

*Napa County  
Child Care Planning Council  
Needs Assessment*

**2010**

**DRAFT**

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***Community Resources for Children***

***Napa County Health and Human Services Agency***

***First Five Napa***

## Executive Summary

The Napa County Child Care Planning Council is required to assess the child care needs of all families in Napa County and to develop a long term plan at least once every five years to address those needs. The 2010 Child Care Planning Council Needs Assessment describes the current status of child care in Napa County, identifies needs and gaps in existing services, and prioritizes plans for the improvement and expansion of services.

In 2009, Napa County had an estimated population of 137,571, a 7% increase from 2000. Approximately 4% ( $n = 5,716$ ) of the population were between the ages 0-2, 4% ( $n = 5,794$ ) were between the ages 3-5, and 12% were school age children between the ages 6-13. Napa County residents are predominately Caucasian (59%) and Hispanic (32%). The Hispanic population is growing; for children ages 0-5, only 35% are Caucasian while 57% are Hispanic. In 2008, 10% of the population and 9% of families with children under age 18 were at or below the federal poverty level. In 2009, 45% of students ages 5-13 were enrolled in the free- or reduced-meal program.

This report describes characteristics of Napa County potentially affecting child care; discusses the existing child care supply, demand, and utilization of services; addresses existing resources for and needs of special populations; highlights quality improvement efforts; and identifies existing child care needs, gaps, and areas of success relating to child care in Napa County.

Major conclusions identified by the data include the following:

- *The recession has had a substantial impact on income and poverty in Napa County, which impacts both families seeking child care and child care providers*
- *Child care providers are making some progress in addressing the linguistic needs of families in Napa County*
- *Existing demographic data by community is 10 years old, and does not accurately reflect the current characteristics of communities in Napa County*
- *Additional capacity for infant child care is needed in Napa County*
- *Additional capacity for subsidized programs is needed in Napa County, for all age groups*
- *There is a need for additional financial incentives and continued training opportunities for the early child care workforce in order to enhance education, retention, and program quality, and improve compensation*
- *In response to recent research on child brain development, the importance of program quality is becoming increasingly recognized at the state level, highlighting the importance of provider participation in addressing program quality*
- *A variety of resources exist in Napa County to address the needs of specialized populations, especially children with disabilities*
- *The demand for emergency child care has been growing, and additional resources are needed to address the increased demand*

Data from this report will assist the Napa County Child Care Planning Council in developing a five-year strategic plan to address identified needs and gaps.

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<b>Introduction</b>
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**Overview of the Napa County Child Care Planning Council**

The primary purpose of the Napa County Child Care Planning Council is to assess the child care needs of all families in Napa County and to develop a long term plan at least once every five years to address those needs. The Council coordinates with the Napa County community to establish priorities for the distribution of federal, state and local child development funds as well as to advocate funding for child care services and programs.

The Napa County Child Care Planning Council is composed of 20 members equally representing one of five categories: child care consumer, child care provider, public agency, community representative and at-large. Ten of the members are appointed by the Napa County Board of Supervisors and ten by the County Superintendent of Schools. The Napa County Office of Education has the responsibility of fiscal agent for funds received on behalf of the local planning council.

*Mission Statement*

The Napa County Child Care and Development Planning Council is committed to meeting the child care and development needs of children and families, through education, coordinated planning and advocacy efforts. In carrying out this mission, the Council shall collaborate to foster public and private partnerships.

*Vision Statement*

All children in Napa County have the right to experience a safe, healthy and nurturing childhood with equal access to community services and support.

*History*

In 1991, the United States Congress established a Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) through which each state was allocated funds to assist low income families in obtaining child care and development services. In the same year, California Assembly Bill 2141 requested each county establish a Local Child Care Planning Council to identify priorities for the use of the CCDBG funds and to prepare a countywide child care plan.

In 1997, the role of Local Planning Councils was strengthened and further formalized with the passage of California Assembly Bill 1542, which created the welfare reform program called California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs). Because child care is a key component of the CalWORKs Program, Local Planning Councils were mandated to work with a variety of local agencies in addition to those connected with the welfare system to build a comprehensive child care approach for all families.

*Current Goals*

- Advocate for increased availability, affordability and accessibility of quality child care
- Increase opportunities to educate the community about child development and child care issues
- Foster public/private partnerships designed to meet local child care needs

*Recent Accomplishments*

Highlights of the work of the Child Care Planning Council over the last five years toward meeting the above-stated goals have included:

- *Working with each of the cities within Napa County, and with County staff, to identify and update their permitting/licensing requirements for child care facilities to reduce barriers to developing new child care programs (center-based and family care);*
- *In collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce in each community, providing annual recognition of a business which exemplifies family friendly practices and policies, thereby recognizing the importance of work/life balance for their employees;*
- *Supporting the child care workforce to advance their formal education with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of care in Napa County through coordination and oversight of the NapaCARES Program*

**Overview and Purpose of Report**

The purpose of the 2010 Napa County Child Care Planning Council Needs Assessment is to describe the current status of child care in Napa County, identify needs and gaps in existing services, and guide plans for the improvement and expansion of services.

Data for this report was largely compiled from various published data sources (e.g., the American Community Survey), which limits some of its utility. For one, although the most recent data available was used for each topic area, some data (particularly demographic data) is only collected through the Census, the most recent administration of which was 2000. Second, raw data was rarely available, so data is presented here in the summary format it was published in and is not always consistent across topics. Also, some data on child care is unavailable (e.g., number of informal child care providers), either because it is not accessible or is not collected, and thus could not be included in this report.

This report begins by describing the characteristics of Napa County potentially affecting child care (e.g., poverty status, ethnic make-up). It then discusses the existing child care supply, demand, and utilization of services. Third, this report highlights quality improvement efforts and the child care workforce. Next, it addresses the existing resources for and needs of special populations (e.g., children with special needs) and emergency child care. The conclusion of this report synthesizes available findings and identifies issues and barriers to meeting the existing needs.

This report may be used to inform the public of status of child care in Napa County, provide documentation to assist with policy efforts, and direct funds to the highest priority areas.

<b>Napa County Characteristics</b>
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This section describes the characteristics of Napa County and its residents, including geographic make up, population, family income and poverty status, ethnicity and languages spoken, and health and social service program utilization.

**Geographic Characteristics**

Napa County is a rural county approximately 50 miles away from San Francisco, Oakland, and Sacramento. Napa County stretches from Calistoga in the North to American Canyon in the South, and includes the rural communities of Angwin, Pope Valley, and Lake Berryessa. Most Napa County residents live in the city of Napa.

**Population**

In 2009, Napa County had an estimated population of 137,571, a 7.4% increase from 2000.<sup>1</sup> In 2009, there were approximately 35,277 children under age 18 in Napa County; of these, 27,393 children were between the ages 0-13.<sup>2</sup> Approximately 4% ( $n = 5,716$ ) of the population were between the ages 0-2, 4% ( $n = 5,794$ ) were between the ages 3-5, and 12% were school age children between the ages 6-13. The child population has increased by approximately 7% since 2005.

**Family Living Situation**

In 2008, there were approximately 46,333 households and 30,737 families in Napa County.<sup>3</sup> Approximately 30% ( $n = 13,686$ ) of families reported having children under age 18. Of these, 80% ( $n = 10,895$ ) were married couple families, 13% ( $n = 1,828$ ) were single mother families and 7% ( $n = 963$ ) were single father families. Approximately 20% of families with children under 18 were single parent families likely in need of child care.

**Family Income and Poverty Status****Income**

In 2008, the median household income (household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit; the occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living

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<sup>1</sup> State of California, Department of Finance, City/County Population Estimates with Annual Percent Change, January 1, 2008 and 2009

<sup>2</sup> State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000–2050

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

together, etc.) for Napa County was \$70,635 and the mean household income was \$90,803.<sup>4</sup> The median family income (a family consists of a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder) was \$76,739 while the mean family income was \$101,146. Both household and family incomes have increased since 2005.

*Self-Sufficiency Standard*

The Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard (i.e., Self-Sufficiency Standard) for California provides county estimates of the income needed by working families to meet their basic needs.<sup>5</sup> It provides costs for childcare, housing, food, and health care, as well as costs associated with transportation and taxes. The figure below depicts the 2008 Napa County hourly self-sufficiency wage, the monthly self-sufficiency wage, and the average monthly child care costs by number of parents and number of children in the household.

