

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Connecting Children and Their Families to Early Care and Education Programs

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



OFFICE OF
CHILD CARE

POLICY • PLANNING • PRACTICE

Revised: August 2016

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Connecting Children and Their Families with Child Care and Development Programs



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

SACHI A. HAMAI
Chief Executive Officer

HARVEY KAWASAKI
Branch Manager and Interim Director, Office of Child Care

Office of Child Care
Within the Services Integration Branch of the Chief Executive Office
222 South Hill Street, 5th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90012
Office: (213) 947-5187
Fax: (213) 217-5106
www.childcare.lacounty.gov

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Office of Child Care is pleased to offer a series of handouts designed for organizations that work with children and families who need help accessing the early care and education system. The handouts may be duplicated and are available for download on the Office of Child Care website at www.childcare.lacounty.gov – click on “Navigating the Child Care and Development System”.

Making Choices: Child Care and Development Services

Connecting Families to Child Care and Development Services: A Case Management Approach

Case Management: Connecting Families to Child Care and Development Services

Using Child Care Resource and Referral Services

Maximizing Resources: Navigating the Subsidized Child Care and Development System

Registration and Enrollment: Developing a Portfolio for Child Care and Development

Preschool Programs Enrolling Now: State Preschool, Head Start and Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)

CASE MANAGEMENT:

CONNECTING FAMILIES TO CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The array of choices and requirements for subsidized child care and development services is not easy for many parents or primary caregivers*. It is particularly challenging for families experiencing extraordinary stress, such as interactions with the child welfare and/or probation systems. Case management or guidance through the process of obtaining information, applying for child care and development services, enrolling in a program, and then meeting the ongoing eligibility requirements is essential to ensuring successful long term outcomes for children and their families.

The following is a list of key points in the process where support may be critical:

Identifying the Need for Child Care and Development

- What type of care is needed? Is it available? Is the family eligible? How does the family access their child care and development options?
- Use the “*Making Choices: Subsidized Child Care and Development Services*” chart to help guide the conversation about what is needed and for whom.

Contacting the Appropriate Child Care Resource & Referral Agency (R&R)

- Refer to the “*Using Child Care Resource and Referral Services*” guide to help the parents or primary caregivers have the conversation with or to engage the R&R on their behalf.

Preparing for the Call to Enroll

- Assist the parents or primary caregivers in creating a portfolio of documents needed to respond to an invitation to enroll. Use the guide, “*Registration and Enrollment: Developing a Portfolio for Child Care and Development*”.
- Check with the parents or primary caregivers periodically about whether they have received anything in the mail or received a call relating to the availability of child care and development services. If parents or primary caregivers do not respond, they may lose their opportunity to enroll their child. Encourage them to respond quickly to any contact and to keep any appointments made with a child care and development agency or to call to reschedule ahead of time.

Maintaining the Subsidized Child Care and Development Services

- Check with the families periodically to see if the child care and development services are working well for them.
- Remind the family that if their income, family size, contact information, or anything else changes to contact the child care and development program to update their information. They should also maintain the documentation portfolio to verify any changes they report.

* Primary caregiver for the purposes of this document refers to relative caregivers, foster parents or legal guardians.



This page intentionally blank

USING CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL SERVICES

Contacting the local Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Agency is a first step to searching for an appropriate child care and development program, including requesting referrals to subsidized programs. Eight R&R Agencies throughout Los Angeles County provide families with referrals. Families call the L.A. County R&R Consumer Education Line at 1-888-922-4453 and then follow the instructions to connect to your local R&R Agency based on where you live or work.

Organizations working with families needing child care and development services are strongly encouraged to build working relationships with the R&Rs in their service area. Ideally, identify a single contact within the R&R who is familiar with the work and personnel of the referring organization so that when a staff person calls on behalf of a parent or primary caregiver* or the parent or primary caregiver calls directly, there is a basic understanding of need and circumstances.

