



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022 - 2023

**The San Luis Obispo County Early Care & Education Planning Council, serves as the advisory body for the County Superintendent of Schools and County Board of Supervisors. We, in partnership with families and the community, plan for and promotes the highest quality and accessible services for the care of all children and youth ages 0-12.**



**3350 Education Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405**  
**[www.sanluischildcare.org](http://www.sanluischildcare.org)**  
**805.782.7370**

# ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The San Luis Obispo County Early Care & Education Planning Council is a 16-member appointed advisory board working in partnership with families and the community to plan for and promote the highest quality and accessible services for the care of all children and youth ages 0-12.

## What Does the Council Do?

- Conducts child care needs assessments, used to determine local priorities and for the development of strategic plans
- Informs the community regarding the importance of high quality, early learning experiences for all young children
- Distributes professional development and education stipends to eligible early care and education providers
- Coordinates trainings for professionals in the early childhood field
- Works with the County and its seven incorporated cities to bring high quality early childhood services to local communities.
- Collaborates with groups such as the business and faith based communities to address local, early childhood needs.
- Advocates for children and early childhood professionals

## 2022-2023 Updates

- The Council moved fiscal agency from Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo to the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education under the Innovations in Education Department
- The Local Planning Council approved an update to the name: Early Care and Education Planning Council



# ABOUT THE COUNCIL

## The Role of Local Child Care Planning Councils



**Facilitate** community collaboration



Act as a **forum** to share knowledge and information among Early Care and Education stakeholders



Provide **leadership and resources** to identify key issues



Promote **professional development, education and training** of the Early Care and Education workforce



Be the **voice for communicating** key issues to County Boards of Supervisors, County Superintendents, CA Department of Education, the Legislature, related organizations and the public

## Strategic Goals

### ANALYSIS

The Council is recognized for expertise by community, state and local professionals, and decision makers.

### ADVOCACY

The Council assists the community at large to understand and advocates for the early care and education program needs of children and youth.

### ADVANCEMENT

The Council works to champion and support professionals in the field.



# MEMBERSHIP

## CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES

**Arica Marshall**, Region IX Head Start/Early Head Start

**Katie Hollingsworth**, Child Care Consumer

**Lauren Thorne**, San Luis Obispo County Office of Education

**Shannon Messerly**, Child Care Consumer

## CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

**Adriana Barron**, CAPSLO Head Start and Early Head Start

**Jamie Sanbonmatsu**, Valley View Children's Center

**Michelle Holm**, Child Development Resource Center of the Central Coast

Vacancy (1)

## PUBLIC AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

**Cheri Fields**, County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Health

**Melina Simonds**, Cuesta College

**Shannon Pimentel**, San Luis Obispo County Office of Education

**Tara Quinn / Lauren Handley**, Paso Robles Joint Unified School District

## COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

**Lisa Fraser**, Center for Family Strengthening

**Melinda Sokolowski**, CAPSLO Child, Youth and Family Services Division Director/  
First 5 SLO County Commissioner

**Shana Paulson**, CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection

Vacancy (1)



# MEMBERSHIP

## DISCRETIONARY REPRESENTATIVES

**Gary Joralemon**, Retired Deputy Chief Probation Officer

**Katie Mervin**, San Luis Obispo County Office of Education

**Mika Buchanan**, CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection

**Patty Clarkson**, California Polytechnic State University

## LIAISONS

**Dr. James Brescia**, San Luis Obispo County Superintendent of Schools

**Michael Specchierla**, San Luis Obispo County Office of Education

**Wendy Wendt**, First 5 San Luis Obispo County

**Theresa Johnson**, Department of Social Services

## STAFF

**Raechelle Bowlay**, Quality Early Learning Manager

**Lauren Handley**, Quality Early Learning Coordinator

**Nataly Renteria**, Administrative Specialist

# MEETINGS

### General Council

August 10, 2022

September 14, 2022

October 12, 2022

November 9, 2022

December 14, 2022 -

Council Networking Event

January 20, 2023

February 8, 2023

March 8, 2023

May 10, 2023

June 14, 2023 - Canceled

### Executive Committee

July 6, 2022

August 3, 2022

September 7, 2022

October 5, 2022

November 2, 2022

December 7, 2022

January 11, 2023

February 1, 2023

March 1, 2023

May 3, 2023

June 7, 2023



# PARTNERSHIPS

CA Child Care Coordinators Association

Every Child California

CA Community College Early Childhood  
Educators

California Head Start Association

California Preschool Instructional Network

California School Age Consortium

Center for Family Strengthening

Child Safety Coalition

Children's Services Network

Community Action Partnership of San Luis  
Obispo County, Inc.

