Executive Summary

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Children benefit from participation in ECE programs

Participation in high-quality ECE (Early Care and Education) programs increase children's likelihood of success in school and adult life, allows adults caring for children to work outside the home to support their families, and provides over 7,000 ECE jobs countywide[2].
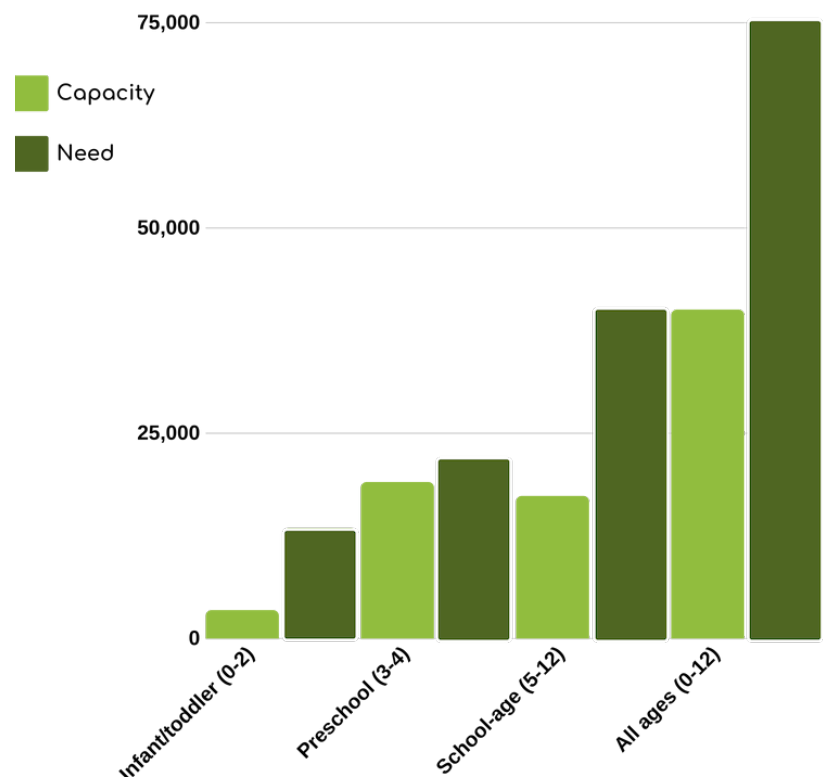
There are about 200,000 children aged birth to 12 years in Contra Costa County. **We estimate that about 75,000 children (38%) need space in high-quality ECE programs** because adults in their families are working or in education/training programs or because adults choose to enroll their children in ECE programs for the early learning benefits these programs provide.

[1]Early Care and Education (ECE) is used interchangeably with child care and includes many types of programs for children 0-12 years old.
[2]Economic Impact of Child Care Services in Contra Costa County, Contra Costa Local Planning and Advisory Council for Early Care and Education, 2013

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For the full report, visit www.plan4kids.org

## Current capacity of ECE programs fall far short of estimated need in Contra Costa County.

There are about 40,000 licensed ECE spaces available to meet an estimated need of 75,000 children (birth to 12 years old). The greatest shortage is in infant-toddler care (birth to 2 years old) where just 25% of infants and toddlers can be served.

Legend:
- Capacity
- Need

Categories: Infant/toddler (0-2), Preschool (3-4), School-age (5-12), All ages (0-12)
Y-axis: 0, 25,000, 50,000, 75,000

