

CALIFORNIA COUNTY LOCAL CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL NEEDS ASSESSMENT – TEMPLATE

1. Please include the following reports from the California Early Learning Needs Assessments Reports (CELNAR). Attach reports in Microsoft Excel or PDF directly from the CELNAR (<http://reports.elneedsassessment.org/LPCReports.aspx>).

a. **Table 1:** Number of Children by Age

Number of Children (ages 0 through 2)	Number of Children (ages 3 and 4)	Number of Children (ages 5 through 12)
3,405	2,795	10,374

US Census, 2024, ACS 5-Year Estimates. [Table B09001](#)

b. **Table 2:** Percent of Children by Race/Ethnicity and Age

Percent of Children K-12 by Race/Ethnicity	
Ethnicity	%
Hispanic or Latino	22.10%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	8.70%
Asian American	3.00%
Pacific Islander	0.50%
Filipino	0.20%
African American	1.00%
White, Not Hispanic	52.70%
Multiracial/ethnic	11.10%
Not reported	0.90%

[CA Dept of Ed Dataquest 2024-2025](#)

c. **Table 3:** Regional Market Rate Ceilings Allowed for State Subsidy by Age and Type of Care

	Maximum Reimbursement Center Based Care	Maximum Reimbursement Family Child Care
Age Group	Full-time Monthly	Full-time Monthly
Birth to 24 Months	\$1,398.69	\$892.76
2 through 5 Years	\$949.58	\$808.21
School Age	\$821.96	\$705.29

<https://rcscm.dss.ca.gov/index.aspx>

d. **Table 4:** Unmet Need for State and Federally Subsidized Programs for Infants and Toddlers
NA

e. **Table 5:** Unmet Need for State and Federally Subsidized Programs for Preschool
NA

2. **Local population data.** Please provide below any additional information or explanation related to the population figures from the CELNAR. Please cite the specific source of data. *This could include any information related to recent population increases or decreases in your county, or local data sources that you believe provide more accurate estimates about the child population in your county (please cite specific source) than 1a-e above.*

There are 134,541 residents in Humboldt County representing a slight increase in total population in the past 14 years from 133,058 in 2010. There are 1,483 fewer total residents as of 2024 compared to 2010 (US Census Data. 2024, ACS 5-Year Estimates. [Table S0101](#)).

	Estimated Population 2010	Estimated Population 2014	Estimated Population 2019	Estimated Population 2024
Humboldt County	133,058	134,876	135,940	134,541

U. S. Census Quick Facts

Additionally, the total population and population of young children is projected to continue to decrease as illustrated by the following chart.

	Year 2020	Year 2030	Year 2040	Year 2050	Year 2060
Total population	136,193	129,633	122,957	115,731	108,201
Population of children ages 0 through 4 year olds	7,568	5,399	5,038	4,882	3,961

[California Department of Finance, 2025](#)

3. **Local enrollment data.** Please provide any additional information about enrollment in early learning and care (ELC) programs not accounted for in 1a-e above (for example, locally funded preschool programs). Please cite the specific source of data.

According to the recent Humboldt County Mixed-Delivery Universal Pre-Kindergarten Needs Assessment report (December 2024) there were a total of 264 child care sites in Humboldt County there are 118 Licensed Homes, 53 Licensed Centers, and 93 Exempt Centers. There were also 274 Family, Friends or Neighbors (FFNs). The number of FFNs was likely much higher as only FFNs receiving payment subsidies are included in this count.

The UPK Needs Assessment reported on the maximum capacity, desired capacity, current enrollment, and vacancies as follows:

Provider Type	Max Capacity	Desired Capacity	Enrolled	Enrollment Rate	Vacancies
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Centers (Licensed & Exempt)	2,248	999	852	85%	147
Licensed Homes	972	846	657	78%	189
Total (n = 264 sites)	3,220	1,845	1,509	82%	336

Changing Tides Family Services, December 2024

It is important to keep in mind that while it may appear there was a significant number of vacancies, due to the vast and rural geography of Humboldt County, several of these vacancies are not reasonably reachable by families. Barriers such as cost, location, and driving distance to providers greatly limit accessibility.

4. **Waiting Lists.** Please provide any information you have related to the estimated number of children on ELC program waiting lists, by age cohort. Please cite the specific source of data.

None of our local subsidized programs are currently maintaining a waiting list. Although each subsidized child care program maintains an eligibility list, there is currently no waiting period as programs have open enrollment.

5. **Language.** Please provide the number of children in kindergarten in your county speaking each language. This is a proxy for the languages of children zero to five years old. Please pull this information from California Department of Education (CDE) Dataquest.

