

E X E C U T I V E S U M M A R Y

**Contra Costa County
Child Care Needs Assessment
and
Status of Children and Families
2006 through 2015**

O C T O B E R 2 0 0 6

prepared by
Brion & Associates

prepared for
Contra Costa County Office of Education
and
The Contra Costa Local Planning Council
for Child Care and Development

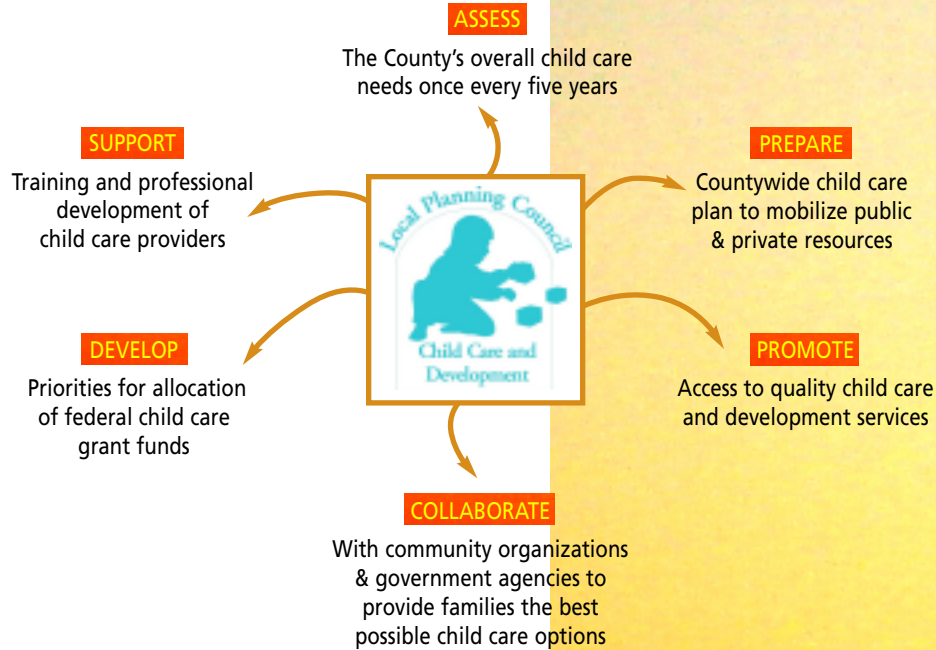


Contra Costa County Local Planning Council for Child Care and Development (LPC)



Mission

The mission of the **Contra Costa County Local Planning Council for Child Care and Development** is to promote quality child care through community assessment, advocacy, resource development, and collaboration with other organizations.



LPC Board Members

The council consists of twenty-five volunteers appointed jointly by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools. Council members equally represent the following categories:

- Child Care Providers
- Child Care Consumers
- Public Agency Representatives
- Community Representatives
- Discretionary Appointments

The Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC), in partnership with public and private entities, works to improve child care and early education opportunities in Contra Costa County.

For more information, contact the Local Planning Council Coordinator at (925) 942-3413 or visit www.plan4kids.org.



Contra Costa County Child Care Needs Assessment Profile

CURRENT AND PROJECTED DEMOGRAPHICS

- ✓ The number of children 0 to 5 years old is expected to increase by a modest 1.6% from 2006 to 2015, while the school age population is expected to decrease by 9.2%
- ✓ Children 0 to 12 years old will increase from 33% Hispanic in 2006 to 43% Hispanic in 2015; Caucasian children 0 to 12 years old will decrease from 41% in 2006 to 28% in 2015

Countywide	2006 Amount	2010 Amount	% Change 2006-2010	2015 Amount	% Change 2006-2015
Total Population	1,024,160	1,055,600	3.1%	1,102,300	7.6%
Total Households	372,066	385,250	3.5%	401,670	8.0%
Persons Per Household	2.75	2.74	-	2.74	-
Total Employment	467,900	501,100	7.1%	541,800	15.8%
Median Household Income	\$89,740	\$97,600	4.6%	\$99,700	11.1%

