in welfare-to-work activities are eligible for child care services. The 60-month time limit to receive cash aid does not apply while the recipients are exempt.

For CalWORKs recipients participating in welfare-to-work activities that lead to employment and self-sufficiency, subsidized child care is available for their children up to age 12 and children with special needs and severe disabilities to age 18.

There are three stages of child care:

- ***Stage 1 Child Care:*** Stage 1 Child Care is funded by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and is locally administered by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) through contracts with the 13 local AP Program agencies. Stage 1 Child Care begins with a parent's entry into a County-approved welfare-to-work program or employment and continues serving them for up to six months or until their work and child care are stable. Families may continue to receive Stage 1 Child Care assistance if there are insufficient funds in Stages 2 or 3. Parents may select from 1) licensed child care providers such as child care and development centers or family child care homes; or 2) license-exempt child care providers such as family, friends, or neighbors.

- ***Stage 2 Child Care:*** The CDE contracts with the local AP Program agencies to administer Stage 2 Child Care, which is available to families on welfare and with stable employment. Families may be Stage 2 Child Care for up to 24 months after they stop receiving cash aid. Parents may select from 1) licensed child care providers such as child care and development centers or family child care homes; or 2) license-exempt child care providers such as family, friends, or neighbors.

- ***Stage 3 Child Care:*** The CDE contracts with the local AP Program agencies to administer Stage 3 Child Care. Stage 3 supports families as they move off welfare and into self-sufficiency and have exhausted their up to 24 months of eligibility for Stage 2. Families can continue to receive Stage 3 Child Care until they no longer meet the income eligibility requirements or their children exceed the age limit. Parents may select from 1) licensed child care providers such as child care and development centers or family child care homes; or 2) license-exempt child care providers such as family, friends, or neighbors.

Income Limits

- ***CalWORKs Cash Aid:*** Families with children may be eligible for CalWORKs cash aid if they meet certain eligibility criteria. Table 4 lists the CalWORKs income limits for 2009;

keep in mind that a number of other factors in addition to income are used to determine eligibility and grant amounts.

Table 4. CalWORKs Income Limits for 2009	
Family Size	**Gross Income Limit**
1	$540
2	$885
3	$1,097
4	$1,302
5	$1,486
6	$1,670
7	$1,835
8	$1,999
9	$2,168
10	$2,353

- ***CalWORKs Child Care:*** Families receiving CalWORKs cash aid are exempt from paying child care family fees. Families no longer receiving cash aid will be required to pay a monthly fee on a sliding scale depending on their income, adjusted for family size. Families may be eligible for CalWORKs child care until their income exceeds 75% of the State Median Income for their family size or their children exceed the age limit.

How to Connect

- ***CalWORKs Cash Aid:*** Families apply to their local DPSS office. To learn more about CalWORKs including information on eligibility, time limits and location of the local DPSS, visit www.ladpss.org or call 1-866-613-3777.

- ***CalWORKs Child Care:*** Families currently receiving cash aid should contact their Eligibility Worker (EW) or Greater Avenues to Independence (GAIN) Worker to request child care. The EW or GAIN Worker will refer the family to the contracted AP Program agency for payment.

Pregnant and Parenting Teens

Serving pregnant and parenting teens and their children

Teen parents are encouraged to explore enrolling their children in one of the many programs listed in this handout, including Early Head Start and Head Start, programs holding contracts with the CDE/CDD, and the programs listed in the school readiness section. Three programs specifically intended to ensure that teen parents receive the support they need to graduate from high school are summarized in this section.

Program Descriptions

- ***CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care for Cal-Learn Teens:*** Pregnant and parenting teens under the age of 19 who have not completed their high school education may qualify for cash aid if they live with their parents, guardian, another adult relative, or in an adult-supervised arrangement. Alternatively, pregnant and parenting teens may quality for cash aid if they meet one of the following conditions: 1) they do not have a parent or adult relative with whom to live (parents are either deceased or whereabouts unknown); 2) the teen parents or their child would be at risk for abuse, neglect or sexual exploitation if they lived with the teens' parent or relative; 3) the teens have lived apart from their parent or

adult relative for at least 12 months before their child was born or before applying for cash aid; 4) they are married or legally emancipated; or 5) the senior parent or guardian does not allow the teen parent to live with him/her.

Cal-Learn is a mandatory program for CalWORKs participants receiving cash assistance, under 19 years of age, are pregnant or parenting, and have not completed high school. Cal-Learn participants are required to enroll in high school or an equivalency program. The Cal-Learn program provides payments for child care, transportation and school supplies, intensive case management through the Adolescent Family Life Programs (AFLPs); bonuses of $100 up to four times per year for report cards with average grades of "C" or better, no bonuses or sanction for report cards showing average grades of "D", sanctions of $100 for report cards showing average grades of "F", and a $500 one time only bonus for receiving a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Teen parents participating in Cal-Learn receive Stage 1 Child Care; teen parents are not required to work, however must attend school. The five year limit for cash aid does not begin until the teen parent has left Cal-Learn.