- Child Care Resource Connection
- Family Support Services
- Head Start/ Early Head Start/  
Migrant Seasonal Head Start

Cuesta College Early Childhood Education  
Advisory Board

Cuesta College Extended Opportunity  
Program and Service

First 5 San Luis Obispo County Commission  
National Association for the Education of  
Young Children

National Head Start Association

Pacific Coast Association for the Education  
of Young Children (PCAEYC)

Partnership for Excellence in Family Support

Prenatal – 5 Children's Advocacy Network

Quality Counts California

San Luis Obispo County Domestic Violence  
Task Force

San Luis Obispo County Office of Education

San Luis Obispo County YMCA

# ANALYSIS

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The San Luis Obispo County Early Care & Education Planning Council is recognized for expertise by community, state and local professionals, and decision makers.

## **Goal 1.1**

Establish the Council as the neutral early care and education program advisory group in the County

- Maintain active Council membership with full representation in the 5 categories as established in the Education Code
- Maintain a representation of the Council among other local and statewide agencies and organization to foster collaboration and share information and resources

## **Goal 1.2**

Identify, publish, and distribute early care and education program needs and priorities

- Annual priorities report of subsidized and unsubsidized programs in San Luis Obispo County
- CDE mandated needs assessment every 5 years
- Survey of child care provider composition and needs including family child care, center-based and school age child care

## **Goal 1.3**

Increase the visibility of the San Luis Obispo County Early Care & Education Planning Council

- Update and maintain Council website and social media tools
- Collaborate with other local and statewide agencies and organizations to advocate for accessible and affordable high quality early care and education programs services.

# ANALYSIS

The San Luis Obispo County Early Care & Education Planning Council is recognized for expertise by community, state and local professionals, and decision makers.

## LPC Priorities Report

California Education Code (EC) Section 8499.5 (a) through (d) requires the LPCs to review local State and Federal data and provide the CDE with an updated listing of their local child care and development funding priorities by May 30 every year. EC Section 8279.3 specifies that LPCs must identify local funding priorities for the distribution of any new state general child care and development and new preschool funding to promote equal access to child development services across the state. These priorities must be based on direct impact indicators of need.

City	Zip Code	Priority Level
Paso Robles	93446/47	1
San Luis Obispo	93401/05/07	1
Atascadero	93422	1
Arroyo Grande	93420	1
Nipomo	93444	1
Grover Beach	93433	1
Oceano	93445	1
Los Osos	93402	2
Templeton	93465	2
Pismo Beach/Shell Beach	93448/49	2
Morro Bay	93442	2
San Miguel	93451	2
Cambria	93428	2
San Simeon	93452	3
Santa Margarita	93453	3
Cayucos	93430	3
Creston	93432	3
Shandon	93461	3
Avila Beach	93424	3
Cholame	93431	3
Harmony	93455	3

# ADVOCACY

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The San Luis Obispo County Early Care & Education Planning Council, assists the community at large to understand and advocates for the early care and education program needs of children and youth in SLO County.

## **Goal 2.1**

Improve recognition of the value and need for high quality early care and education programs

- Annual Children's Day in the Plaza celebration of Month of the Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Coordinate Month of the Child activities with other agencies and organizations
- Partner with First 5 California and SLO County for Hands On-Heroes
- Create and distribute educational materials on the importance of need for high quality early care and education program services and family friendly workplace policies

## **Goal 2.2**

Improve community advocacy and activism for creating and sustaining quality

- Identify key stakeholders and partners on the promotion and advocacy of high quality early care and education program needs in the County
- Work with community partners to identify, develop and sustain funding to support strong, high quality early care and education programs.
- Outreach and collaborate with the business community regarding the importance of high quality and accessible child care and early learning





# ADVOCACY



## WE ARE THE CARE

The We Are the Care Initiative was created as a result of the "Where's the Care? Town Hall" that was hosted in May 2019. The town hall was hosted by First 5 SLO County with support of local stakeholders including the Early Care & Education Planning Council members and staff. The event featured speakers from all over the state representing the private sector and government side of addressing child care needs and exploring the challenges and beginning to problem solve.