Sources: ABAG Projections 05; Brion & Associates

- The County will add **78,000 new residents** from 2006 to 2015
- Employment growth will be double the population growth rate from 2006 to 2015, or the County will add approximately **74,000 new jobs**
- This population and employment growth will increase the demand for child care services
- Household size will remain relatively the same
- Household income growth will be modest

Status of Families and Children as of 2000 Census

- ✓ **Ethnicity:** Caucasian (65%), Asian (11%), and African-American (9%) are the three largest ethnic groups
- ✓ **Percent Hispanic:** 18% Hispanic and 82% Non-Hispanic
- ✓ **Labor Force Participation Rate of Working Parents:** 54% for children under 6 and 65% for over 6
- ✓ **Language Spoken by children 5 to 17 years old:** 75% English, 15% Spanish, and 6% Asian/Pacific Islander; rest are other languages

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CHILDREN OVERALL

Children by Age	2006 Amount	2010 Amount	% Change 2006-2010	2015 Amount	% Change 2006-2015
0 to 1 or Infant	22,500	22,820	1.4%	23,420	4.1%
2 to 5 or Preschool	54,456	53,880	-1.1%	54,740	0.5%
Total 0 to 5	76,956	76,700	-0.3%	78,160	1.6%
6 to 12 or School Age	101,760	95,680	-6.0%	92,440	-9.2%
Total 0 to 12	178,716	172,380	-3.5%	170,600	-4.5%
Children as % of Total Population	17.5%	16.3%		15.5%	

Sources: ABAG Projections 05; Brion & Associates

County Licenced Child Care Supply, Demand, and Gaps as of 2006

- ✓ **Supply in Spaces: 37,811 total child care spaces**
 - 3,971 infant spaces (11% of supply)
 - 21,211 preschool spaces (56% of supply)
 - 12,629 school age spaces (33% of supply)
- ✓ **Estimated Child Care Demand: 51,849 spaces**
 - 4,455 infant spaces needed
 - 21,855 preschool spaces needed
 - 25,539 school age spaces needed
- ✓ **Child Care Gap: Shortfall of 14,038 spaces**
 - Overall, 73% of demand is being met
 - Infant: 484 space shortfall—89% of demand met
 - Preschool: 644 space shortfall—97% of demand met
 - School Age: 12,910 space shortfall—49% of demand met
- ✓ **Infant and Preschool care shows small shortfalls, countywide**
- ✓ **School Age care shows significant shortfalls, with about 50% of demand not met**
- ✓ **Preschool Makes a Difference Demand:**

Total 3 to 5 years olds in 2006, countywide, equals 41,174

 - 25,651 spaces for 3 to 5 year olds are needed, based on 63% of all 3 to 5 year olds needing licensed preschool

Summary of Supply and Demand of Child Care by City: 2006

	0 to 12 Yrs	0 to 5 Yrs	6 to 12 Yrs
Antioch	(1,997)	(295)	(1,702)
Brentwood	(113)	285	(398)
Clayton	(4)	110	(114)
Concord	(1,742)	(428)	(1,314)
Danville	170	479	(309)
El Cerrito (3)	(435)	(89)	(345)
Hercules	(434)	(313)	(121)
Lafayette	91	311	(221)
Martinez	(503)	(187)	(317)
Moraga	31	342	(312)
Oakley	(690)	(80)	(610)
Orinda	(253)	130	(383)
Pinole	(1,011)	(510)	(501)
Pittsburg	(2,001)	(426)	(1,575)
Pleasant Hill	(11)	114	(125)
Richmond	(2,582)	(437)	(2,145)
San Pablo	(532)	(31)	(501)
San Ramon	(692)	(163)	(529)
Walnut Creek	445	542	(96)
Alamo-Blackhawk	(486)	(159)	(328)
Rodeo-Crockett	(348)	(81)	(268)
Rural East County	(507)	(193)	(314)
Total County	(14,038)	(1,128)	(12,910)
Percent of Total	100.0%	8.0%	92.0%

