Riverside County
Child Care Needs Assessment
and
Strategic Plan
July 2010 - June 2013

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
LOCAL CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING COUNCIL

The Riverside County Local Planning Council is designated as a part of the Riverside County Child Care Consortium

Riverside County Local Child Care and Development Planning Council

Child Care Needs Assessment

Overview:
In 1991, the State of California created a Child Care and Development Planning Council in every county to assess child care needs, as set forth in Assembly Bill 2141. Riverside County Local Child Care and Development Planning Council (LPC) was appointed to be under the auspices of the Riverside County Child Care Consortium by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools.

The LPC, as a part of the Riverside County Child Care Consortium, follows the Mission and Vision of the Consortium:

> Mission Statement: To provide advocacy and resources in the establishment and support of quality, affordable, and accessible child care services for children and families in Riverside County through community partnerships.
> Vision: All children and families will have access to quality, affordable child care services.

The Riverside County Child Care Consortium (RCCCC) supports the Local Planning Council by hiring staff and ensuring the LPC meets the mandates set forth by the State of California. The LPC is mandated to develop a Child Care Needs Assessment minimally every five years, providing current and relevant information to the California Department of Education (CDE). The Child Care Needs Assessment document is utilized for the following:

- to provide information for the allocation of federal, state, and local funds to assist the neediest families in the County;
- to identify the current child care needs in Riverside County;
- to serve as the foundation for the LPC Strategic Plan; and
- to provide information to the community for use in a variety of ways.

The Riverside County LPC must also prepare a comprehensive County-wide Strategic Plan which describes the issues that need to be addressed based on the information collected in the Child Care Needs Assessment. Historically, the Riverside County Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan document has been implemented every five years. Due to the extreme changes in the economy this document will cover three years, 2010-2013.

In addition to the Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan, each LPC is tasked to provide an annual Zip Code Priority listing to identify which zip code areas have the greatest need for child care services in the County.

In July 2009, a CDE Management Bulletin was released to describe a new task for all Local Planning Councils. The statute provides authority for the voluntary, temporary transfer of contract funds between like contracts. Local Planning Councils are neutral facilitators to assist CDE funded agencies with voluntary transfer requests to maximize fiscal resources and utilization of child development funding.

Strategic Plan Goals for 2005-2010:

The previous Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan document covers the years 2005-2010. The LPC members and community partners successfully implemented 98% of the goals and objectives listed in the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan. The Plan was updated in 2007 to more closely reflect the County's current child care needs.
The 2005-2010 goals are:

1) Increase supply, accessibility and affordability of child care services in Riverside County;
2) Increase the quality of programs in centers and family child care homes in Riverside County;
3) Promote on-going education and expansion of the child development workforce in Riverside County; and
4) Improve child development public policy, public awareness, and resources in Riverside County.

By the third quarter of 2009, all four of the goals were on track to be completed, with the exception of one action: to create a Public Policy position. This could not be accomplished due to funding limitations. The LPC did create a Public Policy Workgroup which has been very active, but hiring an actual paid position could not be implemented. A final report showing the implementation of the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan will be completed in 2010.

Child Development Program Descriptions:

California Department of Education (CDE) programs: State funded programs serving eligible children in a variety of program types: *State Preschool* that serves eligible children ages 3-5 in half day and full day center-base programs; *General Child Care* that serves eligible children ages 0 to 13 in both centers and family child care homes; *Alternative Payment* that funds eligible children ages 0 to 13 in private centers, family child care homes and with license-exempt providers; *Stage 2 and Stage 3* child care serving eligible families who have transitioned off CalWORKS Stage 1, in private centers, family child care homes and with license-exempt providers.
Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) programs: *Stage 1* child care serving eligible children ages 0 to 13 years whose parents are on CalWORKS (TANF cash aid).
Early Head Start: Federally funded programs that serve eligible infants and toddlers in center-base programs.
First 5 Riverside: State and local funding for serving children ages 0 to 5 years in private centers, licensed family child care homes and school district programs.
Head Start: Federally funded programs that serve eligible children ages 3 to 5 years in half day and full day center-base programs. Also includes a few home-base programs.
Licensed Exempt Care: individuals who provide child care for one family, in addition to their own children (often a friend, family member or neighbor).
Migrant Head Start: Federally funded programs that serve eligible migrant children in center-base programs.
Private Pay: All privately-operated licensed centers and licensed family child care homes located in Riverside County.

