The 2015 CCR&R Portfolio
What does the portfolio say about child care?

Since 1995, the California Child Care Portfolio has explored the needs and demographics of families and has served as an informative source for policy makers and advocates of families and children. Combining data from R&R agencies in California with census and other demographic data sources, this biennial document looks at supply and demand of child care in California.

Two issues are clear when looking at the portfolio. First, despite a rebounding economy, California continues to struggle to meet the caregiving needs for working families. Licensed child care centers offer space for less than 1% of infants in the county. With 33% of all referral calls in Sacramento County specifically for infant care, where are families finding reliable, quality care? For the majority of parents with infants, family child care and exempt care are the option, despite a decline of 18% of family child care providers since 2012.1 Family child care is also vital in meeting the need for non-traditional hours. 39% of family child care homes offer non-traditional hours care, compared to only 2% of child care centers in Sacramento County. 87% of requests for care are for full time care, with almost 20% of referral calls requesting caregivers who provide non-traditional hours.

The second issue concerns the affordability of child care. While the number of families living in poverty has declined slightly, a single parent earning minimum wage spends 50% or more of their annual income on child care for one child.2 Families may qualify for subsidized child care; however, there is not enough subsidized funding to meet the needs of all. While there was a slight budget increase this year for Alternative Payment Programs, such as Child Action, Inc., and extended day State Preschool, this increase has not made up for funding cuts from the budget during the recession over the past 10 years. Even families earning the county median income ($60,515) typically spend more on child care than any other item in their budget, including housing. Some parents are finding they need to make hard choices including leaving their child in care that is substandard or quitting work to apply for public assistance.

Child Action, Inc. provides child care subsidies and referrals for care to assist families with finding quality child care that meets their needs. Child Action, Inc. also provides training and support to potential providers, centers, and exempt providers to build high quality care spaces throughout the county.

The portfolio is a powerful tool for advocating for families and providers about the needs for quality, affordable care. This information can also be used to inform the public of the importance of having enough quality child care spaces for all.

To read the full portfolio, please go to: http://www.rrnetwork.org/2015_portfolio

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2 Mean child care rates (RMR 2012)
Featured Resource Library Item

Teaching and Learning with Infants and Toddlers

by

Mary Jane Maguire-Fong

Meet one of the newest members of the Child Action, Inc. Resource Library! This book provides insight into the way infants learn, with examples of how to use reflection when planning an infant and toddler program. A must read for anyone caring for infants and toddlers! Check it out today!

Two years ago, Child Action, Inc. partnered with Opening Doors, Inc. to assist Sacramento area refugees with opening a family child care businesses in Sacramento. Since then, the program has helped 41 refugee women and their families. These women now own and operate a child care business and have created a total of 252 child care spaces to serve all families, including refugee families who often struggle to find a provider that understands their language and culture.

Program participants must be refugees, agree to meet licensing requirements and complete a minimum of 25 training hours in child development, health and safety, and business practices. Many participants exceed the training requirement, attending ongoing support groups in their language. These support groups are held at provider’s homes, where they engage in lively and informative discussions about being a child care provider and highlight the host’s child care program. Additionally, participants work with Child Action, Inc. to complete a quality assessment on their family child care home, meant to build quality into the program from the start.

Providers have an assessment done at the time of licensing and then a year later to document growth.

To support the specific language needs of this program, Child Action, Inc. and Opening Doors, Inc. use each agency’s language strengths. Child Action, Inc. staff took the lead to support Arabic speaking clients and Opening Doors, Inc. staff took the lead with Farsi Speaking clients. In addition, Child Action, Inc. worked with Community Care Licensing and private contractors to conduct licensing orientations and required Health and Safety trainings in Farsi and Arabic, a first for Sacramento County! UC Davis Extension has even translated a “Family Child Care at its Best” course which participants take to earn Continuing Education Unit’s.

In October, the Administration for Children & Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement awarded a federal grant in the amount of $562,500 for an additional three years to continue this project.

For more information about the program including eligibility requirements, please contact Haifa Zahra, Child Care Coordinator, Child Action, Inc. at (916) 369–3383.

One participant’s story…

“I feel free, I own my own business, and I am earning my own money. I feel like I can do anything!”

Yalda, her husband, and two young children moved to the U.S. from Afghanistan in 2013. When she first arrived to the United States she wasn’t earning any income. Hearing about the program from a home visitor, she contacted Child Action, Inc. to attend a licensing orientation and find out more about the program. Yalda worked hard to attend child development, health and safety, business classes, and ESL classes, and received her family child care license in August of 2014. She recently stepped up to be the lead for the Farsi provider support group, offering to host meetings in her home. Yalda has had two Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale assessments done on her home. She’s developed program improvement plans with staff and continues to work hard, providing the best care she can for families.

Yalda is proud of the fact that she has achieved self-sufficiency, doing something that she enjoys, while she is helping prepare preschoolers for kindergarten. Participating in UC Davis Extension courses has given Yalda a renewed sense of confidence. Yalda has set many goals she wants to achieve. She wants to purchase a home and expand to a large license in the future. She also wants to continue her education and become a Kindergarten teacher. Yalda is thankful for the Refugee Child Care Program and hopes her success can encourage others to open a quality family child care business. As for Yalda, she is feeling really good about herself. She says, “I feel free, I own my own business, and I am earning my own money. I feel like I can do anything!”
Updates on Health & Safety

As with most new calendar years, there are new laws and regulations affecting child care and families. Will the changes affect you or the children you care for? Here’s a brief summary of some new regulations:

- As of January 1, 2016, California Health and Safety Code 1596.866 require that new licensees complete an additional hour of preventive health training for a total of 16 hours of training. Child Action, Inc. has a Health & Safety reimbursement program that assists providers with required health and safety courses. This program is dependent upon successful completion of approved courses and availability of funds.

- SB 277 Public Health Vaccinations: Effective July 1, 2016, all families must submit immunization records for each child upon entry to child care, school, and/or prior to advancing to 7th grade, eliminating the personal belief exemption. For more info about the new law, please visit www.shotsforschool.org.

- SB792 Day care facilities: immunizations: Effective September 1, 2016, employees and volunteers of licensed child care must be immunized against influenza, pertussis, and measles. Medical exemptions will be granted for those unable to be vaccinated due to health issues.

Child Action Inc. supports high quality, healthy environments for children. Health Services Coordinator, Jennine Greenwell provides information, training, and technical assistance to parents, child care providers, and communities in Sacramento County. Please contact Jennine Greenwell at Jennine.greenwell@childaction.org, or (916) 369–3335.

Please check the calendar of events at www.childaction.org, for times, locations and additional trainings.
Need Help Paying For Childcare?

Centralized Eligibility List

The Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) is a list of families needing child care assistance in Sacramento County. With access to dozens of free and low-cost child care programs.

One application does it all!!!
For more information, or to apply visit http://sacramento.thecel.net
or
Call: (916) 369–0191

We will re-open on January 4, 2016.

Happy Holidays!

Our Children, Our Community
is a free publication of Child Action, Inc., serving Sacramento since 1976. Child Action, Inc. is primarily funded by the California Department of Education.

Our Services
Child Action, Inc. provides information and consumer guidelines to assist families in making choices regarding child care. We offer resources and services to assist current and new child care providers in providing quality care for children and we provide subsidies to help low-income families pay for child care services.

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We Care about Child Care