Special Populations and Subsidies as of 2006

Head Start: 2,619 children enrolled in the Head Start and Early Head Start program countywide, or 1.5% of total children countywide

CEL: 2,159 children active on the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL), or 1.2% of total children countywide

Early Start: 488 children participating in the Early Start program, or less than 1% of total children countywide

Special Needs: 10,243 children kindergarten through seventh grade participate in school district special education services

Mental Health: 887 children receiving County Mental Health Services (current caseload), or less than 1% of total children countywide

CCS: 1,931 children participating in California Children's Services (CCS) (current caseload), or 1.1% of total children countywide

CPS: 1,637 children active with Children's Protective Services (current caseload), or about 1% of total children countywide; 54% of these children are 6 to 12

Public Assistance: 42,958 children receiving public assistance, or 24% of total children countywide; about 50% of these children are 0 to 5 years old

Public Housing and Children: Three public housing authorities serve 10,441 households in total, of which 3,821 or 36% have children

Migrant Children: 267 migrant children enrolled in four school districts—Brentwood USD, Byron USD, Knightsen Elementary USD, and Oakley USD—or 2% of these district's total enrollment



2. Special Education – countywide

Child Care Providers and Workforce

Child Care Providers: 1,647 total

- 889 small family child care homes
- 384 large family child care homes
- 284 child care centers
- 90 school age centers/programs

Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES): Participants total 344 countywide or 43 family child care providers and 301 center-based staff

1. Public Assistance- countywide-(Calworks, Food Stamps, Medi-Cal)

3. CPS – countywide

School Readiness and Low API Scores

Kindergarten Enrollment: 13,761 children are enrolled in kindergarten as of 2005-2006

Academic Performance Index: 64 of the County's 145 total elementary schools, or 44 % of the total, scored low or between 1 and 5 on the API scale

For these 64 schools, the average score has been approximately 3 over the last 3 years

Reading Tests: On average, at the 64 schools, 48% of third graders scored in the lowest 25% quartile, nationally

English Learners: On average, at the 64 schools, 18.5% of kindergartners are English Learners

Subsidized Lunch: On average, at the 64 schools, 34% of all elementary children receive subsidized lunches

Key Findings and Trends In Cities In Contra Costa County

The majority of Contra Costa cities are expected to have fewer children in 2015 than in 2006. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) forecasts a decline in children as a percent of total population from 17.5% in 2006 to 15.5% in 2015. In total, the County will lose about 8,000 children 0 to 12 years old; however, this loss is primarily in the 6 to 12 year old age range. The County is also expected to lose population in the 35 to 45 year old age range, corresponding to a reduction in families with school age children over the next 15 years. However, there will be a small increase in infants and preschoolers during this period.

Not all cities will lose children during this period. Brentwood, Hercules, and San Ramon will experience an increase of children, with San Ramon adding the most children during this period.

Licensed child care supply and demand results vary greatly by city. The results of the analysis are impacted by the following factors:

- Labor Force Participation Rates
- Average Household Income
- Children as a Percent of Total Population

These three factors greatly impact both the supply of child care and the ability to use child care. **Cities with the lowest concentrations of children relative to total population are:**

- Walnut Creek: 12.8%
- El Cerrito: 14.6%
- Orinda: 14.8%
- Moraga: 15.1%
- Pleasant Hill: 15.2%

In comparison to more affluent communities, cities with lower household incomes tend to have higher labor force participation rates, more children relative to the total population, and often less child care supply.