### Public Awareness Task Force

Focused on increasing awareness and advocating through Public Comment at local City Councils, Board of Supervisors and School Boards

### Cross-Sector Collaboration Task Force

Focused on creating a Family Friendly Workplace Toolkit for Employers

### Local Government Engagement Task Force

Focused on connecting educating local government including elected officials and city/county planning and management

### Power to the Profession Task Force

Focused on promoting accessible education, training, and certification of the ECE workforce while addressing the workforce crisis through collaboration with higher education entities, governmental bodies, and business entities, to achieve living wages for Early Childhood Educators in San Luis Obispo County.

## WE ARE THE CARE TRANSITION

During the 2022-2023 year, the administration of We Are The Care shifted from First 5 San Luis Obispo County to the Local Planning Council. With this shift, the Local Planning Council incorporated each We Are The Care Task Forces as Council Sub-Committees



# ADVOCACY

## WE ARE THE CARE - SUBCOMMITTEE FORMATION

**Workforce Development Subcommittee:** Supporting issues that affect the early care and education workforce including talent pipeline, professional development and career pathways.

**Committee Chair:** Katie Mervin

**Priorities:**

- Mentor Selection Committee
- Professional Growth System Update

**Activities & Highlights:**

- Mentor Program
  - Selection Committee
  - Mentor Applications
- Professional Growth Cadre
- Continued alignment of programs and initiatives



**Advocacy Subcommittee:** Engages local government and identifies advocacy opportunities at local, regional, and state level.

**Committee Chair:** Kris Roudebush

**Activities & Highlights:**

- Atascadero City General Plan Input
- Airport Land Use Commission

**Economic Development Subcommittee:** Develops strategies that support early care and education as an essential part of local economy from the lens of providers as small businesses/employers and as a recruitment and retention strategy for businesses/employers.

**Committee Chair:** Shana Paulson

**Priorities:**

- SLO City Pilot Project
- Shared Services Alliance
- ARPA Expansion Grant Application Process

**Activities & Highlights:**

- Exploring ARPA Expansion Grant Application Process

# ADVOCACY

## WE ARE THE CARE - SUBCOMMITTEE FORMATION

**Community Needs Subcommittee:** Identifies needs of the early care and education field as well as needs of families, employers and partner organizations to support the local mixed delivery system.

**Committee Chair:** Mika Buchanan

**Priorities:**

- 5 Year Needs Assessment

**Activities & Highlights:**

- Assessing: How has the need for childcare changed? What will mixed delivery system look like for families/providers?
- Create a survey for community members to assess needs by city by city
- Highlight community need through storytelling



# ADVOCACY

## IGNITING INNOVATION IN EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Igniting Innovation in Early Care and Education took place on Friday, January 20, 2023 from 9:00AM – 3:00PM at Avila Lighthouse Suites.

Topics:

- Partners in Innovation – Guest Speakers
  - County Superintendent of School, Dr. James Brescia
  - Former State Superintendent of Instruction, Jack O'Connell
  - Vice President, School Services of California, Dr. Patti Herrera
- Overview of LPC and launch of new name: Early Care & Education Planning Council
- Leadership Development
- Community Partners (i.e. Chambers, City Liaisons, City Managers, BOS, SOS, etc.)
- UPK Mixed Delivery Grant – Workgroup
- We Are the Care
- Intro to Council Subcommittees and Committee Goals
  - Establish recommendations for membership
  - Identify existing initiatives, activities and/or programs that are a good match



# ADVOCACY

## MONTH OF THE CHILD

San Luis Obispo, CA – April is Month of the Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month and marks a time to recognize that our community's children are precious assets, that the quality of their early years is our collective responsibility, and that we commit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child has access to a high quality early environment – at home, at child care, at school and in the community – that will promote their optimal growth and development.

We as a community of partners and leaders, envision a San Luis Obispo County where all families can find and afford quality care for their children, and where child care professionals are valued for their critical role in building a solid foundation for children and families to thrive in the world.

On Saturday, April 8, 2023 the San Luis Obispo County Early Care & Education Planning Council hosted the Annual Children's Day in the Plaza from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The event took place at Mission Plaza in San Luis Obispo where many community organizations and companies provide learning opportunities and performances for children and their families.