Employment/Economics:

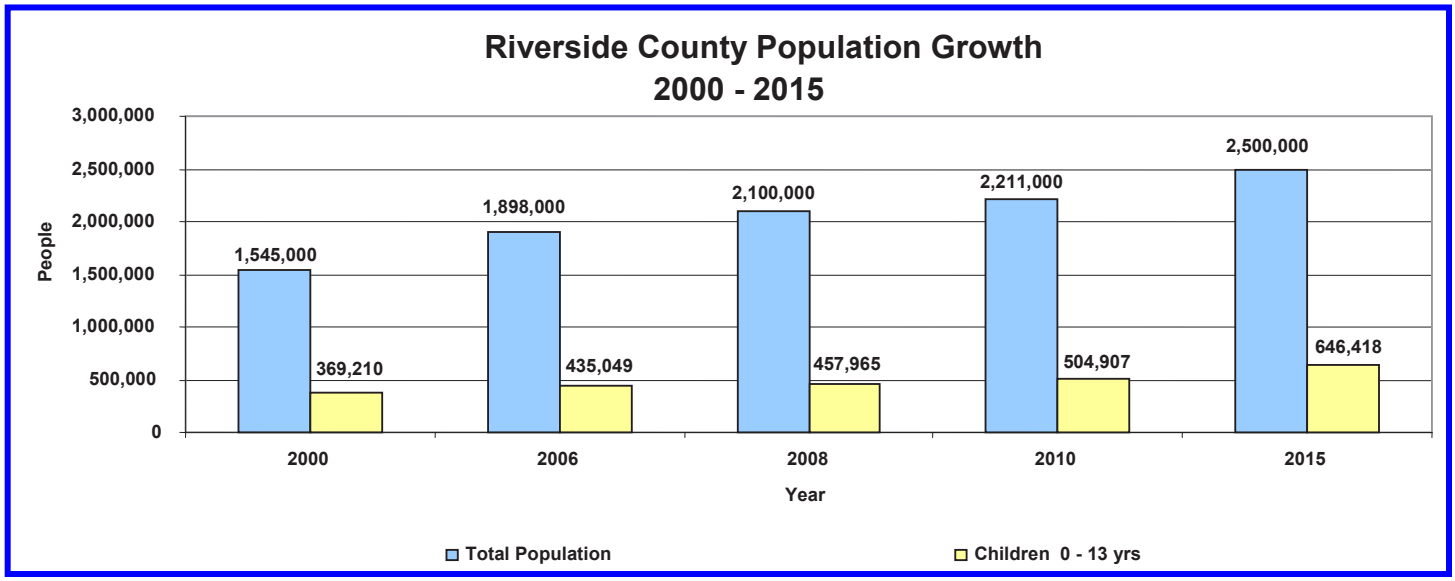
In 2008-2009, Riverside County was among the regions hardest hit by the economic downturn**.** Construction and housing, two of the largest industries, came to a halt. Home equity values dropped by 60%, and more than a quarter of homeowners experienced foreclosure.[1] County unemployment levels reached 15%, which is higher than the California and National averages. The construction industry (commercial and residential) was hit the hardest with loss of jobs. The County also has a high number of service and retail employees who lost their jobs. With so many people out of work, the child care vacancy rate increased which led to closures for child care providers. Although there is still a need for additional child care spaces, especially as people find new jobs, the 2010-2013 LPC Strategic Plan will also focus on assisting existing child care providers to remain open.

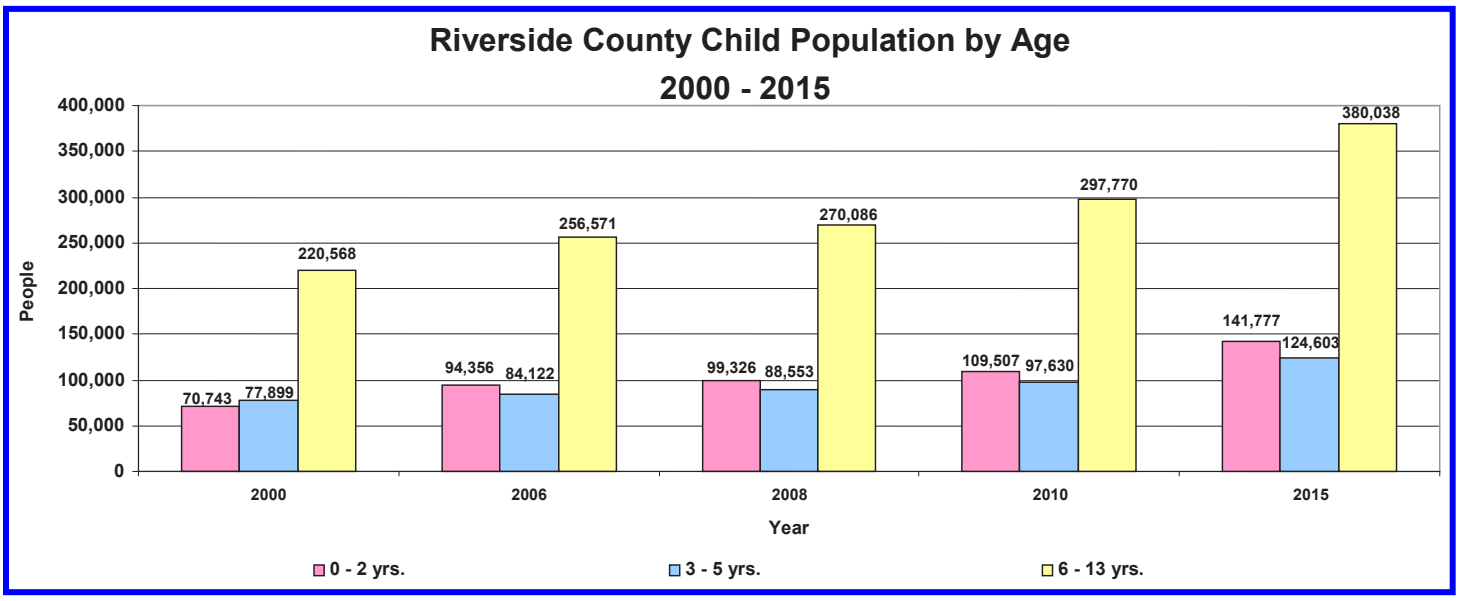
Demographics:

Riverside County has been the fastest growing county in California for three decades. Between 1980 and 1990, the population almost doubled. The annual growth rate from 1995 to 2000 was about 5%. [2] Even though the County's population growth has slowed to 2.5 %, it will continue to experience an annual growth rate at twice the California rate. Riverside County has become the 4th largest county in population in the State. The growth rates are from both migration and births. The majority of families migrating to Riverside County from Orange, Los Angeles and San Diego counties are looking for more affordable housing.

The Inland Empire 2015 Projection Report produced by the Public Policy Institute of California, states that the Inland Empire will continue to be the fastest growing area in Southern California. The San Jacinto Valley will have the greatest growth rate in the region. [3] The young population under the age of 30, and especially the school population, will have a higher growth rate than those over 30 years old. All ages between 0-13 years will increase but school age will have the highest growth rate, followed by infant/toddlers and then preschoolers. As the economy improves, the need for child care will continue to be a major concern based on supply and demand.

Population Charts: 2008 population, [4] projected population, [5] child population,[6]

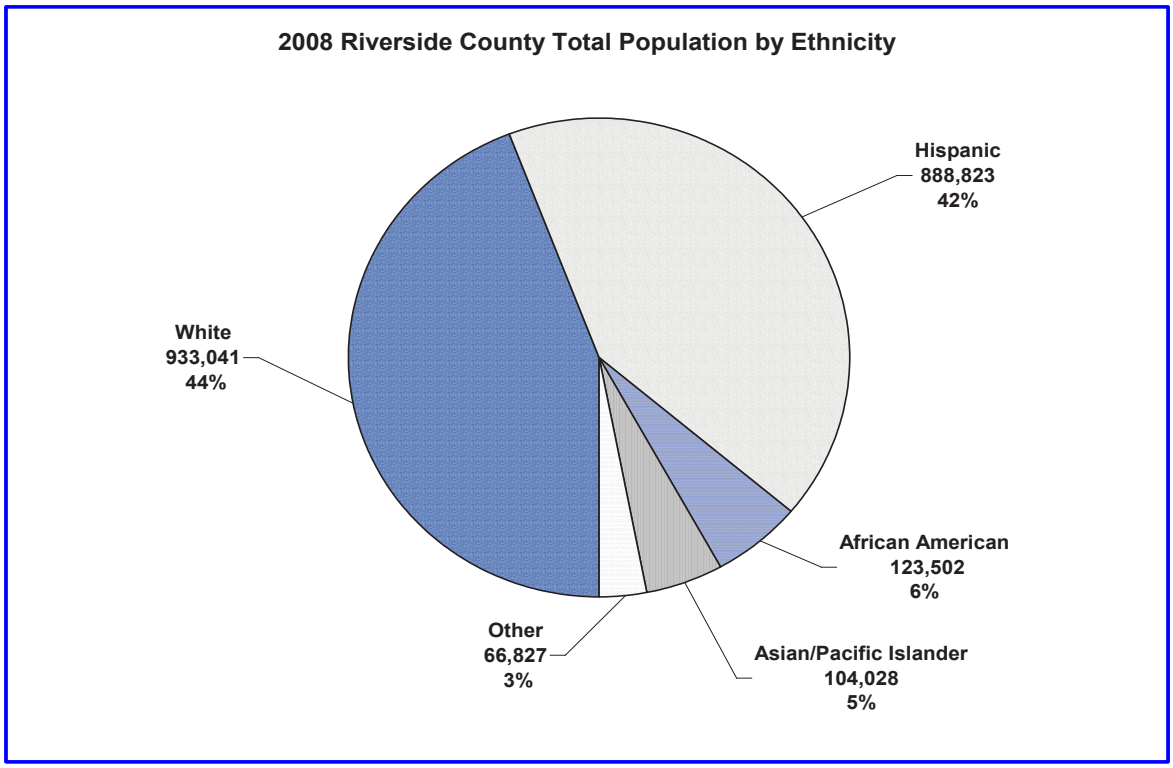




Ethnicity:

Like many counties in California, Riverside will continue to experience significant changes in ethnicity and race over the next ten years. Riverside County is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. The major reasons are continuing migration of populations from neighboring counties and high birth rates among certain racial and ethnic groups. One effect is that the white population is no longer the majority group, going from 51% in 2000 to 44% in 2008. It is projected that by 2015, the Hispanic/Latino population will become the majority with more than 50%. [7]

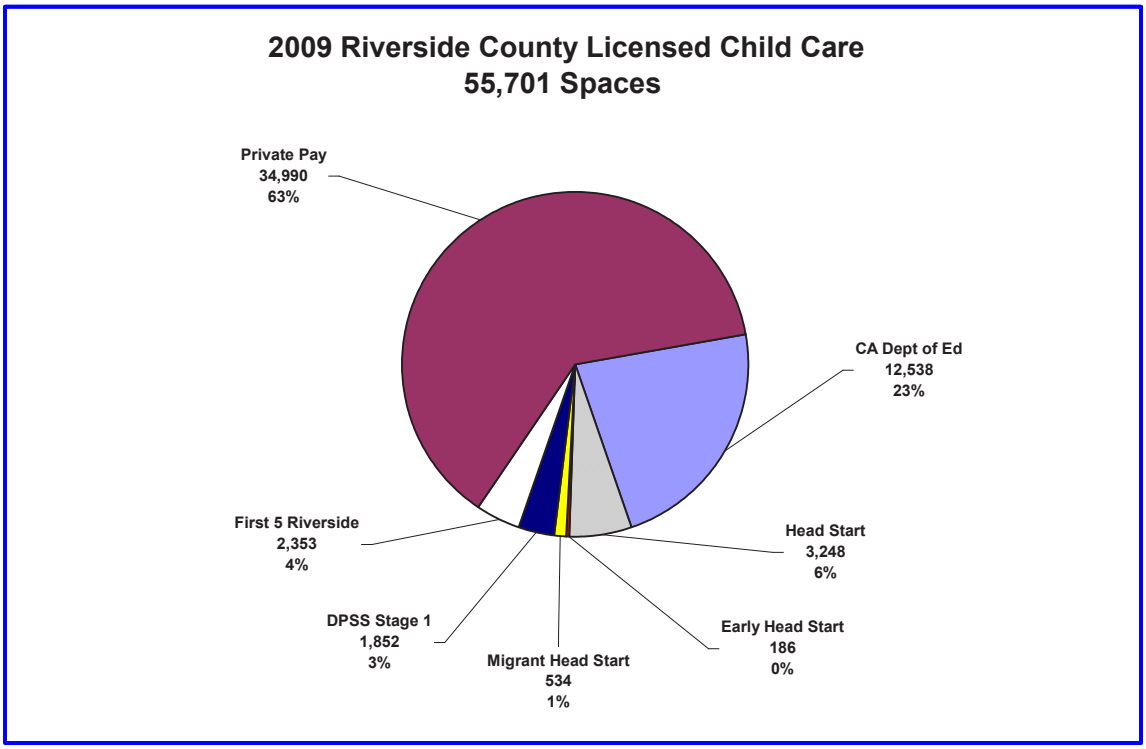
These demographic changes have implications for the provision of child care in terms of the primary language spoken by children and their families. The need for child care providers and service agencies to offer services in other languages other than English will grow along with the increase in population. The largest need will be for bilingual Spanish-speaking providers.



Licensed Child Care:

According to the Community Care Licensing website, 2009, there are 55,701 licensed child care spaces in Riverside County.[8] This number includes both licensed centers and family child care homes. Approximately 37% of the spaces are subsidized by federal, state and local funds. The subsidies include the following: federal funded Head Start, Early Head Start, and Migrant Head Start; state funded Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) (Stage 1), and the California Department of Education (CDE) (State Preschool, Stage 2 and 3, Alternative Payment, General Child Care); and local funded First 5 Riverside.[9] (See page 3 for program descriptions.)

The remaining spaces, approximately 34,990 (63% of the total licensed spaces), are utilized by private pay families in child care centers and family child care homes. These programs are operated by community based organizations, churches, individuals, non-profits and for-profits. Many programs have part day options which means, two children can be served in one licensed space.



Cost of Child Care:

According to the Inland Empire 2015 Projection Report: Public Policy Institute of California, the median income per household in Riverside County is $47,770.[10] For a family with two children (1 infant and 1 preschooler), it would take 43% of their total income to pay the maximum rate for child care and it would take 39% of their total income to pay the average rate for child care. With housing costs at approximately one third of the total income, the family would only have 30% or less to pay for all other living expenses including food, medical costs, taxes, utilities, clothing, car payment, gasoline, insurance, etc. A median income family would have a difficult time paying for quality child care, and a lower income family could not afford quality child care.