The following cities have the largest estimated gaps in child care or a gap exceeding at least 1,000 spaces:

City	% of Demand Met	# of Spaces Needed
Pinole	42%	1,011
Pittsburg	59%	2,001
Richmond	62%	2,582
Antioch	67%	1,997
Concord	73%	1,742

By age, the following cities have the largest shortfalls in 2006:

Infant Care: Concord and Pittsburg: shortfalls of over 100 spaces each

Preschool Care: Antioch, Concord, Hercules, Martinez, Oakley, Pinole, Pittsburg, Richmond San Ramon, Alamo-Blackhawk, and East Rural County: shortfalls of over 100 spaces each

School Age: Antioch, Concord, Pittsburg, and Richmond: shortfalls of over 1,000 spaces each. Richmond has the largest shortfall at 2,145 spaces

Overall, a handful of cities, which either have high employment or higher household income, have surplus spaces relative to their own resident demand, including:

- Danville with 170 surplus spaces
- Lafayette with 91 surplus spaces
- Moraga with 31 surplus spaces
- Walnut Creek with 445 surplus spaces

Special Populations

Contra Costa County has significant populations of children that may require special consideration due to their health, income, primary language, or migrant status. The concentrations of many of the special populations in the County reside in the communities with the lowest incomes, including Antioch, Concord, Pittsburg, Richmond and San Pablo

CURRENT AND PROJECTED DEMOGRAPHICS

Child Care Gap by City – 2006

Of the special population data collected, each of the following cities (or school districts) has the largest concentration of children in each category:

- **Head Start:** Richmond, with 32% of the total
- **Centralized Eligibility List:** Richmond, with 19% of the total
- **Alternative Payment Program:** Richmond/ San Pablo, with 30% of the total
- **Special Education:** West Contra Costa USD (Richmond), with 25% of the total
- **Mental Health Services:** Richmond, with 26% of the total
- **Child Protective Services:** Antioch, with 20% of total
- **CalWORKSs/TANF:** Richmond, with 22% of the total
- **Food Stamps:** Richmond, with 22% of the total
- **Medi-Cal:** Richmond, with 24% of the total
- **Children in Migrant Families:** Brentwood USD, with 53% of the total migrant children identified in the County
- **Low APIs:** Richmond (WCCUSD), followed by Pittsburg, Antioch and Concord (Mt. Diablo USD)

In addition to Richmond, the cities of Antioch, Pittsburg, and Concord also have high concentrations of children in the special populations categories listed above.



Study Purpose and Overview

First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission, the Contra Costa County Office of Education and the Contra Costa Child Care Council have been working collaboratively for the past two years to create a plan for universal preschool in Contra Costa County, called Preschool Makes a Difference. In order to create an effective plan, data was needed to help identify current and projected demographics and child care supply and demand. In addition, the Local Planning Council for Child Care and Development (through the County Office of Education) also needed data collected for the development of their child care needs assessment update and strategic plan. The California Department of Education requires that every Local Planning Council conduct a comprehensive child care needs assessment at least every five years and this report fulfills that requirement. The three people leading the preschool planning effort in the County include:

Sean Casey, First 5 Contra Costa
Kate Ertz-Berger, Child Care Council
Joseph A. Ovick, Superintendent of Schools

As a result, a data committee with various agency child care staff in the County was formed to oversee and coordinate the data collection needs for this project. The data will be used by and is of benefit to the entire child care community in Contra Costa County. We would like to acknowledge the committee's assistance and support in preparing this document. This executive summary provides a snapshot of the data collected; the entire report containing child care information at the city and county levels is available on the websites of the sponsoring agencies.

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Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following organizations and public agencies for providing data and information for this study:

Association of Bay Area Governments
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
California Department of Finance
Contra Costa County Child Care Council
Contra Costa County Office of Education
Contra Costa County Community Services Department
Contra Costa County Children and Family Services
Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Department
Contra Costa Health Services Department, California Children's Services
Contra Costa Health Services Department, Mental Health Division
County Office of Education
First 5 Contra Costa
Professional Association of Childhood Educators—Alternative Payment Program (PACE-APP)
Regional Center of the East Bay
Resource Development Associates
San Joaquin County Office of Education, Migrant Education, Region 23
US Census Bureau

Funding

Contra Costa County Office of Education/ the Local Planning Council for Child Care and Development
First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission

For further information about the Contra Costa County Local Planning Council for Child Care and Development, please visit our Web site (www.plan4kids.org).