Requesting Referrals

If there is no one contact, ask for the R&R department when you call. You will be connected to one of several R&R specialists assigned to searching a database for child care and development programs based on the parent or primary caregiver's stated needs and preferences.

1. Explain the particular need of the family:
 - "The parent or primary caregiver needs child care in order to continue to work"; **or**
 - "The child needs a part-day program to support his/her development"; **or**
 - "The parent or primary caregiver needs part-day, intermittent care in order to participate in counseling and support services."
2. Tell the R&R specialist up front if the family needs referrals to subsidized child care and development services.
3. The R&R specialist will request specific information from (or about) the family:
 - Ages of the children for whom care is needed
 - Home address and zip code
 - Hours, days child care and development services are needed
 - Why child care is needed, e.g. parent or primary caregiver is attending school, working, or participating in job training or is seeking a part-day program for the child's enrichment and school readiness or other
 - Where the services are needed, such as near home, school, or work (city, zip code)
 - Special considerations (such as a child with disabilities or other special needs, transportation issues, family's language is other than English)
 - Type of care family prefers: center-based or family child care home, full-day or part-day

* Primary caregiver for the purposes of this document refers to relative caregivers, foster parents or legal guardians.



4. Based on your answers, the R&R specialist will provide you with a list of referrals to child care and development programs that will most likely have openings. Typically, you will receive the following information:

- Name of centers and/or family child care home providers
- For centers, the addresses and telephone numbers
- For family child care homes, the nearest major cross streets and the providers' telephone numbers

Most referrals will be provided to you on the telephone the day you call. In some cases, the R&R specialist may call you later the same day or later in the week with a list of referrals.

5. When receiving resources and/or when contacting possible child care and development programs, ask about characteristics of the center or family child care home that may be important in working with the family. For example, ask about the training the child care provider or center staff has received in working with at-risk families. In addition, explore the willingness of the center or family child care provider to have contact with your organization for additional support in working with the child and the family. The R&R specialist may be able to provide this information, or you may need to request this information from the child care and development programs directly.
6. Ask for materials for evaluating the quality of the referred child care and development programs and providers during the telephone screening and visit.

