



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
COMMUNITY SERVICES
BUREAU

2025 – 2027
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Contra Costa County
Employment and Human Services Department
Community Services Bureau

Revised January 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose and Objectives

In 2025-26, the Community Services Bureau of Contra Costa County receives funding to provide educational support and development services to 1,280 families with 1,338 children eligible for the Early Head Start and Head Start programs. CSB staff are deeply involved in community engagement activities that ensure appropriate representation of child and family interests and provide a consistent forum for the discussion of child and family needs. Examples of the CSB's community commitment and engagement include serving on the county's First 5 Commission, collaborating with community-based organizations on efforts such as the Building Blocks for Kids initiative, a Children's Zone in the Iron Triangle of Richmond, and data collection through the County Office of Education, the Contra Costa Local Planning Council, and First 5 Contra Costa.

As part of its mission, the CSB conducts an annual Community Assessment to provide a current profile of the health, economic, educational and safety status of the estimated 72,476 children age 0-5 living in Contra Costa County. The Community Assessment is a multi-phase, ongoing process of data collection and analysis that describes community strengths, needs and resources, and integrally involves the Head Start Policy Council, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and active parents. Staff and engaged parents use the findings to identify emerging needs and factors that impact the well-being of Head Start eligible children and families, as well as the community assets, opportunities and strengths available to address these needs. Findings inform programmatic approaches, optimize and coordinate service delivery across resources, and guide the Policy Council. The CSB also uses the Community Assessment to provide reports to the County Administrator to keep the Board of Supervisors updated on the program's responsiveness to the community.

Methodology

The Community Assessment process involves a highly collaborative assimilation of input from and engagement with numerous sources, stakeholders, community members and county staff. CSB Assistant Directors work with program managers and active parents to revise or refine the process, develop and implement surveys to identify emerging needs and issues, and compile and maintain demographic and referral information about CSB enrollment. The Policy Council participates in the assessment process throughout the year providing input at regular meetings, reviewing planning data in the context of shared governance, and engaging in many other outreach and dialog opportunities. This year, the Policy Council receives a full presentation of the Community Assessment in early Spring and will then exercise its mandate to evaluate, discuss, pose questions about, and approve its findings.

A wide variety of data techniques and sources are used to conduct the Community Assessment. Federal and state agencies, such as the U.S. Census and the Departments of Finance, Education, and Employment Development, provide reliable and regularly updated estimates of residents and conditions that may indicate change over time. Internal data sources include parent and family partnership data, parent planning sessions, and assessment surveys. Program Information Reports (PIR) and data compiled by program managers throughout the year provide a profile of the demographics and needs of Head Start families and children. Local committees, commissions and community-based entities that serve low income and at-risk children and families, such as First 5 Contra Costa, CalWORKs, the County Health Department, Contra Costa County Local Planning Council for Child Care, and the County Office of Education, also maintain on-the-ground utilization data. Community Care Licensing provides data about the demand for and utilization of childcare, as well as the number and location of licensed providers and childcare slots available. In collaboration with McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons, the assessment process also helps identify age-eligible children experiencing homelessness in the county.

Importantly, due to the extended federal government shutdown in 2025, public data releases that the assessment process rely on have been delayed or suspended. In particular, updates based on 2024 American Community Survey (ACS) data are currently limited to 1-year estimates instead of the more stable 5-year averages typically used. This change restricts analysis to communities larger than 65,000 (Antioch, Brentwood, Concord, Pittsburg, Richmond, San Ramon, and Walnut Creek) and makes year-to-year comparisons between different dataset types more problematic. In light of this challenge, values from 2023 5-year datasets in smaller subareas have not been updated or removed so as to maintain report consistency, and limited year-over-year comparisons have been presented as changes in estimates in order to satisfy program priorities and preferences.

The assessment process helps identify and communicate emerging needs and interests of community members by compiling and sharing local knowledge. It helps determine the population and location of eligible children and families, and it describes eligible children and families by age, race, ethnicity,

primary language, income, family size, social service needs, educational attainment, employment status, work or job training needs, health factors, nutritional needs, special educational needs, foster care status and housing needs. The assessment process also helps program planners integrate community strengths and resources. The following presents findings of the 2025–2027 Community Needs Assessment.