**Figure 1: Napa County Hourly Self-Sufficiency Wage by Number of Children**

<b>Children</b>	<b>Hourly Self-Sufficiency Wage</b>	<b>Monthly Self-Sufficiency Wage</b>	<b>Average Monthly Child Care Costs</b>
<b><i>One Adult</i></b>			
No Children	\$11.64	\$2,049	N/A
Infant (0-2 years)	\$20.92	\$3,681	\$814
Preschooler (3-4 years)	\$20.27	\$3,568	\$730
Infant and Preschooler	\$26.72	\$4,702	\$1,544
School Age (5-12 years)	\$18.06	\$3,179	\$413
Preschooler and School Age	\$23.86	\$4,200	\$1,143
Infant, Preschooler, and School Age	\$36.18	\$6,369	\$1,957
<b><i>Two Adults*</i></b>			
No Children	\$7.97	\$2,805	N/A
Infant (0-2 years)	\$12.30	\$4,329	\$814
Preschooler (3-4 years)	\$11.98	\$4,218	\$730
Infant and Preschooler	\$15.11	\$5,318	\$1,544
School Age (5-12 years)	\$10.91	\$3,840	\$413
Preschooler and School Age	\$13.67	\$4,811	\$1,143
Infant, Preschooler, and School Age	\$19.21	\$6,761	\$1,957

\*Wage for households with two adults is per adult

Source: Insight Center for Community Economic Development, Self-Sufficiency Standard for Napa County, 2008

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

<sup>5</sup> Insight Center for Community and Economic Development, [www.insightccd.org](http://www.insightccd.org)

Data from 2007 indicates that countywide, 24% of households did not meet the self-sufficiency standard.<sup>6</sup> Thirty-eight percent of households with at least one child and 42% of single mothers did not meet the standard, compared to 16% of households without children. Data also varies by ethnicity; 51% of Latino and 31% of Asian/Pacific Islanders did not meet the self-sufficiency standard, compared to 14% of Whites. Further, the percentage not meeting the self-sufficiency standard decreases with greater education.

*Poverty*

In addition to the Self-Sufficiency Standard, other indicators of poverty include the percentage at or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), the percentage at or below 75% of the state median income, and the free-reduced meal eligibility status of students in Napa County.

Many public assistance programs use the FPL, or percentage multiples of the FPL, to determine program eligibility. The FPL is formally referenced as “the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).”<sup>7</sup> The 2009 Poverty Guidelines are presented below:

**Figure 2: 2009 Federal Poverty Guidelines**

<b>Persons in Family</b>	<b>Poverty Guideline</b>
1	\$10,830
2	\$14,570
3	\$18,310
4	\$22,050
5	\$25,790
6	\$29,530
7	\$33,270
8	\$37,010

*Note.* For each additional person add \$3,740

Source: Federal Register, Vol. 74, No. 14, January 23, 2009, pp. 4199–4201

In 2008, 10% of the population and 9% of families with children under age 18 were at or below the FPL.<sup>8</sup> And 3% of families with children under age 5 were in poverty. Poverty increases for families with a female householder only; 24% of these families with children under age 5 were at the FPL. Additionally, 27% of the population was at or below 200% of the FPL. Also, as of 2008, up to 38% ( $n = 17,604$ ) of Napa County households were at or below 75% of the state median income (\$61,154).<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Pearce, D. M. (2009). Overlooked and Undercounted 2009: Struggling to Make Ends Meet in California

<sup>7</sup> Federal Register, Vol. 73, No. 15, January 23, 2008, pp. 3971–3972

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

<sup>9</sup> Number was estimated using the U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey data

The recession has had a substantial impact on income and poverty in Napa County, not yet reflected in available statistical income/poverty data. To illustrate, the Napa County unemployment rate in December 2009 was 10.2%, double the 5.0% rate in December 2004.<sup>10</sup>

*Free-Reduced Meal Status*

A child is free or reduced-price meal eligible if any of the following are met: (1) the child’s family receives Food Stamp benefits, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation (FDPIR) benefits, Kinship Guardian Assistance Payments (Kin-GAP), or CalWORKS payments; (2) the child’s family meets income eligibility requirements; or (3) the child attends an area eligible at-risk after-school care center, homeless shelter, Head Start/Even Start center, or a migrant center.

The figure below displays the estimated number of children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade (depending on the school) enrolled in the free-reduced meal program as of October 2009.<sup>11</sup>

**Figure 3: Free-Reduced Meal Program Enrollment for Students Ages 5-13 by School District, October 2009**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Number Enrolled</b>	<b>Percent of Enrollment</b>
Calistoga Joint Unified	345	76%
Howell Mountain Elementary	67	68%
St. Helena Unified**	233	45%
Napa Valley Unified*	3,963	49%
Pope Valley Union Elementary	29	52%
<b>Napa County</b>	<b>4,637</b>	<b>50%</b>

Source: California Department of Education, Free/Reduced Meals Program & CalWORKS Data Files, October 2009  
\*Most NVUSD elementary schools only go to 5<sup>th</sup> grade \*\*St. Helena Elementary School only goes to 5<sup>th</sup> grade

The percentage of students enrolled in the free- or reduced-meal program varied by school district, ranging from 45% (St. Helena Unified School District) to 76% (Calistoga Joint Unified School District), while Napa Valley Unified had the largest number of students enrolled. The number of eligible students is likely greater than the number enrolled as not all eligible students choose to participate in the free-reduced meal program.

**Ethnicity and Languages Spoken**

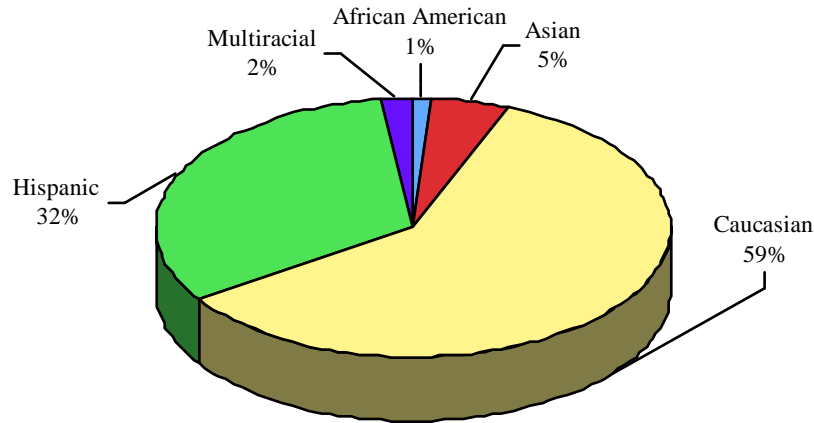
*Ethnicity*

As of 2009, Napa County residents were predominately Caucasian (59%) and Hispanic (32%). Figure 4, below, displays the ethnic make-up of Napa County residents in 2009.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov

<sup>11</sup> Number enrolled per grade level estimated using California Department of Education, Free/Reduced Meals Program & CalWORKS October 2009 Data Files

**Figure 4: Ethnicity of Napa County Residents, 2009**



Source: State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population Totals, 2000–2050

In 2009, Napa County had a higher White population than California (42%) and lower Hispanic (37%) and Asian populations (12%). The Hispanic population has been growing in Napa County; for children ages 0-5, only 35% were Caucasian while 57% were Hispanic in 2009.<sup>12</sup>

*Languages Spoken*

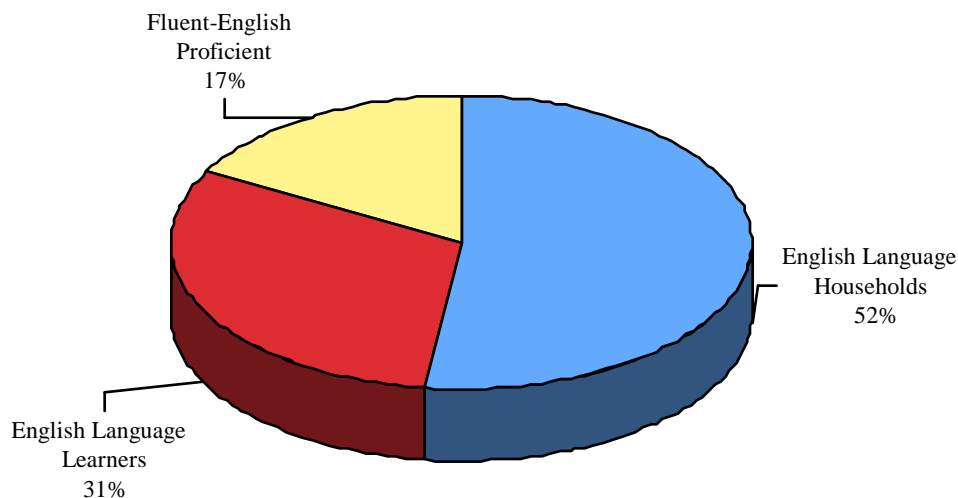
Data from the California Department of Education provides an estimate of English Learner status for Napa County school age youth. Students with English as a second language are designated as either Fluent-English Proficient or English Learner, defined here as a student who is not sufficiently proficient in the English language to succeed in the school's regular instructional programs.<sup>13</sup> The figure below displays percentage in each category for students in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2008/09 school year.

