



EL DORADO COUNTY

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PLANNING COUNCIL

Mission Statement:

The El Dorado Early Care and Education Planning Council provides leadership for the planning and development of quality, accessible, affordable early care and education programs for children and families in El Dorado County.

Early Care and Education Planning Council Members

The council consists of fifteen volunteers appointed jointly by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and the El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools. Council members equally represent the following categories:

Providers

Consumers

Public Agency Representatives

Discretionary Appointments

Needs Assessment Update and Strategic Plan 2008-2010



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HISTORY OF LOCAL PLANNING COUNCILS

Local decision-making for child care and development programs began in 1991 with the passage of AB 2141 and the inception of the Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant. The original intent of local child care planning councils had been to improve child care and delivery by encouraging local government involvement for joint planning and coordination among state and federal agencies. In 1997, AB 1542 mandated planning councils in each county, requiring the involvement of both the Board of Supervisors and the County Office of Education. Councils were given more responsibilities and mandates as part of the legislation creating California's response to federal welfare reform. Since then, the El Dorado County Early Care and Education Planning Council has become an important part of the local infrastructure, developing comprehensive, community based strategies to serve children and families.



NEEDS ASSESSMENT - UPDATE 2008

INTRODUCTION

The El Dorado County Early Care and Education Planning Council is responsible for documenting the county child care needs and submitting a report to the State Department of Education every five years. The information contained in the needs assessment is used to provide California's legislature and local stakeholders data on the early care and education needs in El Dorado County and provide a basis for the distribution of state funding for child care and development services. This data collection also informs the development of the Council's Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will mobilize public and private resources to address identified needs and enhance and strengthen collaboration and partnerships among service agencies and stakeholders.

The last El Dorado County Community Needs Assessment was completed in 2004, using US Census 2000 data, along with a Three Year Strategic Plan (2004-2007). The Education Code requires the next Needs Assessment to be completed in 2009; however a new Strategic Plan is needed to bridge those years. The El Dorado Early Care and Education Planning Council prepared the following data update to inform its 2008 Strategic Plan development process.

CURRENT EL DORADO COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

Countywide	2002	2007	% change
Total Population	165,200	179,722	9%
Total Households	59,013	63,235	7%
Persons/per household	2.66 persons	2.58 persons	-3%
Median Household Income	\$ 51,401	\$ 61,548	20%
Unemployment		4.6%	
Households living in poverty	7.1%	8%	13%
Children 0-5 living in poverty	1047	2050	95%

2007 American Community Survey, B17001,DOF Population Projections



The total population of El Dorado County is projected to increase 5% to 189,308 by 2010 (State of California, Department of Finance, *Population Projections for California and Its Counties 2000-2050, by Age, Gender and Race/Ethnicity*, Sacramento, California, July 2007.) But looking at the projected child population changes, the numbers of children age 0-4 are expected to increase, the numbers of school age children are projected to decrease. These projections indicate that the current shortage of infant care will increase as the need for care increases.

El Dorado County Children Overall

Children by Age	2000	2007	% change
0-2	4692	4798	2.3% ↑
3-5 years	5458	6879	26% ↑
Total 0-5	11,048	11677	5.7% ↑
6-13 years	18477	18450	0.1% ↓
Total 0-13	28627	28757	
% of families at or below SMI	40%	NA	
Children 0-13 with All Parents in the workforce	18415	18692	1.5 %

US Census 2000, American Community Survey 2006 Table B090001,

- ✓ **96 % of children have health insurance (Measuring Our Health 2008)**
- ✓ **86% of mothers receive prenatal care (Measuring Our Health 2008)**
- ✓ **8% of children live in poverty – (2007 Children Now)**
- ✓ **2,050 children under 5 are below the poverty line (ACS 2007)**
- ✓ **67 % of children < 6 have all parents in the workforce(ACS2007 B23008)**
- ✓ **72% of school age children have all parents in the workforce (ACS 2007)**
- ✓ **26% of children live in low income families-(2007 Children Now)**

Family Economics

Median Household Income	California	El Dorado County
Census 2000	\$47,493	\$ 60,250
Estimates for 2007	\$ 58,044	\$ 64,188

US Census, ACS 2007

As this report is completed, the economic situation in California and El Dorado County is changing. The unemployment rate has increased from 4.9% to 6.9%, and food and housing support services providers report increasing numbers of families seeking assistance. With changing family economics, the county will anticipate increasing numbers of families becoming eligible for subsidized services and fewer families able to afford early education programs.