- ***Adolescent Family Life Programs (AFLPs):*** AFLPs provide intensive, in-home case management services to pregnant and parenting teens with infants up to 18 months old. Pregnant teens and mothers under 18 years old with children under 12 months old receive priority for participation as space is available. Among the services provided by AFLPs are: promoting self-sufficiency by assisting teens in meeting their educational and career goals; promoting healthy personal and family relationships; and assisting teens and their children with access to health care resources and social services, including resources for finding and selecting a child care and development program as well as increasing their parenting skills to help them raise healthier children.

- ***California School Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE):*** The Cal-SAFE Program is designed to support the academic success of pregnant and parenting teens, increase the availability of support services for enrolled student, and provide child care and development services to their children. Eighteen school districts offer Cal-SAFE Programs.

Income Limits

- ***Cal-Learn:*** If the teen parent lives at home, her parent's income will be counted to determine if she and her child are eligible. If her parent is receiving CalWORKs, the baby will be added to the parent's case. If the teen parent lives with a relative, the relative's income will not be considered in determining eligibility.

- ***AFLPs:*** There are no income requirements for teens to participate in the AFLPs. However, there are State determined entrance criteria. In order to be eligible for AFLP, teens must be under 18 years of age, pregnant or parenting, and have a child less then 18 months old.

- ***Cal-SAFE:*** There are no income eligibility requirements for teens to participate in a Cal-SAFE program. Eighteen school districts host Cal-SAFE Programs, some of which offer child care and development services.

How to Connect

- ***Cal-Learn:*** For more information about Cal-Learn, including the eligibility requirements and the services available under the program including child care, contact the County of Los Angeles Cal-Learn toll free number at 1-800-511-2070, visit www.ladpss.org/dpss/calworks/callearn.cfm or call your local AFLP.

- ***AFLPs:*** Four organizations administer AFLPs that serve pregnant and parenting teens within their geographic area:

ALTAMED Health Services Corporation
Youth Services Division
512 South Indiana Street
Los Angeles, CA 90063
(323) 307-0160

ALTAMED Health Services Corporation Satellite Office:
711 East Wardlow Road, Suite 203
Long Beach, CA 900807
(562) 595-8040

El Nido Family Centers
460 Carson Plaza Drive, Suite 106
Carson, CA 90746
(310) 768-8030

El Nido Family Centers
1218 East Compton Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90020
(310) 223-0707

El Nido Family Centers
600 West Manchester Avenue, Suite 4
Los Angeles, CA 90044
(323) 971-4270

El Nido Family Centers
2152 West Manchester Avenue, Suite 4
Los Angeles, CA 90047
(323) 971-7360

El Nido Family Centers
1218 East Compton Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90020
(310) 223-0707

El Nido Family Centers
13460 Van Nuys Boulevard
Pacoima, CA 91331
(818) 896-7776

El Nido Family Centers
38345 30th Street East, Suite C
Palmdale, CA 93550
(661) 274-4192

Foothill Family Services
Teen Family Services
2500 East Foothill Boulevard, Suite 300
Pasadena, CA 91107
(626) 564-1613

Foothill Family Services Satellite Office:
West Covina Center
1215 W. West Covina Parkway, Suite 200
West Covina, CA 91790
(626) 338-9200

Project NATEEN
Childrens Hospital Los Angeles
4610 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90027
(323) 361-5981

- ***Cal-SAFE:*** Eighteen school districts throughout Los Angeles County offer Cal-SAFE programs as follows:

ABC Unified School District
(562) 926-7136

Baldwin Park Unified School District
(626) 962-3311 x5953

Bassett Unified School District
(626) 931-3005

Charter Oak Unified School District
(626) 966-8331 x214

Covina Valley Unified School District
(626) 974-6436

Glendale Unified School District
(818) 247-4805

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District
(626) 933-8879

Long Beach Unified School District
(562) 901-0168 x7183

Los Angeles County Office of Education
(562) 940-1865

Los Angeles Unified School District
(213) 241-8172

Montebello Unified School District
(323) 887-7900 x2330

Paramount Unified School District
(562) 602-6014

Pomona Unified School District
(909) 397-4740 x5636

Rowland Unified School District
(626) 913-0376

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
(310) 399-5865

Walnut Valley Unified School District
(909) 468-5208

West Covina Unified School District
(626) 931-1810 x7

Whittier Union High School District
(562) 698-8121 x1201

School Age Programs

Serving school age children from kindergarten up to 13 years old or through 12th grade

Families frequently face challenges seeking services for their children before and after school and when schools are not in session. This section describes two of the larger programs – the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and the After School Education and Safety Programs - targeted to school age children from kindergarten through 12th grade. It is not comprehensive in that the availability of school age programs is often determined by the offerings available through school districts, cities and local community-based organizations. Local schools are an excellent starting place for information about resources for school age children, some of which may be based on the school site, or at a community-based organization. While not intending to omit information on how individual school districts administer and operate their school age programs, special consideration is given in this section to Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) as it is the largest school district in the county as well as the state and among the largest in the country. Local libraries and County and City Park and Recreation Departments are other potential sources of services for school age children.