Language	Number of Children in Kindergarten
Spanish	66
Tagalog	0
Mandarin	1
Cantonese	0
Vietnamese	1
Russian	0
Armenian	0
Arabic	1
Other: Panjabi	2
Other: Hmong, Mong	11
All other non-English languages	10

California Department of Education, 2024-2025, [DataQuest](#)

6. **Local Language Data.** Please provide any additional local information you have related to the estimated number of children zero to five speaking different home languages. Please cite the specific source of data.

Language related data for children ages 0-5 is not readily available. However, 89% of Humboldt County residents (ages 5 and older) speak English only and 11.1% speak a language other than English. Of those who speak a language other than English, 61.6% speak Spanish (U.S. Census, ACS 5 Year data, 2024. [Table s1601](#)).

7. Children Receiving Special Education Services.

- a. How many children under three years of age (up to 36 months) in your county had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) as of October of the most recent year? Please cite the specific source of data.

Infants and toddlers with IFSPs: 244

Source: Redwood Coast Regional Center and Humboldt County Office of Education, March 2026

- b. How many children ages three to four (from 37 to 60 months) in your county had an Individualized Education Program (IEP) as of October of the most recent year? Please cite the specific source of data.

Preschoolers with IEPs: 149

Source: Humboldt- Del Norte SELPA, 2026

8. Children under protective services (e.g., foster children).

- a. How many children under three years of age (up to 36 months) in your county are under protective services supervision as of October of the most recent year? Please cite the specific source of data. (Recommended data source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/)

Infants and toddlers under protective services: 22__

Source: California Child Welfare Indicators Project. University of California at Berkeley, California Department of Social Services, 2025, [CWS/CMS 2025 Quarter 3](#)

- b. How many children ages three and four in your county are under protective services supervision as of October of the most recent year? Please cite the specific source of data. (Recommended data source: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/)

Preschoolers under protective services: 22__

Source: California Child Welfare Indicators Project. University of California at Berkeley, California Department of Social Services, 2025, [CWS/CMS 2025 Quarter 3](#)

9. Number of children in working families. Please pull these numbers from the Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool subscription site (www.elneedsassessment.org).

	Children under 6 years old
both parents in labor force	2,450
Father only in labor force	1,422
Mother only in labor force	486
living w father, in labor force	714
living with mother, in labor force	1,360

US Census Data. 2024, ACS 5-Year Estimates. [Table 23008](#).

10. Families receiving public assistance. Please indicate the number of children zero to five in families receiving public assistance (including CalFresh benefits, housing support, and Medi-Cal, and assistance from the Healthy Families Program and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] program). Please cite the specific source of data.

Children (under 18) and families receiving public services

	Children 0-18	Families
CalWorks	2,447	1,477
CalFresh	6,957	NA
Medi-Cal	12,699	NA

County of Humboldt, Department of Social Services. February 2025

Note: Data not available for children 0-5 years old.

11. Median family income. Please indicate the median family income for a family of four. Please retrieve this data from data.census.gov (search for your county name to find its profile).

Median income: \$61,160

12. Migrant Children. Please indicate the number of children zero to five in migrant families. Please cite the specific source of data. (Census data, American Community Survey, ELNET, CELNAR, Resource and Referral)

Number of migrant children: one 5-year old which recently withdrew from Migrant Ed., usually indicating they've moved out of the county.

Source: Region 2 Migrant Education, operated by Butte County Office of Education

13. Facilities. Please describe ELC facilities needs in your county and any progress made in the past five years towards meeting those needs (for example, has the county conducted a facility needs assessment in the last two years? Are there any new facilities being built or that have been built in the last two years? Are there any sites that have expanded capacity due to facilities expansion?).

In the past two years, several developments have contributed to expanding early learning and care facilities in Humboldt County. Since July 1, 2024 there were 22 new licenses issued to sites (16 homes, 6 centers) ([Changing Tides Family Services, March 2026](#)). There has been growing interest among providers and community partners in expanding infant and toddler spaces, particularly in response to the increased availability of Transitional Kindergarten (TK), which has shifted demand within the mixed-delivery system.

A handful of programs are in the planning phase and will eventually offer a combination of child care services. However, progress has been slowed by funding barriers. There has also been interest in developing a co-located child care and housing project, though this concept is still in early discussion stages.

Humboldt County has not conducted a formal facilities needs assessment in the past five years. Local facility development and renovation efforts continue to be affected by broader statewide barriers, including limited funding opportunities to support facility development and renovation.

14. Requests for care during nontraditional hours. Please give an estimate of the number of requests for care during nontraditional hours during the past six months. Clearly specify your source of data. (Suggested resource: Local child care resource & referral agency, Alternative Payment agencies)

Requests for care during nontraditional hours	Total # of requests July 1, 2025 through Feb. 28, 2026
Evenings	29
Weekends	42
Overnight	18
Before School	4
After School	68
Drop In	35
Rotating	6
Seasonal	13
Summer Only	32

[Changing Tides Family Services](#), March 2026

15. ELC Workforce and Quality Counts California (QCC). Please describe needs in your county related to the workforce and site participation in QCC, and any progress towards meeting those needs. Be sure to include a summary of any findings from any local educational agency (LEA) or provider focus groups or surveys conducted for this Needs Assessment here.