# ADVOCACY

## CHILDREN'S DAY IN THE PLAZA 2023 RECAP

### PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- Baby Brain Builders
- B.A.C.A. Bikers Against Child Abuse Atascadero Chapter
- CAL FIRE
- Camp Fire Central Coast of California
- Camp Natoma
- CAPSLO
- CAPSLO - Child Care Resource Connection
- Center for Family Strengthening
- Central Coast Childbirth Network
- Central Coast Funds for Children
- Central Coast Gymnastics Sports Center, Inc.
- Coast Hills Credit Union
- County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries
- County of SLO Department of Social Services
- Cuesta College Children's Center
- Doterra Oils
- Earth Day Alliance
- Family Care Network
- First 5 San Luis Obispo County
- Freckles the Clown
- G. Brothers Kettle Corn
- Heavenly Hotdogs
- Keiki Hawaiian Shave Ice
- Kiwanis Club of SLO Morning
- Outside Now
- Positive Behavior Support Corp.
- Pregnancy & Parenting Support of SLO
- Promotores Collaborative of San Luis Obispo
- San Luis Coastal Unified School District
- San Luis Obispo County Office of Education
- SLO Botanical Garden
- SLO Child Support Services
- SLO City Fire
- SLO Help Me Grow
- SLO City Police Department
- SLO Symphony
- Studio @ Ryan's American Dance
- The Academy of Dance
- The Link Family Resource Center
- Wishing Well School



# ADVOCACY

## MONTH OF THE CHILD PROCLAMATIONS



The Council coordinated the following Month of the Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamations. We congratulate the County Board of Supervisors, Cities of San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande, Paso Robles, Atascadero, Pismo Beach, Morro Bay, Grover Beach, and many other partner agency Boards for joining us and also proclaiming April as Month of the Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Proclamations at all City Councils, Board of Supervisors, and Community Boards

- Arroyo Grande City Council - accepted by Patty Clarkson
- Grover Beach City Council - accepted by Shannon Pimentel
- Morro Bay City Council - accepted by Nataly Renteria
- Paso Robles City Council - accepted by Katie Mervin & Lauren Handley
- Pismo Beach City Council - accepted by Molly Myers
- San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
  - accepted by Raechelle Bowlay
- San Luis Obispo City Council - accepted by Katie Hollingsworth
- Cuesta College Board of Trustees - accepted by Katie Mervin & Melina Simonds
- San Luis Obispo County Office of Education Board of Directors - accepted by Shannon Pimentel & Molly Myers

# ADVOCACY

## MONTH OF THE CHILD PROCLAMATIONS

Special thanks to our community partners and local government for proclaiming and adopting April as Month of the Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

“ WHEREAS April - Month of the Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month - marks a time to recognize that our community's child are precious assets, that the quality of their early years is our collective responsibility, and that we commit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences a high quality early environments -- at home, at child care, at school and in the community -- that will promote their optimal development. ”



Special thanks to the SLO County Board of Supervisors for kicking off April as Month of the Child & Child Abuse Prevention Month



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Quality Counts

Center for Family Strengthening

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

# ADVANCEMENT

The San Luis Obispo County Early Care & Education Planning Council works to champion and support professionals in our field in the County.

## Goal 3.1

Improve early care and education program professional and development and training

- Continue to implement Stipend Program for staff of State-funded center-based program who earn college units toward a degree in Early Childhood Education or Child Development
- Publicize countywide training opportunities to all early care and education program staff through the use of email distribution, website and social media
- Provide professional development training for early childhood education community, family child care providers, and school-age programs as funds are available
- Support/facilitate family child care association or network
- Support/facilitate school-age child care network



