

Consortium of Subsidized Programs

2006-2007 Statement of Purpose

The objective of the Santa Cruz County Subsidized Programs Consortium is to identify and meet the needs of families in Santa Cruz County and maintain a healthy relationship between programs receiving state and federal funding so that the needs of our community are met. We agree to help preserve current state and federal slots and believe that licensed slots allocated to our county ethically belong to the entire child care community. We believe that the state funded slots and the maintenance of them is the responsibility of our entire child care community. We invite all state and federally funded programs to join and become an active member and to cooperate to secure new state funded slots for our county. Our areas of focus include:

- Quality child care
- Training and education of the field
- Recruitment and retention of qualified staff
- Education on Public Policy pertaining to CDE and federally funded child care
- Networking and support for meeting CDE and federally funded requirements
- Disseminating information to potential contractors regarding new funding opportunities.
- Providing support and feedback to the CEL administrators.

Consortium Goals

1. Maintain a working group that will be available to those who receive state and federal funding so that we can support program administrators that may need technical assistance in maintaining their contracts and implementing funding requirements.
2. Support the coordination of and advocate both internally and with state and federal consultants for the full use of funded slots. Advocate for adequate, reasonable funding and requirements. Provide necessary support for successful implementation of requirements.
3. Encourage/invite our contract analyst/consultant to join our consortium, on occasion, and to provide training as necessary so that we can develop a strong working relationship and stay abreast of any new funding opportunities and other program changes. Request assistance from consultant to advocate for our group regarding issues of contract compliance and successful implementation of programs.
4. Serve in an advisory capacity to the countywide Centralized Eligibility List administrative agency.
5. Educate the Child Care Planning Council (CCPC) and greater CCPC Community on how state and federal subsidies are allocated through county programs (ie. SPS,

CCTR, Migrant Ed, Head Start, CalWORKS, APP) including program overview, operating requirements, program strengths and value to the community. Inform Planning Council and greater CCPC community on how subsidized programs support and build family alliances (ie. parent involvement, co-ops, training, ESL, parent education, job skills). Possibly hold a Parent Fair.

6. Explore ways to maximize federal and state funding to support more families' access to care (i.e. investigate model programs). Specifically, investigate and disseminate information regarding critical infant child care issues (ie. affordability, quality, location and staffing).
7. Provide an overview to CCPC and the CCPC community of the various systems where pre-k and child care programs have strong articulation with kinder and elementary programs. Showcase model programs with strong transition/bridging methods. Possibly partner with First 5 School Readiness Program.