Ethnicity

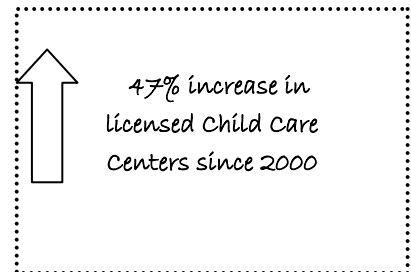
	2000	2007 estimate
Caucasian (white)	79%	76%
Latino	14%	13%
Asian	2%	3%
Native American	1%	1.4%
African American	<1%	1.5%
Other		4.4%

US Census 2000, CDE Dataquest

CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Child Care Facilities:

- ✓ 226 Child Care Facilities
- ✓ 72 Licensed Child Care Centers up from 49 in 2000, a 47% increase
- ✓ 154 Family Child Care Homes down from 157 in 2000, a 2% decrease



Choices for Children estimates the number of licensed child care slots to be 6,323, an 8% decrease since 2003 primarily due to a decrease in school age services. The number of preschool spaces has increased 81%.

Licensed care available for children with all parents in the labor force: 27%

COUNTYWIDE LICENSED CHILD CARE SUPPLY, DEMAND AND GAPS

Trends in Licensed Child Care Supply

Number of licensed spaces	2003	2008	% change	2008
				Vacancy Rates
Infant	631	604	-4%	22%
Preschool	2480	4481	+81%	10%
School Age	3758	1238	-67%	6%
Total	6869	6323	-8%	21%

Choices for Children

El Dorado County has seen a marked increase in licensed preschool spaces and a decrease in infant and school age spaces. The increase in preschool services in both center and family childcare reflects state and national attention to the value of preschool experiences for children and the increasing numbers of working families.

Licensed Supply, Demand and Gaps

Potential Demand for Care based on parents in the workforce	FCC licensed Supply	Center Based licensed Supply	Total Slots	Vacancy %	Difference Between Supply/ Demand	
Age 0-2	2555	268	336	604	22%	(1951)
Age 2-5	4626	1007	3474	4481	10%	145
Age 6-12	11696	620	626	1238	6%	(10458)

Although licensed school age care is in short supply, approximately 5,361 school age children are served in non-licensed after school care settings leaving an estimated 5097 children potentially needing access to after school services but not attending or finding the care they need.

	Western Slope	South Lake Tahoe
Boys and Girls Clubs	2623	170
EDCOE Extended Day	2568	

Demand for licensed infant care in El Dorado County far exceeds the supply. Choices for Children data shows a 22% vacancy rate in infant care, primarily in the private sector, but this vacancy rate is not due to lack of demand, but rather due to the lack of affordability of that care (see *Child Care Costs* below) for young working families. In order to meet the needs of those families estimated to be eligible for and needing infant care, we need to advocate for more subsidized slots through Alternative Payment and more General Child Care dollars. Requests for infant care (0-2) are the largest category of requests received by Choices for children.

Requests for Care – Choices for Children, Resource and Referral (1/1/2007 to 12/1/2007)

	Total	<1	1	2	3-4	5	6-8	9>
Full Time	1055	284	199	146	227	55	94	50
Part Time	553	116	102	73	97	36	77	52
Both	135	27	31	18	25	7	18	9
Total Requests	1743	427	332	237	349	98	189	111

Countywide Subsidized Child Care Supply

Potential Demand for Care*	Demand Subsidized	Supply of Subsidized Care	Difference Between Supply and Demand
Age 0-2	927	280	(647)
Age 2-5	1027	1106	79
Age 6-12	2966	287	(2679)



(Census 2000, < 75% SMI with 13% growth factor, “all parents in workforce”)

Centralized Eligibility List

Since 2006, Title V contractors have been required to enroll children from the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL), a database of eligible families ranked by need and family income. The Centralized Eligibility List is maintained by Choices for Children.