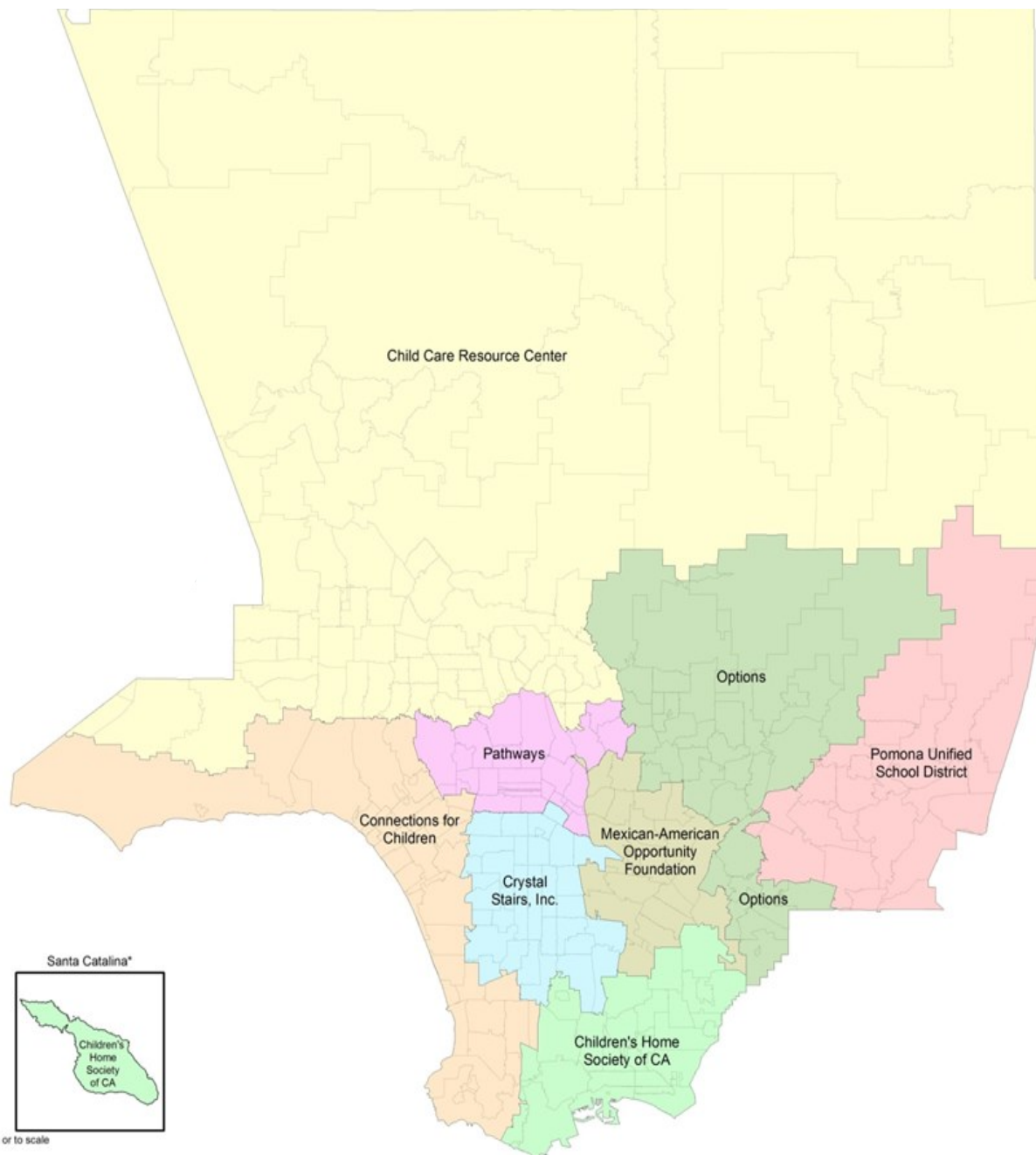
Researching the Referrals

1. It is up to the parent or primary caregiver to contact the centers and/or family child care home providers to conduct telephone interviews and/or schedule times to meet with them and visit their programs. There are quality checklists that may be helpful in determining the best situation for the child and the family. The R&R specialist can provide the parent or primary caregiver with such materials.

If the parent or primary caregiver is not satisfied with any of the centers or family child care homes that have been contacted and/or visited, call the R&R agency for additional referrals.

2. An in-person visit, with the child, to any potential center or family child care home is strongly encouraged. If possible, a joint visit by the parent or primary caregiver, child and support organization staff may be valuable in determining the best situation and establishing a working relationship with the new center or family child care provider. Ask about staff education and training, policies on payment, absences, etc. Does the center or family child care provider conduct developmental screenings of the children? How does the program use the developmental screenings? To whom do they refer families following a screening, if needed? Ask for the name of a parent who has used the program to call as a reference.
3. When a family needs a child care and development subsidy to access any of the referred services, they may conduct the visits in order to understand their choices and what is available. If the need is critical and the family can pay the cost of child care and development services for a period of time on their own without subsidy, then they are able to move forward to enrollment.

L.A. County Resource & Referral Service Areas



*Islands are not shown in its true location or to scale

Child Care Resource Center

(Antelope Valley, San Fernando Valley,
Santa Clarita Valley)

Ph: (818) 717-1000 or (661) 789-1200

Children's Home Society of CA

(For Child Care Referrals in the Greater Long Beach
Area Call **Ph: (562) 256-7400**)

**For information other than child care referrals
in the Greater Long Beach area contact:
1(888) 92-CHILD**

Connections for Children

(West L.A, Santa Monica, Culver City, Torrance,
Lomita and the beach cities)

Ph: (310) 452-3325

Crystal Stairs, Inc.