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<sup>12</sup> State of California, Department of Finance, County Population Estimates

<sup>13</sup> California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Office

**Figure 5: English Language Learner Status for Students in Grades K-6, 2008/09**



Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Office, 2008/09

As illustrated above, 48% ( $n = 5,106$ ) of students in grades K-6 reported a primary language other than English (i.e., were designated as either English Language Learners or Fluent-English Proficient). Of these, the majority reported their primary language as Spanish (92%), followed by Filipino (3%). The number of English Learners has been increasing; for example, in 2003/04, 45% of students in grades K-6 reported a primary language other than English.

### **Health and Social Service Program Utilization**

#### *Family Preservation Services*

Children who are at risk of abuse or neglect receive priority for subsidized child care as they may be in need of child care to reduce this risk. The Napa County Social Services Department provides child welfare services for children suffering from physical or sexual abuse, or those who have been neglected or abandoned by their parents.<sup>14</sup>

According to Napa County Child Welfare Services, there were 993 referrals suspected cases of child abuse in Napa County during the 2008/09 fiscal year (July 2008 – June 2009). Of these, 163 (16%) were substantiated, of which 73 children were removed from their homes.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Napa County Social Services Department, [www.countyofnapa.org](http://www.countyofnapa.org)

<sup>15</sup> Napa County Welfare Services Factsheet, 2008/09

On average, there were 103 children in out-of-home care; most in either foster homes ( $n = 33$ ) or a relative's home ( $n = 30$ ). Also, there were 16 children in a guardian's home, 16 children in foster family agency homes, and 8 children in group homes.

### Food Stamps

The federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formally called the Food Stamp Program) is designed to help low-income people buy the food necessary to maintain good health.<sup>16,17</sup> Food stamps can be used to purchase food products or seeds/plants to grow food for household use. To qualify, individuals must meet resource, income, and work requirements.

### Medi-Cal

Medi-Cal is a federally and state funded public health insurance program that provides health care services for low-income individuals including: families with children, seniors, persons with disabilities, persons in foster care, and pregnant women.<sup>18</sup> To qualify, adults must age and income requirements, or be enrolled in specified public assistance programs.

The figure below displays the number of *unduplicated* families receiving food stamps and Medi-Cal benefits by community for the 2008/09 fiscal year (July 2008 – June 2009).

**Figure 6: Number of Unduplicated Families Receiving Food Stamps and Medi-Cal Benefits, 2008/09**

Community	Food Stamps	Medi-Cal
	Number of Families	Number of Families
American Canyon	721	1,917
Calistoga	177	685
Napa	4,689	11,189
St. Helena	141	518
Yountville	34	438
Unincorporated Napa County	86	237
<b>Napa County</b>	<b>5,848</b>	<b>14,984</b>

Source: Napa County Health and Human Services Agency, 2008/09 data

As displayed above, Napa had the greatest number of families receiving food stamps, while Yountville had the lowest number. Napa also had the highest number of families receiving Medi-Cal benefits, while unincorporated Napa County had the lowest. Examination of the data by ethnicity reveals that the majority of individuals receiving food stamps in 2008/09 identified

<sup>16</sup> California Department of Social Services, [www.dss.cahwnet.gov](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov)

<sup>17</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services, [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov)

<sup>18</sup> California Department of Health Care Services, [www.dhs.ca.gov](http://www.dhs.ca.gov)

as Hispanic (55%), followed by White (37%). The majority of Medi-Cal recipients also identified as Hispanic (57%), followed by White (32%). There were 4,006 children between the ages 0-13 from families receiving food stamps and 6,319 children ages 0-13 from families receiving Medi-Cal benefits.

*Healthy Families*

Healthy Families provides low cost health, dental, and vision insurance for children and teenagers without insurance who do not qualify for free Medi-Cal.<sup>19</sup> Figure 7, below, displays the average number of subscribers by community during the 2008/09 fiscal year.

**Figure 7: Average Number of Healthy Families Subscribers, 2008/09**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Average Number of Subscribers</b>
American Canyon	455
Calistoga	306
Napa	1,325
St. Helena	233
Yountville	15
Unincorporated Napa County	1,376
<b><i>Napa County</i></b>	<b>3,710</b>

Source: Napa County Health and Human Services Agency, 2008/09 data

The majority of recipients were from unincorporated Napa County, followed by Napa. Similar to the other public assistance programs, in December 2009, the majority of recipients identified as Hispanic (65%), but only 7% identified as White, lower than other public assistance programs. Twenty-two percent of recipients reported an ethnicity not listed.

*Women, Infants, and Children Program*

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is a federally funded health and nutrition program. WIC services include checks for buying healthy foods from WIC-authorized vendors, nutrition education, and assistance locating healthcare.<sup>20</sup> Pregnant women, new mothers, infants or children under age five who meet income requirements are eligible to participate. Figure 8, below, displays the number of families participating in WIC in June 2009, by community.

<sup>19</sup> CA.GOV, Healthy Families Program, [www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov](http://www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov)

<sup>20</sup> California Department of Public Health, [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)

**Figure 8: Number of Families Participating in WIC, June 2009**

Community	Number of Families
American Canyon	241
Calistoga	172
Napa	2,500
St. Helena	122
Yountville	9
Unincorporated Napa County	39
<b>Napa County</b>	<b>3,083</b>

Source: Napa County Health and Human Services Agency, June 2009

In Napa and Calistoga, 3% of the population received benefits in June 2009. Napa had the greatest number of families participating in the program, while Yountville had the lowest.

#### *CalWORKS/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF; called CalWORKs in California) is a cash assistance program designed to: assist families so that children can be cared for in their own homes; promote job preparation, work and marriage; prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and encourage two-parent families.<sup>21</sup> To qualify, families must meet income and work requirements. For a typical family of three, the CalWORKs cash grant amount is currently \$694 a month.<sup>22</sup>

The figure below displays the number of unduplicated families receiving CalWORKs/TANF cash aid during the 2008/09 fiscal year (July 2008– June 2009).

**Figure 9: Number of Unduplicated Families Receiving CalWORKs/TANF, 2008/09**

Community	Number of Families
American Canyon	403
Calistoga	78
Napa	2,000
St. Helena	59
Yountville	13
Unincorporated Napa County	41
<b>Napa County</b>	<b>2,594</b>

Source: Napa County Health and Human Services Agency, 2008/09

<sup>21</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa)

<sup>22</sup> California Health and Human Services Agency, [www.chhs.ca.gov](http://www.chhs.ca.gov)

The majority of families receiving benefits were from Napa; Yountville and unincorporated Napa County had the fewest. There were a total of 2,492 children ages 0-13 in families receiving aid.

CalWORKs also offers child care services.<sup>23</sup> There are three stages of services:

*Stage 1:* The county welfare department refers families participating in the CalWORKs program to resource and referral agencies (e.g., Community Resources for Children) to assist them in finding child care providers.

*Stage 2:* A family moves to Stage 2 when the county welfare department deems them stable or they discontinue receiving cash aid, and begins to receive child care subsidies from the California Department of Education (CDE).

*Stage 3:* After the two year time limit in Stage 2 elapses, a family moves to Stage 3 (if they are still eligible for child care programs) and continues to receive child care subsidies through CDE.

Families may receive aid for a lifetime maximum of five years.<sup>24</sup> In 2009/10, the budget was amended, creating several CalWORKs reforms in place until July 1, 2011. For one, in addition to the work requirement exemptions for recipients with children under the age of one, two new groups of CalWORKs recipients are exempted: parents with children between the ages of 12-24 months, and parents with at least two children under the age of 6. Child care subsidies are not available to exempted families. The 60-month time limit on aid does not apply at this time.

Figure 10 displays the number of CalWORKs child care service recipients by stage and community for one point in time during February 2010.

**Figure 10: Number of CalWORKs Child Care Service Recipients by Stage and Community, February 2010**

Community	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
American Canyon	18	29	10
Calistoga	0	2	0
Napa	66	91	80
St. Helena	1	2	1
Yountville	0	0	0
<b>Napa County</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>91</b>

Source: Community Resources for Children, February 2010 data

The majority of recipients in each community are currently in Stage 2. There are more recipients in the larger communities.

<sup>23</sup> California Department of Education, CalWORKs, [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov)

<sup>24</sup> Napa County Department of Social Services, [www.countyofnapa.org](http://www.countyofnapa.org)

### *Alternative Payment Programs (APPs)*

APPs are state and federally funded programs that help families coordinate child care services with a provider and service of their choice, and they make payment for those services directly to the child care provider. These programs are designed to increase parental choice and ensure that the individual needs of the family are met.<sup>25</sup> Families receive these child care vouchers from Community Resources for Children in two ways: 1) participation in, or former participation in, the CalWORKS program (described above), or 2) participation on the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL).