Population Profile

- Contra Costa County has grown 12% to 1,172,607 since 2010, compared to 6% in the state, with higher growth in Brentwood (up 29%), Pittsburg (up 22%), San Ramon (up 19%), and Antioch (up 16%). Estimates are 1% or 11,149 residents higher than in 2023, with increases in Antioch (up 2.3% or 2,696), Brentwood (up 2.6% or 1,680), Pittsburg (up 1.7% or 1,257), and Walnut Creek (up 1.4% or 1,010).
- The county remains highly diverse with White (40%), Latino (28%), Asian (20%), multi-racial (17%), Black or African American (8%), American Indian or Alaska Native (1%), and Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian (< 1%) residents. County proportions of Black/African American and Asian residents remain higher than the state, while its proportion of Latinos remains much lower than the state. In 2024, 72% (829,500) of Contra Costa residents are U.S. born, 28% (325,525) are foreign-born, 12% are non-citizens, and 2% of non-citizens are 0–4-year-olds.
- In 2024, the county is home to 251,474 (21%) 0–17-year-olds, 94,767 (8%) 18–24-year-olds, 615,412 (53%) 25–64-year-olds, 164,013 (14%) 65–79-year-olds, and 46,941 (4%) residents 80 and over. Estimates of children are lower in both the state and county, while those of seniors age 65 and over are 9% higher in both the state and county than in 2023. About 29% (72,476) of all 251,474 county children are under 6, with estimates 5% or 4,003 lower than in 2023. About 5% (61,358) of residents are age 0–4, including 34,309 age 0–2, 27,049 age 3–4, and 11,118 age 5.
- In 2024, the county has 417,686 households, 2% higher than in 2023. The number of families (301,302) is 3% higher, but families with their own children (121,157) are 7% lower. Married-couple families (229,301) are 3% higher, but those with children (93,354) are 6% lower. Families headed by single females (52,306) are 5% higher, but those with children (20,960) are 6% lower. Of 221,630 Contra Costa 0–17-year-olds with their own families in 2024, 176,463 (80%) live in married-couple families, 10,601 (5%) in single male-headed families, and 34,566 (16%) in single female-headed families.
- About 23,278 0–2-year-olds, 19,480 3–4-year-olds, and 8,188 5-year-olds live in married-couple families. About 796 0–2-year-olds, 1,368 3–4-year-olds, and 535 5-year-olds live in single male-headed families. An estimated 5,080 0–2-year-olds, 2,704 3–4-year-olds, and 829 5-year-olds live in single female-headed families in 2024.

Economic Profile

- Since 2023, median income estimates for Contra Costa households (\$127,221) and families (\$150,316) are 1% and 3% higher, respectively. Of householders with 0–5-year-olds, 69% in the state and 73% (51,404) in the county live in families in which all parents work, with higher rates in Antioch (87%) and Concord (78%). The 2024 Self-Sufficiency Standard for a Contra Costa family with one adult, an infant, and a preschool age child rose 17% to \$161,195 and represents a full-time hourly wage of \$76.
- In September 2025, 587,800 county residents participate in the civilian workforce, up 40,700 or 7% since January 2024, including large gains in Antioch (up 9,500), Brentwood (up 2,000), Oakley (up 4,400), Pittsburg (up 4,400), Richmond (up 7,500), San Pablo (up 1,600), and San Ramon (up 2,100). About 29,500 are unemployed, up 9% or 2,500 jobless. Unemployment in the county (5.0%) continues lower than in the state (5.6%) but both edged higher since 2024.
- In 2024, 83% (451,611) of workers in the county commute, mean commute time (38 minutes) is 2 minutes longer, and 47% (210,034) of commuters are female, 3% or 6,157 higher than in 2023. About 72% (10,022) of women with recent births work, and 73% (35,982) of women with 0–5-year-olds work in 2024, with estimates 4% or 1,516 higher than in 2023. In 2024, 77% (225,952) of Contra Costa males and 66% (175,426) of females in the workforce work full-time, with female estimates 6% higher than in 2023, and both rates exceeding the state (75% males and 64% females). Annual earnings for full-time female workers (\$77,369) are now 78% that of full-time males (\$99,284).
- In Contra Costa, 8% (98,205) of individuals, 9% (6,133) of children less than 6, 6% (18,973) of families, and 8% of families with children live below the FPL. About 8% of native-born, 10% of foreign-born, 7% of naturalized citizens and 13% of non-citizens live in poverty. About 21% (2,090) of married-couples in poverty, 27% (1,773) of single female-headed families in poverty, and 24% (532) of single male-headed families in poverty have 0–4-year-olds. An estimated 24,546 county children of all ages live below the FPL in 2024, which is 4% or 938 lower than in 2023. About 675 married and 843 unmarried women with recent births live below the FPL in 2024, with estimates 31% and 40% lower than in 2023.