Cities along the I-80 and CA Rt. 4 corridors have the greatest needs for additional ECE spaces to meet demand[1]. These cities also have (1) the greatest percentages of ethnic and racial minorities[2], (2) lowest median family incomes[3] and (3) highest predicted population growth over the next 10 years[4].
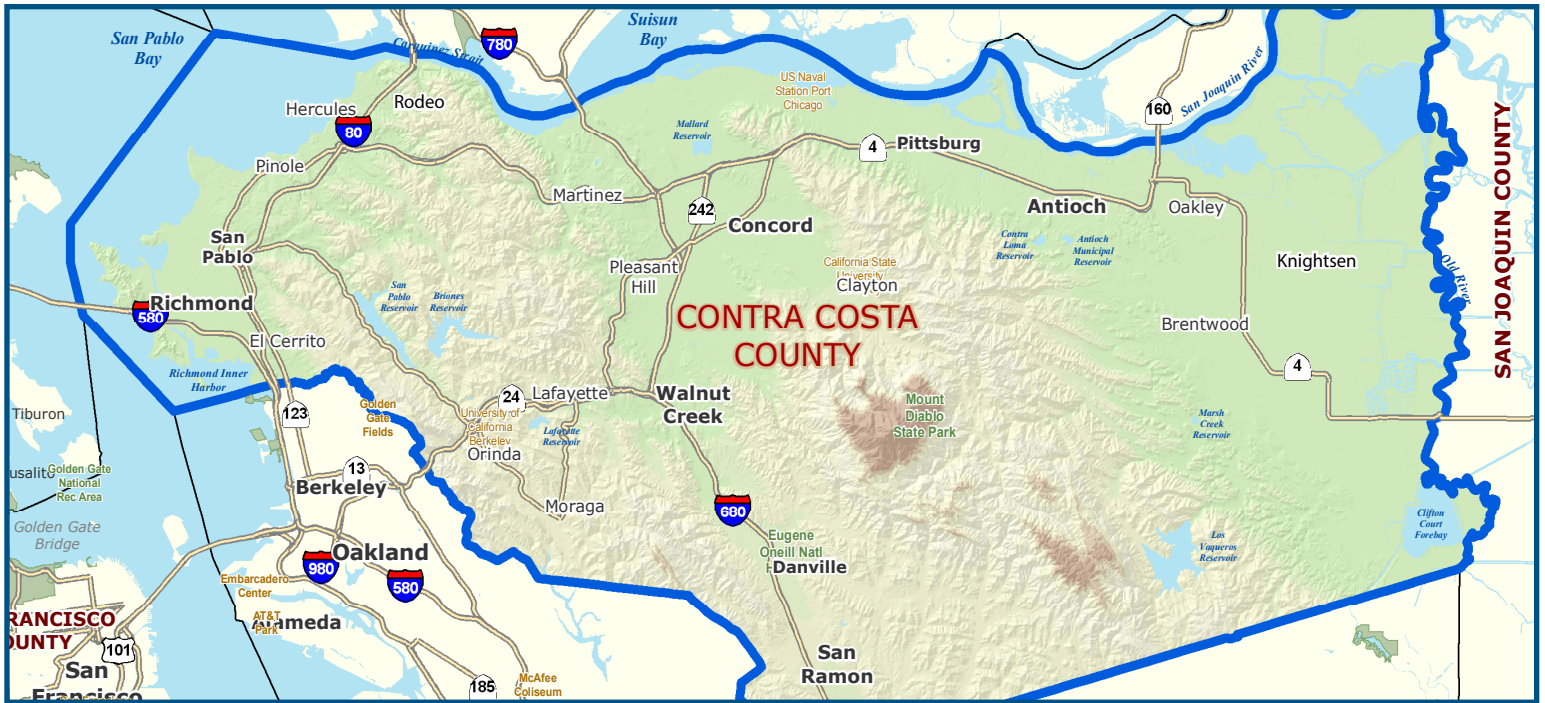
Cities with greatest unmet demand in terms of percentages[1] % unmet demand = [1 – (total supply/total demand)] x 100 The **bolded** areas are predicted to have the greatest population growth over the next ten years (2017-2027)[4].	Infant-toddler (0-2 yrs old)		Preschool (3-4 yrs old)		School age (5-12 yrs old)	
	Countywide	*(75%)*	*Countywide*	*(12%)*	*Countywide*	*(57%)*
			San Pablo	(50%)		
	Pinole	(88%)	Pinole	(57%)	Pinole	(79%)
	Hercules	**(86%)**	**Hercules**	**(28%)**		
					Rodeo/Crockett	(92%)
	Pittsburg	**(83%)**				
			Antioch	(36%)	Antioch	(75%)
					Brentwood	(69%)
	Oakley	**(81%)**	**Oakley**	**(51%)**	**Oakley**	**(86%)**
	Rural far east	(92%)	Rural far east	(70%)	Rural far east	(74%)