Based on the California Department of Education's reimbursement ceilings for child care in Riverside County, the following tables show the maximum and average reimbursement rates of child care in centers, family child care homes and license-exempt providers. The maximum rates are the highest rates for each type of child care allowed for State reimbursement. The average rates represent the typical cost of child care in each type.

Centers:

Maximum Rates Per Child	Weekly	Monthly		Average Rates Per Child	Weekly	Monthly
0-2 years	$250	$1,018		0-2 years	$197	$804
3-5 years	$170	$684		3-5 years	$135	$542
6-13 years	$151	$584		6-13 years	$117	$445

Family Child Care Homes:

Maximum Rates Per Child	Weekly	Monthly		Average Rates Per Child	Weekly	Monthly
0-2 years	$161	$654		0-2 years	$132	$534
3-5 years	$151	$612		3-5 years	$121	$492
6-13 years	$135	$552		6-13 years	$105	$425

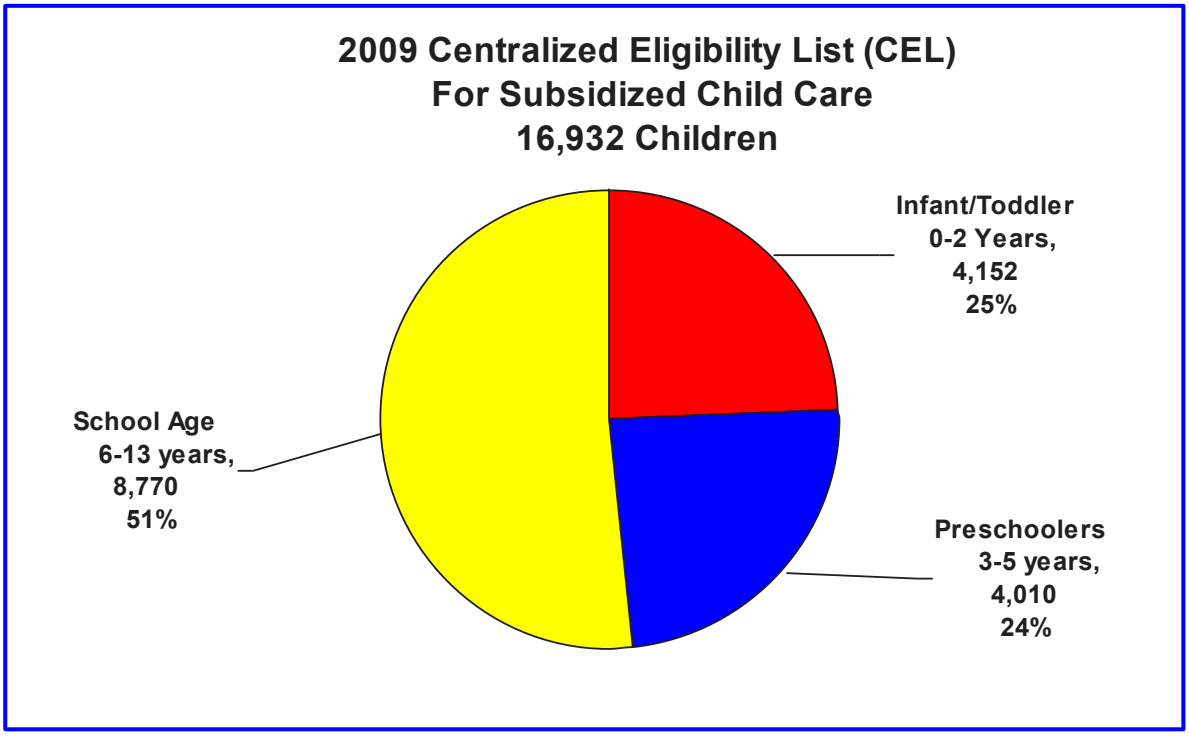
License Exempt Care:

Maximum Rate Allowed Per Child	Weekly	Monthly
0-2 years	$145	$589
3-5 years	$136	$552
6-13 years	$121	$497

Centralized Eligibility List:

The Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) is a county-wide computerized database, maintained by the Riverside County Office of Education/Resource and Referral Unit. Any resident of Riverside County who needs financial assistance with paying for child care services can call a toll free number to be added to the CEL. The list is prioritized and ranked with the lowest income being served first. Families may be contacted by any State funded program in the county when there is an opening in a program. The CEL typically lists over 10,000 children; however, many never get served due to limited funds. The chart below shows the actual numbers in 2009.[11]

Although the CEL count is high, it is below the actual need. Some families who may qualify for funding do not know about the services, or are misinformed and never call to place their name on the list. These concerns make it difficult to accurately assess the real need for subsidized child care. Many families often do not add their name to the list when informed about the required documentation and the wait for services.



