

# Child Care Policy Opportunities Status Report

City Council

March 17, 2026

Item 3.4

Presenters:

Emily Lam, Director, City Manager's Office of Administration, Policy and Intergovernmental Relations

Peter Hamilton, Assistant to the City Manager, City Manager's Office of Administration, Policy and Intergovernmental Relations

# Policy Context

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## California

- Implementing universal transitional kindergarten in 2025-2026 school year.

## San Francisco

- Passed a dedicated tax in 2018.
- Subsidizes childcare up to 150% of AMI.

## New Mexico

- As of November 2025, implementing universal, fully subsidized child care.

## Michigan

- Trishare program shares the cost of childcare three ways between individuals, the state and participating employers.

# California Cities

City	Childcare Program Highlights
Los Angeles	In 2021, Los Angeles set a goal of opening 10 City-operated, licensed childcare centers with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The ARPA funds are close to being spent and the city is attempting to transition these centers to private operators.
San Diego	In 2022, established the Office of Child and Youth Success, which is charged with implementing the San Diego Child and Youth Strategic Plan. This plan sets a number of goals around increasing access to childcare, including developing a funding model for childcare subsidies.
Sacramento	Operates a number of workforce development and small business support programs focused on childcare. Set aside \$1.5 million in ARPA funding to establish a childcare apprenticeship program and provide stipends to childcare providers.
Long Beach	In 2017, collaborated with other local agencies to establish the Long Beach Early Learning Hub which provides resources to families seeking childcare and to childcare providers.

# Local Government Across the Country

Jurisdiction	Type	Childcare Program Highlights
Seattle	City	In 2018 Seattle voters approved the Family, Education, Preschool and Promise Levy, a property tax devoted to funding early learning initiatives, including Seattle's Child Care Access Program, which provides subsidized childcare to families based on income.
Multnomah County	County	In 2020, Multnomah County voters passed a personal income tax that funds subsidized preschool for 3-4 year olds, with a goal of providing universal free preschool to all interested families by 2030.
Denver	City and County	In 2006, Denver voters passed a sales tax to fund childcare programs. In 2024, the tax generated \$31.4 million. This revenue funds a variety of programs, including family childcare subsidies that vary by income.
New York	City, County, and School System	New York currently provides universal preschool for 3 and 4 year-olds and is currently pursuing universal childcare for 2 year-olds.
Philadelphia	City, County, and School System	In 2016, the Philadelphia City Council approved a Sugar Sweetened Beverage tax that funds fully subsidized preschool for 3 and 4 year-olds with no income thresholds.

# Provision at City Facilities



# Subsidies

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<b>Season</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Ages</b>	<b>Unduplicated Participants</b>	<b>Scholarship Support</b>
School Year	SJRP	3yrs-5yrs	40	\$137,790
School Year	R.O.C.K.	5yrs-12yrs	149	\$413,702
Summer	CampSJ	5yrs-12yrs	330	\$405,504
Summer	CampSJ Jr.	3yrs-5yrs	77	\$50,330
Fall, Winter & Spring	Break Camps	5yrs-12yrs	333	\$91,156
		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>\$1,098,482</b>

# Funding for Co-Location with Affordable Housing

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- As part of approval of the 2022-2023 Operating Budget, the City Council allocated \$900,000 to support the development of childcare facilities in the ground floor retail spaces of new City-funded affordable housing developments.
  - To date, one project has been completed.

# Zoning Code

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- Day care centers are an allowed use in most zoning districts with the approval of a Special Use Permit (SUP).
- Exemptions from SUP for centers co-located with schools and religious assembly and for family day care homes.
- Staff pursuing AB 752 implementation.