Humboldt County continues to see strong interest in participation in Quality Counts California (QCC) programs, reflecting both workforce development needs and provider interest in quality improvement. In September 2025, the Humboldt QCC grant program received applications from 57 child care programs, including Tribal child care programs, Head Start programs, private and state preschools, and family child care homes, for the four available Quality Improvement (QI) grants. Participation options include both program-level and individual-level grants; however, current coaching capacity and grant funding limit the number of applicants that can be served. Many providers reapply each year, and several new applicants join annually, including providers who are new to the child care field as well as those new to the QCC grant program.

Current participation includes:

- IMPACT Legacy Grant: 32 individuals
- Quality Improvement Grant: 27 programs
- California State Preschool Program (CSPP) QRIS Block Grant: 12 programs
- Workforce Pathways Grant: 21 individuals

Peer coaches supporting participating programs report high levels of engagement. Participants consistently complete more than the minimum required professional development hours. Providers across program types, particularly family child care providers, report that they value the networking, mutual learning, and professional support that comes from participating in the grant programs and shared professional development opportunities.

Workforce challenges continue to affect early learning and care programs locally. Programs report difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified staff, which in some cases has delayed the opening of classrooms. Additionally, a backlog in the processing of required permits and credentials has created delays for members of the workforce seeking to qualify for various positions. These permitting delays, including those related to teacher credentialing, are part of a broader statewide issue that is also impacting providers in Humboldt County.

Humboldt County participated in the [2025 California Early Care and Education Workforce Study](#). The Humboldt County Office of Education sponsored the county profile, which provides a snapshot of the local early care and education workforce, with comparison data from the region and state. The profile includes information on educator characteristics, well-being, and staffing, and helps inform understanding of workforce conditions in the county. No recent focus groups or surveys have been conducted with local educational agencies (LEAs) for this Needs Assessment.

16. Parent needs and concerns regarding access to quality early learning and care, needs for supports, family engagement, transition to kindergarten. Please provide a description of findings from any focus groups or parent surveys conducted as a part of the Needs Assessment. Indicate how many parents participated and how parents were recruited for participation. Please provide some demographic information about the parents who participated and how well this reflects the demographics of your county. Please do not include any identifying information about parents.

Local parents (n = 149) were surveyed as part of the recent Humboldt County Mixed-Delivery Universal Pre-Kindergarten Needs Assessment report (December 2024). Outreach to historically underserved populations was prioritized, including Native American families, families that have children with exceptional needs, those in frontier areas, and Spanish speaking families. A quarter of respondents identified having a child/children with exceptional needs. Household size varied, with the majority of respondents (65%) reporting two adults in the household. Single-adult households accounted for 15% of respondents. Nearly half (46%) of families indicated that their household consisted of two employed adults, whereas 32%

reported one employed adult. A small percentage of families (4%) reported no employed adults. Survey respondents represented a diverse range of racial and ethnic backgrounds. The input collected provided insight into how parents learn about child care options, the factors that influence the care they select, and the kind of care they desire. Other topics included child care schedule preferences and impact of employment on child care decision making.

Additionally, First 5 Humboldt County recently conducted a playgroup parent survey and asked about the policy or system changes parents would like First 5 Humboldt to advocate and/or raise awareness for. There was overwhelming support to advocate for childcare access and affordability.

17. Access. What is your county doing to ensure access to all geographic areas in your county, including remote areas? Please describe.

There is awareness of the child care deserts within Humboldt County. Efforts to address these deserts are primarily focused on encouraging FFNs to get licensed to meet the need in rural areas.

If you are a pilot county, please answer the following additional questions:

18. Requests for care. Approximately how many requests in the past year have agencies in your county received for the following types of care? (Suggested resource: Local child care resource & referral agency, Alternative Payment agencies)

Type of Care	Number of Requests
Infants: part-day	
Infants: full-day	
Infants: nontraditional hours	
Toddlers: part-day	
Toddlers: full-day	
Toddlers: nontraditional hours	
Preschoolers: part-day	
Preschoolers: full-day	
Preschoolers: nontraditional hours	

19. Self-sufficiency. What is the self-sufficiency income level for a family of two adults and two children in your county? Please find this figure at <https://insightccd.org/tools-metrics/self-sufficiency-standard-tool-for-california/>

\$ _____

20. Emergency Preparedness. In the wake of the current pandemic, and other current emergencies, what is your county doing to ensure that children and families have access to resources that support distance learning, health and safety. Please describe .