In addition to the programs listed in this section, income eligible families with children from birth to 13 years old may enroll in a CDE/CDD-contracted program as funding and space is available (see section on California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD)

Programs, specifically the Child Care and Development centers, Alternative Payment Programs and Family Child Care Home Education Networks).

Program Descriptions

- ***21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC):*** Provides before and after school programs for disadvantaged kindergarten through 12th grade students (particularly students attending schools in need of improvement) with academic enrichment opportunities and supportive services to help the students meet state and local standards in core content areas. The Centers also focus on family literacy and related educational supports. Most programs do not operate during vacation and summer breaks.

- ***After School Education and Safety (ASES) Programs:*** With funding from the CDE, schools and local community resources partner to provide literacy, academic enrichment and safe constructive alternatives for students in kindergarten through eighth/ninth grade (elementary and middle schools). Program elements include: 1) education and literacy through tutoring and homework assistance in academic subjects; and 2) education enrichment that includes recreation and prevention activities. ASES Programs operate for a minimum of 15 hours per week and at least until 6:00 p.m. on regular school days. Before School Programs operate one to two hours per day. Most programs do not operate during vacation and summer breaks.

- ***Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD – Beyond the Bell Branch):*** LAUSD, through its Beyond the Bell Branch and as the grant recipient and administrator of their district's 21st CCLC and ASES funds, contracts with a number of community-based organizations - such as LA's BEST, Woodcraft Rangers, LA Conservation Corps, Afterschool All-Stars, and more - to deliver before and after school services throughout their district. LAUSD also provides services directly through units such as the Youth Development Program (YDP), Youth Services Plus (YS Plus) and "Ready, Set, Go! – Before School Program". As such, LAUSD provides funds for the operation of the following programs that are designed to ensure that school age children have access to high quality, safe and supervised educational, enrichment and recreational programs:

  - *Beyond the Bell Branch:* An administrative department of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), ensures that all students within the district have access to high quality, safe and supervised educational, enrichment and recreational programs that engage and inspire learning and achievement beyond the regular school day. Beyond the Bell Branch connects students and youth to their home, school and community through a variety of programs that are provided and operated by the school district and its partner agencies before and after school and on weekends. Beyond the Bell programs offer academic intervention programs, before and after school programs, and free tutoring.

    - *LA's BEST (Better Educated Students for Tomorrow) After School Enrichment Program:* In a unique partnership with the City of Los Angeles and LAUSD, provides a safe haven for children, ages 5 to 12, at 180 elementary school sites each day during the critical hours after school at no cost to parents. LA's BEST provides its students with homework assistance, a cognitively based enrichment activity (i.e. science club, math club, literacy activity), a fun recreation activity of their choosing (i.e., dance, sports, art, cooking), and a nutritious snack. In addition to daily core

activities, LA's BEST has several enhanced programs in the arts, fitness, science and technology, typing, or literacy.

Income Limits

- ***21st CCLC and ASES:*** Every student attending a public school operating an ASES Program is eligible to participate as space allows. Any school and public or private organization operating a 21st CCLC must provide opportunities for the participation of both public and private school students in the area as space allows.

- ***Beyond the Bell Branch:*** The before and after school programs operated under Beyond the Bell Branch are available by application to students attending that particular school site as space is available. The free tutoring is available only to students eligible for free and reduced lunches and attending need to improve (Title I) schools.

- ***LA's BEST:*** Open to children who regularly attend a school where the program is located and at no cost to parents. Students are enrolled on a first come, first served basis with some spaces reserved for special referrals by principals and counselors of students whom they feel are in great need of such a program.

How to Connect

- ***21st CCLC and ASES:*** The R&Rs provide referrals to school age programs including 21st CCLCs and ASES programs. Families may call toll-free 1-888-922-4453 to be connected to their local R&R. Families are also encouraged to check with their child's school to find out if a 21st CCLC or ASES is hosted on the school site. If the school does not offer the services, contact the family's school district to find out if there are programs on other school sites and whether their child may enroll in the program.

- ***Beyond the Bell Branch:*** For more information about Beyond the Bell and its programs, visit http://btb.lausd.net or call (213) 241-7900.

- ***LA's BEST:*** Visit www.lasbest.org to learn more about the program offerings; to locate a school offering a LA's BEST program, click on 'Our Programs', then 'Our Schools'. For those without Internet access, call (213) 745-1900.