

SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE HANDOUT

Alameda County

(State budget cuts may result in reductions to the funding for child care programs.
The information on programs in this handout is subject to change.)

Need help paying for child care? If you do, you're looking for "subsidized" child care. This handout will assist you in your search. There are a variety of child care programs in Alameda County to help low-income parents. It's important for you to start early to find a subsidized program for your child because there are more families who need help than there is money.

Who funds subsidized child care? The California Department of Education (CDE) administers most of the child care funds in California – state as well as federal. Some local governments, corporations and foundations also provide funds to serve children from low-income families.

What types of programs are available?

Center-based Care – General child care and development programs are state and federally funded programs that use centers and family child care home networks operated or administered by either public or private agencies and local educational agencies. These agencies provide child development services for children from birth through 12 years of age and older children with exceptional needs. There are very few child care centers that serve infants, however. Most serve children beginning at age three. These programs generally offer full day, full year care.

State Preschool - Part-day comprehensive developmental programs for three to five-year-old children from low-income families.

Pre-Kindergarten Family Literacy Programs - These programs usually operate part of the year and are designed to help a child's transition to kindergarten. They provide developmentally appropriate activities the year before children are eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten.

Alternative Payment (AP) Programs (also known as Vendor Programs) – These programs do not provide the actual child care. Instead, they pay for the child care of eligible families in licensed family child care homes, centers or exempt child care situations. The parent chooses the child care program. Then the alternative payment program signs a contract with the parent and provider and pays the provider directly. AP programs serve specific geographic areas.

Who operates subsidized programs? Programs are run by a wide variety of institutions – nonprofit, for-profit organizations, churches, school districts, local governments, etc.

How can I get my child into a subsidized program?

CalWORKs (Welfare to Work) Programs: These programs serve parents receiving cash aid (welfare). Parents who have worked their way off cash aid but are still low-income are also eligible. They are funded by both the state and federal

government. New welfare recipients go through a CalWORKs orientation. During the first few months after they attend this orientation, the child care (chosen by the parent) is paid for by an Alameda County Stage 1 alternative payment (AP) program. Once the CalWORKs parents are working or in a stable job-training situation, they are transferred to a Stage 2 AP program. Parents remain in Stage 2 until two years after their income makes them ineligible for cash aid. At that point they are transferred to a Stage 3 program. This is a closed process and only parents on welfare can enter any of these programs.

Non-CalWORKs Programs: Parents not enrolled in CalWORKs need to sign up on an eligibility list. Alameda County's Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) is administered by BANANAS. Getting on the CEL puts you on the ONE list that all the CDE subsidized programs in the County use when they fill openings in their programs (see page 3 for a list of CEL participating programs).

In order to get on the CEL, your family income must be below a certain level set by CDE. See the chart below to determine whether you are eligible.

Schedule of Income Ceilings for
Child Care and Development Programs *

Family Size	Gross Monthly Income	Yearly Income
1 – 2	\$3,518	\$42,216
3	\$3,769	\$45,228
4	\$4,188	\$50,256
5	\$4,858	\$58,296
6	\$5,528	\$66,696
7	\$5,653	\$67,836
8	\$5,779	\$69,348
9	\$5,904	\$70,848
10	\$6,030	\$72,360
11	\$6,156	\$73,872
12	\$6,281	\$75,372

*Income guidelines are subject to change.

Note: The following is a partial list of income types that will count toward your total household income:

Wages/salaries	Self-employment income
Child support, spousal support	Worker's compensation
Disability insurance payments	Unemployment
Pensions or annuities	Veteran's benefits
Cash Aid (TANF or CalWORKs)	

For most state/federally funded programs parents must be working, looking for work, going to school, in training, or medically incapacitated.

You can enroll your child on the CEL in person or by telephone by contacting any of the agencies in this handout whose phone numbers are listed. You can also apply on-line through the CEL website at www.alamedacocel.org

How are families chosen?

Since the CEL is a county-wide eligibility list, any subsidized agency in the county could contact you and offer you child care if you meet the requirements of the program. It's very important to notify the CEL if your family income drops because that will move you closer to the top of the eligibility list. Also report any changes in your address or phone number to the program that enrolled you on the CEL. Otherwise, the program may not be able to contact you when there is an opening. Once you get on the CEL, you will receive periodic update letters and you MUST return these letters to remain active on the CEL.