- CalWORKs cases have fallen 1% to 6,627 cash grant cases, involving 25% (1,650) with no parent and 12,374 children, up 1% since 2024. About 19,844 (5%) county households rely on SSI, 10,909 (3%) receive cash PA, and 39,436 (9%) receive SNAP. About 46,719 (19%) of all county children live in PA households, 59% (27,749) of these in married-couple families, 28% (13,261) in single female-headed families, and 11% (5,268) in single male-headed families. About 5,298 (2%) women age 15-50, including 500 with recent births, receive PA benefits in 2024.
- Owner-occupied housing costs have risen 3% to \$2,232 in the state and 6% to \$2,843 in the county, with 94,363 (33%) unaffordable units in the county, 14% or 11,430 units higher. Renter housing costs have risen 8% to \$2,104 in the state and 1% to \$2,340 in the county, with 71,607 (54%) unaffordable rentals in the county, 3% or 2,116 rentals higher. The 2026 median monthly fair market rent for a 2-bedroom unit in the county, at \$2,912, is 9% or \$230 higher than in 2025.
- In 2023, 14,002 people in 9,632 households accessed homeless-related services from CoC providers, children make up 24% of those served, and 2,972 (31%) retained or exited to permanent housing. PIT counts of homeless in 2025 (2,118) are 26% or 725 lower than in 2024, 40% (840) live in shelters, 5% are families with children, 5% are transitioning age youth, and 8% are minors under age 18. In 2025, 3,007 students in Contra Costa schools have unstable housing, down 11% or 374 students since 2024.

Health and Safety Profile

- In Contra Costa, 4% (49,638) of residents are uninsured, compared to 6% statewide, with both improved since 2023. About 2% (6,162) of county children of all ages and 2% (1,739) of 0–5-year-olds are uninsured in 2024. Medicaid-only coverage among county children has risen 14% to 67,244 (29%). The rate of uninsured among native-born (3%), foreign-born (7%), naturalized citizens (3%), and non-citizens (13%) in the county have all improved, despite higher estimates of naturalized and non-citizens. Non-Hispanic White residents (98%) are more likely than American Indian or Native Alaskan (95%), multi-racial (95%), Black or African American (94%), Latino (92%), another unspecified race (90%), and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (85%) residents to have health insurance.
- About 15,884 children and 79,697 adults with asthma are at risk from poor air quality in the county, which received a C-grade for air quality from the ALA in 2025. In 2022, 11% of county residents and 5% of children have a current asthma diagnosis. Asthma-related hospitalizations for 0–4-year-olds are down somewhat in 2023, with 13.7 per 10,000 in the county and 14.7 in the state.
- Chlamydia rates are 3% or 157 cases higher to 422.1 per 100,000 in the county, while gonorrhea rates have improved, down 17% or 122 cases to 275.4 among females and down 7% or 64 cases to 415.3 among males. HIV/AIDS diagnoses (284.8 per 100,000 or 2,830 cases) are 1% higher than in 2024.
- Drug-induced deaths in the county rose to 263.7 (22.1 per 100,000) in 2025, up 1.0 point since 2024. Opioid-related deaths have fallen 30% to 123 (11.2), but much higher rates persist in 94509 (39.4), 94520 (32.6), and 94595 (27.8) zip codes. In 2024, opioid overdoses in the county account for 99 (8.3) hospitalizations and 332 ER visits (31.7 per 100,000).
- During pregnancy, 22% of women with births in the county had inadequate weight gain, 44% had excessive weight gain, 14% utilized CalFresh, 19% experienced food insecurity, and 8% of county births are low birthweight in 2025. About 30% of county adults are obese, while 13% of 2–11-year-olds and 15% of 12–17-year-olds are overweight for their age.
- Infant mortality in the county is down to 3.1 per 1,000 in 2025, compared to 3.7 statewide. About 90% of pregnant women in the county receive first trimester prenatal care in 2025, but only 65% receive adequate care throughout pregnancy. In 2025, only 36% of low-income 0–5-year-olds in the county have had an annual dental exam, compared to 41% statewide, while 78% of county foster children have had timely dental exams, compared to 68% statewide. As of January 2026, 17% (189,530) of county residents and 10% (5,805) of children age 0-4 are up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Adult felony arrests in the county have fallen 7% (down 382) to 5,425 in 2024, with arrests for violent offenses down 6%, property offenses down 6%, and drug and sex offenses both down 4%. However, misdemeanors have risen 8% since 2023, up 839 to 11,208. Death by homicide rates have fallen to 5.5 per 100,000 statewide and 6.0 in the county, while rates of firearm-related deaths are also down, now 8.4 statewide and 8.8 in the county. The 2022 county rate of female incarcerations (20.0 per 100,000) continues much lower than the statewide rate (52.0 per 100,000). The county has had 596 juvenile arrests in 2024, up 9% or 51 arrests since 2023, with 278 (47%) for felonies (down 15%) and 318 (43%) for misdemeanors (up 46%). Juvenile arrests for violent offenses have fallen 5% since 2023.
- The county's rate of substantiated child abuse cases has risen to 2.7 per 1,000 in 2024, compared to an improved state rate (4.2). County cases are up 4% or 22 cases to 532, with cases involving infants

