

EDUCATION CODE

SECTION 8499.3-8499.7

8499.3.

(a) It is the intent of the Legislature that local child care and development planning councils shall provide a forum for the identification of local priorities for child care and the development of policies to meet the needs identified within those priorities.

(b) The county board of supervisors and the county superintendent of schools shall do both of the following:

(1) Select the members of the local planning council. Before making selections pursuant to this subdivision, the board of supervisors and the county superintendent of schools shall publicize their intention to select the members and shall invite local organizations to submit nominations. In counties in which the superintendent is appointed by the county board of education, the county board of education may make the appointment or may delegate that responsibility to the superintendent.

(2) Establish the term of appointment for the members of the local planning council.

(c) (1) The local planning council shall be comprised as follows:

(A) Twenty percent of the membership shall be consumers.

(B) Twenty percent of the membership shall be child care providers, reflective of the range of child care providers in the county.

(C) Twenty percent of the membership shall be public agency representatives.

(D) Twenty percent of the membership shall be community representatives, who shall not be child care providers or agencies that contract with the department to provide child care and development services.

(E) The remaining 20 percent shall be appointed at the discretion of the appointing agencies.

(2) The board of supervisors and the superintendent of schools shall each appoint one-half of the members. In the case of uneven membership, both appointing entities shall agree on the odd-numbered appointee.

(d) Every effort shall be made to ensure that the ethnic, racial, and geographic composition of the local planning council is reflective of the ethnic, racial, and geographic distribution of the population of the county.

(e) The board of supervisors and county superintendent of schools may designate an existing child care planning council or coordinated child and family services council as the local planning council, as long as it has or can achieve the representation set forth in this section.

(f) Upon establishment of a local planning council, the local planning council shall elect a chair and select a staff.

(g) Each local planning council shall develop and implement a training plan to provide increased efficiency, productivity, and facilitation of local planning council meetings. This may include developing a training manual, hiring facilitators, and identifying strategies to meet the objectives of the council.

(h) No member of a local planning council shall participate in a vote if he or she has a proprietary interest in the outcome of the matter being voted upon.

8499.5.

(a) The department shall allocate child care funding pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 8200) based on the amount of state and federal funding that is available.

(b) By May 30 of each year, upon approval by the county board of supervisors and the county superintendent of schools, each local planning council shall submit to the department the local priorities it has identified that reflect all child care needs in the county.

To accomplish this, each local planning council shall do all of the following:

(1) Conduct an assessment of child care needs in the county no less than once every five years. The department shall define and prescribe data elements to be included in the needs assessment and shall specify the format for the data reporting. The needs assessment shall also include all factors deemed appropriate by the local planning council in order to obtain an accurate picture of the comprehensive child care needs in the county.

The factors shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(A) The needs of families eligible for subsidized child care.

(B) The needs of families not eligible for subsidized child care.

(C) The waiting lists for programs funded by the department and the State Department of Social Services.

(D) The need for child care for children determined by the child protective services agency to be neglected, abused, or exploited, or at risk of being neglected, abused, or exploited.

(E) The number of children in families receiving public assistance, including food stamps, housing support, and MediCal, and assistance from the Healthy Families Program and the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program.

(F) Family income among families with preschool or school-age children.

(G) The number of children in migrant agricultural families who move from place to place for work or who are currently dependent for their income on agricultural employment in accordance with subdivision (a) of, and paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (b) of, Section 8231.

(H) The number of children who have been determined by a regional center to require services pursuant to an individualized family service plan, or by a local education agency to require services pursuant to an individualized education program or an individualized family service plan.

(I) The number of children in the county by primary language pursuant to the department's language survey.

(J) Special needs based on geographic considerations, including rural areas.

(K) The number of children needing child care services by age cohort.

(2) Document information gathered during the needs assessment which shall include, but need not be limited to, data on supply, demand, cost, and market rates for each category of child care in the county.

(3) Encourage public input in the development of the priorities. Opportunities for public input shall include at least one public hearing during which members of the public can comment on the proposed priorities.

(4) Prepare a comprehensive countywide child care plan designed to mobilize public and private resources to address identified needs.

(5) Conduct a periodic review of child care programs funded by the department and the Department of Social Services to determine if identified priorities are being met.

- (6) Collaborate with subsidized and nonsubsidized child care providers, county welfare departments, human service agencies, regional centers, job training programs, employers, integrated child and family service councils, local and state children and families commissions, parent organizations, early start family resource centers, family empowerment centers on disability, local child care resource and referral programs, and other interested parties to foster partnerships designed to meet local child care needs.
 - (7) Design a system to consolidate local child care waiting lists, if a centralized eligibility list is not already in existence.
 - (8) Coordinate part-day programs, including state preschool and Head Start, with other child care and development services to provide full-day child care.
 - (9) Submit the results of the needs assessment and the local priorities identified by the local planning council to the board of supervisors and the county superintendent for approval before submitting them to the department.
 - (10) Identify at least one, but not more than two, members to serve as part of the department team that reviews and scores proposals for the provision of services funded through contracts with the department. Local planning council representatives shall not review and score proposals from the geographic area covered by their own local planning council. The department shall notify each local planning council whenever this opportunity is available.
- (c) The department shall, in conjunction with the Department of Social Services and all appropriate statewide agencies and associations, develop guidelines for use by local planning councils to assist them in conducting needs assessments that are reliable and accurate. The guidelines shall include acceptable sources of demographic and child care data, and methodologies for assessing child care supply and demand.
- (d) The department shall allocate funding within each county in accordance with the priorities identified by the local planning council of that county and submitted to the department pursuant to this section, unless the priorities do not meet the requirements of state or federal law.

8499.7. It is the intent of the Legislature that any additional conditions imposed upon local planning councils shall be funded from available federal funds to the greatest extent legally possible.