

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

GOALS for 2006-07

1. Maintain a working group to provide technical assistance to subsidized programs, geared to retaining funding.
2. Offer mentoring support to administrators new to state and federal contracts, including assistance on implementing & continuing to meet funding requirements.
3. Coordinate optimized use of funded slots.
4. Advocate for adequate, reasonable funding and requirements.
5. Invite our assigned CDE Child Development Division consultant (and contract analysts from other State agencies) to join our consortium, and provide training as necessary. Develop a strong working relationship and good communication with these consultants and analysts, especially as concerns new funding opportunities.
6. Serve in an advisory capacity to the countywide Centralized Eligibility List administrative agency.
7. Educate the Planning Council and greater child care community on eligibility requirements for state and federal subsidized programs, and how the subsidies are allocated throughout the county (e.g. various program and contract types such as CCTR, Migrant Head Start, Stage 2, contracted through our member agencies)
8. Inform Planning Council and greater child care community about how subsidized programs provide support and build alliances for families (e.g. parent involvement, parent coops, training, ESL, parent education). [Suggestion to hold parent fair]
9. Explore ways to maximize federal and state funding to support more families' access to care (e.g. investigate model programs). Specifically, investigate and disseminate information regarding critical infant child care issues (e.g. affordability, quality, location and staffing).
10. Provide an overview to CCPC and the child care 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.