State/federally-funded programs give first priority to families who receive Child Protective Services (CPS). Next, these programs enroll the lowest-income families. Some state-funded programs only serve certain families, such as campus centers for student families, or programs for teenage parents enrolled in high school. The length of time you are on the eligibility list does not make a difference. What counts is the level of your family income. Proof of income is required before a family is enrolled in a program.

What if the services offered by a program don't meet my family's needs? If you are offered child care that doesn't meet your needs, you do not have to enroll. Your family record will remain on the CEL so that other programs can contact you when they have openings.

By staying on the CEL, will my child eventually get into a program? Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that you will receive assistance through a subsidized child care program. Limited funds are available for subsidized child care. If your family income was relatively high when you got on the CEL, you may never reach the top of the list. Even if your income is low, other families with lower incomes who get on the list after you do will be served first.

Remember, the CEL is NOT a waiting list. The amount of time that a family has been waiting does not determine who will be served. The CEL is an eligibility list. Families get enrolled based on income. Child care subsidies are offered when funding becomes available or when there is an opening in a subsidized child care program.

If your information changes, it is not necessary to fill out another application. However, please call the agency that originally enrolled you on the CEL to update any changes to your information (family size, income, address, telephone number, etc.).

Are these programs free? They are for some families. For other parents whose income has reached a certain level, fees are charged on a sliding scale. These fees are, in most cases, much less than the cost of private child care. All state/federally-funded programs use the same fee schedule.

What if I have problems after my child is enrolled in subsidized care? Parents in subsidized programs have the right to appeal any official decision which adversely affects them. You will learn about this adverse decision through a Notice of Action (NOA) issued by the program. If you receive such a NOA, you should immediately read the appeal process on the back of the NOA form and follow the directions for appealing including meeting the specified due dates for action. You should first appeal by completing Step 1 on the NOA and giving it to the program's director. If the action isn't changed in your favor at the agency level, you would then appeal to CDD.

If you simply leave a program over a dispute, you will lose your subsidy and must go back on the CEL to get into another subsidized program. For this reason, it is best to try to reach an acceptable solution rather than withdrawing your child. Ask for a transfer to a different classroom if that's possible. If the program operates several centers, you may be able to transfer your child to another site.

Parents enrolled in alternative payment (AP) programs have the right to change providers if they are dissatisfied with their first choice. Contact the AP program paying for child care to find out the process for changing providers. (If you have a problem after your child is enrolled in subsidized care, you can contact CDE at (916) 322-6233.)

Are there any other subsidized options? Yes, there are some training programs which will pay for child care while you are being trained and some city-funded programs which provide a partial subsidy. Call your local resource and referral agency for information. See listing below.

Alameda County Resource and Referral Agencies

BANANAS, Inc. (Serving Northern Alameda County)
Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland and
Piedmont
(510) 658-7353
www.bananasinc.org

4C's (Serving Southern Alameda County)
Castro Valley, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, San Leandro,
San Lorenzo, Union City, Ashland
(510) 582-2182
www.4c-alameda.org

Child Care Links (Serving Eastern Alameda County)
Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and Sunol
(925) 417-8733
www.childcarelinks.org

Special Note: Every licensed program is required to provide parents with information on its licensing history, including complaints substantiated by the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD). Feel free to ask programs for licensing documents. You can also contact the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) at 510-622-2614, for the information it has on file about licensed programs.

CEL Participating Programs

North County

(Serving Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont)