(85) up by 20%, and cases among children age 1 to 5 (148) up by 12%. Domestic violence calls from county residents have risen 1% or 34 calls to 3,252 in 2024.

Profile of Children and Families

- County birth rates (50.7 per 1,000) are 7% lower, with 13,853 women with births in 2024. Teen birth rates in the county (8.2) are higher while the state rate (3.7) improved. About 9,592 native-born and 4,261 foreign-born women had births in the county, with estimates 2% and 18% lower, respectively.
- In 2025, the county has 394 children in foster care, down 11% or 49 since 2023, with 187 first entries. Children age 0-5 continue to represent a high proportion (39% or 153) of all those in care, with 37 (9%) infants, 60 (15%) 1–2-year-olds, and 56 (14%) 3–5-year-olds as of June 2025. Children age 0-5 comprise 52% (96) of all first entries, infants comprise 26% (48), 1–2-year-olds comprise 12% (22), and 3–5-year-olds comprise 14% (26). Contra Costa schools enrolled 436 foster students in 2024-25, 43% or 332 fewer than in 2021, including 7 (2%) Transitional Kindergarteners and 28 (6%) kindergarteners.
- In 2023, childcare availability has risen statewide, with center slots up 3% and home slots up 1%, and children with subsidized care has risen 4%. Still, 2025 estimates suggest a licensed childcare space is available to just 26% of children in working families statewide and 30% in the county. As the county sees a 14% drop in 0–5-year-olds in poverty, children with subsidized care (8,534) are down 4% in 2023. In 2025, day care slots in county centers are down another 4% to 17,797, infant slots in centers are down 3% to 2,212, day care slots in homes are up 8% to 6,553, but slots in single-licensed centers for all ages are up by 34% or 1,267 slots to 4,999.
- About 79% of county families seek childcare because parents work, down 6 points since 2021. Costs for full-time infant care in centers have risen 21% (up \$4,260) to \$25,056, while infant care in homes has risen 12% (up \$1,776) to \$16,572 since 2021. Costs for full-time preschool care in centers have also risen 27% (up \$4,248) to \$19,788, while preschool care in homes has risen 27% (up \$3,516) to \$16,632.

