

# **Community in Crisis: Working Families Lack Subsidized Child Care**

## **Child Care Expansion Priorities for Santa Cruz County, May 2007**

Prepared by the Santa Cruz County Local Child Care Planning Council

In order for Santa Cruz County to be considered for child care, preschool and afterschool expansion funding, the Planning Council must identify the most underserved areas in our county by zip code. The Child Development Division of the California Department of Education published Management Bulletin 99-21 in November 1999. It states that any expansion funds through the Department must comply with Assembly Bill 1857, which became effective in 2003. The new law requires that any new funds must go to the most underserved areas of California. In April 2003, the Child Development Division published Management Bulletin 03-05, which further clarifies the process to establish priorities. It states, "The amended statute specifies that by May 30 of each year, upon approval by the county board of supervisors and the county superintendent of schools, each LPC shall submit to CDD the local priorities it has identified that reflect all child care needs in the county."

Santa Cruz County's priorities for child care expansion reflect the levels of need for additional child care, preschool and afterschool funding for state subsidized centers serving children aged 0-13. This includes Family Child Care programs that receive state subsidies through contracts with state subsidized centers. This report is concerned with the need for state subsidized child care *ONLY*. As per state regulations, this need is calculated by comparing the total number of all income eligible children whose parents are working to the number of currently available State and/or Federal subsidized child care spaces.

Income eligibility for state subsidized programs has been defined by the state as 75% or less of the State Median Income. Due to the fact that the State Median Income level was unfrozen in 2006-2007 (which had previously remained at 2000 levels for six consecutive years), *the number of income eligible children in Santa Cruz County has risen significantly. **This increase in income ceilings is a primary factor in the shifts in priority ranking since the 2006 report.***

The Child Development Division instructs that need for child care should be determined by Labor force participation rates as shown in the 2000 US Census. Children with all parents working are deemed to need child care services. The Child Care Planning Council (CCPC) acknowledges some variation in a family's need for child care regardless of the working status of the parents. Some

families with two working parents have staggered work schedules, which allow for the parents to care for their children at home and not use outside child care while some families with a stay-at-home parent may choose to use outside child care for a variety of reasons. However, Labor Force Participation rates are currently the best tool we have to estimate the need for child care.

In accordance with state regulations, this report ranks need for child care by zip code based on the percent of met need for services. However, to provide a more comprehensive picture of early care and education and school age extended learning program needs in our community, this report also includes figures pertaining to the total number of income eligible children by zip code and Academic Performance Index (API) scores by zip code (neither of which are factored into the priority ranking). Since only new state funding for preschool expansion in 2006 was distributed by API scores, we felt it would be informative to include the API scores for comparative purposes

In addition to prioritizing the need for additional child care slots, the CCPC is also interested in the availability of *high quality* child development programs and other human services that are critical to counteract the risk factors faced by children and their families (such as poverty, level of education, English literacy and child welfare). In order to assess the risks faced by the children of Santa Cruz County, the CCPC utilized data from its 2006 Needs Assessment *The Status of Children, Their families and Child Care Services: An Assessment of Need and Supply in Santa Cruz County* (view at the CCPC's website: [www.childcareplanning.org](http://www.childcareplanning.org)) as well as data gathered and compiled by First 5 Santa Cruz County as part of their 2005 geomapping project. Please see the attached combined risk factors map produced by First 5 Santa Cruz County for more details.

In sum, it is clear from the data shown in this report that Santa Cruz County suffers from an astonishing lack of subsidized child care spaces. As child care is the key to both families' ability to participate in the workforce and children's ability to succeed in school and in life *it is clearly the lynchpin to a healthy community*. **The crisis in child care should be raised to the top of local and state priorities for funding and legislative attention.** In particular, the availability of subsidized spaces for infants and toddlers is abysmally low. The high cost of providing infant/toddler care is prohibitive both to programs and to families. As stated in the 2006 Needs Assessment for Santa Cruz County, realistic State child care subsidies, based on the actual cost of providing care to infants and toddlers, would attract more programs to provide these needed services.

The following chart indicates areas prioritized for funding by zip code for INFANTS AND TODDLERS (children aged 0-23 months).