The CEL is a list of all children from income eligible families (those at or below 75% of the state median income) in California who are in need of a subsidized child care program.<sup>26</sup> Agencies offering subsidized services contact needy families from the CEL for enrollment; however, participation on the CEL does not ensure the provision of services. In February 2010, there were approximately 984 children under age 13 on the CEL in Napa County, from 651 eligible families. There were 748 children enrolled in Napa County child care facilities.<sup>27</sup>

In 2008, Community Resources for Children served approximately 369 families with vouchers.

Professional Association for Childhood Education Alternative Payment Program (PACEAPP) is a multi-county contractor with an Alternative Payment contract from the California Department of Education Child Development Division. PACEAPP provides eligible families in 25 counties throughout Northern California with assistance in paying for an early care and education provider of their choice that best meets the developmental and cultural needs of their children. As of 2009, they were serving 14 children in Napa County.

### *Housing Support*

Housing is a basic right; however, for persons of low-income, housing costs are often greater than wages earned. For example, in California, a two-bedroom unit priced at the Fair Market Rent (i.e., the maximum rent amount be allowed for decent, safe and sanitary housing based on bedroom size, determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) falls outside the reach of a full-time minimum wage earner and even an average wage earner.<sup>28</sup> In Napa County, approximately 49% of renters are unable to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent (\$1,214).

The number of home foreclosures has been increasing. According to *RealtyTrac* there was a 32% increase in foreclosures nationwide from April 2008 to April 2009- the highest monthly

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<sup>25</sup> California Department of Education, Child Care and Development Programs, [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov)

<sup>26</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, 2007 Child Care Portfolio

<sup>27</sup> Community Resources for Children, February 2010 CEL data report

<sup>28</sup> Out of Reach 2007-2008, National Low Income Housing Coalition

foreclosure rate since it began issuing its report in 2005.<sup>29</sup> The increase in foreclosures has contributed to an increase in homelessness. According to a survey conducted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness and others in June 2009, respondents estimated that 10% of their clients experienced homelessness as a result of foreclosure. According to *RealtyTrac*, in California, there was a 21% increase in the number of total properties with foreclosure filings from 2008 and a 120 percent increase from 2007.<sup>30</sup>

*Napa Valley Community Housing*

Napa Valley Community Housing (NVCH), a private non-profit agency, develops housing affordable to Napa County residents with low and moderate incomes. NVCH also provides *Resident Services* to help residents access health care, educational services, job training, and social services. NVCH has built over 600 new housing units and has supervised the rehabilitation of over 200 units since 1990. Units include family apartments, cottages and townhomes, single room occupant dwellings, single-family rental homes, self-help homes, and transitional housing. There are 300 more units under development.

The Housing Authority of the City of Napa provides Section 8 rental assistance to all eligible individuals and families who complete the application process.<sup>31</sup> The Housing Division also administers Affordable Housing, First Time Homebuyer, and Housing Rehabilitation Programs. To be eligible for Section 8 Rental Assistance, a household must earn less than 50% of the area median income. There are several rental assistance programs available, described below:

**Figure 11: Rental Assistance Programs in City of Napa**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>
Housing Choice Voucher Program	Provides rental assistance to approximately 1,174 households each year, with an annual budget of roughly \$5,700,000.
Family Self-Sufficiency Program	This program offers Housing Choice Voucher Program holders an opportunity to become self sufficient by assisting with the development of a five year family plan designed to increase the family’s income through education and work training. The program currently assists 85 families.
Laurel Manor Senior Rental Complex	The Housing Authority owns a 50 unit senior housing complex, Laurel Manor. The apartments house low-income seniors.
Shelter Plus Care Program	This is a rental assistance program available to homeless, disabled individuals. This program assists approximately nine individuals.
Mainstream Voucher Program	This program provides rental assistance to persons with disabilities and is operated in partnership with North Bay Housing Coalition. Participants receive both a rental subsidy and supportive services. This program assists 30 individuals.

Source: City of Napa Housing Division, [www.cityofnapa.org](http://www.cityofnapa.org)

<sup>29</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness. (2009). *Foreclosure to Homelessness: The Forgotten Victims of the Subprime Crisis*

<sup>30</sup> California posts nation's largest foreclosure total in 2009, Los Angeles Business, [www.bizjournals.com](http://www.bizjournals.com)

<sup>31</sup> City of Napa Housing Division, [www.cityofnapa.org](http://www.cityofnapa.org)

**Child Care Supply, Demand, and Utilization**

This section outlines the supply, demand, and utilization of child care in Napa County, by type of care and age group when possible. It discusses the current supply of existing types of child care in Napa County and presents child care requests and needs mentioned by families seeking care.

**Types of Childcare**

There are several different types of child care, broadly categorized into the following: child care centers, family child care homes, informal child care, and after school program care.

*Child Care Centers*

Child care centers are non-residential facilities that generally provide care for at least 14 children at one time. State funded, federally funded, and privately funded child care centers are described in the figure below.

**Figure 12: Child Care Center Descriptions**

Type of Center	Description
<b><i>State Funded</i></b>	
General Child Care and Development Programs	These programs funded through the California Department of Education Child Development Division, provide full day, full year child development services for children ages birth to 3 and 5 to 12 years old, as well as older children with exceptional needs. <sup>32</sup> Public or private agencies and local educational agencies may operate programs. These programs require a license from the Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division and must meet Title 5 regulations related to staffing, group size, ratios, need and eligibility.
State Preschools	State Preschools are child care centers subsidized by the California Department of Education Child Development Division that provide full- or part-day services to children ages 3 to 5. <sup>33</sup> Programs offer: education activities that are developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate; meals/snacks, referrals for families to health and social services; and staff development opportunities. These programs also emphasize parent involvement and education. Programs are administered by local educational agencies, colleges, community-action agencies, and private nonprofit agencies. These programs must be licensed by the Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division and must meet Title 5 regulations related to staffing, group size, ratios, and income eligibility.

<sup>32</sup> California Department of Education, Child Care and Development Programs, [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov)

<sup>33</sup> California Department of Education, Child Care and Development Programs, [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov)

<b><i>Federally Funded</i></b>	
Head Start	Head Start is a federally funded preschool and child development program that offers no cost care to income eligible families with 3 or 4 year olds. <sup>34</sup> Head Start programs include: developmentally and culturally appropriate educational services; health services (e.g., immunizations, dental screenings, mental health services); social services (e.g., education classes, service referrals); and parent involvement/education (e.g., parent participation in the classroom). These centers are licensed by the Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division (Title 22), but must meet additional Federal regulations with regard to staff education.
Early Head Start	Early Head Start programs provide comprehensive services to pregnant women, infants, and toddlers from birth to age three. Early Head Start provides quality early education in and out of the home, parenting education, health and mental health services, and family support services. Early Head Start center-based programs are licensed by the Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division (Title 22) but must meet additional Federal regulations with regard to staff education.
<b><i>Privately Funded</i></b>	
	Private child care centers are regulated by Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division (Title 22). Private centers may be affiliated with schools or faith-based.

*Child Care Center Eligibility Criteria*

To qualify for state funded child care centers, family income cannot exceed 75% of the state median income. For example, as of July 1, 2009 the income for family of four must not be greater than \$50,256. Families must also meet work requirements to qualify.

To qualify for Head Start or Early Head Start programs, family income must fall within 100% of the federal poverty level. For example, in 2009, the annual income for a family of four cannot exceed \$22,050. However, up to 10% of children enrolled may come from families exceeding the income requirements.

*Family Child Care Homes*

Family child care homes provide child care services in the provider’s home. Family child care homes may be classified as either (1) small, which can accommodate up to 8 children or (2) large, which can accommodate up to 14 children at one time. Large family child care homes require the presence of an assistant. All families providing care for children for more than one family than their own require a license from the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>34</sup> California Head Start Association, [www.caheadstart.org](http://www.caheadstart.org)

<sup>35</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, 2007 Child Care Portfolio

### *Napa County After School Partnership*

The Napa County After School Partnership (NCASP) is coordinated by the Napa County Office of Education and oversees two after school contracts in Napa County; the state funded After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program and the state administered, federally funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program. Both provide after school care during the school year and various enrichment services for students at 18 elementary and middle schools in Napa County.

The ASES program includes an education component (e.g., tutoring and/or homework assistance), and an enrichment component consisting of recreation and prevention activities (e.g., visual and performing arts, music, physical activity, health promotion).<sup>36</sup> The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program focuses on disadvantaged students (particularly students who attend schools in need of improvement) and provides services that enhance academic achievement, additional enrichment services that reinforce and complement the academic program, and family literacy/educational development services.<sup>37</sup>

During the 2008/09 school year, approximately 2,422 elementary school students were served in the ASES or 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs.