Cities with greatest unmet demand in terms of numbers[1] (total number of spaces that must be added to meet demand) The **bolded** areas are predicted to have the greatest population growth over the next ten years (2017-2027)[4].	Infant-toddler (0-2 yrs old)		Preschool (3-4 yrs old)		School age (5-12 yrs old)	
	County-wide	*(10,000)*	*Countywide*	*(2,700)[5]*	*Countywide*	*(22,700)*
	Richmond	**(1,300)**	**Richmond**	**(670)**	**Richmond**	**(2,500)**
			San Pablo	(420)		
			Hercules	**(420)**		
	Concord	**(1,200)**			**Concord**	**(1,700)**
	Pittsburg	**(1,200)**			**Pittsburg**	**(1,900)**
	Antioch	(1,200)	Antioch	(860)	Antioch	(3,400)
			Oakley	**(500)**	**Oakley**	**(1,800)**
	San Ramon	(830)	San Ramon	(690)	San Ramon	(1,800)

Significant Need for More Subsidized Child Care

A family of four with an annual income of $65,000 and an infant and a preschool–aged child may spend 30 to 40% of their income for licensed child care programs.
To be eligible for subsidized child care, a family of four cannot earn more than $63,083.

There is a shortage of subsidized child care for all age groups and especially for infants/toddlers and school-aged children.

Unmet Demand for Subsidized Child Care [1]				
	Infant/ toddler (0-2 yrs)	Preschool (3-4 yrs)[7]	School-aged (5-12 yrs)[7]	Total (0-12 yrs)
Eligible children[8]	9,800	8,100	29,500	47,400
# subsidized spaces	1,800	6,000[9]	11,000[9]	18,800
% unmet demand 2017[10]	81%	27%[11]	63%[11]	60%[11]
% unmet demand 2012[10]	83%	29%	51%	53%

Annual cost of licensed child care in Contra Costa County[6] (www.kidsdata.org)		
Type of ECE program	Infant/toddler (0-2 years old)	Preschool (3-4 years old)
Center-based program	$17,700	$12,600
Family child care home	$11,400	$10.900

Surplus of Preschool Spaces in Central County

About 300 of 1,250 licensed programs responded to an online survey about ECE supply and demand.

- **76%** of **centers** and **69%** of **family child care home providers (FCCHs)** are within 90% of their enrollment targets.
- **However**, full-time programs for **infants/ toddlers** (0-2 years old) and programs for **school-aged children** (5-12 years old) are often at or near capacity (100% of enrollment targets).
- Countywide, **58%** of **programs** reported that they maintain wait lists for enrollment.

ECE enrollment statistics suggest that there is unused capacity. This unused capacity may not meet families' needs in terms of accessibility, affordability, and/or preferences.

Cities with surplus preschool capacity[1]		
City	% of preschool demand met	# surplus preschool spaces
Clayton	111	20
Concord	110	260
Pleasant Hill	120	130
Martinez	102	10
Walnut Creek	120	250
Orinda	170	140
Moraga	250	340
Lafayette	180	300
Alamo-Blackhawk	125	50
Danville	104	30
El Cerrito	170	350
Rodeo-Crockett	120	40

There is surplus preschool capacity concentrated in central county cities while shortages exist throughout the rest of the county.
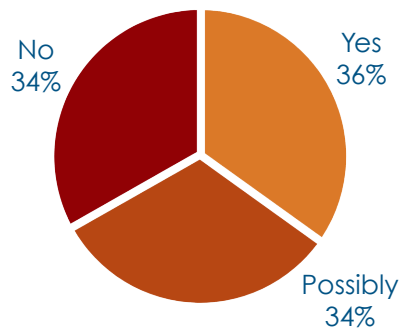However, even if all surplus preschool spaces were utilized, there would still be a countywide shortfall of about 2,700 preschool spaces needed to meet demand.