Area	Zip	Percent met need for child care for 0-23 month olds *	Priority Ranking High Need: 0-50% Medium Need: 51-75% Low Need: 75-100%	Total # of Income Eligible Children w/ Working Parents  Informational Only Not a factor in ranking	Risk Factors** See map of Combined Risk Factors  Informational Only Not a factor in ranking	API Scores All public elementary schools listed  Informational Only Not a factor in ranking
Davenport	95017	0.00%	<b>Priority 1</b> (zip code areas with a rate of 50% or less met need) With fewer than 10% of Infants able to be served countywide, all 14 zip codes are considered priority 1 for expansion funding.  <b>Priority 2</b> (zip code areas with a rate of 50-75% met need) None  <b>Priority 3</b> (zip code areas with a rate of 75-100% met need) None	4	Medium-Low Risk***	1 school ranked 7-10
Felton	95018	0.00%		45	Medium-Low Risk	1 school ranked 7-10
UCSC	95064	0.00%		20	Medium-Low Risk	No Elementary Schools
Ben Lomond	95005	2.29%		44	Medium-Low Risk	No Elementary Schools
Capitola	95010	2.72%		74	Medium-High Risk	No Elementary Schools
SC Gardens	95065	4.42%		45	Medium-High Risk	1 school ranked 7-10
Aptos	95003	4.69%		149	Medium-Low Risk	3 schools ranked 7-10
Live Oak	95062	5.25%		229	High Risk	4 schools ranked 4-6
Scotts Valley	95066	5.73%		70	Medium-Low Risk	1 school ranked 7-10
Santa Cruz City	95060	6.15%		244	Medium-High Risk	1 school ranked 4-6 1 school ranked 7-10
Boulder Creek	95006	6.89%		58	Medium-Low Risk	1 school ranked 7-10
Watsonville & Unincorporated South County	95076	10.43%		1,246	High Risk	12 schools ranked 1-3 3 schools ranked 7-10
Soquel	95073	14.53%		76	Medium-High Risk	1 school ranked 4-6 2 schools ranked 7-10
Freedom	95019	18.23%	60	High Risk	1 school ranked 1-3	
<b>Countywide</b>		<b>8.99%</b>	2,368			

Please view the footnotes and conclusions on page 7.

The following chart indicates areas prioritized for funding by zip code for PRESCHOOLERS (children aged 2-5yrs,11 months).

Area	Zip	Percent met need for child care for 2-5 year olds *	Priority Ranking High Need: 0-50% Medium Need: 51-75% Low Need: 75-100%	Total # of Income Eligible Children w/ Working Parents  Informational Only Not a factor in ranking	Risk Factors** See map of Combined Risk Factors  Informational Only Not a factor in ranking	API Scores All public elementary schools listed  Informational Only Not a factor in ranking
Boulder Creek	95006	10.24%	<b>Priority 1</b> (zip code areas with a rate of 50% or less met need) 95006 95018 95005 95003 95066 95010 95073 95060 95076 95065 95017 95019	117	Medium-Low Level of Risk***	1 school ranked 7-10
Felton	95018	13.59%		103	Medium-Low Level of Risk	1 school ranked 7-10
Ben Lomond	95005	14.14%		99	Medium-Low Level of Risk	No Elementary Schools
Aptos	95003	14.97%		321	Medium-Low Level of Risk	3 schools ranked 7-10
Scotts Valley	95066	15.09%		172	Medium-Low Level of Risk	1 school ranked 7-10
Capitola	95010	15.40%		136	Medium-High Level of Risk	No Elementary Schools
Soquel	95073	18.37%		147	Medium-High Level of Risk	1 school ranked 4-6 2 schools ranked 7-10
Santa Cruz City	95060	19.50%		482	Medium-High Level of Risk	1 school ranked 4-6 1 school ranked 7-10
Watsonville & Unincorporated South County	95076	20.74% †		2,599	High Level of Risk	12 schools ranked 1-3 3 schools ranked 7-10
SC Gardens	95065	25.98%	89	Medium-High Level of Risk	1 school ranked 7-10	
Davenport	95017	44.47%	11	Medium-Low Level of Risk	1 school ranked 7-10	
Freedom	95019	49.31%	146	High Level of Risk	1 school ranked 1-3	
Live Oak	95062	59.82%	476	High Level of Risk	4 schools ranked 4-6	
UCSC	95064	63.44%	41	Medium-Low Level of Risk	No Elementary Schools	
<b>Countywide</b>		<b>26.00%</b>		4,952		

Please view the footnotes and conclusions on page 7.