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- THURSDAY JAN 12** Self-Care: Strategies to Take Care of Yourself So You Can Care for Others
- TUESDAY JAN 17** Stop Tantrums 911: Addressing Fears, Tears & Tantrums
- SATURDAY JAN 21** Designing Interactive, Engaging and Adaptable Early Childhood Environments
- TUESDAY JAN 24** Intentional Interactions: Promoting Positive Behaviors in the Preschool Environment
- MONDAY JAN 30** Trauma Informed Care Practices for Early Care & Education Professionals

www.sloqualitycounts.org ccpc@sanluischildcare.org 805.782.7370



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- SATURDAY FEB 4 CANCELED** Diversity, Equity and Inclusion \* \*\*Reschedule for March\*\*
- SATURDAY FEB 11** Baby Brain Builders: Stronger Pathways Through Stimulation
- SELF PACED NAEYC** DAP & The 9 Principles of Child Development and Learning
- SATURDAY FEB 25** Group Time Favorites and Opportunities to Extend Language
- TUESDAY FEB 28** Community of Practice: Reflection on Self-Paced NAEYC

www.sloqualitycounts.org info@sloqualitycounts.org 805.782.7370



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- SATURDAY MAR 4** CAEYC Preview: Group Time Favorites and Opportunities to Extend Language
- TUESDAY MAR 14** Inclusion: Promoting Positive Social Emotional Development with Visual Supports
- SELF PACED NAEYC** DAP & The 9 Principles of Child Development and Learning
- WEDNESDAY MAR 22** CAEYC Preview: Teaching Toddlers Good Food Habits
- THURSDAY MAR 30** Community of Practice: Reflection on Self-Paced NAEYC DAP Course

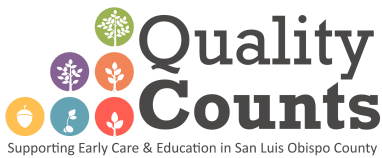
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# ADVANCEMENT

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## QUALITY COUNTS - SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Quality Counts San Luis Obispo is part of the Quality Counts California (QCC) initiative, which helps to inform and connect parents and families to high-quality early learning and care programs, and ensures that infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children have quality early learning experiences in their local communities. Quality Counts San Luis Obispo also provides resources and support to early learning and care professionals so they can create nourishing and effective early learning and care programs that will help children to grow and thrive.

## MISSION AND VISION

Quality Counts San Luis Obispo is committed to strengthening our community's early learning and care system. We aim to support children, families, and care providers in many ways including:

- Provide access to tools & resources for quality partners.
- Link child care providers to resources & support to assist them in their commitment to quality early learning & care.
- Inform parents & families about the importance of quality early learning, and helps them identify quality early learning & care environments.
- Offer information and research to help policymakers communicate the value and importance of quality early learning & care.





# ADVANCEMENT

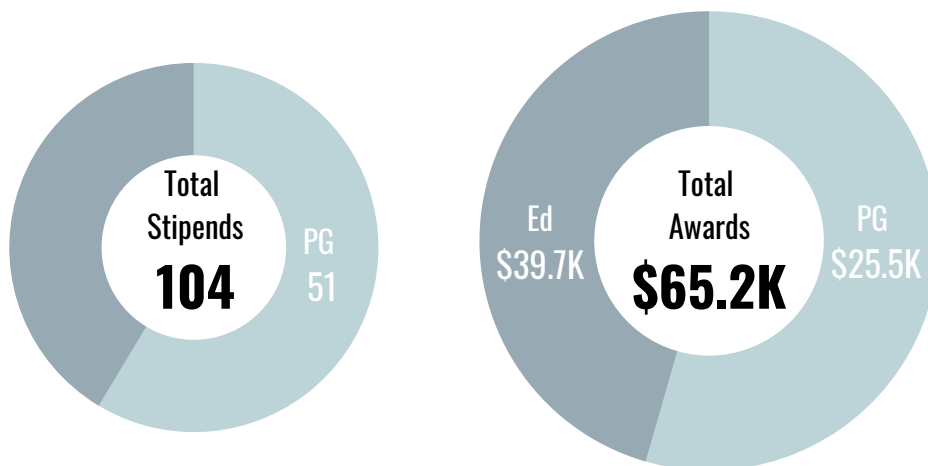
The San Luis Obispo County Early Care & Education Planning Council works to champion and support professionals in our field in the County.

## OVERVIEW OF QUALITY COUNTS STIPEND PROGRAM

In 2022-2023, Quality Counts offered two types of stipends to participating ECE staff members: 1) Professional Development Stipend (\$500), and 2) Education Advancement Tier 1 (\$1,200) and Tier 2 (\$700) Stipend.