Educational Profile

- Countywide school enrollment (169,261) is unchanged, but San Ramon Valley Unified (down 2%), John Swett Unified (down 2%), Contra Costa Office of Education (down 2%), and Canyon Elementary (down 1%) have lower enrollment, while SBE - John Henry High (up 17%), Knightsen Elementary (up 9%), Brentwood Union Elementary (up 3%), and Moraga Elementary (up 2%) have higher enrollment.
- The student population is 39% Latino, 24% White, 15% Asian, 8% Black, 8% multi-racial, and 4% Filipino. In 2025, EL students of all ages have fallen 4% (down 1,044) to 27,195 (16%). However, county estimates of children in linguistically-isolated households (15,109) are 32% or 3,619 higher than in 2023, with 9,076 (60%) who speak Spanish, 1,524 (10%) who speak Asian or Pacific Islander languages, and 1,515 (10%) who speak Indo-Euro languages.
- Since 2024, TK enrollment is 60% or 2,003 higher to 5,322, with increases in West Contra Costa Unified (up 387), Mt. Diablo Unified (up 372), San Ramon Valley Unified (up 216), Brentwood Union Elementary (up 200), and Pittsburg Unified (up 142). Of all TK students, 2,053 (39%) are Socio-economically Disadvantaged, up 62% or 784 students.
- Special education enrollment in county schools has risen 11% or 2,347 to 24,659, including 2,773 3–5-year-olds, and now represents 14% of total enrollment. About 45% (75,675) of county students are FRPM-eligible, up 12% or 8,350 students since 2024.
- The county (6%) maintains a higher proportion of enrollees who are preschoolers than the state (5%). Of an estimated 280,837 county enrollees in 2024, 17,062 attend preschool, 4% or 703 higher than in 2023. An estimated 52% (14,110) of 3–4-year-olds attend school, 9% or 1,122 higher, and countywide enrollment rates (52%) continue to surpass the state (50%). About 29% (27,385) of county residents below poverty attend school in 2024, including 7,513 in college.
- Overall, 26% (71,587) of county residents attend college in 2024, including 32,395 (45%) males and 39,192 (55%) females. Contra Costa County males (11% or 44,348) are more likely than females (10% or 41,740) to have less than a high school diploma, and males (45% or 180,238) are less likely than females (47% or 201,761) to hold a bachelor's or post-graduate degree.
- In Contra Costa, 52% of students meet or exceed the English Language Arts standard, up 1.45 points, and 42% meet or exceed the mathematics standard, up 1.46 points since 2024. Chronic absenteeism has fallen about 1 point in both the state and county, down 5% (1,560 students) to 33,214 (19%) countywide, although rates remain high in Antioch (33%), Pittsburg (32%), John Swett (28%), and West Contra Costa Unified (27%). The county graduation rate has risen to 91%.

Communities Served by Head Start

The Community Assessment assesses the need for Head Start program services among children and families in the zip codes, census designated places (CDPs), and supervisorial districts listed below.

City or CDP	Zip code	Supervisorial District	City or CDP
Byron / Discovery Bay	94505	1	Bayview
Danville / Blackhawk	94506	1	East Richmond Heights
Alamo	94507	1	El Cerrito
Antioch	94509	1	El Sobrante
Bethel Island	94511	1	Kensington
Brentwood	94513	1	North Richmond
Byron / Discovery Bay	94514	1	Pinole
Canyon	94516	1	Richmond
Clayton	94517	1	San Pablo
Concord	94518	1	Tara Hills
Concord	94519	2	Alamo
Concord / Clyde	94520	2	Blackhawk
Concord	94521	2	Canyon
Concord / Pleasant Hill	94523	2	Danville
Contra Costa Centre	94597	2	Diablo
Crockett	94525	2	Lafayette
Danville	94526	2	Moraga
Diablo	94528	2	Orinda
El Cerrito	94530	2	San Ramon
Antioch	94531	2	Walnut Creek (portion)
Hercules / Rodeo	94547	3	Antioch
Knightsen	94548	3	Bethel Island
Lafayette	94549	3	Brentwood
Martinez / Briones / Pacheco / Vine Hill	94553	3	Byron
Moraga	94556	3	Discovery Bay
Oakley	94561	3	Knightsen
Orinda	94563	3	Oakley
Pinole	94564	4	Clayton
Pittsburg / Bay Point / Port Chicago / W. Pittsburg	94565	4	Concord
Port Costa	94569	4	Contra Costa Centre
Rodeo	94572	4	Pleasant Hill
San Ramon	94582	4	Walnut Creek (primary)
San Ramon	94583	5	Antioch (portion)
Walnut Creek	94595	5	Bay Point
Walnut Creek / Lafayette	94596	5	Briones
Walnut Creek	94597	5	Clyde
Walnut Creek	94598	5	Crockett
Point Richmond / Richmond / North Richmond	94801	5	Hercules
Richmond / San Pablo / El Sobrante	94803	5	Martinez
Richmond	94804	5	Pacheco
Richmond / East Richmond Heights	94805	5	Pittsburg
Richmond / Bayview / San Pablo / Tara Hills	94806	5	Port Costa
		5	Rodeo
		5	Vine Hill

