

# San Luis Obispo County Child Care Planning Council Needs Assessment 2018-2022



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# Introduction

## About the Child Care Planning Council

### Mission and Vision

The San Luis Obispo County Child Care Planning Council’s primary mission is *“to plan for child care and development services based on the needs of families in the local community.”* In partnership with families and the community, the Council plans for and promotes the highest quality and accessible services. The Council’s vision is that *“All families have access to quality child care and youth programs.”* The Council serves as a collective voice for children, youth, and families.



### History and Purpose

The San Luis Obispo County Child Care Planning Council (CCPC) was established in 1989 by the San Luis Obispo County Superintendent of Schools, Economic Opportunity Commission (now the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO)), and Pacific Gas & Electric – Diablo Canyon. Membership is listed in Appendix A at the end of this report.

In 1991, Congress established federal Child Care and Development Block Grants through which each state was allocated funds to assist low income families in obtaining child care and development services. As a result, a plan was developed to ensure that California would have a local voice to establish priorities in the allocation of these block grant funds in each community.

During the same year, California State Assembly Bill 2141 passed, establishing the creation of a Local Planning Council (LPC) in every county. LPC membership and responsibilities were revised in 1997, as mandated by Assembly Bill 1542. The mandated work of LPCs is outlined in the California Education Code 8499-8499.7:

- Complete a countywide needs assessment every five years at minimum.
- Develop a strategic plan based on the findings of the needs assessment.

- Foster partnerships designed to meet local child care needs.
- Establish county priorities for child care funding.
- Distribute transitional kindergarten funds for early childhood education (ECE) professional development.
- Administer AB 212 that supports retention and degree attainment in the ECE field.
- Facilitate the voluntary, temporary transfer of contract funds to maximize fiscal resources and utilization of child development funding.

This report represents the most recent efforts to produce a needs assessment relating to the child care and learning services available to children 0-12 years of age in San Luis Obispo County in order to identify new and continuing gaps in the child care delivery system. Information presented in this document is from various local, county, state, and national sources, with the intent to provide the most recent, reliable data. Please note that data tables for population totals and age group totals vary even within the same source and year, such as U.S. Census American Community Surveys and California Department of Finance.

In the fall of 2018, the Child Care Planning Council, in coordination with the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO) and Cal Poly University’s Sociology Department, designed and distributed a child care survey in all regions of the county. Please refer to Appendix B for survey questions and results. The 153 respondents’ information will further inform recommendations at the end of this document.

## San Luis Obispo County Geography and Demographics



San Luis Obispo County is approximately equidistant between San Francisco and Los Angeles, on California’s Central Coast. Neighboring counties are Monterey to the north, Santa Barbara to the south, and Kern to the east. San Luis Obispo County is considered semi-rural and medium-sized, with a total area of 3,299 square miles and 80 miles of coastline. The county is the 16th largest in California.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). *QuickFacts, San Luis Obispo County, California*. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/sanluisobispocountycalifornia>

The region is rich in natural beauty and possesses a temperate climate, thriving tourism, and an agricultural economy. These factors make it a desirable place to live or visit, but also drive its high cost of living.

The county has four distinct geographic regions: North Coast, North County, Central County, and South County. The majority of residents live along the coast. The county seat, San Luis Obispo, is 40 miles or more from some communities in the county. While some services are available in outlying areas, others are not. The Child Care Planning Council collaborates and coordinates efforts with organizations and agencies between and within regions to maximize County resources while successfully meeting regional needs.

Public transportation within regions varies considerably, and it can be especially spotty and time-consuming in the more rural areas. People without dependable personal transportation are sometimes reluctant to travel on the long, steep Cuesta Grade that separates the North County from the rest of the county.

## Demographics

In 2017, the county’s population was 279,210, a 3.9% increase from 2010.<sup>2</sup> San Luis Obispo County’s population is growing, but more slowly than nearby counties. According to the California Department of Finance, from 2015 to 2016, the county had a population increase of 0.6%, lower than the state’s growth of 0.9%, Monterey County’s 1%, and Santa Barbara County’s 0.8%.

**Table 1. San Luis Obispo County Estimated and Projected Population Change<sup>3 4</sup>**

| 2010    | 2017    | 2025    | % Change 2010-2017 | % Change 2010-2025 |
|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 269,031 | 278,532 | 292,729 | 3.5%               | 8.8%               |

**Table 2. San Luis Obispo County Population by Jurisdiction, 2017<sup>5</sup>**

| Region       | Area                          | 2010           | 2017           | % Change    |
|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Central      | San Luis Obispo               | 45,119         | 46,424         | 2.9%        |
| North Coast  | Morro Bay                     | 10,234         | 10,516         | 2.8%        |
| North County | Atascadero                    | 28,310         | 31,147         | 10%         |
|              | Paso Robles                   | 29,793         | 31,562         | 5.9%        |
| South County | Arroyo Grande                 | 17,252         | 17,874         | 3.6%        |
|              | Grover Beach                  | 13,156         | 13,593         | 3.3%        |
|              | Pismo Beach                   | 7,655          | 8209           | 7.2%        |
|              | Balance of County             | 118,118        | 119,897        | 5.2%        |
|              | <b>San Luis Obispo County</b> | <b>269,637</b> | <b>279,210</b> | <b>3.6%</b> |

<sup>2</sup> State of California Department of Finance (2018). *Table E-4 Population Estimates for Counties and State, 2011-2018 with 2011 Benchmark*. Retrieved from <http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/E-4/2010-18/>

<sup>3</sup> State of California Department of Finance. (2018). *Table E-4 Population Estimates for Counties and State, 2011-2018 with 2011 Benchmark*. Retrieved from <http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/E-4/2010-18/>

<sup>4</sup> State of California Department of Finance. (2018). *Total Estimated and Projected Population for California and Counties: July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2060 in 1-year Increments*. Retrieved from <http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Projections/>

<sup>5</sup> State of California Department of Finance. (2018). *E-1 Cities, Counties, and the State Population Estimates with Annual Percentage Change – January 1, 2017-2018*. Retrieved from <http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/E-1/>

## Age of Population

According to the *2016 Central Coast Economic Forecast*, “San Luis Obispo County’s population is considerably older than its neighbors”: the median age in 2015 was 38.7 compared to 34.0 in Monterey and Santa Barbara counties.<sup>6</sup> San Luis Obispo County has a higher percentage of 60-74-year-olds and those 75 or older compared with neighboring counties, the state, and country as a whole. Combined, these two age groups constitute 25.5% of the population.

Conversely, San Luis Obispo County has a smaller share of young residents less than five years old than other Central Coast counties, the state, and the nation. In 2015, it was 4.9%; in 2017 it was 4.7%.<sup>7 8</sup> Table 5 below shows another 1.8% decrease in children 0-5 by 2025.

**Table 3. Population Shares on the Central Coast, 2016<sup>9</sup>**

| Age               | Monterey    | San Luis Obispo | Santa Barbara | California  | United States |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Less than 5       | 7.7%        | 4.9%            | 6.5%          | 6.4%        | 6.2%          |
| 5-19              | 21.6%       | 18.1%           | 20.7%         | 19.6%       | 19.5%         |
| 20-34             | 22.2%       | 22.3%           | 24.4%         | 22.3%       | 20.7%         |
| 35-59             | 31.4%       | 29.2%           | 29.0%         | 33.0%       | 32.8%         |
| 60-74             | 11.8%       | 18.1%           | 12.8%         | 13.1%       | 14.6%         |
| 75 and older      | 5.4%        | 7.4%            | 6.6%          | 5.6%        | 6.3%          |
| <i>Median Age</i> | <i>34.0</i> | <i>38.7</i>     | <i>34.0</i>   | <i>36.2</i> | <i>37.8</i>   |

**Table 4. San Luis Obispo County Child Population, 2018<sup>10</sup>**

| Ages  | Number |
|-------|--------|
| 0-2   | 8,104  |
| 3-5   | 7,703  |
| 6-10  | 13,284 |
| 11-13 | 8,739  |
| 14-17 | 14,074 |
| Total | 51,974 |

<sup>6</sup> Thornberg, C., & Kleinhenz, R. (2016). *2016 Central Coast Economic Forecast*. Los Angeles, CA: Beacon Economics. Retrieved from <http://www.BeaconEcon.com>.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2016). *Demographic and Housing Estimates, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). *QuickFacts, San Luis Obispo County, California*.

<sup>9</sup> Thornberg, C., & Kleinhenz, R. (2016). *2016 Central Coast Economic Forecast*. Los Angeles, CA: Beacon Economics. Retrieved from <http://www.BeaconEcon.com>.

<sup>10</sup> Lucille Packard Foundation for Children’s Health. (2018). *Child population by age group, gender, and ethnicity, San Luis Obispo County*. Retrieved from <https://www.kidsdata.org/region/361/san-luis-obispo-county/summary#6/demographics>

The California Department of Finance reported that in 2017, county children ages 0-5 (15,579) comprised 5.6% of the county’s population; children ages 6-12 (19,205) comprised 6.9% of the population; and overall, children 0-12 comprised 12.5% of the population. In San Luis Obispo County, children ages 0-5 have decreased by 3.2% from 2010-2017, and from 2017-2025, they will decrease another 1.8%.<sup>11</sup>

**Table 5. Changes in number of San Luis Obispo County Children 0-12<sup>12</sup>**

| Age           | % Change 2010-2017 | % Change 2017-2025 |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 0-2           | -2.4%              | -1.9%              |
| 3-5           | -5.1%              | -0.6%              |
| Subtotal 0-5  | -3.2%              | -1.8%              |
| Subtotal 6-12 | -0.5%              | -1.4%              |
| All           | -1.7%              | -1.6%              |

A University of California Berkeley and American Institutes for Research report posits that California’s decreasing population of young children means that declining school enrollments may free up facilities for new pre-k classrooms in some counties. State and local resources saved from declining K-12 enrollment statewide could be redirected to expand and improve the quality of pre-k programs.<sup>13</sup>



## Diversity

Similar to the rest of the state, ethnic diversity has increased, with the white population projected to decrease 6% and the Hispanic population projected to increase 4.8% from 2010 to 2030. While 22.6% of the overall population was Hispanic in 2017, 39.8% of children in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade were Hispanic.<sup>14 15</sup>

<sup>11</sup> California Department of Finance. *Total Estimated and Projected Population (by single years of age) for California Counties: July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2060 in 1-Year Increments.*

<sup>12</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. (2018). *2017 Child Care Portfolio, San Luis Obispo County.*

<sup>13</sup> Manship, K., Jacobson, L., and Fuller, B., University of California Berkeley and American Institutes for Research. (July 2018). *Achieving Fair Access to Early Education: Fewer Children, Regional Gaps across California.* Berkeley, CA: University Of California Berkeley and American Institutes for Research.

