

CALIFORNIA COUNTY LOCAL CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL NEEDS ASSESSMENT – TEMPLATE

1. **Please include the following reports from the California Early Learning Needs Assessments Reports (CELNAR). Attach reports in Microsoft Excel or PDF directly from the CELNAR (<http://reports.elneedsassessment.org/LPCReports.aspx>).**
 - a. **Table 1:** Number of Children by Age
 - b. **Table 2:** Percent of Children by Race/Ethnicity and Age
 - c. **Table 3:** Regional Market Rate Ceilings Allowed for State Subsidy by Age and Type of Care
 - d. **Table 4:** Unmet Need for State and Federally Subsidized Programs for Infants and Toddlers
 - e. **Table 5:** Unmet Need for State and Federally Subsidized Programs for Preschool
2. **Local population data.** Please provide below any additional information or explanation related to the population figures from the CELNAR. Please cite the specific source of data. *This could include any information related to recent population increases or decreases in your county, or local data sources that you believe provide more accurate estimates about the child population in your county (please cite specific source) than 1a-e above.*

Contra Costa County's recent child population data show a decline from 2021 to 2023, especially among children ages 2 to 4, according to the California Child Care R&R Network's 2023 Portfolio Report. CA Department of Finance projections point to growth among infants by 2035, so the county will need to shift planning toward infant and toddler care while maintaining preschool capacity.

3. **Local enrollment data.** Please provide any additional information about enrollment in early learning and care (ELC) programs not accounted for in 1a-e above (for example, locally funded preschool programs). Please cite the specific source of data.

A February 2026 CoCoKids snapshot shows 28,538 licensed slots for 0–5 with an 22% vacancy rate overall. The First 5 Child Care Systems Map reports ~9,767 children 3–5 served via Head Start, CSPP, child care subsidies, and TK, noting blending/duplication. Waitlists persist for low-income infants; capacity covers only 72% of working families' needs for licensed care.

4. **Waiting Lists.** Please provide any information you have related to the estimated number of children on ELC program waiting lists, by age cohort. Please cite the specific source of data.

CoCoKids CC4 waitlist reports show total children on waitlists dropping from 3,875 in 2022 to 2,767 in 2026, a nearly 30% decrease. However, infant–toddler requests almost doubled while preschool waitlists fell 62%, a shift likely due to TK and CSPP expansion. Unmet demand has pivoted to the youngest ages, even with some unused licensed infant capacity

5. **Language.** Please provide the number of children in kindergarten in your county speaking each language. This is a proxy for the languages of children zero to five years old. Please pull this information from California Department of Education (CDE) Dataquest.

Language	Number of Children
Spanish	1760
Tagalog	26
Mandarin	86
Cantonese	42
Vietnamese	28
Russian	48
Armenian	0
Arabic	42
Other: Persian	120
Other: Portuguese	44
Other: Pashto	36
All other non-English languages	374

6. **Local Language Data.** Please provide any additional local information you have related to the estimated number of children zero to five speaking different home languages. Please cite the specific source of data.

Nearly 40% of Contra Costa residents speak non-English at home (with Spanish growing); Based on CocoKids 2026 data, childcare providers report the following percentages of languages spoken on site by providers to children ages 0-5: English 55%, Spanish 21%, Farsi 4%; Tagalog/Hindi/Russian/Sign/Mandarin ~1–2% each.

7. Children Receiving Special Education Services.

- a. How many children under three years of age (up to 36 months) in your county had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) as of October of the most recent year? Please cite the specific source of data.

Infants and toddlers with IFSPs: 114

Source:

Contra Costa County Special Education Local Plan Areas (Contra Costa, West Contra Costa, San Ramon, and Mount Diablo), Special Education Information System (SEIS) database. 2024-2025 data from October 2025.

- b. How many children ages three to four (from 37 to 60 months) in your county had an Individualized Education Program (IEP) as of October of the most recent year? Please cite the specific source of data.

Preschoolers with IEPs: 1695

Source:

Contra Costa County Special Education Local Plan Areas (Contra Costa, West Contra Costa, San Ramon, and Mount Diablo), Special Education Information System (SEIS) database. 2024-2025 data from October 2025. (Note: This data only divides ages by 0-3 and 3-5. Data specifically for 3-4 year olds is not fully available).

8. Children under protective services (e.g., foster children).

- a. How many children under three years of age (up to 36 months) in your county are under protective services supervision as of October of the most recent year? Please cite the specific source of data. (Recommended data source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/)

Infants and toddlers under protective services: 100

Source:

California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), University of California, Berkeley and California Department of Social Services, In Care—Point in Time Count (AB 636), Contra Costa County, age group table (0; 1–2; 3–5), accessed January 22, 2026, at <https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/childwelfare/reports/PIT/MTMG/r/ab636/>

- b. How many children ages three and four in your county are under protective services supervision as of October of the most recent year? Please cite the specific source of data. (Recommended data source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/)

Preschoolers under protective services: 54

Source:

California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), University of California, Berkeley and California Department of Social Services, In Care—Point in Time Count (AB 636), Contra Costa County, age group table (0; 1–2; 3–5), accessed January 22, 2026, at <https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/childwelfare/reports/PIT/MTMG/r/ab636/>

- 9. Number of children in working families.** Please pull these numbers from the Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool subscription site (www.elneedsassessment.org).

Age Group	Number of Children in Working Families
Infants (less than one year old)	7,966
One-Year-Olds	8002
Two-Year-Olds	8392
Three-Year-Olds	9586
Four-Year-Olds	8678

10. Families receiving public assistance. Please indicate the number of children zero to five in families receiving public assistance (including CalFresh benefits, housing support, and Medi-Cal, and assistance from the Healthy Families Program and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] program). Please cite the specific source of data.