<u>Agency/Program/Center</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Ages served</u>
4C's	7700 Edgewater Drive, Ste. 125	Oakland, 94621	(510) 383-3582	birth - 12 yrs.
24 Hour Oakland Parent-Teacher	4700 International Blvd.	Oakland, 94601	(510) 534-6030	2 yrs - 5 yrs
Albany Children's Center	720 Jackson St.	Albany, 94706	(510) 559-6590	2.9 yrs - 5 yrs
BAHIA/ Centro Vida	1000 Camelia St.	Berkeley, 94710	(510) 525-1463	2 yrs -10 yrs
BANANAS, Inc.	5232 Claremont Ave.	Oakland, 94618	(510) 658-7353	birth - 5 yrs
Berkeley Albany YMCA*	2009 Tenth St.	Berkeley, 94710	(510) 848-9092	birth - 5 yrs
Berkeley-Albany Licensed Day Care	2414 6th St.	Berkeley, 94710	(510) 549-1223	birth -12yrs
Berkeley USD*	1939 Ward Street	Berkeley, 94703	(510) 644-6358	2.9 yrs - 9.5 yrs
Building Blocks Therapeutic Pre-K	2370 Grande Vista Place	Oakland, 94601	(510) 434-7990	3 yrs - 6 yrs
City of Emeryville CDC	1220 53rd St.	Emeryville, 94608	(510) 596-4343	2.9 yrs - 6 yrs
City of Oakland Head Start*	150 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Ste. 5352	Oakland, 94612	(510) 238-3165	3 yrs - 5 yrs
Ephesian Children's Center	1907 Harmon St.	Berkeley, 94703	(510) 653-2984	3 yrs - 12 yrs
Oakland USD*	495 Jones Ave.	Oakland, 94603	(510) 879-8328	3 yrs -13 yrs
Salvation Army, A California Corp.	2794 Garden St.	Oakland, 94601	(510) 535-5088	birth - 5 yrs
Sick Child Care Program	715 Kinkead Way #103	Albany, 94706	(510) 526-7425	birth -12 yrs
Supporting Future Growth*	5909 Camden St.	Oakland, 94605	(510) 567-8362	10 mos - 4.9 yrs
St. Mary's Center	3208 San Pablo Avenue	Oakland, 94608	(510) 595-4030	3 yrs - 5 yrs
St. Vincent's Day Home	1086 8th St.	Oakland, 94607	(510) 832-8324	2 yrs - grade K
Unity Council	1900 Fruitvale Avenue	Oakland, 94601	(510) 553-1328	birth - 5 yrs
Woodstock CDC	190 Singleton Ave.	Alameda, 94501	(510) 748-4001	18 mos - 3rd grade
YMCA of the East Bay*	756 21st Street	Oakland, 94612	(510) 272-0669	18 mos - 5 yrs

South County

(Serving Castro Valley, Hayward, Fremont, Newark, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Union City)

A Special Place Child Care Center	27305 Huntwood Ave.	Hayward, 94544	(510) 782-6635	2 yrs - 5 yrs
Castro Valley USD	20111 Marshall St.	Castro Valley, 94546	(510) 537-5933	3 yrs - 5 yrs
Child Care Links	39155 Liberty St., Ste. D430	Fremont, 94538	(510) 791-9256	birth - 12 yrs
Child, Family & Com. Services, Inc.	32980 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Ste 846	Union City, 94587	(510) 265-5300	birth - 12 yrs
Davis Street Family Resource Ctr.*	3081 Teagarden St.	San Leandro, 94577	(510) 347-4620	birth - 12 yrs
Eden Area YMCA	951 Palisade Street	Hayward, 94542	(510) 247-8286	6 wks - 5 yrs
Fremont USD*	4210 Technology Dr.	Fremont, 94537	(510) 659-2579	3 yrs - 5 yrs
HUSD - Helen Turner CDC	23640 Reed Way	Hayward, 94541	(510) 723-3880	6 mos - 4.5 yrs
HUSD - Helen Turner St. Pre-K*	23640 Reed Way	Hayward, 94541	(510) 723-3880	3 yrs - 5 yrs
Kidango*(Fremont, Hayward, Newark, Union City)	44000 Old Warm Springs Blvd.	Fremont, 94538	(510) 897-6900	birth - 5 yrs

East County

(Serving Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, Sunol)

CAPE, Inc. *	3095 Independence Dr., Bldg. B, Ste. A	Livermore, 94551	(925) 443-3434	6 wks - 5 yrs
Child Care Links	6601 Owens Drive, Ste. 100	Pleasanton, 94588	(925) 417-8733	birth - 12 yrs
Kidango* (Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton)	44000 Old Warm Springs Road	Fremont, 94538	(510) 897-6900	birth - 5 yrs

Alameda County

Pace Alternative Payment Program	11720 San Pablo Ave., Suite C	El Cerrito, 94530	(510) 215-8400	birth - 12 yrs
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Contact information changes from time to time – call the CEL office at 658-7353 if a phone number is disconnected. YOU DO NOT NEED TO CALL EACH AGENCY TO GET ON THEIR LIST FOR SUBSIDIZED CHILDCARE. Once you get on the Centralized Eligibility List, your information will be shared with all the subsidized programs in the county. Depending on your income, family size or situation, you may be the next eligible family and will be contacted as soon as space and funding is available. Keep in mind that any of the above agencies could contact you at any time. Therefore, it is very important that you keep your contact information current at all times.