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). *QuickFacts, San Luis Obispo County, California.*

<sup>15</sup> California Department of Education. (2018). *Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity and Grade, 2017-2018.*



From 2012-2016, 10.4% of San Luis Obispo County residents were foreign-born and 18.6% of persons ages five and over spoke a primary home language other than English.<sup>16</sup> According to the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network’s Child Care Portfolio, in 2017 80% spoke English; 16% spoke Spanish; 2% spoke an Asian or Pacific Islander language; and 2% spoke another language.<sup>17</sup>

**Table 6. San Luis Obispo County Race and Ethnicity<sup>18 19</sup>**

| Race/Ethnicity                   | 2010  | 2018  | 2030  | Change 2010-2018 | Children 0-17 2018 |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|--------------------|
| Am. Indian/Alaska Native         | 0.5%  | 0.4%  | 0.4%  | -0.1%            | 0.4%               |
| Asian                            | 3%    | 3.1%  | 3.5%  | 0.5%             | 2.5%               |
| Black/African-American           | 2%    | 2.1%  | 2.3%  | 0.3%             | 4.2%               |
| Hispanic/Latino                  | 20.8% | 23.4% | 25.6% | 4.8%             | 37.6%              |
| White                            | 71.4% | 68.5% | 65.4% | -6%              | 54.4%              |
| Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | 1.1%  | 0.08% | 0.07% | -1.03%           | 0.1%               |
| Two or more races                | 2.2%  | 2.3%  | 2.5%  | 0.3%             | 4.2%               |

Table 7 below shows the number of births in 2017 and kindergartners in 2017-2018 by ethnicity.<sup>20 21</sup> Over 20% of kindergartners and 13.4% of all K-12 students were English language learners. Of all kindergartners, 19.4% were Spanish speaking students and among all K-12 students, over 94% were Spanish speaking students in 2017-2018.<sup>22</sup>

**Table 7. Number of Births and Kindergartners in San Luis Obispo County**

|                | Number | White | Hispanic | Asian | African-American | Other | Unknown |
|----------------|--------|-------|----------|-------|------------------|-------|---------|
| Births         | 2,462  | 56.9% | 31%      | 2.8%  | 1.5%             | 1.3%  | 6.4%    |
| Kindergartners | 2,922  | 51.8% | 38.5%    | 1.5%  | 3.8%             | 7.5%  | 1.2     |

## Children in Migrant Agricultural Families

The San Luis Obispo County Migrant Education Program reports that there are 319 migrant children 0-12 in the 2018-2019 school year; 13.2% are in South County schools and 86.2% are North County schools.<sup>23</sup> CAPSLO operates Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) programs in nine California counties. In Nipomo (South SLO County) and Shandon (North SLO County), the program served 54 children in center-based and family child care options.

<sup>16</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). *QuickFacts, San Luis Obispo County, California*.

<sup>17</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. (2018). *2017 Child Care Portfolio, San Luis Obispo County*.

<sup>18</sup> California Department of Finance. (2018). *Total Estimated and Projected Population (by race/ethnicity) for California Counties: July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2060 in 1-Year Increments*.

<sup>19</sup> Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health. (2018). *Child population by age group, gender, and ethnicity, San Luis Obispo County*.

<sup>20</sup> San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department. (2018.) *Vital Statistics, 2017*.

<sup>21</sup> California Department of Education. (2018). *Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity and Grade, 2017-2018*.

<sup>22</sup> California Department of Education. (2018). *English Learners by Language and Grade, 2017-2018*.

<sup>23</sup> California State Migrant Student Information Network Database. (2018-2019).

Table 8. San Luis Obispo County Migrant Education Program Enrollment, 2018-2019

| District         | 0-2 | 3-5 | 6-12 | Total |
|------------------|-----|-----|------|-------|
| Atascadero       |     | 1   | 2    | 3     |
| Lucia Mar        | 4   | 6   | 32   | 42    |
| Paso Robles      | 19  | 34  | 141  | 194   |
| San Luis Coastal |     |     | 2    | 2     |
| San Miguel       | 6   | 16  | 51   | 73    |
| Shandon          |     | 1   | 4    | 5     |
| Total            | 29  | 58  | 232  | 319   |

There was a 9% decrease in migrant education enrollment across the state from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018. MSHS has also observed a decrease in the number of migrant children enrolled. Reasons for this include:

- The shift from migrant workers who move from place to place for agricultural employment to seasonal workers who stay in place with their families due to increased risk and fear of deportation that moving brings, especially to border states where ICE is even more vigilant. In addition, drought and climate change have altered the type of crops planted from labor-intensive, such as grapes and vegetables, to almonds and pistachios. Increased use of technology and mechanization also contribute. Further, when the job market is strong, as it currently is, agricultural workers have other options, such as landscaping, construction, and food service jobs other than working under arduous, dangerous circumstances in the field.
- Increased minimum wage and overtime laws are causing more families to not be income eligible for MSHS. The program can only enroll up to 10% of families who are over income per grant per year.
- Difficulty securing qualified, high-quality teachers and family child care providers limits the number of children that can be served. In the center-based option, state licensing mandates the child-teacher ratio of a classroom. If the program cannot recruit a sufficient number of suitable teachers to meet the ratio, a classroom cannot be opened until the ratio is met.

Some of these factors are reiterated and explained in the section on local issues and challenges affecting access to child care on page 19.



# Characteristics of Children and Families in San Luis Obispo County

## Family Economics

**Cost of living:** San Luis Obispo County consistently ranks in the top 10 most unaffordable places to live in the nation.<sup>24</sup> San Luis Obispo County's cost of living rate is 162, above the state's at 152, and the nation's at 100.<sup>25</sup>

**Cost of housing:** Housing is the primary factor in the cost of living difference. A study of 380 metro areas in the U.S. revealed that, among 25-40-year-olds, San Luis Obispo County ranked the sixth most difficult place to buy a home. An average worker would need to save over 25 years in order to afford a home.<sup>26</sup> Fair market rent is more expensive than 98% of other fair market rent areas in the country and 75% more expensive than the rest of California.<sup>27</sup>

**Low wages:** A stakeholder interview with the Economic Vitality Commission of San Luis Obispo County (as part of CAPSLO's 2018 comprehensive needs assessment) attributes wage disparity as one of the biggest problems: "Wages are very disproportionate to the cost of living and off kilter with surrounding communities and most of the state. Employers state that they can't afford to pay increased wages, yet they are unable to find qualified workers. Workforce housing is another big issue. There's a 'quality of life tax' that you have to be willing to pay when you live here."

**Child care:** According to the Economic Vitality Commission, child care is an issue for the county's workforce across all income levels in the county – and it's a problem for employers as well. The attached survey results confirm that concerns about cost and availability of child care cross income levels. A stakeholder interview with San Luis Obispo Council of Government senior planner indicated that, "The cost of child care is so high that it equals a salary. Two working parents have to weigh whether it's worth giving up a second income to have a second child. Sometimes they decide not to. In a county that has a declining young population, this can have a long-term impact."

**Transportation:** Between the high cost of gas and low public transit frequency in the county, transportation is an issue. An estimated 40% of jobs are in the City of San Luis Obispo and the vicinity, but only 20% of the county's housing units are in SLO. That means people must be able to afford to buy and maintain a car or depend on 45 minute-1 hour wait times for a bus.

These issues, which greatly impact families that are both eligible and not eligible for subsidized child care, are reaching a crisis point, resulting in skilled workers, including physicians, either leaving or not coming to the area to work; inability to attract (or maintain) early child caregivers and educators to the workforce; families deciding to limit the number of children they have; and a decrease in middle income families.

<sup>24</sup> Market Watch. (2016). *The most unaffordable place to live in America is...* Retrieved from <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/the-most-unaffordable-place-to-live-in-america-is-2016-06-23>

<sup>25</sup> Sperling's Best Places. (n.d.). *Cost of Living*. Retrieved from [https://www.bestplaces.net/cost\\_of\\_living/county/california/san\\_luis\\_obispo](https://www.bestplaces.net/cost_of_living/county/california/san_luis_obispo)

<sup>26</sup> Woodruff, Mandy. (2016). *Magnify Money: 2016 Housing Affordability Study*. Retrieved from <https://www.magnifymoney.com/blog/featured/magnifymoney-2016-housing-affordability-study/>

<sup>27</sup> RentData.org. (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.rentdata.org/san-luis-obispo-paso-robles-arroyo-grande-ca-msa/2018>.