In addition to these after school programs, there are a variety of fee-based enrichment programs in Napa County parents may utilize instead of child care, such as art, sports, and drama programs through city recreation departments or Boys and Girls Club after school programs. The number of parents using these services is not currently known.

### *Informal Child Care*

Informal child care includes unlicensed in-home care (e.g., care by a nanny, family, friend, or neighbor) and other license-exempt care (e.g., after school programs on school sites).<sup>38</sup> Providers caring for children from more than one family other than their own are required to be licensed by the State of California. Although informal care services are not formally tracked in Napa County, limited information on informal care in Napa County is available from Community Resources for Children, Napa's Resource and Referral Agency (refer to Supply section, below).

### **Supply**

The supply of child care in Napa County is estimated using the capacity (licensed or desired) of each child care program. Licensed capacity is the total number of slots a program can provide and desired capacity is the number of children providers prefer to serve. It should be noted that often programs' preferred capacity is less than their licensed capacity. For part-day programs,

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<sup>36</sup> California Department of Education, After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program

<sup>37</sup> California Department of Education, 21st Century Community Learning Centers

<sup>38</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, 2007 Child Care Portfolio

one slot may accommodate one child full-time or two children part-time. The table below presents the desired capacity by type of child care for general child care and development programs and state preschools, and the licensed capacity for federal and private programs. It also includes the number of programs by community and program.

It is important to note that capacity data fluctuates slightly from month-to-month, and these estimates reflect only one point in time. Data for family child care homes and child care centers is reported as of March 2010. Estimates for the NCASP after school programs are from the 2008/09 program year.

**Figure 13: Estimated Child Care Supply in Napa County**

Type of Program	American Canyon		Angwin		Calistoga		Napa		St. Helena		Yountville		Total	
	#	# Slots	#	# Slots	#	# Slots	#	# Slots	#	# Slots	#	# Slots	#	# Slots
<b>Child Care Centers</b>														
General Child Care & Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	157	0	0	1	22	5	179
State Preschools	1	23	0	0	1	40	7	362	1	23	1	18	11	466
Federal*	1	36	0	0	0	0	5	165	0	0	0	0	6	201
Private	3	171	1	41	2	51	24	1,221	7	242	1	30	38	1,756
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1,905</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>2,602</b>
<b>Family Child Care Homes</b>														
Small & Large	23	226	2	22	4	32	60	552	4	44	2	14	95	890
<b>NCASP After School Programs</b>														
Elementary	0	0	1	70	2	143	9	992	2	166	0	0	14	1,371

Source: Community Resources for Children

\*Includes both Early Head Start and Head Start

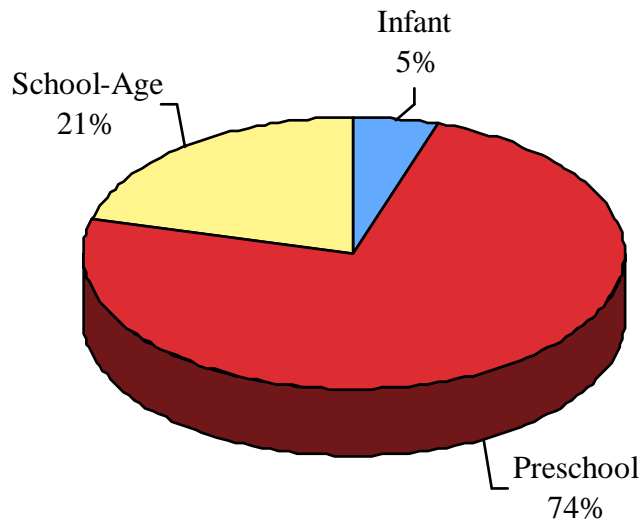
As illustrated above, in March 2010, there were a total of 2,602 spaces available at licensed child care centers in Napa County. The large majority of child care centers are privately funded, and general child care and development programs have the fewest number of programs. There are more private child care centers than all other types of child care centers combined. It is important to note that the number of family child care homes may be underestimated as unlicensed family child care homes do exist, although it is difficult to estimate the current number. Also, in addition to the 14 after school programs listed above, the NCASP operates four middle school after school programs (three in Napa and one in Calistoga) serving students in grades 6-8. Napa Valley Unified School District also operates after school programs at 5 of their elementary schools supported by parent fees, which could include Alternative Payment vouchers.

The majority of programs are in Napa; Napa accounts for 73% of the child care center slots, 62% of family child care home slots, and 72% of the NCASP after school program slots. There are

fewer programs in Angwin and Yountville than the other communities. Federally funded Head Start programs are primarily in Napa, with one in American Canyon. In 2008, Child Start, Inc., the local Head Start provider, closed their center in St. Helena due to under-enrollment and opened a center in American Canyon with two classrooms where they have been able to serve more children. There is currently (Spring 2010) discussion by members of the St. Helena community requesting Head Start services be returned to St. Helena. Child Start, Inc., was recently able to offer expanded Early Head Start home visiting services to 11 families with young children (under age 3) in St. Helena.

The figure below presents the percentage of spaces available in licensed child care centers by age group (infant, preschool, and school-age) in January 2010.

**Figure 14: Napa County Center Capacity by Age Group**



Source: Community Resources for Children, 2010 Vacancy Report

As illustrated above, the large majority of the total spaces available are for preschool-age children, making up 74% ( $n = 1,911$ ) of the total spaces, followed by school age care at 21% ( $n = 541$ ). Notably, only 5% ( $n = 142$ ) of the spaces available are for infants. Of these, 63 slots are provided through Napa Valley College.

The downturn of the economy has had a substantial impact on the supply of child care in Napa County. In 2009, nine family child care homes opened, but 15 family child care homes closed.<sup>39</sup> Also, one child care center closed while no new centers opened.

<sup>39</sup> Community Resources for Children, 2010 Vacancy Report

*Cost of Child Care*

The cost of child care varies according to type of program and child age. For example, federally funded Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide care at no cost to the families. State subsidized full time care programs charge parent fees based on a sliding scale. There is no charge to parents for the part-day state preschool program. The figure below displays the average weekly cost of child care for private child care centers and family child care homes by age of child, in 2010.

**Figure 15: Average Weekly Cost of Full Time Child Care by Type of Program and Age of Child, 2010**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Private Child Care Centers</b>	<b>Family Child Care Homes</b>
Infant (0-2)	\$195	\$184
Preschooler (2-5)	\$193	\$170
School Age (6-13)	\$119	\$150

Source: Community Resources for Children, 2010 Vacancy Report

As illustrated above, child care costs are greater at private centers for infants and preschoolers, but lower for school age children.

*Languages of Child Care Providers and Staff*

According to CRC’s 2010 Vacancy Report, the majority of child care providers and/or staff speak English (96%), but almost half speak Spanish (45%). Also, 3% speak Tagalog, 3% use American Sign Language, and 12% speak other languages, including Chinese, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Arabic, Greek, and Russian.

**Demand**

The demand for child care is traditionally measured by the number of children with parents in the workforce. According to American Community Survey estimates from 2006-2008, in Napa County approximately 65% of children under age 6 and 66% of children ages 6-17 lived with all parents in the workforce (i.e., both parents worked in two parent homes and the one parent worked in single parent homes). According to estimates applied to 2008 child population estimates from the 2009 Napa County Child Care Portfolio, there are 14,194 children ages 0-13 in need of child care in Napa County.<sup>40</sup>

A more conservative estimate of the demand for child care was developed by the California Child Care Coordinators Association: multiply the number of children with all parents in the workforce by the following percentages: infants/toddlers (37%); preschool (70%); and school-age (39%).

<sup>40</sup> California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, [www.rrnetwork.org](http://www.rrnetwork.org)

Figure 16, below, includes the estimated number of children ages 0-11, the number with all parents in the workforce, and the estimated number needing care, by age group.

**Figure 16: Conservative Estimate of the Demand for Child Care**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>Number of Children with All Parents in Workforce*</b>	<b>Estimated Number Needing Care</b>
Infant (0-2)	3,962	2,575	953
Preschooler (3-4)	2,508	1,630	1,141
School Age (5-11)	9,854	6,503	2,536
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,324</b>	<b>10,708</b>	<b>4,630</b>

Source: 2006-2008 American Community Survey

\*i.e., both parents worked in two-family homes and the one parent worked in single parent homes

*Requests for Child Care*

The local resource and referral agency, Community Resources for Children (CRC), collects information on child care needs and requests for all incoming referrals. Data gathered includes: type of child care facility desired (e.g., family child care home, child care center); age of child; preferred location; days and hours needed; extra services requested (e.g., temp/emergency care, drop in); if there are any special needs (e.g., special health/medical needs); languages spoken; and reason for seeking child care (e.g., employment, enrichment or development).