* These programs have more than one location or site.

Alternative Payment Programs

These programs are not centers. They pay for child care but do not provide it.

4C's Vendor Program
7700 Edgewater Drive #125
Oakland, 94621
(510) 383-3582
Oakland residents only.
Operates CalWORKS Stage 2 & 3 programs serving children 0-12 years.

BANANAS
5232 Claremont Avenue, Oakland, 94618
(510) 658-7353
State and federal program serves children 0-5 years. Also operates CalWORKS Stage 2 & 3 programs serving children 0-12 years.

Berkeley Albany Licensed Day Care Operator's Association (BALDCOA)
2414 6th Street, Berkeley, 94710
(510) 549-1223
Berkeley & Albany residents. Local city programs serve children 0-10 years. State and CalWORKS Stage 2 & 3 programs serve children 0-12 years.

Child Care Links
39155 Liberty Street, Ste. D430
Fremont, 94538
(510) 791-9256
Serving Fremont, Newark & Union City

6601 Owens Drive, Ste. 100
Pleasanton, 94588
(915) 417-8733
Serving Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore & Sunol
Both sites also operate CalWORKS Stage 2 & 3 programs serving children 0-12 years.

Child Family & Community Services, Inc.
32980 Alvarado-Niles Road, Ste 846
Union City, 94587
(510) 732-6355
Also operates CalWORKS Stage 2 & 3 programs serving children 0-12 years.

Davis Street Family Resource Center
3081 Teagarden Street
San Leandro, 94577
(510) 347-4620
Also operates CalWORKS Stage 2 & 3 programs serving

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Alameda County Head Start Programs

The rules for these types of programs are different from other programs serving low-income families. Head Start programs receive federal funding and therefore are not required to be on the CEL. Except for Berkeley/Albany Head Start, you should contact the other Head Start programs for eligibility information. Most of these programs offer part-day sessions and operate only during the public school year. They are either free or low-cost and parent participation is usually required.

Northern Alameda County

Alameda Family Services
2325 Clement Ave., Alameda, 94501
510-865-4500
Serves Alameda residents
Five centers: 3-5 years

Berkeley/Albany YMCA
2009 10th St., Berkeley, 94710
510-848-9092
Head Start: 3-5 years
Serves Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville residents
Full-day and 3/4-day programs.
Seven centers: 3-5 years

Early Head Start:
510-848-9092
Three centers: birth-3 years

City of Oakland Head Start
150 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Ste. 5352
Oakland, 94612
510-238-3165
(Serves Oakland residents)
17 centers & 8 family child care providers: 3-5 years

Unity Council
1900 Fruitvale Avenue
Oakland, CA 94601
510-553-1328

Early Head Start: birth-3 yrs.
De Colores
1155 35th Ave., Oakland,
94601

Foothill
10700 MacArthur Blvd.
Oakland, 94605

Thurgood Marshall, 1117 10th St.,
Oakland 94607

Head Start: 3-5 years - 535-6107
De Colores
1155 35th Ave., Oakland, 94601

Fruitvale
1900 Fruitvale Ave., Ste. 1C
Oakland, 94601
Serves low-income Oakland residents; provides instruction in child development, job and parenting skills.

Southern Alameda County

Head Start Main Office
35699 Niles Blvd.
Fremont, 94536
510-796-9512

Kidango
4400 Old Warm Springs Road
Fremont, 94538
510-744-9280

Eastern Alameda County

Cape, Inc.
1328 Concannon Blvd
Livermore, 94550
925-443-9380

Teenage Parenting Programs

Teen parents who are eligible should get on the CEL. The programs listed below provide free child care for enrolled teen parents who are working towards their high school diploma or GED. They are not on the CEL.

Cal-LEARN
For teens who are eligible for CalWORKS (usually through their parents' grant). Teens can be referred through The Perinatal Council: 437-8950 or contact Cal-LEARN

Cal-SAFE Programs
Operated through the Alameda County Office of Education. Serves teens in their respective school districts. For more information: 670-4104. To enroll: 532-1038

Island High School
2437 Eagle Ave., Alameda 94501
Alameda teen parents only.
0-2 years - 748-4024

Vera Casey Center
2246 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way,
Berkeley, 94704
Priority given to teens in Albany, Berkeley and Emeryville. 0-3 years - 549-1917 or 549-3003