## Income and Poverty

In 2017, median household income was \$71,880.<sup>28</sup> However, the median income data for households and families can mask concentrated pockets of households throughout the county that have significantly lower income averages, evidenced by the number of K-12 students participating in free and reduced lunch programs. In 2017-2018, 44.8% (15,546) of enrolled students ages 5-17 were participating in the Free and Reduced Meal Program countywide compared to 60.1 % statewide.<sup>29</sup>

A living wage is the amount of income needed to provide a decent standard of living in any location and is adjusted to compensate for inflation. Its purpose is to ensure that all full-time workers have enough money to live above the federal poverty level. A living wage calculator shows the hourly rate needed to pay for typical basic costs in a given location, including food, health care, rent, transportation, child care, and taxes. However, it is not enough to improve one's quality of life or protect against emergencies. It does not include saving for a rainy day, or paying for education loans, medical, auto, or renters/homeowners insurance, etc.<sup>30</sup>

The 2018 living wage for San Luis Obispo County, using MIT's living wage calculator, is shown in the table below. A living wage is the hourly rate that an individual must earn to support their family if they are the sole provider and working full time (2,080 hours per year). All values are per adult in a family. The state minimum wage is the same for all individuals regardless of how many dependents they may have. The poverty rate is typically quoted as gross annual income, converted to an hourly wage for the sake of comparison.<sup>31</sup>

Table 9. Living Wage Calculation for San Luis Obispo County, 2018

| Hourly wages | 1 Adult | 1 Adult<br>1 Child | 1 Adult<br>2 Children | 2 Adults<br>1 Working | 2 Adults<br>1 Working<br>1 Child | 2 Adults<br>1 Working<br>2 Children | 2 adults | 2 Adults<br>1 Child | 2 Adults<br>2 Children |
|--------------|---------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Living Wage  | \$12.87 | \$27.69            | \$32.96               | \$20.52               | \$24.88                          | \$28.10                             | \$10.26  | \$14.87             | \$18.18                |
| Poverty Wage | \$5.00  | \$7.00             | \$9.00                | \$7.00                | \$9.00                           | \$11.00                             | \$3.00   | \$4.00              | \$5.00                 |
| Minimum Wage | \$11.00 | \$11.00            | \$11.00               | \$11.00               | \$11.00                          | \$11.00                             | \$11.00  | \$11.00             | \$11.00                |

Table 10. Poverty in San Luis Obispo County, 2016<sup>32</sup>

| Population                | % <100% of Poverty Level |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| San Luis Obispo County    | 14.2%                    |
| Children under 5 years    | 15.1%                    |
| Children under 18 years   | 14%                      |
| Hispanic or Latino origin | 18.1%                    |
| Female householder        | 23%                      |

<sup>28</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). *Median Income in the Past 12 months, 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*.

<sup>29</sup> California Department of Education (2018). *Free and Reduced Price Meals, 2017-2018*.

<sup>30</sup> Amadeo, K. (2018). *Living wage and how it compares to the minimum wage: how much do you need to live in America?* Retrieved from <https://www.thebalance.com/living-wage-3305771>

<sup>31</sup> Glasmeir, A. K. (2018). *Living Wage Calculation for San Luis Obispo County California*. Cambridge, MA: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

<sup>32</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2016). *Selected Characteristics of People at Specific Levels of Poverty in the past 12 Months, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*.

Table 11. Estimated Number of Children by Age and Income Category, 2016<sup>33</sup>

| Age Group | At or below Federal Poverty Level<br>(Eligible for Head Start) | At or below 70% State median<br>income (Eligible for State Subsidy) | About 70% SMI |
|-----------|--|---|---------------|
| 0-2       | 964  | 2,584   | 5,198         |
| 3-4       | 650  | 1,263   | 3,984         |
| 5-12      | 2,798  | 8,962   | 13,794        |

## Public Assistance Utilization

According to the U.S. Census, in 2016, 16.3% of children lived in households that received supplemental security income, cash public assistance income, or food stamp/SNAP benefits.<sup>34</sup> The following number of persons receive one or more types of public assistance.

Table 12. Public Assistance Utilization in San Luis Obispo County<sup>35 36 37 38</sup>

| Type of Public Assistance                         | Number or Percent |
|---|-------------------|
| (January-June, 2018)                              | 1,463             |
| CalFresh/Food Stamps (January-June, 2018)         | 10,097            |
| Public Schools Free and Reduced Meals (2017-2018) | 15,546 (44.8%)    |
| WIC (enrolled children 0-5, 9/18)                 | 3,003             |
| Child Care Food Program (2017)                    | 2,113             |
| Medi-Cal (January-June, 2018)                     | 28,956            |
| General Assistance (January-June, 2018)           | 298               |

Table 13. Number of Children and Families Receiving by Age and Stage, 2018<sup>39</sup>

| Age Group | Stage 1 | Stage 2 | Stage 3 |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| 0-2       | 109     | 144     | 30      |
| 3-4       | 111     | 186     | 72      |
| 5-12      | 165     | 388     | 291     |

## Employment

Leisure and hospitality have been the largest contributor to the county's overall growth from 2016 to 2017, increasing payrolls by 4.5% (800 jobs). This is because the county is a prime destination for California residents as

<sup>33</sup> American Institutes for Research. (2016). *Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool*, San Luis Obispo County. Retrieved from <http://www.elneedsassessment.org/NeedsAssessment.aspx>

<sup>34</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2016). *Children Characteristics 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*.

<sup>35</sup> San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services (2018). *Semi-Annual Reports for January through June 2018*.

<sup>36</sup> California Department of Education. (2018). *Free and Reduced Meals, 2017-2018*.

<sup>37</sup> Brown, B., Paulson, S. (2018). *Child Care Food Program data, 2017*. San Luis Obispo, CA: Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc.

<sup>38</sup> McClure, L. (2018). *WIC Report, 9/17/18*. San Luis Obispo, CA: San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department.

<sup>39</sup> NoHo Child Care System. (2018)

well as visitors from other states and internationally. However, as the table below depicts, these jobs are low-paying. Furthermore, not only do these workforce parents need affordable child care, 17% request evening, weekend, or overnight care.<sup>40</sup>

California’s child care workers earn significantly less than their school-based counterparts. UC Berkeley found that in 2017, the median hourly wage for child care workers in California was \$12.29 – 1/3 of the median wage for kindergarten teachers. These low wages translate to 25% of child care workers living in poverty compared to 14% of all working adults ages 18-64 and 5% of K-12 teachers.<sup>41</sup>

Given that about 95% of child care workers not based in schools are women, particularly women of color (53%), they are most affected by low pay in the child care workforce. Additionally, child care workers are more likely to only have part-time work (1/3 compared with less than 1/4 of the overall workforce), which is associated with dramatically higher poverty rates than full-time employment.<sup>42</sup>

The social safety net is an important part of helping child care workers make ends meet. Half of all child care workers benefit from at least one safety net program or tax credit, with the two largest being CalFresh at 25% and the federal Earned Income Tax Credit at 37%. Without this assistance, poverty among child care workers would be 2.1 points higher without CalFresh and 2.5 points higher without the Earned Income Tax Credit.<sup>43</sup>

**Table 14. Leisure/Hospitality-Related and Child Care Industry Wages, 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. 2018<sup>44</sup>**

| Occupation  | Number of jobs* | Mean Hourly Wage | Mean Annual Wage |
|---|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Food Preparation and Serving-Related                | 14,460          | \$13.95          | \$29,007         |
| Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners                     | 1,570           | \$11.97          | \$24,913         |
| Landscaping and Grounds Keeping                     | 1,200           | \$16.06          | \$33,399         |
| Farmworkers & laborers, Crops, Nursery, Greenhouses | 1,900           | \$12.64          | \$26,291         |
| Preschool and Child Care Center Administrators      | 80              | \$21.81          | \$45,366         |
| Preschool Teachers                                  | 260             | \$15.26          | \$31,754         |
| Child Care Workers                                  | 380             | \$12.37          | \$25,736         |
| San Luis Obispo County average/mean                 | 216,630         | \$23.92          | \$49,753         |

\*May 2017 employment estimates

When median earnings for individual workers are examined, women and those without college degrees have lower median earnings. More than 78% of full-time, year-round female workers make less than the median than full-time, year-round male workers do: there is a \$13,000 disparity between the median incomes for these two groups (\$53,399 for men and \$40,420 for women).<sup>45</sup>

<sup>40</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. (2018). *2017 Child Care Portfolio, San Luis Obispo County*.

<sup>41</sup> Thorman, T., Danielson, C., & Bohn, S. Public Policy Institute of California. (October 16, 2018). *1 in 4 child care workers in California lives in poverty*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California.

<sup>42</sup> Thorman, T., Danielson, C., & Bohn, S. Public Policy Institute of California. (October 16, 2018). *1 in 4 child care workers in California lives in poverty*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California.

<sup>43</sup> Thorman, T., Danielson, C., & Bohn, S. Public Policy Institute of California. (October 16, 2018). *1 in 4 child care workers in California lives in poverty*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California.

<sup>44</sup> California Employment Development Department. (2018). *Occupational Employment Wages, First Quarter 2018*. Retrieved from <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/oes-employment-and-wages.html>

<sup>45</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. *Inflation-Adjusted Median Household Income, S2001. 2011-2015 American Community Survey*.