(South LA, Inglewood, Compton, Gardena,
Lynwood, Lawndale & Hawthorne)

Ph: (888) KIDS 247 or (888) 543-7247

Mexican American Opportunity Foundation

(East LA, Monterey Park, Montebello,
Paramount, Bell, South Gate, Huntington
Park, and surrounding areas)

Ph: (323) 890-1555

Options

(San Gabriel Valley, including Pasadena,
Monrovia, Alhambra, Baldwin Park)

**Ph: (626) 856-5900 or
(562) 945-2635 ext. 1**

Pathways

(Metro LA, West Hollywood, Mid-Wilshire,
Koreatown, Northeast LA)

Ph: (213) 427-2700

Pomona Unified School District Child Development Division

(Greater Pomona area, East San Gabriel valley)

**Ph: (909) 397-4740 x5289 or
(800) 822-5777 x6030**

**If you are unsure who to contact, call
1(888) 92- CHILD for an R&R within LA County
Or 1(800) KIDS-793 outside LA County**

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/Early Education and Support Division (CDE/EESD) 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/Early Education and Support Division Programs (CDE/EESD)
- Transitional Kindergarten
- California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CaWORKs) 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.

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 ²				Income Ceilings for CDE/EESD Programs ¹	
Family Size	Monthly Income (100% FPL)	Yearly Income (100% FPL) ²	Monthly Income (130% FPL)	Yearly Income (130% FPL)	Monthly Income (70% SMI)	Yearly Income (70% SMI)
1	\$990	\$11,880	\$1,287	\$15,444		
2	\$1,357	\$16,020	\$1,735	\$20,826	\$3,283	\$39,396
3	\$1,680	\$20,160	\$2,184	\$26,208	\$3,518	\$42,216
4	\$2,025	\$24,300	\$2,632	\$31,590	\$3,908	\$46,896
5	\$2,370	\$28,440	\$3,081	\$36,972	\$4,534	\$54,408
6	\$2,715	\$32,580	\$3,544	\$42,534	\$5,159	\$61,908
7	\$3,060	\$36,730	\$3,979	\$47,749	\$5,276	\$63,312
8	\$3,407	\$40,890	\$4,429	\$53,157	\$5,394	\$64,728

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/EESD 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 or 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/EESD-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.

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/EESD-contracted program.

¹ California Department of Education/Early Education and Support Division. Management Bulletin 11-06: Updated Child Development Income Ceilings. April 2011. Retrieved on August 2, 2016 from <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/mb1106.asp>.

² Federal Register. *Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines - 2016 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia*. January 1, 2016. Retrieved on August 2, 2016 from https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/01/25/2016-01450/annual-update-of-the-hhs-poverty-guidelines#table_of_tables.

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	\$11,880	\$15,444
2	\$16,020	\$20,826
3	\$20,160	\$26,208
4	\$24,300	\$31,590
5	\$28,440	\$36,972
6	\$32,580	\$42,534
7	\$36,730	\$47,749
8	\$40,890	\$53,157
For families/households with more than eight persons, add \$4,160 for each additional person.		

* Based on 2016 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 eight 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 the L.A. County R&R Consumer Education Line toll-free at 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/Early Education and Support Division (CDE/EESD) Programs

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

Program Descriptions

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

- **California State Preschool Programs (CSPPs):** Offer part-day, part-year developmentally appropriate child development services to three- and four-year old children from low income families living in the local community. Wrap around services available to parents presenting a need for full-day services. 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. 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 program. The following describes the unique features of the part-day program and with wrap-around component.
 - ☀ **CSPP Part-Day:** 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.
 - ☀ **CSPP with wrap-around:** Full day child development program for three- to four-year-old children from low-income families. To qualify for the wrap-around, 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.
- **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 11 agencies (including the eight 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 Program.

Income Limits

Families must be at or below 70% of the State Median Income (SMI) to enroll in a CDE/EESD-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/EESD.