●	<b>PROFESSIONAL GROWTH STIPEND</b> Amount: \$500 <b>Description:</b> Individuals completing 21 hours of professional development between May 1, 2022 and May 31, 2023 are eligible to receive this award	●
●	<b>EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT STIPEND</b> Amount: \$700 for 3 units \$1200 for 6 units <b>Description:</b> Individuals completing 3-6 units of education towards obtaining a degree or Child Development Permit between May 1, 2022 and May 31, 2023 are eligible to receive this award	●

## QUALITY COUNTS STIPEND AWARD SUMMARY



# ADVANCEMENT

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## CA EARLY MATH INITIATIVE

A partnership between the AIMS Center, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, WestEd, and the California State Board of Education with a shared mission to improve math and science outcomes for children ages 0-8 across the state of California.

As CAEMI participants, we focused on bringing accessible math learning opportunities and resources to local early childhood educators.



# ADVANCEMENT

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## 2023 CAAEYC ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO APRIL 21-23, 2023 | SANTA CLARA, CA

Cuesta College partners presented at the 2023 CAAEYC Annual Conference & Expo

- Loose Parts: Inspirations in the Early Learning Environment
  - Laurinda Wagner, Madelyn Chevalier & Sara Madgett
- Group Time Favorites and Opportunities to Extend Language
  - Lea Waterbury, Cheri Ferguson, & Laurinda Wagner
- Teaching Toddlers Good Food Habits
  - Lucia Aguirre, Micaela Padgett, & Keith Holland
- Professional Goal Development Systems: Building and Applying to Career and Leadership Development
  - Katie Mervin
- Ticket 2 Teach Early Care and Education Apprenticeship Program: An Overview from Multiple Perspectives
  - Katie Mervin & Ethan Glover

Quality Counts extended support for Quality Counts Consortium partners and participating agencies by funding registration to attend the 2023 CAAEYC Conference.



California Association for the  
Education of Young Children



# ADVANCEMENT

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## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

### MARCH 15, 2022

San Luis Obispo County Board Of Supervisors unanimously approved \$3 million of the County's ARPA funds to support and stabilize the child care sector



### JULY 1, 2022

San Luis Obispo County Office of Education contracted as fiscal lead



*Child Care Planning Council*  
San Luis Obispo County

### AUGUST 8, 2022

Focus Area 1: Non-Competitive Business Stabilization Grants Process Start Launched



## FOCUS AREA 1: NON-COMPETITIVE CHILD CARE BUSINESS STABILIZATION GRANTS

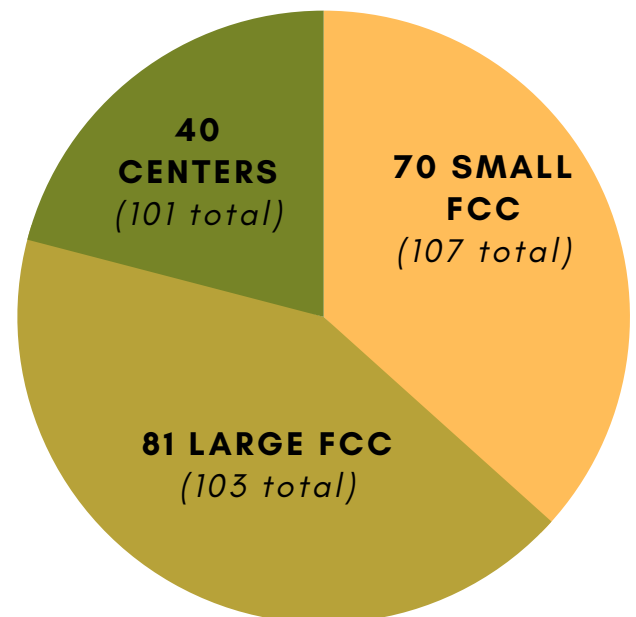
Business relief and stabilization grants targeting employee recruitment and retention efforts

Technical Assistance provided by CAPSLO Child Care Resource Connection

**191 GRANTEES**

**\$635,375**

**61% OF PROVIDERS**





# ADVANCEMENT

The San Luis Obispo County Early Care & Education Planning Council, assists the community at large to understand and advocates for the early care and education program needs of children and youth in SLO County

## IMPACT

- Increased capacity
- Improved quality
- Equitable access to resources
- Business stabilization

## NEXT STEPS

- Continued targeted outreach for non-competitive business stabilization grants
- Competitive Expansion Grants to be released in Spring 2023
- Ticket2Teach and Quality Counts areas of focus are being developed