**Table 15. Income and Educational Attainment in San Luis Obispo County**

|                       | All      | Men      | Women    |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Total                 | \$44,314 | \$50,970 | \$35,969 |
| Less than High School | \$34,663 | \$44,602 | \$15,800 |
| High School Diploma   | \$31,625 | \$37,028 | \$27,351 |
| Some College          | \$40,209 | \$52,897 | \$31,993 |
| Bachelor's Degree     | \$52,174 | \$66,769 | \$47,737 |
| Graduate Degree+      | \$71,371 | \$87,047 | \$64,250 |

## Housing

As noted above, the county's cost of housing ranks sixth highest in the nation. In May 2018, the median average of a single home was \$638,660, a 12% increase over May 2017, and higher than the California median of \$600,860.<sup>46</sup> Fair Market Rent (FMR) prices in San Luis Obispo County are very high compared to the national average. FMR is more expensive than 98% of other fair market rent areas in the country and 75% more expensive than the rest of California. There was a 9% cost increase for a two-bedroom home over last year. In 2018, a studio is \$971; a one-bedroom is \$1,107; a two-bedroom is 1,127; a three-bedroom is \$2076; and a four-bedroom is \$2,513.<sup>47</sup>

Approximately 48% of renters in the county are cost burdened: they spend more than 30% of their income on housing. Twenty-two percent of SLO County renters spend 30-50% of their income on housing, making them moderately cost burdened. Nearly 26% of renters spend more than 50% of their income on rent, making them severely cost burdened. This means that there is little left for food, utilities, and health care. In addition to the high cost of housing, the county's low 3.6% rental vacancy rate exacerbates the difficulty for low-income families to find housing.<sup>48</sup>

Focus groups conducted among Head Start parents countywide (as part of CAPSLO's community needs assessments over the past 10 years) consistently reveal that families must double and triple up to afford rent, causing crowded households in which children do not fare well.<sup>49</sup> Families also live in substandard conditions. These factors may increase the number of families that are homeless.

## Children with Special Needs

The Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) and Tri-Counties Regional Center reports the following children with special needs for the 2017-2018 school year. An Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) is created if a child aged 0-2 is diagnosed with special needs; an individual education plan (IEP) is created for children aged 3 through the school years.

<sup>46</sup> Holden, L. (June 23, 2018). *California's median home price just set a new record – and SLO's is even higher*. San Luis Obispo Tribune.

<sup>47</sup> RentData.org. (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.rentdata.org/san-luis-obispo-paso-robles-arroyo-grande-ca-msa/2018>.

<sup>48</sup> Department of Numbers. (2017). *San Luis Obispo California Residential Rent and Rental Statistics*. Retrieved from <https://www.deptofnumbers.com/rent/california/san-luis-obispo/>

<sup>49</sup> Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health. (2014). *Children living in crowded households. Why is this topic important*. Retrieved from <https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/721/crowded-housing>

Table 16. Children with Special Needs, 2019<sup>50</sup>

| Age Group | IFSP | IEP   |
|-----------|------|-------|
| 0-2       | 36   |       |
| 3-4       |      | 424   |
| 5-12      |      | 2,537 |

In the 2017-2018 school year, the number of 2-5-year-olds diagnosed as having a speech or language impairment was 445; the number of 3-5-year-olds diagnosed with a health impairment was 45; and the number of 3-5-year-olds diagnosed with autism was 91.<sup>51</sup>

## Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2017, the substantiated child abuse rate was 10.9% of cases, most of which were due to general neglect.<sup>52</sup> In 2015, the rate of county children in foster care was 5.1 per thousand compared to the state rate of 5.8 per thousand.<sup>53</sup> From January-June 2017, 366 children 0-17 were in foster care; 78.4% were placed in San Luis Obispo County. Again, general neglect (74.3%) was the primary reason for initial placement. Contributing factors included drug or alcohol abuse, mental health issues, and/or domestic violence. Nearly 57% were white; 32% were Latino; and 5.7% were Black. Just over 29% (107) were ages 0-5 and 27.3% (100) were ages 6-12.<sup>54</sup>

Since January 2018, 53 children in foster care, ages 0-12 have been served by CAPSLO's Emergency Bridge Child Care Program (see description on P14).

## Health Indicators

SLO Health Counts reports that in 2016, 97.3% of children 0-17 had health insurance: 99% of children under six years old and 96.5% of children 6-17 had insurance. While 97.7% of white children had insurance, 96% of Latino children had insurance. Over 63% of Denti-Cal recipients had an annual dental visit by age 4-5. In 2017, 94.8% of kindergartners had the required immunizations in 2017. In 2016, 16.9% of children were food insecure and in 2015, 3% of children had low access to a grocery store.<sup>55</sup> In 2018, the San Luis Obispo County Food Bank Coalition reported that 40% of their clients were children under age 18.

## Child Care and Learning Delivery System

### Understanding the Data

**Demand:** All Local Planning Council Coordinators use the same percentages to determine the number of children who actually use licensed child care services at the average participation rate of 37% of children 0 -23 months, 70% of children 2-5 years, and 39% of children 6-12 years.

<sup>50</sup> Special Education Information System. (February 2019). San Luis Obispo, CA: San Luis Obispo County Office of Education.

<sup>51</sup> California Department of Education. (2018). *Special Education Enrollment by Age and Disability, 2017-2018*.

<sup>52</sup> San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department. (2018). *SLO Health Counts*. Retrieved from <http://www.slohealthcounts.org/indicators/index>

<sup>53</sup> Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health. (2015). *Children in Foster Care, San Luis Obispo County*. Retrieved from <https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/20/fostercare/table#fmt=2493&loc=361,2&tf=84&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc>

<sup>54</sup> San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services. (2018). *Snapshot of Children in Foster Care, January 1-June 30, 2017*.

<sup>55</sup> San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department. (2018). *SLO Health Counts*.



**Supply:** Child care/learning program specific data, such as number of programs, licensed capacity, and spaces available, should be viewed as a “snapshot” of the data at the moment in time in which it was collected. As families’ needs change due to economic pressures, employment, housing, and transportation, child care/learning programs may change the numbers and ages of children they serve, adapting to the changing needs of families and to maintain full enrollment.

**Center vs Family Child Care Capacity:** Centers are licensed for a maximum number of children by age. By reviewing licensing records, it is fairly simple to collect data on “maximum licensed capacity” for centers by age. However, Family Child Care (FCC) homes are not licensed to provide care for children in a specific age group. They are licensed for a maximum number of children, either 6-8 or 12-14 children, 0-12 years. For this reason, the maximum license capacity for small FCC homes is listed as six spaces for children 0-5 and two school-age children, and for large FCC homes, as 12 spaces for children 0-5 and two spaces for school-age children. A more detailed explanation on types of child care is included in a later section.

**Maximum vs Desired Capacity:** Licensed capacity is the maximum number of children a program is licensed to provide services to at any one time. In order to improve the quality of care, many centers and FCCs operate at “desired capacity.” For example, if a center has two infant classrooms, each is licensed to provide care for a maximum of eight infants under the supervision of two staff. For a 1-4 teacher/child ratio, the maximum license capacity for the center would be 16 infants. However, to improve program quality, they may choose to operate at a lower teacher/child ratio of 1-3, and smaller group size of six infants in each classroom, giving a “desired capacity” of 12 infants. While “desired capacity” increases the quality of care, it can significantly decrease the number of spaces available. Programs may also have a lower capacity due to staffing issues.



## Types of Programs

There are three types of child care: child care centers, family child care homes, and exempt programs. Child care centers and family child care homes each have their own licensing regulations. Exempt programs are providers or programs that meet certain criteria and are exempt from licensing requirements. The California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division is responsible for licensing child care centers and FCC homes to ensure that minimum health and safety standards are met. Licensed child care programs are inspected prior to licensure and must meet the applicable licensing regulations at all times. Beyond the general licensing regulations, each program sets their own admission criteria, program standards, operating hours, fees for service, policies and procedures.

The quality or educational value of a program is not determined by the program type, such as child care center or FCC home, or by the name of the program. Child care programs can operate under a variety of names – preschool, nursery school, child care, day care, children’s center, or simply school. There are no additional regulations for a program to meet in order to call their program a preschool as opposed to a child care center. The distinction more often lies in the hours of operation – full-time versus part-time. A high quality program, no matter what it is called or if it is in a center or FCC home, offers developmentally appropriate activities that meet the social/emotional, cognitive, and physical development needs of all children. This kind of program variety allows for a wide range of choices to best meet each family’s needs.

**Child Care Centers** provide child care and supervision to infants, toddlers, preschool-age, and/or school-age children and are usually in public or private buildings, schools or church facilities. A license is required for each age group a center provides care for – infants and toddlers, preschool-age, and school-age children, although care for any combination of age groups can be provided at a single site. Each license specifies the maximum number of children by age that the program is licensed to serve at any one time.



- Infant centers are licensed to care for infants and toddlers under age 2.
- Preschool centers are licensed to care for children 2-5 years of age.
- Toddler option is available to centers licensed to care for infants and/or preschool age children that want to include toddlers 18-30 months. Programs can fill a specified number of slots with toddlers 18-30 months.
- Parent Cooperatives are centers that allow parents to serve as teachers and aides under the supervision of a qualified director.

- School-age option is available to centers licensed to serve children ages 2-5 that want to include children enrolled in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, or above. The program can fill a specific number of preschool slots with school-age children 5 and older.
- Centers for Mildly Ill children are licensed to provide non-medical care to mildly ill children of all ages. Mildly ill can include conditions such as diarrhea due to confirmed Shigella, Salmonella, or Giardia; contagious stages of chickenpox, measles, and mumps or recovering from cold or flu. Level I centers operate as components of a child care center and may only serve those children who are enrolled in the regular program. Level II centers are freestanding facilities and may care for children regardless of their regular child care situation.<sup>56</sup>

**Family Child Care Homes** are operated in the licensee’s own home. FCC programs are in a residential setting and provide a home-like environment. The number of children counted in FCC programs includes the licensee’s own children who are under the age of 10. FCC programs can provide care for a mixture of infants, toddlers, preschool-age, or school-age children together in one group, what is commonly referred to as “mixed-age grouping.”