Family Size	Family Monthly Income	Family Yearly Income
1-2	\$3,283	\$39,396
3	\$3,518	\$42,216
4	\$3,908	\$46,896
5	\$4,534	\$54,408
6	\$5,159	\$61,908
7	\$5,276	\$63,312
8	\$5,394	\$64,728
9	\$5,511	\$66,132
10	\$5,628	\$67,536
11	\$5,745	\$68,940
12	\$5,863	\$70,356

* Based on 70% of the 2007-08 State Median Income

Families enrolled in a CSPP, 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 \$17.75 per day for full day or \$1 to \$8.88 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/EESD-contracted program should contact their local R&R for referrals. Families may call the L.A. County R&R Consumer Education Line toll-free at 1-888-922-4453 to be connected to their local R&R. The R&Rs provide referrals to licensed child care and development programs – centers and family child care homes – including to CDE/EESD-contracted programs. For a listing of the CDE/EESD-contracted child care and development programs (alphabetically and by zip code), visit the Office of Child Care website at www.childcare.lacounty.gov; go to “Resources for Parents and Communities”.

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.

Transitional Kindergarten

Serving four year old children

Program Description

Established by the School Readiness Act of 2010 (SB 1381), Transitional kindergarten is intended to ensure that children are better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Transitional kindergarten is the first of a two year kindergarten program that uses a modified curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. The program is offered on a voluntary basis at every elementary or school district. Eligibility for transitional kindergarten is extended to children whose fifth birth falls on or between September 2nd and December 2nd of the academic school year.

Income Limits

Transitional kindergarten is free to all age eligible children regardless of income.

How to Connect

Parents interested in enrolling their children in a transitional program should contact their local elementary school or school district.

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 48 months 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. This exemption will be eliminated effective January 1, 2013.

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. 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 eligible for 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 2016;

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 2016-17 ³	
Family Size	Gross Income Limit
1	\$1,237
2	\$1,668
3	\$2,100
4	\$2,531
5	\$2,962
6	\$3,393
7	\$3,826
8	\$4,260
For family units with more than 8 members, add \$5,205 for each additional member.	

- **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 70% of the State Median Income for their family size or their children exceed the age limit or up to 24 months after they stop receiving cash aid.

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/EESD, 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.

³ 2016 CSBG Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Guidelines (Effective May 19, 2016). Retrieved on August 2, 2016 from http://file.lacounty.gov/dpss/cms1_246207.pdf.

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 qualify 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) for those teens considered most at risk; bonuses of \$100 up to four times per year for report cards with average grades of "C" or better, and no bonuses or sanction for report cards showing average grades of "D". Teens not making adequate progress in school or not attending school regularly without a good reason will be sanctioned based on their age as follows:

- ↓ For teen parents from 16 through 19 years old who are not attending school or making adequate progress, the family's cash aid will be lowered by the amount the family receives for the teen.
- ↓ For teens younger than 16 years old who are not attending school regularly, their family's cash aid will be lowered by the amount of cash aid the family receives for the teen's parent(s)/caretaker relative.
- ↓ For teens younger than 16 years old who are attending school but not making satisfactory progress, their family's cash aid will be lowered by the amount the family receives for the teen.

Teen parents participating in Cal-Learn receive Stage 1 Child Care; teen parents are not required to work, however must attend school. The 48 month 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 students, 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 than 18 months old.
- **Cal-SAFE:** There are no income eligibility requirements for teens to participate in a Cal-SAFE program. Sixteen 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:

<u>ALTAMED Health Services Corporation</u>	
Youth Services Division 512 South Indiana Street Los Angeles, CA 90063 (323) 307-0160	Satellite Office: 711 East Wardlow Road, Suite 203 Long Beach, CA 900807 (562) 595-8040
<u>El Nido Family Centers</u>	
Administrative Offices 10200 Sepulveda Boulevard, Suite 350 Mission Hills, CA 91345 (818) 830-3646	
2152 West Manchester Avenue, Suite 4 Los Angeles, CA 90047 (323) 971-7360	13460 Van Nuys Boulevard Pacoima, CA 91331 (818) 896-7776
<u>Foothill Family Services</u>	
Teen Family Services 2500 East Foothill Boulevard, Suite 300 Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 564-1613	Satellite Office: West Covina Center 1215 W. West Covina Parkway, Suite 200 West Covina, CA 91790 (626) 338-9200
<u>Project NATEEN</u>	
Children's Hospital Los Angeles 4610 Hollywood Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90027 (323) 361-5981	

Cal-SAFE: Sixteen 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

Los Angeles Unified School District

- Cleveland High School - (818) 349-8410
- Locke High School - (323) 755-0102
- Ramona High School - (323) 263-1120
- Roosevelt High School – (323) 780-6535

Montebello Unified School District
(323) 887-7900 x2482

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) 395-3204 x1167

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 x1312

****** Los Angeles County Office of Education does not offer Cal-SAFE, however does provide education services to pregnant and parenting teens; very limited child care is available. Call (562) 940-1864.

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 through 12 years old may enroll in a CDE/EESD-contracted program as funding and space is available (see section on California Department of Education/Early Education and Support

Division (CDE/EESD) 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 serve 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.

This page intentionally blank

REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT:

DEVELOPING A PORTFOLIO FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

The California Department of Education/Child Development Division-contracted child development programs require documentation to verify family and income status as well as work and school/training status of parents or other primary caregivers*. If there is more than one parent or primary caregiver in the home, or more than one adult with some responsibility for the care and shelter of the children, then documents for that other adult must also be maintained.

The following documents are important to collect and maintain in a safe place for easy reference and duplication when needed. Note that a number of items are relevant only when the child is under the custody of the parent.

- ☐ Copy of each child's original birth certificate.
Verifies the relationship between parents and children and to verify family size.
- ☐ Contact information for the employer: name and address of business, name of supervisor or manager, telephone number or e-mail address.
Used to contact the employer to verify employment and work schedule. Other methods may be used if contacting the employer would pose a risk to the parent or primary caregiver.
- ☐ Copies of other documents verifying income sources and amounts. Examples:
 - Copies of SSI, unemployment, or Workers Compensation checks for a month or more
 - Copies of child support checks*Used to document types of income other than from employment.*
- ☐ Work schedules, if the parent or primary caregiver works variable schedules from week to week or month to month. The schedule may be from work or the parent or primary caregiver may develop a record of past schedules by marking a calendar.
Verifies the hours and days care is needed.
- ☐ Copies of college or job training enrollment forms; transcripts or other grade/progress reports issued from the college or training institution; class or training schedules.
Verifies that the parent or primary caregiver's need for child care is due to participation in education or training.

If the child is residing under the custody of the parent(s):

- ☐ Copies of two to three months of pay stubs for each working parent in the family. The pay stubs should state gross and net income as well as the hours of work for the pay period if parent is paid by the hour. The dates on the pay stubs should be current. As new stubs are available, old ones may be discarded.
Verifies income for working parents.
- ☐ Copies of business licenses, tax returns, business cards or ads, space rental agreements, business invoices and receipts. In some instances, client appointment lists may be required.
Verifies that an individual is self-employed, their income from the self-employment or business, and the hours of work.

* Primary caregiver for the purposes of this document refers to relative caregivers, foster parents or legal guardians.



- ☐ Copies of legal separation or divorce papers, or rent receipts or rental agreements, utility bills, or other records that identify the head of household (applying parent or primary caregiver). The address on the records should match the address used by the parent to apply for care. Child support documentation or court orders may also be used to verify single parent status.

Necessary when the applying parent indicates they are a single parent and head of household.

Information needed when enrolling a child in a child care and development program. Many of the same records or documents will be needed when children enroll in elementary school.