Number of children: ~24K

Source:

Total count is 23,744 for Medi-Cal recipients; 16,425 for CalFresh; 4,895 for CalWORKS; and ~3,000 for HUD housing support. Medi-Cal data used as largest category, as duplication exists.

Source: Contra Costa County Department of Employment and Human Services, Community Services Bureau. Children and Family Services Committee Meeting presentation, July 14, 2025.

11. Median family income. Please indicate the median family income for a family of four. Please retrieve this data from data.census.gov (search for your county name to find its profile).

Median income: \$ 191,534

12. Migrant Children. Please indicate the number of children zero to five in migrant families. Please cite the specific source of data. (Census data, American Community Survey, ELNET, CELNAR, Resource and Referral)

Number of migrant children: 8

Source:

California Department of Education, Migrant Education Program (MEP), Region 23, San Joaquin County Office of Education. Accessed on January 21, 2026.

13. Facilities. Please describe ELC facilities needs in your county and any progress made in the past five years towards meeting those needs (for example, has the county conducted a facility needs assessment in the last two years? Are there any new facilities being built or that have been built in the last two years? Are there any sites that have expanded capacity due to facilities expansion?).

Facility needs remain for infant-toddler/inclusive spaces despite growth from 339 to 345 centers and 779 to 837 FCCs from 2023 to 2026 (CocoKids, Feb 2026). A 2024-25 \$29.7M Head Start award funds 1,634 slots/upgrades, and a \$2.8M grant is helping to modernize the Contra Costa College EL Center. State CCTR/CSPP has added capacity, but more capital is needed for high-need areas.

14. Requests for care during nontraditional hours. Please give an estimate of the number of requests for care during nontraditional hours during the past six months. Clearly specify your source of data. (Suggested resource: Local child care resource & referral agency, Alternative Payment agencies)

A CocoKids February 2026 snapshot shows 1,292 requests for nontraditional hours care in the past 6 months: 757 before/after school, 9 summer-only, 526 other (drop-in, evenings, overnight, weekends). The 2023 R&R Portfolio Report reveals: nontraditional requests = 2% of total; only 22% FCCs and 1% centers offer it. In a parent survey, 61.4% of respondents desire nontraditional hours.

15. ELC Workforce and Quality Counts California (QCC). Please describe needs in your county related to the workforce and site participation in QCC, and any progress towards meeting those needs. Be sure to include a summary of any findings from any local educational agency (LEA) or provider focus groups or surveys conducted for this Needs Assessment here.

CSCCE's 2024 Contra Costa study finds ECE educators are skilled but undervalued, with low wages causing hardship/turnover (95% centers lost staff 2021-23). 159 Quality Matters sites serve 4,722 kids. Progress: First 5 wage pilot, Measure X stipends, college coursework. Stated needs include livable pay, benefits, QCC simplification. Provider focus groups prioritize compensation and stability.

16. Parent needs and concerns regarding access to quality early learning and care, needs for supports, family engagement, transition to kindergarten. Please provide a description of findings from any focus groups or parent surveys conducted as a part of the Needs Assessment. Indicate how many parents participated and how parents were recruited for participation. Please provide some demographic information about the parents who participated and how well this reflects the demographics of your county. Please do not include any identifying information about parents.

A July 2025 CCCOE/CocoKids survey of 263 Contra Costa County parents shows 84.3% cite cost as a major barrier, and many spend \$500 to \$2,000 dollars monthly on care. Parents report limited infant slots, inconvenient hours, and fragile “patchwork” arrangements despite subsidies. They call for more affordable, flexible, culturally responsive care and smoother TK transitions.

17. Access. What is your county doing to ensure access to all geographic areas in your county, including remote areas? Please describe.

Contra Costa agencies and the Office of Education target high-need areas (East/West County), leveraging \$29.7M in Head Start funding (1,634 slots in Antioch, Pittsburg, Richmond, etc.), UPK Mixed Delivery grants, and CocoKids' East County's area office. Zoning amendments enable centers in residential/agricultural zones. First 5 coaches 200+ County FCCs/centers, in person and remotely.

If you are a pilot county, please answer the following additional questions:

18. Requests for care. Approximately how many requests in the past year have agencies in your county received for the following types of care? (Suggested resource: Local child care resource & referral agency, Alternative Payment agencies)

Type of Care	Number of Requests
Infants: part-day	No Data
Infants: full-day	ND
Infants: nontraditional hours	ND
Toddlers: part-day	ND
Toddlers: full-day	ND
Toddlers: nontraditional hours	ND
Preschoolers: part-day	ND
Preschoolers: full-day	ND
Preschoolers: nontraditional hours	ND

19. Self-sufficiency. What is the self-sufficiency income level for a family of two adults and two children in your county? Please find this figure at <https://insightccd.org/tools-metrics/self-sufficiency-standard-tool-for-california/>

\$ 182,895

20. Emergency Preparedness. In the wake of the current pandemic, and other current emergencies, what is your county doing to ensure that children and families have access to resources that support distance learning, health and safety. Please describe .

Contra Costa ensures emergency access through resources such as equipment provision for distance learning, CoCoKids Emergency Child Care Bridge program for foster families, Public Health guidance (ventilation, vaccines), and multilingual resources (CCOE ECE/CPIN, Help Me Grow). County agencies also fully prioritize low-income/remote areas during wildfires/pandemics.