Child Care Capacity:

There are 456,801 children ages 0-13 years in Riverside County. Of those children, 55% -60% have parents who work, indicating between 251,240 - 274,080 children ages 0-13 potentially need child care. [12] With 55,701 licensed child care spaces in Riverside County, only about 20% of the children can be served in licensed child care. As previously stated, there are part day program options, so two children can be served using one licensed space (one attending in the morning and the other child in the afternoon). Part day programs do not dramatically change the lack of child care spaces nor meet the need of a working parent. Many parents utilizing part day programs, have a family member, friend, neighbor or older sibling care for the child during the other half of the day.

Capacity is determined by the number of licensed spaces. Estimating the number of available spaces within the capacity and the number of children enrolled is difficult to attain. Enrollment is hard to determine because centers and family child care home providers often care for various children on different days or provide part day services. Therefore, centers and homes can have more children enrolled in their program than actually stated on their license capacity. Another factor is that vacancy rates can change daily and a provider may be at full capacity today and have openings tomorrow. In addition, there is a significant number of providers who are no longer actively providing child care but keep their license. All of the above affects the real usage and accuracy of the vacancy rate.

The greatest identified needs for child care in Riverside County are affordability, infant and school age care, and a growing need for evening and weekend care. In this economy, many parents have lost their jobs and if re-employed, it is often in entry level positions working evenings and/or weekends. Very few centers and only about 30% of the family child care homes provide evening and weekend care. Even though the vacancy rates are higher during this economic downturn, more licensed spaces are needed, as well as subsidized child care for parents with entry level jobs and non-traditional work hours.

Type of Care	Number of Sites	Capacity			Totals
Licensed Centers	387	Infants	Toddlers and Preschoolers	School Age	33,224
		2054	25,126	6,029	
Licensed Family Child Care Homes	2,345	All Ages			22,477
		22,477			
Total Licensed Spaces [13]					55,701

Children in Special Education:

In 2008-09, there were 25,526 children ages 0-13 years enrolled in a Special Education class in Riverside County. Of these children served in a Special Education class, 4,181 were ages 0-5 years and 21,345 were ages 6-13 years.[14] Many of these children need child care services in addition to attending a Special Education class. There is a need for on-going trainings/workshops/classes to help child care providers understand the needs of children with special needs and provide them quality services. Areas of training needed should cover the legal mandate to serve children with special needs, and emphasize the areas of disabilities with the highest enrollments.

Of the thirteen categories of disabilities, the five categories with the highest enrollment in Riverside County are:

- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Mental Retardation
- Autism

Families with children who have special needs often have a difficult time finding quality child care programs that can meet their needs. There is a countywide funded program in Riverside that is helping child care providers meet the needs of these families. This program, Inclusion Partners, is funded by First 5 Riverside through the Riverside County Child Care Consortium and is implemented by the Carolyn E. Wylie Center for Children, Youth and Families. The Inclusion Partners provide trainings, support, mentoring, assistance with transitions and links to community services for child care providers. In addition, there are a few community-specific programs with similar services assisting providers and families.

Families Receiving Public Assistance:

Many families in Riverside County would not have access to financial support, health care, adequate food, or child care without public assistance. Even with public assistance, many families still struggle to meet the basic needs of their family. Of the 102,724 people receiving CalWORKS in 2009, only 24,946 received assistance with child care, which is essential for parents to enter the workforce or attend school and/or job training.[15] Lack of child care assistance is a barrier in transitioning away from CalWORKS. Once a parent is in the workforce, child care services should be transitioned from Stage 1 child care with Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to Stage 2 child care with Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE). Although most parents transition between programs, there can be glitches in the system and a parent may lose their child care subsidy and cannot afford to pay for child care. Many parents are then forced to quit their job and re-enter the CalWORKS system in order to access child care.

Based on the economic downturn, the number of people receiving public assistance has dramatically increased since the last LPC Child Care Needs Assessment in 2003-2004. There were 19% (one in five people) on some type of public assistance in 2003-2004. In 2009, there were 41% (two in five people) on public assistance. This jump represents an increase of 116% in 5 years. CalWORKS (TANF cash aid) has increased by 84%; Medi-Cal has increased by 145%; and there was a 300% increase in Food Stamps. These large increases are due to the recession, population growth and some regulatory changes. Due to ongoing State budget deficit issues, the increase to the DPSS allocations has not been able to keep up with the significant caseload growth. While some additional funding has been received, it is not nearly enough to cover the total cost of all of the increases.