Survey Responses by Region
n=306 responses

Central 35%
East 36%
South 7%
West 22%
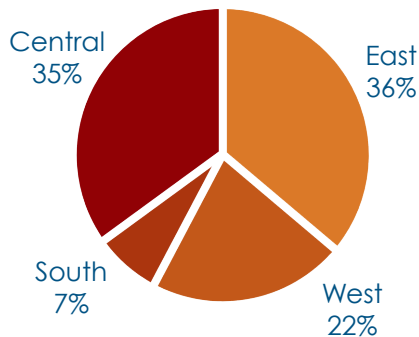
Facilities Interested in Expanding
n=86 responses

No 34%
Yes 36%
Possibly 34%

Facilities Interested in Expanding by Region
n=96 responses

East 44%
South 7%
West 19%
Central 30%
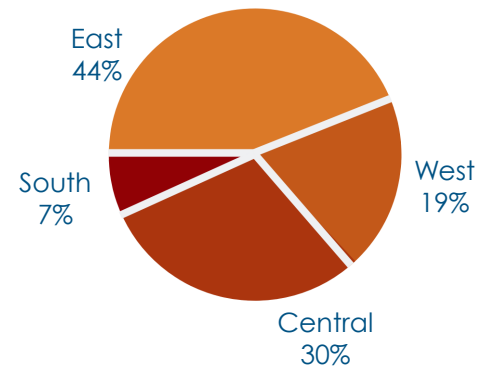
Most Cited Expansion-Related Challenges

- Difficulty finding a site
- Lack of available qualified staff
- Lack of funding
- Lack of time/expertise to manage

Contra Costa County Local Planning and Advisory Council for Early Care and Education (LPC)

Our mission is to promote quality child care through community assessment, advocacy, resource development, and collaboration with other organizations and stakeholders. We are mandated by the state to:

- Assess the County's child care needs for children 0-12 years old once every five years
- Support training and professional development of child care providers/early childhood educators
- Develop priorities for allocation of federal Child Care Grant funds
- Collaborate with government agencies, community organizations and other stakeholders to meet children's and families' needs for early care and education.

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the County Office of Education are joint governing and appointing bodies for the LPC.
If you are interested in serving on the LPC, please visit www.plan4kids.org for more information.

[1] See Contra Costa County Comprehensive Countywide Child Care Needs Assessment—2017-2027 for data on all cities the county.
[2] The Demographic Statistical Atlas of the United States, https://statisticalatlas.com/county/California/Contra-Costa-County/Race-and-Ethnicity
[3] DataUSA: Contra Costa County, https://datausa.io/profile/geo/contra-costa-county-ca/#economy
[4] The population in Contra Costa County is predicted to grow 6.5% over the next 10 years (2017-2027) with an overall increase of about 73,000 new residents. The largest population growth (in numbers of new residents) is predicted to occur in Concord with an increase of about 14,700 residents (11% growth) and in Richmond with an increase of about 10,300 residents (8% growth). The largest percentages of population growth are predicted to occur in Hercules (14%), Oakley (12%), Concord (11%) and Pittsburg (9%). ABAG Projections '13, http://files.mtc.ca.gov/pdf/PDAs_Data_from_Projections_2013.pdf
[5] Countywide, some cities have a surplus of preschool spaces. The countywide preschool total is the net sum of areas of surplus (+) and areas of need (-). Therefore, net unmet demand countywide is less than the sum of the unmet demand for the cities listed.
[6] Costs are from the 2016 Child Care Regional Market Rate Survey. https://www.rrnetwork.org/child_care_data   Families may choose to use license-exempt care (e.g. care provided by family members, nannies, neighbors and friends), but costs of these care options are difficult to quantify.
[7] Preschool age range used in 2012 was 3-5 years. Preschool age range used in 2017 was 3-4 years. School age range used in 2012 was 6-12 years. School age range used in 2017 was 5-12 years.
[8] Eligible children have working parents and a family income at or below 70% of State Median Income.
[9] Data from "Contra Costa Child Care Needs Assessment 2012 Sbdate", Contra Costa County Local Planning and Advisory Council for Early Care and Education (LPC),. http://plan4kids.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/2012update_CCC_NA_Report.pdf . Counts from 2012 were used because 2017 data were unreliable, showing a decrease of 4,000 subsidized spaces that did not occur.
[10] % unmet demand = [1 – (total supply/total demand)] x 100
[11] Use of 2012 data provides conservative estimates of unmet demand for subsidized spaces in 2017. If 2017 counts are used instead, percentages of unmet demand for 2017 increase from 27% to 54% for preschool, from 63% to 71% for school-aged children, and from 60% to 70% across all age groups.