



County of Los Angeles
Office of Child Care
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OFFICE OF CHILD CARE: OVERVIEW

The Office of Child Care supports policy recommendation formulation, planning, and implementation efforts of the County of Los Angeles Policy Roundtable for Child Care and the Child Care Planning Committee to improve the availability, quality, and access to child care and development services in the County of Los Angeles.

POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE

The mission of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable) is to serve as the official County body on all matters relating to child care, working in collaboration with the Child Care Planning Committee and the Children's Planning Council, to strengthen the child care system and infrastructure in the County by providing policy recommendations to the Board.

Roundtable Projects

Steps to Excellence Project (STEP): STEP, a quality rating and support system, is being piloted in nine communities¹ throughout the County of Los Angeles. STEP is designed to create incentives and supports for child care and development programs – centers and family child care homes - to meet and maintain higher program standards and to provide parents with clear, concise information on the quality of individual child care and development settings

CHILD CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The mission of the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) is to engage parents, child care providers, allied organizations, community, and public agencies in collaborative planning efforts to improve the overall child care infrastructure of the County of Los Angeles, including the quality and continuity, affordability, and accessibility of child care and development services for all families.

Planning Committee Projects

Investing in Early Educators Project: The Investing in Early Educators Project, funded by the California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD), is comprised of two program components:

- **Stipend Program:** The Stipend Program is designed to increase the retention of teachers and family child care providers working in child development programs in which most of the children are subsidized by the CDE/CDD. Cash stipends are awarded based on the completion of college coursework that contributes towards a degree in child development. In addition, stipends are awarded for earning an Associate of Arts, Bachelor of Arts or Master Degree in child development or related field.

¹ The nine STEP pilot communities are Florence/Firestone, Inglewood, Long Beach, Pacoima/Arleta, Palmdale, Pasadena, Pomona, Santa Monica, and Wilmington.

- **Training Program:** The training program is open to administrators, directors and managers of child development centers and family child care home operators/licensees working in qualified programs serving children subsidized by the CDE/CDD.

Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL): The LACEL, funded by the CDE/CDD, helps connect low-income families with subsidized child care and development programs in Los Angeles County. Agencies offering subsidized child care and development use the LACEL to enroll eligible families from local communities into their programs as space and funding becomes available. Families are added to the list through their local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency or their neighborhood child care and development program that is funded by CDE/CDD.

Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning: The Planning Committee periodically conducts countywide needs assessments on the supply and demand for child care and development services in Los Angeles County. The data from the needs assessment is used to develop priorities for the allocation of new state or federal child care subsidy funds. In addition, the Planning Committee has developed a comprehensive strategic plan for child care and development services, specifying outcomes and goals intended to increase capacity, improve quality, enhance qualifications and compensation for providers, increase accessibility and affordability, and improve systems of information and service to families and providers.

Other Office of Child Care Projects

County Employee Child Care Centers: Assists County departments in developing employee child care services. There are currently 11 County child care and development programs. The programs offer quality care to children from six weeks to six years of age.

Policy and Legislation: On behalf of the Roundtable and Planning Committee, the Office of Child Care keeps abreast of research, economic trends, demographic shifts and trends, and Federal and State policies to develop recommended actions for consideration by the Board of Supervisors on issues relating to child care and development.

Research and Publications: On behalf of the Roundtable and Planning Committee, the Office of Child Care oversees research and the development of reports and publications that tackle issues relating to enhancing the quality of child care and development programs that are accessible and affordable for families and prepare all children for school and life success.

Web Site: Maintains a Web site with current information on the activities as outlined in this overview as well as helpful links and resources on an array of issues including but not limited to regulatory compliance; child care resource and referral agencies; assessing and enhancing quality; identification and inclusion of children with special needs; professional development; data, research, and policy; financing, funding, and technical assistance; professional associations and collaboratives; and connecting families to community resources.

For more information on the projects administered by Office of Child Care and on behalf of the Roundtable and Planning Committee, call (213) 974-4103 or visit our Web site at www.childcare.lacounty.org.