# Training and Business Development



Friends, Families, and Neighbors  
Network Program



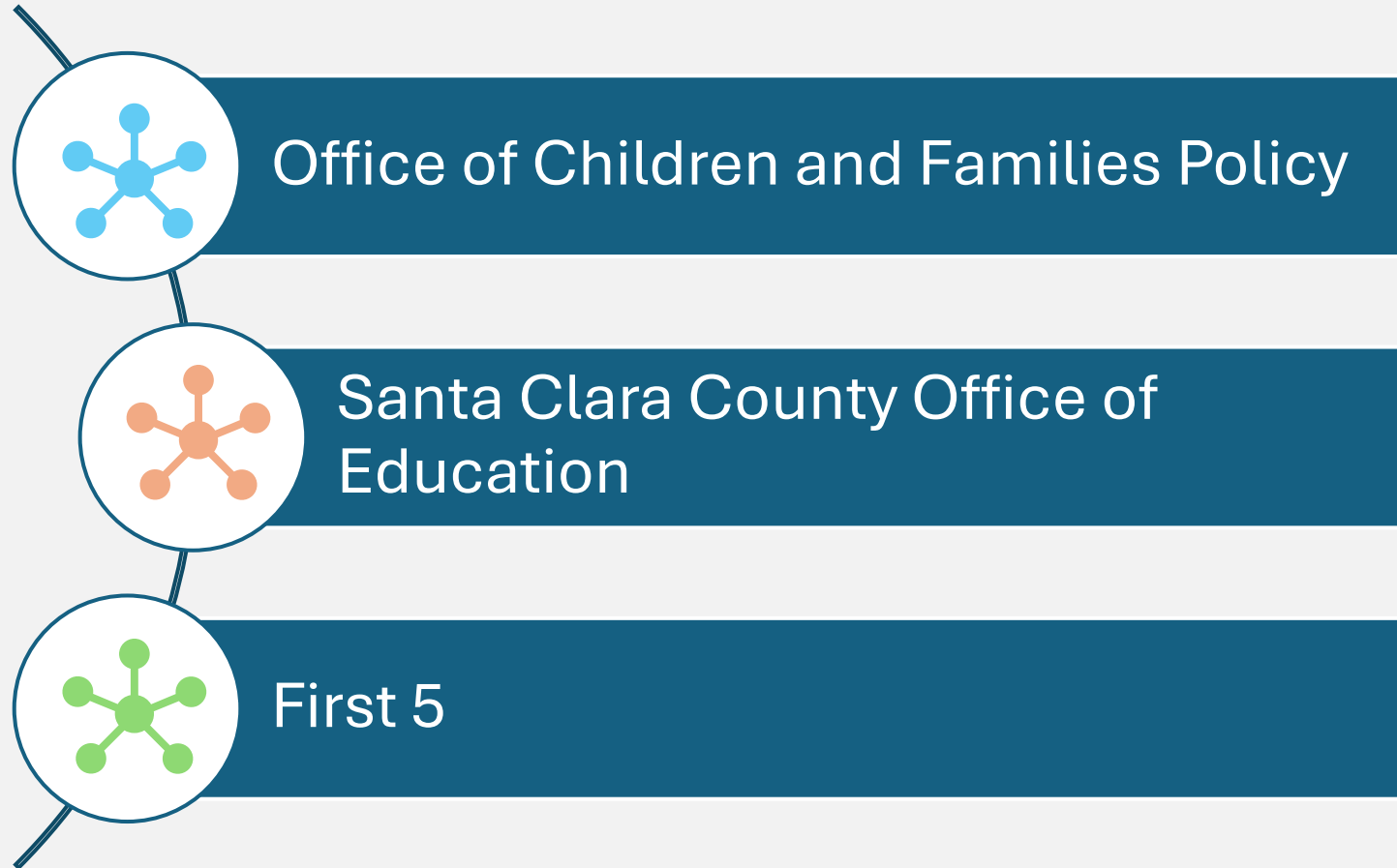
Boost Program

# Children and Youth Services Master Plan

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- Childcare services are a component of the no wrong door approach to building an integrated system of care. When implemented at the two demonstration sites, the no wrong door approach will help to connect residents to childcare assistance opportunities that they may not otherwise have been aware of.
- Implementation of the Children and Youth Services Master Plan is also an opportunity to increase coordination. In 2026, PRNS staff has convened an internal working group composed of City staff to align and coordinate internal resources. As an example, staff is pursuing training for City staff on the no wrong door approach.

# Efforts by Other Agencies



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