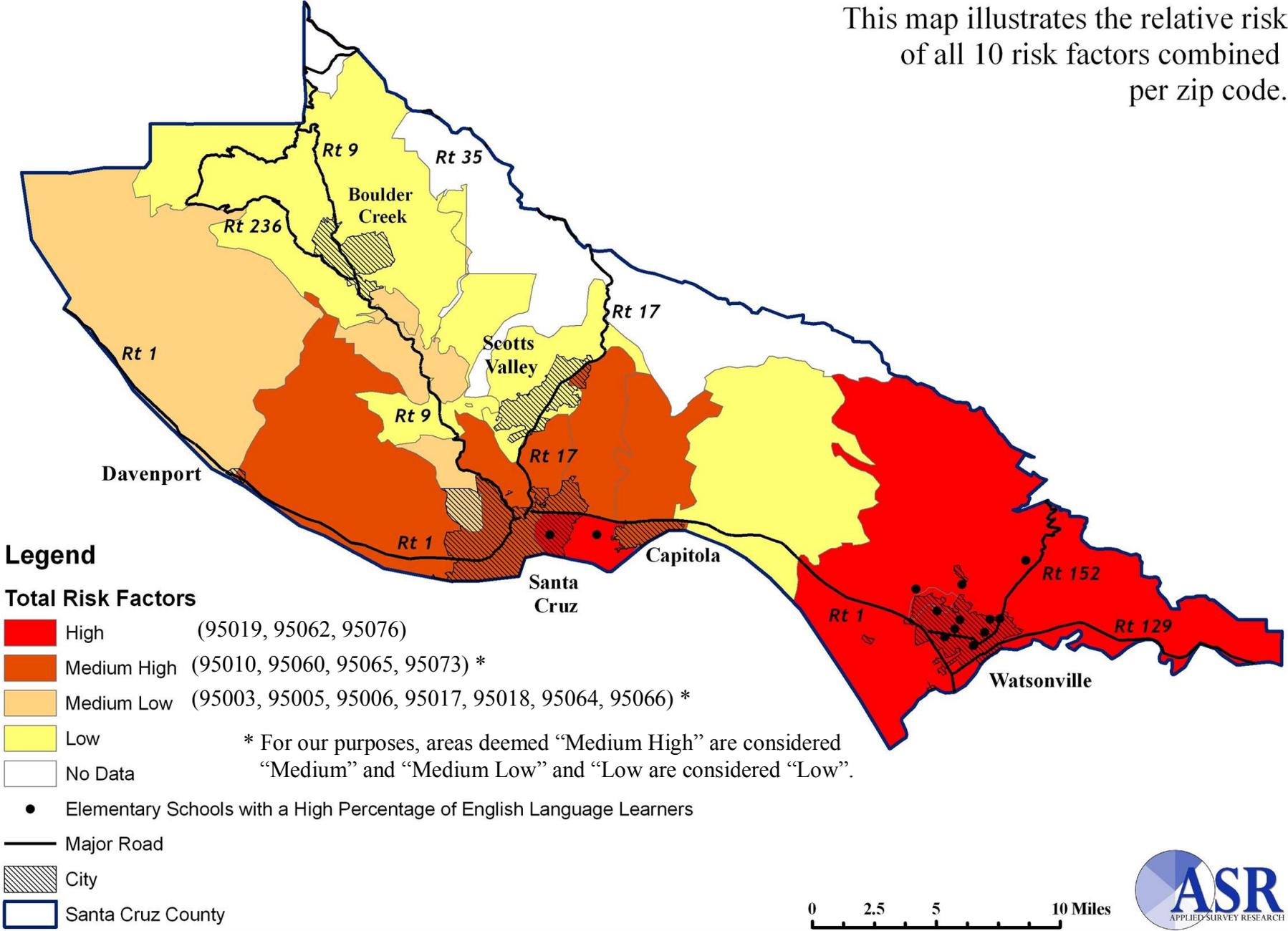
The following chart indicates areas prioritized for funding by zip code for SCHOOL AGERS (children aged 6-13yrs,11 months).