The following figures present CRC referral data gathered in 2005 and 2009. In 2005 there were a total of 845 requests for child care from residents in the county and in 2009 there were a total of 570 requests from County residents (CRC also receives referrals from outside the county). Of note, requests are tracked based on where the caller resides, not where child care is needed.

It is important to note that the request data presented below is not necessarily reflective of the demand for child care. Many families utilize informal child care (e.g., care by a nanny, family, friend, or neighbor) and do not make requests to the CRC. Unfortunately, the number of families using informal care is unknown.

**Figure 17: Child Care Requests by Community, 2005 and 2009**

Community	Number of Requests	
	2005	2009
American Canyon	75	119
Angwin	10	2
Calistoga	8	4
Napa	732	426
St. Helena	17	15
Yountville	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>570</b>

Source: Community Resources for Children, 2005 and 2009 data

**Figure 18: Child Care Needs/Requests by Age Group, 2005 and 2009**

Community	Infant (0-2)		Preschooler (2-5)		School Age (6+)	
	2005	2009	2005	2009	2005	2009
American Canyon	23	44	53	63	26	11
Angwin	8	1	13	1	1	0
Calistoga	3	2	4	1	2	1
Napa	361	153	442	219	171	48
St. Helena	11	3	13	8	5	3
Yountville	3	0	1	1	2	2

Source: Community Resources for Children, 2005 and 2009 data

The majority of requests for child care in 2005 were for infant care and the majority of requests in 2009 were for preschool care. Care for school-age children received the fewest requests during both years. Trends were similar by community.

**Figure 19: Child Care Needs/Requests by Type, Location, Schedule, Extra Services, and Reasons Seeking Care, 2005 and 2009**

Category	Number of Requests	
	2005	2009
<b><i>Type of Facility*</i></b>		
Child Care Center (CCC)	854	615
Family Child Care (FCC)	919	692
License Exempt/Informal Child Care	71	145
School Age/After School Program	45	114
<b><i>Location*</i></b>		
In Child's Home	14	57
Near the Caller's Work/School/Training	106	79
Near the Child's School	53	51
Near the Home	206	190
No Preference	243	114
<b><i>Schedule**</i></b>		
Full Time	776	793
Part Time	303	203
Evening Care	25	22
Summer Only	11	5
School Year Only	34	70
Year Round	1,064	788
<b><i>Extra Care Services**</i></b>		
Overnight	3	13
Drop In	60	60
Before School	77	53
After School	182	127
Rotating	36	39
Temp/Emergency	43	30

Source: Community Resources for Children, 2005 and 2009 data

\*These numbers are based on the number of referrals

\*\*These numbers are based on the number of children

By type of facility, the number of requests decreased for both child care centers and family child care homes, but increased for informal and school age care. The informal child care field was tracked differently after 2005, likely contributing to the dramatic increase in referrals. Also, there

has been an increase in outreach efforts relating to informal care. The funding of the NCASP after school programs in 2006 likely had an impact on the increase in requests for school age care.

By location, the majority of callers indicated they did not have a preference during 2005, but in 2009 the majority of requests were for a location near the caller’s home. By schedule, the large majority of requests were for full-time, year-round care. Few parents reported needing care for the summer only. The majority of requests for extra care services were for after school care, followed by drop-in care.

Also, in 2008, Community Resources for Children reported that approximately 125 of the total 369 families in Napa County receiving subsidy program vouchers used them for informal care.

Figure 20, below, displays needs and requests for children with special needs in 2005 and 2009.

**Figure 20: Child Care Needs/Requests for Children with Special Needs  
By Type of Need, 2005 and 2009**

Category	Number of Requests	
	2005	2009
Behavioral/Emotional/Psychological	15	16
Special Health/Medical Needs	3	7
Communication/Language	21	20
Physical Disability	2	1
Visual/Hearing	6	1
Developmental Delays	11	15
Developmental Disability	11	2
Learning Disability	0	4
Special Equipment/Diet/Medicine	2	13
Other	19	20

Source: Community Resources for Children, 2005 and 2009 data

The number of requests for children with special needs remained stable for the majority of categories from 2005 to 2009. There was a large increase in requests for special equipment, diet, or medicine, and a large decrease for requests relating to children with developmental disabilities. Please refer to the Specialized Care section for discussion of current resources available to children with special needs in Napa County.

<b>Quality of Child Care</b>
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Research shows a clear link between child care program quality and positive outcomes for all children. Studies conclude that the quality of care has a lasting impact on both cognitive and social development. Yet, in California, there is no single set of standards for measuring quality in child care programs beyond basic licensing requirements.

**Licensing Requirements**

*Title 22 Licensing Requirements*

All public and private child care centers, as well as family child care homes (where the provider is caring for children from more than one family other than their own), are required to be licensed pursuant to Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations by the California Department of Social Services. Title 22 addresses standards, including staffing ratios and qualifications, which are designed to assure basic health and safety of children.

*Title 5 Regulations*

In addition to meeting Title 22 regulations, programs under contract with the Child Development Division of the California Department of Education require higher staff standards and lower staff to child ratios in classrooms than basic licensing requirements. These programs serve children birth to school age from low-income families and/or other special populations in center-based and subsidized family child care networks.

These programs are also required to utilize a four component Desired Results System (Program Quality Dimensions, Desired Results Development Profile-Revised, Desired Results Family Survey, and Environment Rating Scale), aimed at promoting high quality programs for children and families.

*National Head Start Program Performance Standards*

Federally-funded Head Start/Early Head Start programs must also meet Title 5 staffing regulations and implement national Head Start Program Performance Standards. These standards articulate the goals and expectations for providing a high quality, comprehensive program for eligible children and their families. Head Start programs must conduct annual self-assessments and receive an extensive federal review every three years.

**Quality Improvement Efforts**

Below are some ways in which California and Napa County are currently addressing program quality.

***Accreditation***

Accreditation is available from a number of national organizations interested in recognizing programs that meet higher standards than minimum State regulations. Participation in accreditation is voluntary and can be quite expensive and time intensive. It involves extensive self-study and validation by professionals outside the program to verify that the quality standards are met. Programs must go through the process every three years. Two organizations commonly known for their accrediting programs are the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which accredits center-based programs caring for children birth to kindergarten age, and the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), which accredits family child care homes. Currently in Napa County there are three family child care homes accredited by NAFCC, but no NAEYC accredited programs.

***Quality Improvement Funds***

Through the California Child Care Initiative Project and the California Exempt Caregiver Training Project, Community Resources for Children and the Napa County Local Child Care Planning Council provide child care providers with access to programs and trainings designed to enhance program quality. Data from the Community Resources for Children provider survey administered in December 2009 indicates that 93% of the 28 participants answering the question had attended at least one training; the majority attended more than one (range = 1 to 40 trainings). Also, 62.5% of the 40 total survey respondents reported trainings for child care providers is one of the three most important services Community Resources for Children can provide in the next year.

AB 212 legislation, passed in 1999, allocates state funding to each county for the Child Care Planning Council to oversee a program that provides financial incentives for teachers and assistants working in state subsidized programs (Title 5) to take college level classes. These classes will help them advance on the Child Development Permit Matrix. In 2000, the California Children and Families Commission (First 5 California) offered matching funds to the local First 5 commissions to expand access to these incentives to private providers and Head Start employees through creation of the NapaCARES (Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards) Program (also see Child Care Workforce Section). First 5 Napa participated in that match program until 2008, having invested over \$3 million in that eight-year period toward improving the education level of interested child care providers. Participation in the program was voluntary.

***California Early Learning Quality Improvement System (CAEL QIS)***

In 2007, Superintendent Jack O'Connell's P-16 council recommended reforming existing preschools to enhance program quality and improve school readiness. The California Early Learning Quality Improvement System (CAEL QIS) Advisory Committee was formulated in 2008 to develop the policy and implementation plan, including a research-based quality rating assessment, for an Early Learning Quality Improvement System. At the time of this report, the plan was still under development, but is expected to be complete by December 31, 2010.

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*California Infant/Toddler and Preschool Learning and Development Foundations and Curriculum Frameworks*

The California Learning and Development Foundations and Curriculum Frameworks describe research and evidence-based age-specific expectations for the way children develop in the areas of social-emotional, language, cognitive, and perceptual and motor development.<sup>41</sup> The purpose of the foundations is to create a common language to facilitate communication about how to support early learning and development among families, child care professionals, community members, and policymakers. These foundations may be used to guide child care programs in offering developmentally appropriate activities, ultimately helping to prepare children for kindergarten. Children in higher quality programs should demonstrate greater school readiness than children in other programs. Foundations are being developed in a variety of subject areas (e.g., mathematics, science, health, visual and performing arts).