The following chart shows the dramatic increases for all recipients and for children ages 0-13 years from 2003-2004 to 2008-2009. [16]

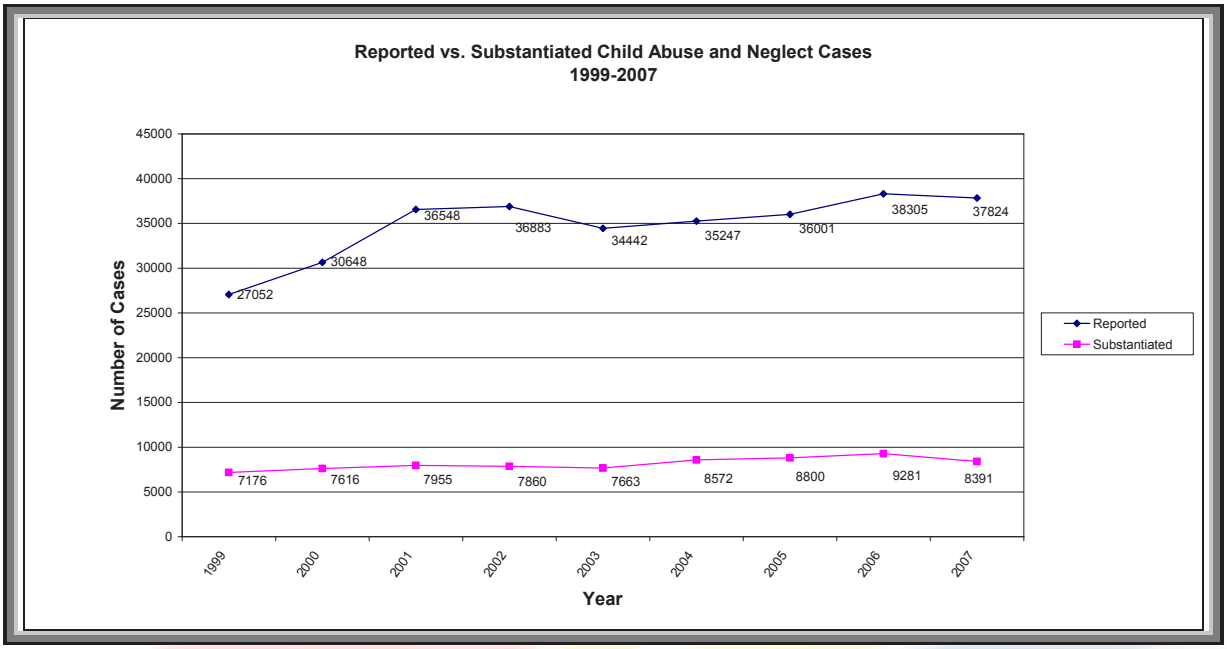
	CalWORKS			Medi-Cal			Food Stamps		
	2003-04	**2008-09**	**Percent of Increase**	**2003-04**	**2008-09**	**Percent of Increase**	**2003-04**	**2008-09**	**Percent of Increase**
All Recipients	55,719	102,724	**84%**	199,535	488,405	**145%**	67,899	273,191	**300%**
Children 0-13 years	15,717	25,653	**63%**	17,235	83,089	**382%**	17,243	43,388	**152%**

Abused, Neglected, or At Risk Children:

Child care for children who are abused, neglected, or who are at risk of abuse or neglect is crucial. All children need child care that is stable, secure, and safe. For children who are abused or neglected, the quality and safety of the child care provided adds a sense of security and well-being that can help during times of crisis and transition. There is an on-going need for trainings for child care providers to provide quality child care to children in crisis.

In recent years, the number of reported child abuse and neglect cases has risen. This may be attributed to increased public awareness about abuse and neglect and how to report these cases. Although the reported rates have increased, substantiated rates have remained somewhat stagnant. This would indicate that abuse and neglect is not increasing or decreasing significantly each year and averages approximately 15 % substantiated cases per 1,000 children between 2003 and 2007 (Children Now, 2009).

- In 2006 approximately 8 per 1,000 children were living in foster care (Children Now, 2009).
- In 2007 there were 37,824 referrals to child protective services, and 8,391 cases, or 22% were substantiated (Child Welfare Dynamic Report System, 2009).
- Of the 8,319 substantiated cases, 2,819 or 34% were first time referrals (Child Welfare Dynamic Report System).
- 3,617 children or 41% of the 8,391 substantiated cases were placed in foster care as a result of the referral (Child Welfare Dynamic Report System). [17]



Reference: End Notes:

[1] Inland Empire 2015 Projection Report: Public Policy Institute of California

[2] Riverside County Progress Report 2008: Riverside County Center for Demographic Research

[3] Inland Empire 2015 Projection Report: Public Policy Institute of California

[4] Press Enterprise, May 14, 2009

[5] Inland Empire 2015 Projection Report: Public Policy Institute of California

[6] California Child Care Resource and Referral Portfolio, 2008

[7] Inland Empire 2015 Projection Report: Public Policy Institute of California

[8] California Community Care Licensing , 2009 www.ccld.ca.gov

[9] Riverside County Office of Education; Riverside County Department of Public Social Services; First 5 Riverside

[10] Inland Empire 2015 Projection Report: Public Policy Institute of California

[11] Riverside County Office of Education, Resource and Referral Unit

[12] California Child Care Resource and Referral Portfolio, 2008

[13] California Community Care Licensing, 2009

[14] California Department of Education, Special Education Division

[15] Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Research and Evaluation Unit

[16] Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Research and Evaluation Unit

[17] Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Research and Evaluation Unit