Area	Zip	Percent met need for child care for 6-13 year olds *	Priority Ranking High Need: 0-50% Medium Need: 51-75% Low Need: 75-100%	Total # of Income Eligible Children w/ Working Parents  Informational Only Not a factor in ranking	Risk Factors** See map of Combined Risk Factors  Informational Only Not a factor in ranking	API Scores All public elementary schools listed  Informational Only Not a factor in ranking
Davenport	95017	0.00%	<b>Priority 1</b> (zip code areas with a rate of 50% or less met need) 95017 95006 95003 95018 95010 95065 95005 95060 95066 95076 95073 95062 95019	27	Medium-Low Level of Risk***	1 school ranked 7-10
Boulder Creek	95006	5.87%		357	Medium-Low Level of Risk	1 school ranked 7-10
Aptos	95003	6.59%		849	Medium-Low Level of Risk	3 schools ranked 7-10
Felton	95018	7.98%		276	Medium-Low Level of Risk	1 school ranked 7-10
Capitola	95010	12.69%		347	Medium-High Level of Risk	No Elementary Schools
SC Gardens	95065	12.76%		251	Medium-High Level of Risk	1 school ranked 7-10
Ben Lomond	95005	14.38%		320	Medium-Low Level of Risk	No Elementary Schools
Santa Cruz City	95060	14.72%		1,094	Medium-High Level of Risk	1 school ranked 4-6 1 school ranked 7-10
Scotts Valley	95066	16.48%		413	Medium-Low Level of Risk	1 school ranked 7-10
Watsonville & Unincorporated South County	95076	17.20% ‡		None	6,286	High Level of Risk
Soquel	95073	21.14%	497		Medium-High Level of Risk	1 school ranked 4-6 2 schools ranked 7-10
Live Oak	95062	25.70% ‡	<b>Priority 3</b> (zip code areas with a rate of 75-100% met need) 95064	1,105	High Level of Risk	4 schools ranked 4-6
Freedom	95019	37.20%		312	High Level of Risk	1 school ranked 1-3
UCSC	95064	103.70%		66	Medium-Low Level of Risk	No Elementary Schools
<b>Countywide</b>		<b>18.31%</b>		12,233		

Please view the footnotes and conclusions on page 7

# Combined Risk

This map illustrates the relative risk of all 10 risk factors combined per zip code.



This map was provided courtesy of First 5 Santa Cruz County. More information regarding this geomapping project can be viewed at their website: [www.first5scc.org](http://www.first5scc.org)

## Footnotes:

- \* Calculated as the ratio of the number of children currently receiving State and/or Federal subsidized child care services to the total number of all income eligible children. While the State determines income eligibility as families earning 75% or less of the State Median Income, data pertaining to income eligibility by family size in Santa Cruz County is not available. Since detailed data is not available, this report uses a family size of 4 as a proxy for this measure.
- \*\* Zip code areas with medium-high and high levels of risk factors need support in addition to subsidies for child care. Local efforts focused on mitigating these risk factors should be continued and expanded. All efforts should be made locally to leverage funding to provide needed human services in these areas. Additional legislative attention is warranted to support healthy community.
- \*\*\* Although the following zip codes show a low level of risk factors according to First 5's combined risk factors map (see attached), the need for child care slots in these zip code remains high. CDD funds should be dedicated to expanding available slots for child care in these zip codes: 95017, 95018, 95064, 95005, 95003, 95066, 95006.
- † The percent of met need for preschool age children in 95076 does not reflect the new AB172 funding that was recently awarded to PVUSD and Head Start in the amount of \$1.1 million (enough to serve approximately 319 additional children).
- ‡ The percent of met need for school age children in 95062 and 95076 does not reflect the new Prop 49 (ASES) funding that was recently awarded to these areas in the amount of \$487,950 (enough to serve approximately 360 additional children).

**Please note:** there are certain situations in Santa Cruz County that may skew an attempt to prioritize child care need by zip code:

- First, Cabrillo College (Santa Cruz County's only community college) serves children of Cabrillo students who do not necessarily live in the college's zip code, 95003.
- Second, the University of California at Santa Cruz serves children of UC students who do not all live in the University's zip code, 95064.