*Preschool for All*

The Preschool for All initiative proposes state and local policy actions to guide preschools in preparing three- and four-year-olds for kindergarten to grade two education.<sup>42</sup> Components include: (1) developing high-quality pre-K content standards; (2) building a professional learning system for preschool teachers; (3) implementing a results-based accountability system; (4) creating seamless transitions from pre-K to kindergarten and first grade; and (5) involving all stakeholders in the learning process. In response to this initiative, first proposed in 2005, the Napa County Office of Education, with support from the First 5 Napa County Children and Families Commission, developed a Preschool for All plan in Napa County. However, when the initiative (Proposition 82) failed at the ballot box, the Napa County plan was not implemented due to insufficient funding.

*Building Bridges Together: Transition from Preschool to Kindergarten*

In May 2008 and February 2009, First 5, in collaboration with the Early Learning Task Force, presented Building Bridges Together: Transition from Preschool to Kindergarten. The presentations focused on the crucial role that preschool and kindergarten teachers play in children's transition and discussion on building a supportive bridge for our children and families. Since those workshops, some schools have continued the dialogue between kindergarten teachers and early care providers in their catchment area.

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<sup>41</sup> California Department of Education, Infant/Toddler Learning & Development Foundations and Preschool and Preschool Learning Foundations, [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov)

<sup>42</sup> California Department of Education, [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov)

<b>Child Care Workforce</b>
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**Child Care Workforce Training**

One of the roles of resource and referral agencies (CRC in Napa County) has been to support and provide training opportunities primarily targeted at family child care providers and more recently, license exempt family care providers. Many of the trainings offered are also relevant and available to center-based providers.

From 2000 until 2008, the NapaCARES (Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards) program provided financial incentives for child care providers to continue their formal education in child development/early childhood education. The goal of NapaCARES was predicated on research which links increased quality of care with higher educated providers. The program was funded by First 5 Napa, First 5 California, and the California Department of Education Child Development Division. Provider participation was voluntary. Over the course of the program, a total of approximately 481 center-based and family child care providers (unduplicated count) received stipends for their participation. Slightly more than half participated for only a year or two, while just under half participated for three to eight years. The reward increased as their formal education level increased. Of the providers committed to the program, several went on to receive their Associate Degrees in Child Development/Early Childhood Education/Child Family Studies. Others continued taking coursework toward a Bachelor's Degree in those fields of study.

In 2008, anticipating the loss of match funding from First 5 California, the First 5 Napa Commission voted to not renew funding for the program. Having invested approximately \$3 million up to that time, and faced with reduced funding as well as many other funding requests, the Commission voted to review other ways they could support the child care workforce in efforts to improve the quality of care they were providing. Funding from the California Department of Education Child Development Division, known as AB 212, continues but can only serve providers working in state subsidized (Title 5) child development programs.

Please refer to the Conclusions section for further discussion of future program quality efforts in Napa County.

<b>Specialized Care</b>
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This section describes additional child care needs of special populations, including children with special needs, children of teenage parents, children of migrant or agricultural workers, homeless children, and foster youth. Emergency child care, a type of specialized care that differs from traditional child care is also discussed.

**Children with Special Needs**

Local funding has enabled traditional child care programs to better serve children with special needs through a variety of measures, which include the following: enhanced referral services to assist families in finding the care that best meet their needs and consultation and training to providers caring for children with special needs. Currently, the Napa County Office of Education's Napa Infant Preschool (NIP) program provides free educational services to children ages 0-5 with special needs, including suspected developmental delays and conditions affecting the ability to learn.<sup>43</sup> Services include: developmental assessments; a center and community based program; individual or small group speech and language services; home visits; consultation with community preschool or childcare providers; family involvement activities; parent support groups; family education classes; coordination of services with other agencies; and transition to school-aged programs. A major strength of this program is that it serves children of all abilities together in each classroom; these inclusive classes allow children to celebrate everyone's strengths and differences.

Also, Child Start Incorporated operates the Therapeutic Child Care Center (TCCC) located in the city of Napa, which serves families in a center based, infant mental health mode. There are approximately 16 slots available for infants/toddlers and 12 slots available for preschoolers. The TCCC focuses on the emotional and physical development of infants and young children, parent-child relationships and family support. Major goals include breaking the cycle of vulnerability and repetition for high-risk children and families; providing an enriched environment to support all domains of child development; and supporting parents in their own emotional development and in the development of parenting skills.

Further, ParentsCAN, a parent-child advocacy network for families of children with disabilities, offers the following services: family advocates; partnerships with Mental Health Family Partners; Early Start community liaisons; collaborative partnerships with schools and other service agencies; and support groups (e.g., for parents of children with autism; parents of infants served by the NIP program), including Latino support groups.

As of December 2008, 88 children ages 0-2 with disabilities and 327 children 3-5 were served by the Napa County Office of Education's NIP Programs and 98 children ages 3-5 were served in the Napa Valley Unified School District. There were 9 students served in the other school districts combined. The most prevalent disability for children was a speech or language

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<sup>43</sup> Napa County Office of Education, Napa Infant Preschool Program, [www.napacoe.org](http://www.napacoe.org)

impairment, especially for children ages 3-5. Autism was the next most prevalent disability for children 3-5.

### **Children of Teenage Parents**

Teenage parents are often in need of child care, especially if they want to finish their high school education. In 2008, there were 135 births to teenage mothers (under age 20) in Napa County, making up 8% of the total births. Calistoga had the highest percentage of births to teenage mothers in the county at 10%. The number of births to teenage mothers has decreased by 1% since 2000, and the current percentage of teenage births is lower than the state percentage of 9.5%. Napa County has been working to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies through the Community Challenge Grant, funded by the California Department of Health Services in 2005. This program provides prevention education curriculum to all 7<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as targeted programs for at-risk youth.

The New Beginnings Program in Napa is designed to help pregnant teenagers ages 14-19 complete their high school education. The program focuses on pre-employment, parenting, nutrition, and life skills, and provides personal and career counseling.<sup>44</sup> New Beginnings is administered through the Napa Valley Adult School and the California School Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE) Program. Cal-SAFE is designed to increase the availability of educational and support services (e.g., child care and development services) necessary for enrolled expectant/parenting students<sup>45</sup>. In 2008/09, the New Beginnings Program at the Napa Valley Adult School served approximately 50 teenage mothers in Napa County.

### **Children of Migrant/Agricultural Workers**

Migrant or agricultural workers often work non-traditional hours and are in need of more specialized care for their children. Federally funded migrant child care and development programs provide supplementary educational and support services for the children of agricultural workers while their parents are at work.<sup>46,47</sup> In 2008/09, there were a total of 2,113 students in preschool to 12<sup>th</sup> grade in Napa County enrolled in Migrant Education, a federally funded program for migrant students. Of these, approximately 433 were ages 5 or younger.

### **Homeless Children**

Children in homeless families suffer from more health problems, traumatic stress, and emotional disturbances than do children from middle-class families.<sup>48</sup> According to the California Report

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<sup>44</sup> Napa Valley Adult Education brochure

<sup>45</sup> California Department of Education, Learning Support: Pregnant & Parenting Students

<sup>46</sup> Butte County Office of Education, Migrant Education, 2008-09 Migrant Education Counts By Grade

<sup>47</sup> California Department of Education, Child Care and Development Programs

<sup>48</sup> National Center on Family Homelessness, California State Report Card on Child Homelessness, [www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org](http://www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org)

Card, California ranks 48<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states regarding the percentage of children who are homelessness (1=best to 50=worst). In Napa County, approximately 129 homeless families had children in 2007.<sup>49</sup> Further, approximately 40% of people living in homeless shelters are under age 5.<sup>50</sup>

Child care is essential for families seeking to secure and maintain work and job training/education activities, activities that are key to exiting homelessness. Currently, California does not prioritize children who are homeless for vouchers through the Child Care and Development fund.<sup>51</sup>

### **Foster Youth**

In 2008/09, there were 25 entries into foster care (new and other entries) for children under age five in Napa County.<sup>52</sup> Foster parents may not receive money for preschool for foster children, partly to help foster the parent/child bond during the disruption of the move and because preschool is not necessarily recommended for children who are trying to deal with attachment problems due to separation from their parents. However, if a child is enrolled in a state supported preschool at the time he or she is taken into care, the child can sometimes remain in that program at no cost to the foster parent. Also, foster parents do participate in Napa Infant Preschool Program services, but are usually involved in activities with the children.

One person from the Napa Valley College working with foster families noted that, "...there are certainly times when a free preschool program might be appropriate. With the number of working foster mothers these days, we can't always have a 24-hour care provider to bond with the little ones."