<sup>56</sup> California Department of Education. (2014). *Regulations for Child Care Centers for Mildly Ill Children*. 22 CCR 101552. Retrieved from [https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/7\\_CA\\_28%20Regulations\\_Chapter%201\\_0.pdf](https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/7_CA_28%20Regulations_Chapter%201_0.pdf)

- Small FCC programs are licensed to care for six children when no more than three infants are present or four infants only. They may care for up to eight children if they have landlord permission and at least two of the children are 6-years or older and no more than two are infants.
- Large FCC programs are licensed to care for 12 children, must have a second caregiver present, and no more than four of the children may be infants. A large family child care home may care for up to 14 children if they have landlord permission and a least two of the children are six years or older and no more than 3 are infants.

**License-Exempt Care:** Some programs for children are not required to be licensed although they may have other statutory requirements. Some programs in these categories, although exempt, may choose to become licensed. Exempt programs may include: special education programs; after-school or recreational program; adult education child care programs; or child care provided by a relative, friend or neighbor.

**Trustline Registry:** Statutory of license-exempt child care providers who have received a criminal background clearance through California the Department of Justice and FBI. License-exempt family, friend, or neighbor and in-home providers (except grandparents, aunts and uncles) must be Trustlined to receive payment through state and federal subsidy programs.

**Resource and Referral:** CAPSLO's Child Care Resource Connection (CCRC) is the designated Resource and Referral Program for San Luis Obispo County. They provide child care planning and referrals (in person, by phone, or through an online "Find Child Care" tool at <http://findchildcareslo.capslo.org>; assistance with the FCC licensing process; provider training and support for quality; child care data on need and supply; a toy and resource lending library; and sponsor the Child and Adult Care Food program for FCC providers in San Luis Obispo County.



## State and Federally Funded Programs

**Head Start/Early Head Start:** Head Start serves children 3-5 years and Early Head Start serves children 6 weeks to 3 years. These programs are widely recognized as providing quality care for children of low-income families earning less than the federal poverty guidelines. Following Head Start performance standards, these programs provide a comprehensive range of services for the child and family, including health, mental health, oral health, nutrition, disabilities, parent engagement, and other services to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs. Ten percent of enrollment is reserved for children with special needs. Head Start and Early Head Start offer center-based, home-based, and family child care options.

**Migrant and Seasonal Head Start:** MSHS serves families whose primary income comes from agricultural work. The same comprehensive range of services for children and families is offered following Head Start performance standards. Center-based and family child care options are offered.



**State Migrant (CMIG):** This program also provides services to families who earn at least 50% of their gross income from employment and fishing, agriculture, or agriculturally related work during the 12 month period immediately preceding the date of application. These programs provide child development services for children birth-12 years of age and older children with exceptional needs. They include an educational component that is culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate for the children served.

**State Preschool (CSPP):** State funded programs provide a part-day developmentally appropriate curriculum to benefit the social/emotional, physical, cognitive, language, and creative development of children 3- and 4-years olds in low-income families. A major component of State Preschool is an emphasis on parent participation.

**General Child Care and Development (CCTR):** State funded programs are committed to providing a developmentally appropriate program in an enriched environment to benefit the children's social/emotional, physical, cognitive, language, and creative development. Open to children between the ages of 4-months to 5-years, they offer full-day, full-year programs open to working families and those attending vocational programs. Some programs may have additional enrollment priorities. Fees are charged on a sliding scale based on family size and income.

**Alternative Payment Program:** CAPSLO's CCRC is contracted with the State of California to pay for the cost of child care for eligible, low-income families. Help with paying child care costs enables these families to remain in the workforce and/or to obtain necessary training for self-sufficiency. The subsidized child care assistance programs will pay for child care while eligible parents are employed, seeking employment, in a training program, or in a treatment modality. Parents can choose from a variety of child care options: licensed FCC homes, child care centers, in-home and/or exempt care.

**Public Preschool:** Two local school districts provide preschool programs for children 3-transitional kindergarten age with appropriate child to staff ratios. Programs focus on children's social, emotional, physical, communication, and cognitive development using California Department of Education's Preschool Learning Foundations and Preschool Curriculum Framework.

**Transitional Kindergarten:** Transitional kindergarten (TK) programs serve as a bridge between pre-school and kindergarten in local school districts. TK in San Luis Obispo County only offer part day programs with the option for families to pay out of pocket for after school care. There is limited funding and scholarships to assist families

with these costs. There is an effort to bring uniformity to TK programs throughout the county with the support of the early care and education community.

**After-School Programs:** Schools are able to provide before- and/or after-school programs using state and federal funding. Some schools choose to operate their own program; other schools opt to contract for services provided by Parks and Recreation, YMCA, or a private provider.

**Child Care for Foster Children:** The Emergency Foster Care Bridge Program addresses the lack of child care as a barrier for families otherwise willing to bring a foster child into their home. It provides vouchers for child care; child care navigator services for families seeking child care and trauma informed care training and coaching for child care providers to enhance their ability to provide nurturing and safe environments for foster children. The Bridge Program is a time-limited “bridge” to longer-term, stable child care solutions.

**Employer-offered or subsidized programs:** San Luis Obispo County has a limited number of employers that offer subsidized on-site child care, with employees paying at least some of the fees. Although located on site, programs are not always accessible due to lack of slots, cost, and ages served. However, employers are learning the value of investing in child care for their workforce.

Table 17. Children Enrolled in San Luis Obispo County Child Care and Development Programs, 2016<sup>57 58 59 60</sup>

| Funding/Program Type             | Infants/toddlers<br>0-2 | Preschool<br>3-5 | School-age<br>6-12 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Full-Day Center (CCTR)           | 140                     | 34               | 50                 |
| CA State Preschool CSPP Full-Day |                         | 88               |                    |
| CA State Preschool CSPP Part-Day |                         | 310              |                    |
| Migrant (CMIG)                   | 4                       | 5                | 0                  |
| Handicap Program                 | 0                       | 0                | 0                  |
| Alternative Payment (Voucher)    | 40                      | 56               | 78                 |
| Stage 1                          | 12                      | 121              | 165                |
| Stage 2                          | 69                      | 97               | 78                 |
| Stage 3                          | 15                      | 53               | 101                |
| Migrant and Seasonal Head Start  | 19                      | 101              |                    |
| Head Start/Early Head Start      | 368                     | 387              |                    |
| Transitional Kindergarten        |                         | 483              |                    |

<sup>57</sup> American Institutes for Research (2016). *Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, San Luis Obispo County.*

<sup>58</sup> NoHo Child Care System. (2016). *CalWorks Stage 1 Enrollment, San Luis Obispo County.*

<sup>59</sup> Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (2016-2017). *Program Information Report, San Luis Obispo County.*

<sup>60</sup> Head Start/Early Head Start. (2016-2017). *Program Information Report, San Luis Obispo County.*

## Access to Child Care and Early Learning Programs

### Local issues and challenges affecting access to child care

- **Shortage of child care and lack of choice** countywide, particularly in high cost communities, such as San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande, Cambria, and Templeton. Additionally, 40% of the county workforce works in City of San Luis Obispo, which greatly exacerbates choices available in the central part of the county.
- **Decrease in family child care providers:** In 2016, there were 265 FCC provider homes; currently, there are 218 FCC providers, a 17.7% change.<sup>61</sup> This is significant because FCC programs often provide full-time care and are the only licensed programs that provide care during nontraditional hours, such as evening and weekends. FCC caregivers also provide a substantial portion of the infant/toddler care in the county. These shortages affect families receiving subsidies for child care. Many counties across the state have experienced a decrease in family child care homes.
- **Eligibility:** The increase in minimum wage, stepped annually \$1 per hour per year until \$15 per hour by 2022 is placing families just above poverty guidelines, which affects their eligibility for publicly funded programs, such as child care subsidies, Head Start, etc. To complicate issues, 46% of local child care centers have at least one federal, state, or local contract that have income-eligibility requirements.<sup>62</sup> This means that programs are not accessible to everyone, causing even fewer choices. For example, Head Start centers might be under enrolled and underutilized, but private pay parents cannot access them.
- **Shortage of infant/toddler care:** Despite a recent slight increase in capacity (refer to Table 20), there is still a shortage of infant/toddler care in the county. Of all child care requests, 49% are for children under age 2, 36% are for 2-5-year-olds, and 15% are for 6-year-olds and older.<sup>63</sup> Additionally, the demand for full-time child care is greatest for infants and toddlers.
- **Need for nontraditional hours:** 17% of requests for child care are for evening, weekend, or overnight care to accommodate for the leisure and hospitality industry and other nontraditional working hour occupations, yet only an estimated 11% of county slots for children offer nontraditional care.<sup>64</sup>
- **Cost:** The high cost of child care places a burden across all income levels, especially for low-income families in light of the cost of living and unaffordable housing. The average annual cost for an infant in a licensed center (\$14,181) in SLO County is more than a year of University of California tuition (\$12,240).<sup>65 66</sup>
- **Decrease in early child care educator workforce:** Possibly due to low pay and lack of professional regard, public and private centers are finding it increasingly difficult to hire teachers and child care staff and recruit family child care providers across the county.
- **Fragmented child care system:** Lack of coordination among agencies and school districts that provide child care options creates competition for limited dollars and sometimes children. This prevents more families from being served. Systems-level changes in child care administration could help solve many of the issues highlighted below.
- **Decrease in 0-5 population:** As Table 5 indicates, since 2010 there has been a 3.2% decrease in the number of children 0-5 and 1.7% decrease in children 0-12. From 2017-2025, there is projected to be a 1.8% decrease in children 0-5 and a 1.6% decrease in children 0-12. This projection accounts for the increase in the Hispanic population, which experiences a slightly higher birth rate than Caucasians.<sup>67</sup>

<sup>61</sup> CAPSLO Resource and Referral Program. (January 2019).