About 5,223 0–2-year-olds (including 1,518 pregnant women) and 4,122 3–5-year-olds in Contra Costa may be income-eligible for Early Head Start or Head Start services in 2026-27. As compared to 2023 estimates, income-eligible 0–2-year-olds are 31% or 2,369 lower, the number of pregnant women in poverty are 36% or 861 lower, and estimates of income-eligible 3–5-year-olds are 10% or 1,396 lower.

In 2025-26, the county’s Early Head Start program serves 439 children, while Head Start serves 889. About 47% (207) of Early Head Start enrollees are less than 1, including at least 44 unborn babies. Another 31% (134) are 1-year-olds, and 32% (141) are 2-year-olds. Of Head Start enrollees, 8% (73) are 5 or older, 37% (331) are 4-year-olds, and 50% (440) are 3-year-olds. Latino children make up 77% (344) of Early Head Start and 63% (560) of Head Start students, and Spanish is the primary language of 51% (227) in Early Head Start and 40% (351) in Head Start. White children make up 76% (342) in Early Head Start and 61% (544) in Head Start, African Americans make up 15% (69) in Early Head Start and 23% (204) in Head Start, and Asians make up 3% (12) of Early Head Start and 7% (64) of Head Start students. About 68% (298) of Early Head Start families and 72% (602) of Head Start families are single-parents. Most Early

Head Start (70% or 322) and Head Start (49% or 435) families have incomes at or below poverty. Another 11% (50) of Early Head Start and 16% (144) of Head Start families receive public assistance.

Community Assets and Resources for Head Start Children

No single agency is capable of eliminating the myriad causes and effects of poverty. Collaborations of the private sector, government agencies, community-based and faith-based organizations play a crucial role as they join forces, multiply individual efforts and leverage resources. The CSB recognizes that the Head Start, Early Head Start, CDD and CSBG programs accessed by many residents are more effective in reducing or eliminating poverty's impact on children and families when they operate in unison through comprehensive partnerships with other local organizations committed to transforming individuals, families, neighborhoods and entire communities. With this perspective, the CSB continues its successful history of merging Head Start and Child Development programs into a unified Child Start program which offers more families full-day, year-round services such as high-quality education; health and dental services; job skills training support for family members in CalWORKs; and family advocacy services. In 2025-26, 191 Early Head Start and 485 Head Start families received family advocacy services or referrals, including preventive medical and oral health education (541), child screening and assessment (531), emergency or crisis intervention (170), and asset building assistance (170).

Contra Costa County sponsors its own health care system, Contra Costa Health (CCH), which offers a wide range of health services to residents. CCH uses a broad provider network to support individual, family and community health through primary, specialty, and inpatient medical care, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, public and environmental health programs, hazardous materials response and inspection, and emergency medical services. In 2025, CCH received a Quality Leaders Award (QLA) in recognition of its innovative approach to improving behavioral health outcomes. CCH operates the Contra Costa Health Plan (CCHP), an HMO that offers Medi-Cal Managed Care coverage, serves Medicare beneficiaries, provides quality care to county employees, businesses, individuals, and families, and implements the ACA Medi-Cal expansion to those with incomes below 138% of the FPL. Although 2025 federal budget cuts reduce support for Medi-Cal and public hospitals and are projected to impact up to 93,000 county residents by 2029, Contra Costa has mobilized with community-based providers and other county partners to proactively meet the challenge of what could be a cumulative \$300 million cut to funding by 2028-29.