- ☐ Copy of each child's original birth certificate with name, date of birth and gender.
- ☐ Parent or primary caregiver's contact information, including name, address and telephone numbers (e.g., home, work, school, and/or cell).
- ☐ Names and contact information of individuals who could be called in an emergency when parent or primary caregiver is unavailable.
- ☐ Physical form (provided by the child care and development program) with current TB clearance completed by a doctor. For your home records, keep forms from visits to pediatrician.
- ☐ Copy of each child's current Immunization Record (update annually).
- ☐ Any information about the child's food restrictions and allergies.
- ☐ Contact information, including the name, address and telephone number of the child's doctor, in case of emergency.
- ☐ Record of current medications, including the name of the doctor and instructions for providing the medications to the child.
- ☐ Rent receipts or utility bills to verify residence within a particular service area or school district.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS ENROLLING NOW

State Preschool and Head Start for Low-income Families

Attention: Parents, Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers of Preschool-Age Children

Children who participate in high quality preschool programs are better ready to learn when they enter kindergarten and the effects of a high quality preschool program are often long lasting. Parents, foster parents, and relative caregivers are encouraged to enroll their three- and four-year-old children in late winter/early spring for classes beginning in August and September in the current year and ending in June of the following year. If interested, act fast as programs fill up!

California State Preschool Program (CSPP)

What is a California State Preschool Program?

- **Free**, part-day (3½ hours) comprehensive child development program.
- Generally operates from August through June or September through June.
- Serves three- to four-year-old children from low-income families residing in the local community.
- Priority given to families with open cases with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), as space is available.
- Provides free meals and snacks.
- Also, provides parent education and encourages parent participation.
- Refers families, as needed, to health and social services.

*** Some CSPPs operate wrap-around for full-day services for income-eligible parents needing to maintain employment, meet work participation requirements, or participate in education or job training.*

What will I need to enroll my child?

- A copy of the child's original birth certificate.
- Child's current immunization record.
- Current address verification, such as utility bills.
- Documents to determine family size, such as birth certificates.
- Physician's Report Form provided by the State Preschool Program, indicating that the child has received a physical exam and is current with immunizations.

Head Start

What is Head Start?

- **Free** part-day (at least 3½ hours) child development program for low-income and disabled preschoolers.
- Generally operates from September to June; some full-year programs are available.
- Serves three- to five-year-old children from low-income families residing in the local community, with priority given to four-year-olds.
- Priority given to families most in need, including families at risk and/or in crisis, and children with disabilities.
- Comprehensive services, including social services, health, mental health, nutrition and parent involvement.
- Families receiving public assistance and children in foster care are eligible even if their family income exceeds the guidelines.

*** Some Head Start Programs operate a full day for income-eligible parents needing to maintain employment, meet work participation requirements, or participate in education or job training.*



What will I need?

- A copy of the child's original birth certificate.
- Child's current immunization record with TB test.
- Documentation of child's disability, if applicable.
- Documentation of family at risk or in crisis (i.e. court referral, treatment center, etc.), if applicable.
- Evidence of family's annual income.
- Proof of current address.
- Current physical report from child's doctor.

How Do I find a Preschool Program?

To learn more about California State Preschool Programs and Head Start and receive referrals to programs in your local community, contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (R&R) by calling the toll-free L.A. County R&R Consumer Education Line at 1-888-922.4453. R&Rs help families by providing referrals to an array of licensed child care and development programs for children from birth and up and by providing resources and referrals to low-income families eligible for child care subsidies. Be sure to ask for referrals to **California State Preschool and/or Head Start**. You may also receive referrals to Head Start Programs by calling, toll-free, 1-877-PRE-K-KID (773-5543).

In addition to your local R&R, information on finding and selecting high quality child care and development services is available from the National Association for the Education of Young Children at www.naeyc.org and the National Association for Family Child Care at www.nafcc.org.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to enroll your preschool age child in a free California State Preschool Program or Head Start Program.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



OFFICE OF
CHILD CARE

POLICY • PLANNING • PRACTICE