<sup>62</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network (2018). *2017 Child Care Portfolio, San Luis Obispo County.*

<sup>63</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. (2018). *2017 Child Care Portfolio, San Luis Obispo County.*

<sup>64</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. (2018). *2017 Child Care Portfolio, San Luis Obispo County.*

<sup>65</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. (2018). *2017 Child Care Portfolio, San Luis Obispo County.*

<sup>66</sup> Children Now. (2019). *2018 California Children's Report Card.*

<sup>67</sup> California Department of Finance. (2018). *Total estimated and projected population (by single years of age) for California Counties: July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2060 in 1-Year Increments.*

According to the American Institutes for Research Report, the number of young children 0-5 is declining statewide, except for several mostly Central Valley counties. The report posits that declining school enrollments may free up facilities for new pre-k classrooms in some counties. State and local resources saved from declining K-12 enrollment statewide could be redirected to expand and improve the quality of pre-k programs.<sup>68</sup>

## Demand and Supply for Child Care

Among children 0-12 with parents in the labor force, a licensed child care slot was available for only 30% (7,492) in 2016. The major reasons parents seek child care are for employment (85%); in school or training (8%); and need for alternative care (5%).<sup>69</sup> Some parents choose child care for enrichment purposes.

Table 18. Demand for Child Care and Development Services, 2016<sup>70</sup>

| Demand Populations  | Ages 0-2 | Ages 3-4 | Ages 5-12 |
|---|----------|----------|-----------|
| Children in families with working parents at or below 70% state median income (SMI) | 2,168    | 1,716    | 7,354     |
| Children with all parents in workforce (all income levels)                          | 5,141    | 3,381    | 15,295    |
| 3-4-year-olds with at least one nonworking parent (all income levels)               |          | 1,866    |           |
| 3-4-year-olds with at least one nonworking parent in family at or below 70% SMI     |          | 4,053    |           |

Because the majority of parents need child care because of employment, parents must have full-time care so they can work. Many low-income parents who work in the tourism industry (hotels and restaurants) are in need of alternative hours and days. Most public preschool and transitional kindergarten programs are half-day.

According to the U.S. Census in 2016, 46.9% of 3- to 4-year-olds in the county were enrolled in preschool compared to the state rate of 48.6%; of these, 52.9% were enrolled in a public program and 47.1% were enrolled in a private program.<sup>71</sup>

Table 19. Available Full-Time and Part-Time Slots, 2017<sup>72</sup>

| Schedule                         | Licensed Child Care Centers | Licensed Family Child Care Homes |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Full-time and part-time slots    | 67%                         | 86%                              |
| Only full-time slots             | 13%                         | 12%                              |
| Only part-time slots             | 20%                         | 3%                               |
| Evening, weekend, overnight care | 0%                          | 35%                              |

As noted above, the county's supply of licensed FCC providers continues to decline, impacting the amount of full-time care, nontraditional hours, and infant/toddler care offered to parents countywide.

<sup>68</sup> Manship, K., Jacobson, L., and Fuller, B. (2018). *Achieving Fair Access to Early Education: Fewer Children, Regional Gaps across California*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Berkeley and American Institutes for Research.

<sup>69</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. (2018). *2017 Child Care Portfolio, San Luis Obispo County*.

<sup>70</sup> American Institutes for Research (2016). *Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, San Luis Obispo County*.

<sup>71</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2016). *School Enrollment. 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*.

<sup>72</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. (2018). *2017 Child Care Portfolio, San Luis Obispo County*.

Table 20. Licensed Capacity to Serve Families by Age and Type, 2017<sup>73</sup>

| Age & Type              | Licensed Child Care Centers |       |        | Licensed Family Child Care Homes |       |        |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|--------|----------------------------------|-------|--------|
|                         | 2014                        | 2017  | Change | 2014                             | 2017  | Change |
| <b>Total # of slots</b> | 4,579                       | 4,850 | 5.9%   | 2,554                            | 2,520 | -1.3 % |
| <b>Under 2</b>          | 222                         | 237   | 6.8%   |                                  |       |        |
| <b>2-5 years</b>        | 3,213                       | 3,467 | 7.9%   |                                  |       |        |
| <b>6 years +</b>        | 1,144                       | 1,146 | 1.7%   |                                  |       |        |
| <b>Total # of sites</b> | 106                         | 113   | 6.6%   | 245                              | 234   | -4.5%  |

The table below represents data from the county-designated Resource and Referral Program from July 2017 to June 2018. The numbers provided do not account for the following factors: everyone does not find child care through this program and some are not even aware of it; programs already have other children or are full so that more children referred per month exacerbates the supply; when a referral counselor knows there aren't any programs in the community that meet a family's need for hours, ages, etc., they do not include that community in the referral search, so it isn't counted as that community's referral; and other reasons. As noted above, a licensed child care slot was available for only 30% of children with parents in the workforce in 2016.

Table 21. County and Regional Child Care Supply and Demand, June 2018<sup>74</sup>

| Supply                                     | Demand  |
|--|---|
| <b>San Luis Obispo County</b>              | <b>Monthly Average Requests</b>                           |
| 341 Licensed Child Care Programs           | 317 requests for 395 children                             |
| 229 Licensed FCC sites (care in a home)    | 74% request for full-time care                            |
| 112 Licensed center-based sites            | 160 infant/toddlers<br>156 preschool age<br>79 school-age |
| Licensed capacity to serve 14,310 children |   |
| <b>Central Region (SLO City)</b>           | <b>Monthly Average Requests</b>                           |
| 68 Licensed Child Care Programs            | 64 requests for 74 children                               |
| 32 Licensed FCC sites                      | 80% request for full-time care                            |
| 36 Licensed center-based sites             | 44 infant/toddlers<br>24 preschool age<br>6 school-age    |
| Licensed capacity to serve 2,837 children  |   |
| <b>North Coast Region</b>                  | <b>Monthly Average Requests</b>                           |
| 25 Licensed Child Care Programs            | 21 requests for 25 children                               |
| 15 Licensed FCC sites                      | 76% request for full-time care                            |
| 10 Licensed center-based sites             | 4 infant/toddlers   |

<sup>73</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. (2018). *2017 Child Care Portfolio, San Luis Obispo County*.

<sup>74</sup> CAPSLO Resource and Referral Program. (2018).



|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | 17 preschool age<br>4 school-age                        |
| Licensed capacity to serve 1,268 children |   |
| <b>North County Region</b>                | <b>Monthly Average Requests</b>                         |
| 151 Licensed Child Care Programs          | 85 requests for 111 children                            |
| 110 Licensed FCC sites                    | 70% request for full-time care                          |
| 41 Licensed center-based sites            | 38 infant/toddlers<br>49 preschool age<br>24 school-age |
| Licensed capacity to serve 6,103 children |   |
| <b>South County Region</b>                | <b>Monthly Average Requests</b>                         |
| 97 Licensed Child Care Programs           | 81 requests for 89 children                             |
| 72 Licensed FCC sites                     | 72% request for full-time care                          |
| 25 Licensed center-based sites            | 46 infant/toddlers<br>35 preschool age<br>8 school-age  |
| Licensed capacity to serve 2,837 children |   |

While the Child Care Planning Council is required to report priorities on child care need based on slots in the county, the table below examines state funded programs only. Without access to a centralized eligibility list, it is difficult to ascertain unduplicated enrollment wait lists without compromising confidentiality. However, there has been a demonstrated need for child care across populated regions of the county. This priority report only reflects families that have chosen to begin the eligibility process with state funded programs and does not reflect all families seeking child care.

Table 22. Child Care Planning Council Priorities Based on State Slots, 2017<sup>75</sup>

| City            | CCPC Priority | City        | CCPC Priority | City            | CCPC Priority |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| San Luis Obispo | 1             | Los Osos    | 2             | Santa Margarita | 3             |
| Paso Robles     | 1             | Oceano      | 2             | Pismo Beach     | 3             |
| Nipomo          | 1             | San Miguel  | 2             | Shandon         | 3             |
| Atascadero      | 1             | Templeton   | 2             | San Simeon      | 3             |
| Grover Beach    | 1             | Cayucos     | 2             | Creston         | 3             |
| Morro Bay       | 1             | Cambria     | 2             | Cholame         | 3             |
| Arroyo Grande   | 1             | Avila Beach | 2             | Harmony         | 3             |

## Child Care Availability for Infants and Toddlers

As the data below indicates, the demand for full-time child care is greatest for infants and toddlers. However, shortages exist, perhaps because of higher staff to child ratios required, which makes it difficult for family child care providers to administer and make financially viable.

<sup>75</sup> San Luis Obispo County Child Care Planning Council. (2017).

Table 23. Child Care Requests by Age, 2016<sup>76</sup>

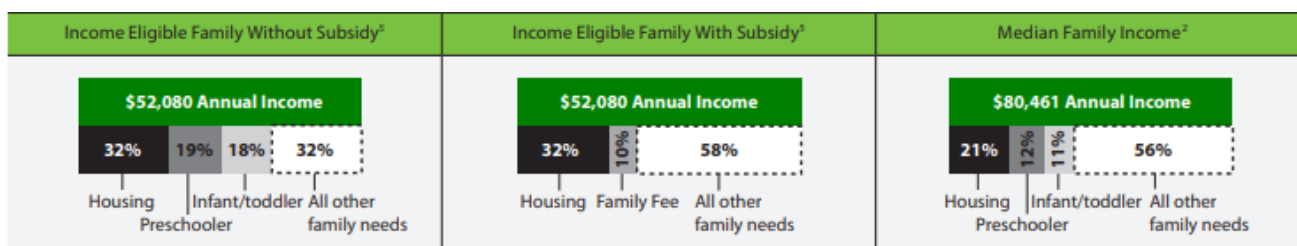
| Requests by Age                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Under 2 years                     | 49%                |
| 2-5 years                         | 36%                |
| 6 years and older                 | 15%                |
| Ages                              | Full-Time Requests |
| Under 2                           | 93%                |
| 2 years                           | 93%                |
| 3 years                           | 89%                |
| 4 years                           | 89%                |
| 5 years                           | 91%                |
| 6 years and older                 | 15%                |
| Requests for Nontraditional Hours |                    |
| Evening/weekend/overnight care    | 17%                |

## Cost of Child Care

The cost of child care continues to be a significant challenge for families, especially in light of unaffordable housing and the high cost of living. Children Now’s 2018 California Children’s Report Card states that the cost of child care is out of reach for many families.