NEED NO. 1: STABILIZE SUPPLY OF QUALITY CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Identified Need; Problem	Service or Activity	Outcome	Measurement	Measurement Source	Resources	Timeline
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Need: Maintain existing programs **Problem:** Child development programs face barriers to sustaining their businesses	**a.** Connect families to programs including developing a web link with resource information and materials	**a-e.** Existing child development programs will sustain or increase their services	**a.** Number of participants	**a.** Tracking Log/ Web hits	**a.** RCCCC LPC F5R RCOE/R&R	**a-e.** 2010-2013
	b. Provide assistance on sustainability, including fund development, marketing and financial assistance		**b.** Number of participants	**b.** Tracking Log	**b.** RCCCC LPC IESBDC F5R RCOE/R&R CAP-R	
	c. Facilitate workshops addressing program quality, including rating scales, accreditation and CDE Learning Foundations; facilitate DSS/CCLD program training; and provide business practices training		**c.** Number of training hours	**c.** Sign-in Sheets	**c.** RCCCC LPC RCOE/R&R F5R DSS/CCLD IESBDC	
	d. Facilitate enrollment in educational and professional development opportunities		**d.** Number of educational units and professional growth hours completed; number of stipends issued	**d.** Stipend Reports (education units, professional growth hours, dollar amounts)	**d.** RCCCC LPC Community Colleges RCOE/R&R	
	e. Provide assistance to child development programs that are at risk of closing		**e.** Number of child development programs that remain open and have clear licenses	**e.** Periodic DSS/CCLD Reports at: www.ccld.ca.gov	**e.** DSS/CCLD F5R RCCCC RCOE/R&R	

NEED NO. 1: STABILIZE SUPPLY OF QUALITY CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Identified Need; Problem	Service or Activity	Outcome	Measurement	Measurement Source	Resources	Timeline
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B. Need: Encourage development of new programs **Problem:** Insufficient number of licensed spaces to meet needs	**a.** Facilitate trainings on business management, public relations and marketing	**a-d.** New quality child development programs will become licensed	**a.** Number of participants	**a.** Sign-In sheet	**a.** RCCCC LPC IESBDC DSS/CCLD RCOE/R&R F5R	**a-d.** 2010-2013
	b. Provide assistance on State/County/City Regulatory processes		**b.** Number of people receiving assistance	**b.** DSS/CCLD Pending List; www.ccld.ca.gov Program Log	**b.** RCCCC DSS/CCLD LPC F5R RCOE/R&R	
	c. Facilitate workshops on financing/resource development		**c.** Number of participants	**c.** Sign-In Sheet	**c.** RCCCC LPC IESBDC F5R RCOE/R&R CAP-R	
	d. Provide licensing assistance on Community Care Licensing process		**d.** Number of people receiving assistance	**d.** New license list RCOE/R&R Tracking Log	**d.** RCCCC LPC DSS/CCLD RCOE/R&R F5R	

NEED NO. 2: ADVOCACY FOR LOCAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRY

Identified Need; Problem	Service or Activity	Outcome	Measurement	Measurement Source	Resources	Timeline
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Need: United message countywide **Problem:** Child development industry lacks a united message	**a.** Create, develop and market an outreach plan that includes a united message	**a-c.** Residents and key local stakeholders will receive information about child development issues and services	**a.** Number of plans distributed	**a.** Tracking Log	**a.** RCCCC LPC F5R RCOE/R&R IESBDC	**a-c.** 2010-2013
	b. Provide trainings to a cadre of interested people to present the message		**b.** Number of participants	**b.** Activity Log	**b.** RCCCC LPC F5R Participants	
	c. Present and disseminate message to key stakeholders (e.g., all cities, private sector, financial institutions, etc.)		**c.** Number of community residents and stakeholders receiving the message	**c.** Activity Log	**c.** RCCCC LPC Participants F5R	
B. Need: Supportive Regulations and Policies **Problem:** Many current regulations and policies do not adequately support the child development industry	**a.** RCCCC Public Policy Workgroup to identify top three (3) policy-related issues for advocacy action	**a-b.** Community awareness of need for regulatory changes	**a.** Number of advocacy pieces distributed	**a.** Tracking Log	**a.** RCCCC LPC Public Policy Work Group	**a-b.** 2010-2013
	b. Present testimony, outreach information and advocacy actions to elected officials		**b.** Number of advocacy presentations and actions	**b.** Tracking Log	**b.** RCCCC LPC Public Policy Work Group F5R	

Legend:
RCCCC: Riverside County Child Care Consortium
LPC: Riverside County Local Child Care and Development Planning Council
F5R: First 5 Riverside/Riverside County Children and Families Commission
RCOE/R&R: Riverside County Office of Education/Resource and Referral
IESBDC: Inland Empire Small Business Development Center
CAP-R: Community Action Partnership-Riverside County
DSS/CCLD: Department of Social Services/Community Care Licensing Division