### **Emergency Child Care**

In August 2006, the Napa County Child Care Planning Council identified a need for local, free, voluntary respite and emergency child care. According to estimates from local agencies including COPE Family Center, CPS, medical professionals, Napa Emergency Women's Services (NEWS) and ParentsCAN, 143 families and 200 children were in need of emergency care for 3-4 months in 2008. The estimated total cost of these services was \$442,750.

The Napa County Child Care Planning Council developed a committee (including representatives from community based organizations and county government) designed to formulate a vision of respite/emergency child care services for Napa County. Given the

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<sup>49</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness. (2009). Homelessness Counts: Changes in Homelessness from 2005 to 2007, [www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2158](http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2158)

<sup>50</sup> Interagency Council on the Homeless. Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve, Summary Report, December 1999.

<sup>51</sup> National Center on Family Homelessness, California State Report Card on Child Homelessness, [www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org](http://www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org)

<sup>52</sup> Center for Social Services Research, University of California at Berkeley, Child Welfare Dynamic Report System

complexity of the topic, particularly considering the special requirements placed upon providers of care for special needs children and foster children, the work group focused on two levels of emergency care, described below:

1) *Short term care for less than 24 hours.* This basic level of care was identified for families that might not typically utilize child care but had a need for a limited number of hours (e.g., due to a medical appointment or court hearing). Arrangements were made with one of the local nanny services to be available on short-term notice for a reduced hourly rate. This type of care was previously available through volunteers at COPE Family Center. This component has not been implemented due to lack of identified funding.

2) *Semi-permanent care.* This type of care is available on a limited basis through CRC for income eligible families who have been referred by a legal, medical, health or social service professional with a demonstrated need for child care. This type of care is usually during daytime hours for no longer than four months. It does not include overnight care for eligible families. In 2007/08, there were 24 referrals, mostly from COPE Family Center ( $n = 9$ ) and NEWS ( $n = 7$ ). Referrals during 2008/09 came predominately from COPE, NEWS and CPS. Historically, the demand for this level of care outweighs available funding, so services are only available four to six months out of the year. There was \$30,000 available from First Five in 2008/09 and 2007/08, and \$27,600 available in 2009/10.

The workgroup concluded their planning phase in 2009 and identified CRC as the organization that would champion the program, including seeking continued funding with support from the workgroup collaborative.

<b>Conclusions</b>
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This section makes conclusions about the current status of child care (federally-funded, state-funded, and privately-funded) in Napa County. Data presented in the above sections is used to identify existing child care needs and gaps, and areas of success relating to child care in Napa County. Existing issues and barriers are also identified.

**Napa County Characteristics**

**Conclusion #1:** *The recession has had a substantial impact on income and poverty in Napa County, which impacts both families seeking child care and child care providers*

*Supporting Data*

- The Napa County unemployment rate has doubled since 2004, up to 10.2% as of December 2009.
- In 2009, nine family child care homes opened, 15 family child care homes closed, zero child care centers opened, and one child care center closed.

*Issues/Barriers*

- Eligible families need assistance utilizing health and social service programs.
- Providers need assistance in applying for subsidized funding (when it becomes available) to help meet the increased demand for subsidized care.

**Conclusion #2:** *Child care providers are making some progress in addressing the linguistic needs of families in Napa County*

*Supporting Data*

- Napa County residents are predominately Caucasian (59%) and Hispanic (32%), and the Hispanic population is growing in Napa County; for children ages 0-5, only 35% are Caucasian while 57% are Hispanic. Approximately, 48% ( $n = 5,106$ ) of students in grades K-6 reported a primary language other than English, the majority of who reported their primary language as Spanish (92%).
- Almost half of licensed child care providers speak Spanish (45%) and 3% speak Tagalog
- Language development assistance is available to child care providers by community agencies (e.g., family resource centers, adult education, etc.).

*Issues/Barriers*

- Most center-based bilingual staff are teacher aides or assistants, which is typically a lower paid position with higher turnover rates.

- Spanish speaking staff need high English proficiency in order to take classes needed for career advancement

***Conclusion #3: Existing demographic data by community is 10 years old, and does not accurately reflect the current characteristics of communities in Napa County***

*Supporting Data*

- The majority of community level data available at the time of this report is from the 2000 Census; community characteristics have likely shifted in the past 10 years. Thus, conclusions by community cannot be made at the time of this report.

*Issues/Barriers*

- Public release of 2010 Census data is not yet known.

***Child Care Supply and Utilization***

***Conclusion #1: Additional capacity for infant child care is needed in Napa County***

*Supporting Data*

- According to conservative estimates based on the California Child Care Coordinator's Association, approximately 953 infants are in need of care in Napa County.
- Only 5% of available subsidized child care center slots are for infant care, and 63 of the total 142 slots are targeted for Napa Valley College students.

*Issues/Barriers*

- Infant child care is expensive (lowest staff to child ratios), providing a major deterrent to providers offering this type of licensed care.
- Continued California Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) funding is needed to support CRC's efforts to recruit and retain child care providers offering infant care.
- Due to California state budget issues, currently no additional funding is available to expand subsidized programs targeting infants.

***Conclusion #2: Additional capacity for subsidized programs is needed in Napa County, for all age groups***

*Supporting Data*

- According to February 2010 Centralized Eligibility List data, there were 984 children on the list; 748 children were enrolled in child care programs.

- Children on the CEL are not guaranteed a child care slot.
- Only 27% ( $n = 16$ ) of child care centers (general child care and development and state preschools) in Napa County are currently state subsidized, providing 25% of the child care slots.

*Issues/Barriers*

- Additional funding for subsidized programs is needed.
- More facilities are needed to house additional subsidized programs.
- Identifying providers with the capacity to meet the qualifications as well as ongoing programmatic and fiscal demands of state contracts has been challenging in the past even when funds were available.

**Child Care Workforce**

*Conclusion #1: There is a need for additional financial incentives and continued training opportunities for the early child care workforce in order to enhance education, retention, and program quality, and improve compensation.*

*Supporting Data*

- According to the U.S. Department of Labor's 2008 National Compensation Survey, the average hourly wage for child care workers in California in 2008 was \$11.14 and \$14.37 for preschool teachers.
- Currently, funding is limited to providers working in state subsidized programs.
- The CARES Program, which expanded the opportunity for private providers to receive support and financial incentives for furthering their education in the field of early care and education, was extremely successful as evidenced by the number of providers who participated during the eight years of the program.

*Issues/Barriers*

- No current data relating to the education and training levels of private providers is available.
- Although improving, there continues to be a lack of public understanding about the importance of a quality early learning experience for children's future success.

**Quality of Child Care**

**Conclusion #1:** *In response to recent research on child brain development, the importance of program quality is becoming increasingly recognized at the state level, highlighting the importance of provider participation in addressing program quality.*

*Supporting Data*

- In response to current research on the impact of program quality, the California Infant/Toddler and Preschool Learning and Development Foundations, Preschool for All Initiative, and the California Early Learning Quality Improvement System (CAEL QIS) have been, or are currently, under development

*Issues/Barriers*

- Participation is time-consuming and expensive and often requires travel. This can make meetings/workshops difficult to attend, especially for those outside the town of Napa.
- Improving the quality of programs will add additional costs (e.g., increasing workforce compensation, higher education costs).
- The definition of quality and the indicators of program quality are ambiguous.

**Specialized Care**

**Conclusion #1:** *A variety of resources exist in Napa County to address the needs of specialized populations, especially children with disabilities*

*Supporting Data*

- Several resources exist for children with special needs, including: the Napa Infant Preschool Program, Child Start's Therapeutic Child Care Center, and the advocacy group ParentsCAN.
- Additionally, local funding has enabled traditional child care programs to better serve children with special needs through a variety of measures (e.g., enhanced referral services, consultation and training to providers serving children with special needs).
- The New Beginnings Program in Napa assists teenage parents to complete their high school education, and provides child care for their children.
- The Migrant Education program provides educational and support services for the children of migrant or agricultural workers while their parents are at work.

*Issues/Barriers*

- Although a variety of resources exist, the demand for services may exceed the supply
- Ongoing funding is needed for enhanced referrals and training through the CRC

**Conclusion #2:** *The demand for emergency child care has been growing, and additional funds are needed to address the increased demand*

*Supporting Data*

- According to estimates from local agencies including COPE Family Center, CPS, medical professionals, Napa Emergency Women's Services, and ParentsCAN, 143 families and 200 children were in need of emergency care for 3-4 months in 2008. The estimated total cost of these services was \$442,750.
- In 2005/06, there were 13 referrals for emergency care, in 2006/07, there were 28 referrals, and in 2007/08, there were 24 referrals.
- There was \$30,000 available from First Five in 2008/09 and 2007/08, and \$27,600 available in 2009/10.

*Issues/Barriers*

- Care for children of emergency personnel in the event of a disaster has not yet been addressed.
- Funding and sustaining this type of care requires strong a community effort, as there is no public source of funding for this type of care.