The 2017 California Child Care Portfolio found that a family of four making \$52,080 would spend 32% on housing, 37% on child care for an infant/toddler and preschooler, and 32% on other family needs. Compare this to a family of four with median income of \$80,461: they would spend 21% on housing, 23% on child care, and 56% on all other needs. An income-eligible family with a child care subsidy would have a family fee of 10%, leaving 32% for housing and 58% for all other family needs.<sup>77</sup>

Figure 1. Child Care and Family Budgets



<sup>76</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. (2018). *2017 Child Care Portfolio, San Luis Obispo County*.

<sup>77</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. (2018). *2017 Child Care Portfolio, San Luis Obispo County*.

Table 24. Cost of Child Care in San Luis Obispo County, 2016<sup>78</sup>

| Cost                     | Licensed Child Care Centers | Licensed Family Child Care Homes |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Full-time infant care    | \$14,181                    | \$9,163                          |
| Full-time preschool care | \$9,659                     | \$8,561                          |



Table 25. Average Cost of Center-Based and Family Child Care by Region, 2018<sup>79</sup>

| San Luis Obispo County             | Central Region (SLO City)          | North Coast Region                 |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Full-time infant care – \$11,511   | Full-time infant care – \$12,193   | Full-time infant care – \$15,120   |
| Full-time preschool care – \$9,752 | Full-time preschool care – 10,942  | Full-time preschool care – \$8,414 |
| School-age care* – \$9,445         | School-age care – 12,600           | School-age care – \$6,300          |
| North County Region                | South County Region                |                                    |
| Full-time infant care – \$11,399   | Full-time infant care – \$11,043   |                                    |
| Full-time preschool care – \$9,674 | Full-time preschool care – \$9,351 |                                    |
| School-age care – \$9,445          | School-age care – \$9,705          |                                    |

\*After-school care

<sup>78</sup> California Child Care Resource and Referral Network. (2018). *2017 Child Care Portfolio, San Luis Obispo County*.

<sup>79</sup> CAPSLO Resource and Referral Program. (2018).

Table 26. Regional Market Rates Allowed for State Subsidy, 2016<sup>80</sup>

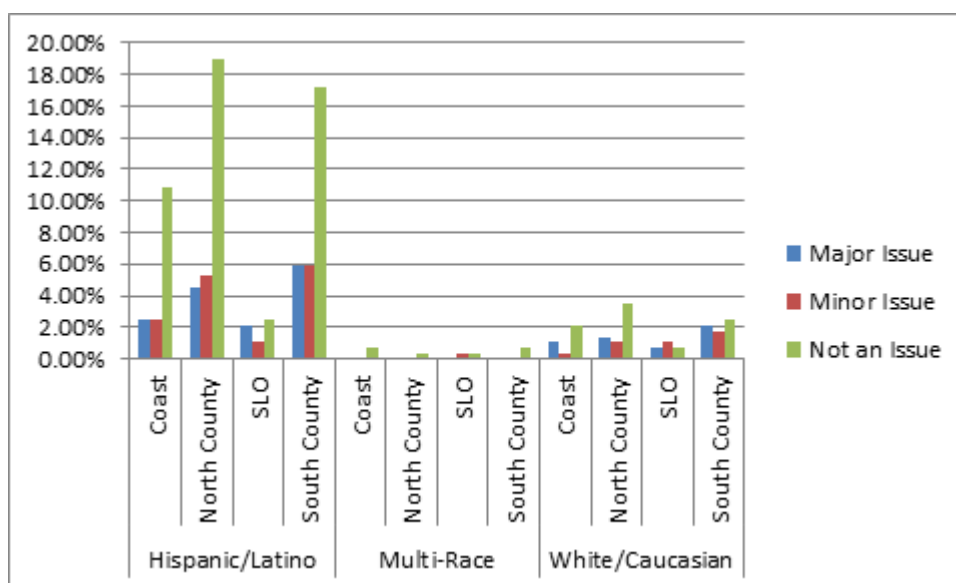
| Center Regional Market Rates | Center Full-Time Maximum | Center Full-Time Average | Center Part-Time Maximum | Center Part-Time Average |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Infant/toddler               | \$344                    | Not Available            | \$261                    | Not Available            |
| Preschool                    | \$259                    | Not Available            | \$199                    | Not Available            |
| School-age                   | \$223                    | Not Available            | \$150                    | Not Available            |
| FCC Regional Market Rates    | FCC Full-Time Maximum    | FCC Full-Time Average    | FCC Part-Time maximum    | FCC Part-Time Average    |
| Infant/toddler               | \$225                    | Not Available            | \$166                    | Not Available            |
| Preschool                    | \$211                    | Not Available            | \$157                    | Not Available            |
| School-age                   | \$174                    | Not Available            | \$138                    | Not Available            |

According to a Child Care Planning Council member, “For parents working low-wage jobs and/or with multiple young children, paying for licensed child care on top of living expenses is simply unaffordable.” Recent focus groups conducted with low-income parents and interviews held with CAPSLO partners revealed that the cost of child care is a serious consideration when planning for a second child, in most cases because it meant giving up a second income. They reported deciding not to have a second child, or if they did have one, enrichment activities, such as dance lessons or sports (because of costly uniforms, registration fees, and travel), would not be feasible or would have to be rotated among children during the year.

## Hispanic/Latino needs

CAPSLO’s 2016 Community Needs Assessment revealed that Latino families faced greater challenges in finding affordable child care services: 15% of Latinos reported that it was a major issue compared to 5% of Caucasians.

Figure 2. Geographic areas of need: Families with children under 18 responding that child care was a major or minor issue for them in the past year<sup>81</sup>



While 42% of current family child care providers speak Spanish, only 4% of referrals requested are for programs with Spanish-speaking providers. This could be attributed to the fact that low-income Hispanics were less likely to search for early care and education (35%) than their black or white peers (49% and 41% respectively), according

<sup>80</sup> American Institutes for Research (2016). *Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool, San Luis Obispo County*.

<sup>81</sup> Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (2017). *Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment, San Luis Obispo County*.

to a study by the National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families. Overall, about 41% of all low-income families had conducted a search for early care and education in the past 24 months. Further, low-income Hispanic parents were significantly less likely than their black or white peers to consider center-based care for their infant or toddler, and more likely than their peers to consider a familiar home-based provider. However, Hispanic and non-Hispanic parents were equally likely to consider center-based care in their search for children ages 3-5. Across all low-income racial/ethnic groups, 72% of survey respondents said they searched for early care and education to support work schedules and provide child enrichment or social opportunities.<sup>82</sup>

Although not all local providers speak Spanish exclusively, English-speaking parents often report that referrals provided to them do not meet their needs because they are unable to communicate with some of the providers on the referral list. This communication gap exacerbates the existing lack of choices for families. It is important to create opportunities for Spanish-speaking providers to enroll in English as a second language classes provided by district adult schools and Cuesta College.

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<sup>82</sup> Mendez, J. & Crosby, D. (2018). *Why and how do low-income Hispanic families search for early care and education?* National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families. Retrieved from <http://www.hispanicresearchcenter.org/publications/why-and-how-do-low-income-hispanic-families-search-for-early-care-and-education-ece/>

## Findings from 2018 Child Care Survey

The Child Care Survey, conducted by Cal Poly University's sociology professor and students on behalf of the San Luis Obispo County Child Care Planning Council and CAPSLO, found the following among 153 low-, middle-, and high-income respondents regarding child care access and options (survey can be found in Appendix B):

- More than half (54%) of the lowest-income respondents (under \$35,000 annual income) relied on family, friends, and/or neighbors (i.e. unlicensed) for child care. The remaining 46% of lowest-income respondents were equally likely to send their children to both licensed and unlicensed family child care programs. Additionally, middle- and upper-income respondents were more likely on average to use a child care center. Use of nannies and au pairs (albeit also unlicensed) increased with income.
- "Availability of openings in my community" for all income groups was the most challenging issue (4.1 out of 5), followed by cost (3.6), and then scheduling (days/hours of operation or alternative days/hours at 3.5). Cost was of much higher importance to lower-income survey respondents (making under \$50,000 per year) than higher-income respondents.
- Nearly all survey respondents indicated that "safety of the environment" was the most important feature (4.8 out of 5) when looking for child care, followed by "overall quality of the program" (4.7), and then "availability of openings in my community" and "days/hours of operation or alternative days/hours" equally (4.4).
- 63% of all survey respondents identified nurturing as the top priority in a child care provider, followed by opportunity for socialization (45%), and then recreational or outdoor activities (39%). When examining priorities by income, nurturing rated higher for middle- and upper-income respondents (68%) than the lowest-income respondents (27%). Nearly 82% of the lowest-income respondents identified school readiness as a major priority. This was less a priority among higher-income respondents (28%).
- It took most survey respondents (24%) more than a year to find child care, followed by 1-3 months (19%), and then 4-6 months (15%).
- 56% of parents have some kind of support from their employer for child care: 24% allowed for flex hours; 19% provided pre-tax flex spending accounts for child care; 12% provided on-site child care; and 1% provided child care subsidies or scholarships. However, 44% of respondents had no support from their employer for child care needs.
- Among all respondents, cost was the principal reason why their child or children were not in care (25%), followed by having alternative care (17%).

## Improving Child Care Quality and Supply

Quality Counts is San Luis Obispo County's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). Quality Counts is a collective effort led by the local Child Care Planning Council to support quality early care and education for all children in the county. It is part of a larger state and national movement aimed at recognizing the need for and establishing a common definition of quality in the early care and education field.

In 2018, Quality Counts worked with 54 center-based programs that represented 97 early learning classrooms and 36 family child care providers, serving a total of 1,937 children. Quality Counts also supported continuing education and professional development for 345 professional early child educators committed to continuous

quality improvement. The program continues to grow to support quality improvement in San Luis Obispo County's early child care education programs.

CAPSLO's CCRC's Resource and Referral Program conducts outreach to recruit new FCC providers through community presentations and targeted outreach to license exempt providers serving children on the subsidized payment program. They also help Spanish and English speaking FCC providers through the licensing process, such as licensing regulations, pre-licensing visits, starting new business in their home, ideas for advertising their business, organizational skills, and more. The program also provides training in areas, such as child growth and development; infant/toddler development and play; music and movement; math and science for infant/toddlers and preschoolers; outdoor activities; working with mixed age groups; learning domains; emergency preparedness; trauma informed care; Google for your business; Workforce Registry; computer literacy; and provider socials. Lastly, Resource and Referral provides health and safety improvements, such as reduction or elimination of CO2; fire hazards; smoke detectors; carbon monoxide detectors; safety assessments; and emergency drill assistance and preparedness presentations.

## System-Level Recommendations

- Coordinate the local child care system to reduce fragmentation of services and competition for funding, and increase the number of families served. Utilize organizations' capacities and strengths to serve prenatal-school-age entry families in a "no wrong door" approach.
- Initiate concerted, coordinated, and focused efforts to design early childhood education systems that reflect and respond to the diversity of children and families in the county. This includes attention to race, ethnicity, culture, and language in all aspects of early learning systems development. It also includes an agenda devoted to planning and governance structures that are more inclusive and representative of the families and communities they serve.
- Advocate for a mixed delivery system where income-eligible families are mixed with private pay families to achieve equity and diversity.
- Conduct a marketing campaign to focus on the importance of a well-trained workforce, nurturing early care and education experiences, safe and educational environments for learning, and immersive language experiences.
- Increase salaries for teachers, child care staff, and family child care providers.
- Work with the business community to create private sector partnerships to increase family-friendly policies and employer-sponsored care options.
- Advocate and partner with traditional and nontraditional allies to bring child care issues to the forefront.
- Find innovative ways to make it easier for child care businesses to open and operate through zoning, permitting, and building incentives, etc. by connecting with local leaders, sharing data, and supporting struggling programs.

## Appendix A

### Child Care Planning Council Membership

The Child Care Planning Council is comprised of 17 members serving in one of five categories. Each category of membership comprises 20% of Council composition: child care providers; community representatives; consumers of child care; public agency representatives; and discretionary appointments.

| Consumer Representatives   | Child Care Provider Representatives  |
|--|--|
| Adriana Baron – CAPSLO Early Head Start  | Jamie Sanbonmatsu – Valley View Children’s Center                              |
| Arica Marshall – Region IX Head Start/Early Head Start Training & Technical Assistance | Jennifer Kreps – SLO County YMCA   |
| Melinda Sokolowski – CAPSLO Family and Community Support Services                      | Michelle Holm – Child Development Resource Center                              |
| Public Agency Representatives  | Community Representatives  |
| Katie Mervin – Cuesta College  | Lisa Fraser – Center for Family Strengthening                                  |
| Nancy Norton – SLO County Office of Education  | Lee Ann Howard – Pacific Coast Association for the Education of Young Children |
| Pam Dudley – SLO County Department of Public Health                                    | Lauren Thorne – San Luis Obispo County Office of Education                     |
| Tara Quinn/Lauren Handley – Paso Robles Joint Unified School District                  |  |
| Discretionary Representatives  | Council Liaisons   |
| Mika Buchanan – CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection                                  | Jannine Lambert – Department of Social Services                                |
| Sheri Wilson – CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection                                   | Patti Fox – Pregnancy and Parenting Support                                    |
| Council Staff  |  |
| Raechelle Bowley-Sutton –Council Manager   | Britney Ogden – Early Care and Education Specialist III                        |
| Kayla Benado – Early Care and Education Specialist III                                 | Allison Biggers – Early Care and Education Specialist II                       |
| Nataly Renteria – Administrative Specialist  |  |
| Council Partners   |  |
| Shana Paulson – CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection                                  | Wendy Wendt – First 5 San Luis Obispo County                                   |
| Sally Rogow – CAPSLO Planning Department   |  |



# Appendix B

## Child Care Needs Survey



The Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, in collaboration with the San Luis Obispo County Child Care Planning Council and Cal Poly Department of Social Sciences, is conducting an assessment on the availability of affordable child care in our county for children ages 0-12. Please complete this anonymous survey by **October 31, 2018** to help us plan to meet future child care needs. Please only complete this survey once, even if you receive it more than once. Thank you very much.

1. In your household, how many children in each of the following age groups require child care?
  - Ages 0-2 # \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ages 3-5 # \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ages 6-12 # \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. On average, how much do you currently pay on average for all children in child care?
 

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$250 per month | <input type="checkbox"/> \$750-\$999 per month     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250-\$499 per month     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000-\$1,249 per month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500-\$749 per month     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250+ per month        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> N/A                       |  |
  
3. If your children are currently in child care, which type do you use? *Select ALL that apply.*
  - Licensed child care (in-home care)
  - Unlicensed child care
  - Family (grandparent, aunts, uncles, siblings), friends, or neighbors
  - Nanny/Au Pair
  - Child care center
  - After-school
  - Employer-sponsored or subsidized
  
4. Please rank the importance of the following when looking for child care on a scale from 1 to 5:  
 1 = not at all important; 2 = somewhat important; 3 = important; 4 = very important; 5 = extremely important; NA = not applicable
 

|  |             |   |   |   |   |   |     |
|--|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Cost   | Circle one: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Transportation (e.g. from kindergarten/school to child care)     | Circle one: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Location/commute from home or work                               | Circle one: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Availability (days/hours of operation or alternative days/hours) | Circle one: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Availability of openings in my community                         | Circle one: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

|                                     |   |   |   |   |   |     |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Availability of flexible scheduling |   |   |   |   |   |     |
| Circle one:                         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Safety of the environment           |   |   |   |   |   |     |
| Circle one:                         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Overall quality of program          |   |   |   |   |   |     |
| Circle one:                         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Other                               |   |   |   |   |   |     |
| Circle one:                         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

5. Select the **TWO** most important things you are or would be seeking in a child care program. *Please select TWO options.*

- Readiness for school
- Recreational/outdoor activities
- Creative arts
- Nurturing environment
- Socialization
- Variety of ages served/mixed age groups
- Other

6. When seeking child care, please rate how challenging it has been to find a provider that meets your needs in the following areas on a scale of 1 to 5.

1 = not at all important; 2 = somewhat important; 3 = important; 4 = very important; 5 = extremely important; NA = not applicable

Cost

|  |   |   |   |   |   |     |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Circle one:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Transportation (e.g. from kindergarten or school to child care)  |   |   |   |   |   |     |
| Circle one:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Location/commute from home or work                               |   |   |   |   |   |     |
| Circle one:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Availability (days/hours of operation or alternative days/hours) |   |   |   |   |   |     |
| Circle one:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Availability of openings in my community                         |   |   |   |   |   |     |
| Circle one:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Availability of flex days  |   |   |   |   |   |     |
| Circle one:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Safety of environment  |   |   |   |   |   |     |
| Circle one:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Overall quality of program                                       |   |   |   |   |   |     |
| Circle one:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| Other  |   |   |   |   |   |     |
| Circle one:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

7. Does your child or children require any of the following accommodations? *Select ALL that apply.*

- Homework help
- Special Needs Assistance (cognitive, behavioral, speech, language)
- Physical Disabilities (vision, hearing, wheelchair, environmental challenges)
- Unique dietary needs
- Other

8. If you have a child/children in care, how long did it take to identify and enroll in the right program?
- Less than one month
  - 1-3 months
  - 4-6 months
  - 7-12 months
  - More than one year

9. Do you receive any financial support for child care? *Select ALL that apply.*
- EOC/CAPSLO-subsidized
  - Head Start, Early Head Start, or Migrant and Seasonal Head Start
  - State preschool
  - Other

10. How does your employer support your family's child care needs? *Select ALL that apply.*
- Allows flex hours
  - Provides on-site child care
  - Provides child care subsidies or scholarships
  - Provides pre-tax flex spending account for child care
  - My employer does not support my family's child care needs

11. If your children are not in child care, please select **ALL** the reasons that apply.
- Cost is too high
  - Hours don't work for my family
  - Have alternative care (family, friends, etc.)
  - Distance is too far
  - No good options in the area I live/work
  - Existing programs do not meet my standards
  - Available programs do not meet my child's needs
  - Other

12. Which city do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

Which city do you work in? \_\_\_\_\_

In which city do you have or would you like your child care to be located? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What is your total annual household income before taxes?
- Less than \$25,000
  - \$25,000 to \$34,999
  - \$35,000 to \$49,999
  - \$50,000 to \$74,999
  - \$75,000 to \$99,999
  - \$100,000 to \$149,999
  - \$150,000 to \$199,999
  - \$200,000 or more

14. How many people, including yourself, currently live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

Please return hard copies by **October 31, 2018** to:  
Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County Planning Department  
1030 Southwood Dr.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401