October 2008 Eligible Children and Families

Infants: 270

Preschool Age: 439

School Age: 226

Demand for subsidized infant care continues to exceed supply. The CEL includes 270 infants eligible and waiting for subsidized care and population estimates indicate that 647 infants are potentially eligible for subsidy.



CHILD CARE COSTS IN EL DORADO COUNTY

Average Full Time Monthly Cost (February 2008) Choices for Children

	Full Time Monthly			Part Time Monthly			% change since 2003
	Center	Family Care	Child Care	Center	Family Care	Child Care	
Age of child:							
0-12 m	\$ 844	\$ 744		\$600	\$ 438		19%
2 -5 years	\$ 612	\$ 511		\$385	\$329		5%
6-13 years	\$ 455	\$ 435		\$ 280	\$ 327		(15%)

CHILD CARE WORKFORCE

The Early Care and Education Planning Council focused considerable energy and programming efforts toward the recruitment, retention and professional development of the early care and education workforce in El Dorado County. Since 2000, The Comprehensive Approach to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) and AB 212 programs provided incentives and professional development opportunities to child care workers with the goal of increasing retention of staff and number of Child Development Permit holders. The results of these efforts are shown in the tables below. El Dorado County has significantly increased its numbers of permit holders, and has increased its number of Site Supervisors by over 200%. Our percentage of staff with teacher permits and master teacher permits exceeds state percentages.

Recent Professional Development opportunities supported by the Council include U.C. Davis Center for Excellence in Child Care – Leadership Institute, Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale Training, Infant Toddler Care, and Early Language and Literacy.

Despite these programs, center owners and directors continue to experience difficulty hiring and retaining staff due to the low wages and challenging working conditions. Because of this continued need, workforce recruitment and workforce development will remain a high priority for the Early Care and Education Planning Council.



Education and Wages

Education	Wages	
High School Diploma	9%	\$9.50
Some College Units	45%	\$10.07
AA/ AS degree	24%	\$12.44
BA degree	16%	\$13.74
Post Grad Degree	4%	

Early Care and Education Planning Council Workforce Survey 2005

Turnover Rates in Early Care and Education Providers

Turnover Rate	2000	2003	2005	2007	2008
High Turnover (employed < 1 year)	20%	28 %	10%	30%	20%
Medium Turnover (employed 1-3 years)	28%	20 %	13 %	18%	31%
Low Turnover (employed >3 years)	52%	52 %	77 %	51%	49%

SPECIAL POPULATIONS AND SUBSIDIES 2007

Head Start and Early Head Start: 604 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start countywide.

CEL: 935 children active on the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL October 2008)

Special Needs: 2373 Children birth through 13 years old participate in school district special education services, of those 470 were birth through 5 years old.

CPS: 429 children are active with children's Protective Services (CPS) (1/2008) active caseloads and 270 children are in care placement settings such as group homes, kin care or foster care. El Dorado County has an incidence rate of abuse and neglect referrals of 61.7 per 1000 children, higher than the California rate of 50.1 per 1000. The incidence of referrals for children under 1 year of age is 108.7 per 1000 children or 10.9% of the under 1 population.

Public Assistance: 466 Children age birth to three and 157 children age three to five receiving AFDC or Family Support for a total of 623 children under the age of 5 on cash aid. (2-25-08 EDC DHS)

MediCal: 991 children under the age of 5 are eligible for Medi Cal health insurance

KEY FINDINGS AND TRENDS IN EL DORADO COUNTY

- Licensed infant care continues to be in short supply with a shortfall of 1951 licensed spaces. Population projections indicate that the need for infant care will increase.
- Subsidized infant care is short by an estimated 647 slots.
- The current year shows licensed preschool supply meeting demand, however in future years a shortfall will occur.
- Infant care costs have risen and average of 19% in three years making licensed care increasingly unaffordable for families.
- Education level of providers continues to increase while 1 year retention rates are improving.
- Additional child care subsidies are needed to support our eligible families for children of all ages.
- Additional workforce supports and incentives are needed to recruit and retain high quality staff.
- Quality after school care remains a need in El Dorado County. Further research on availability and affordability issues is needed.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2010

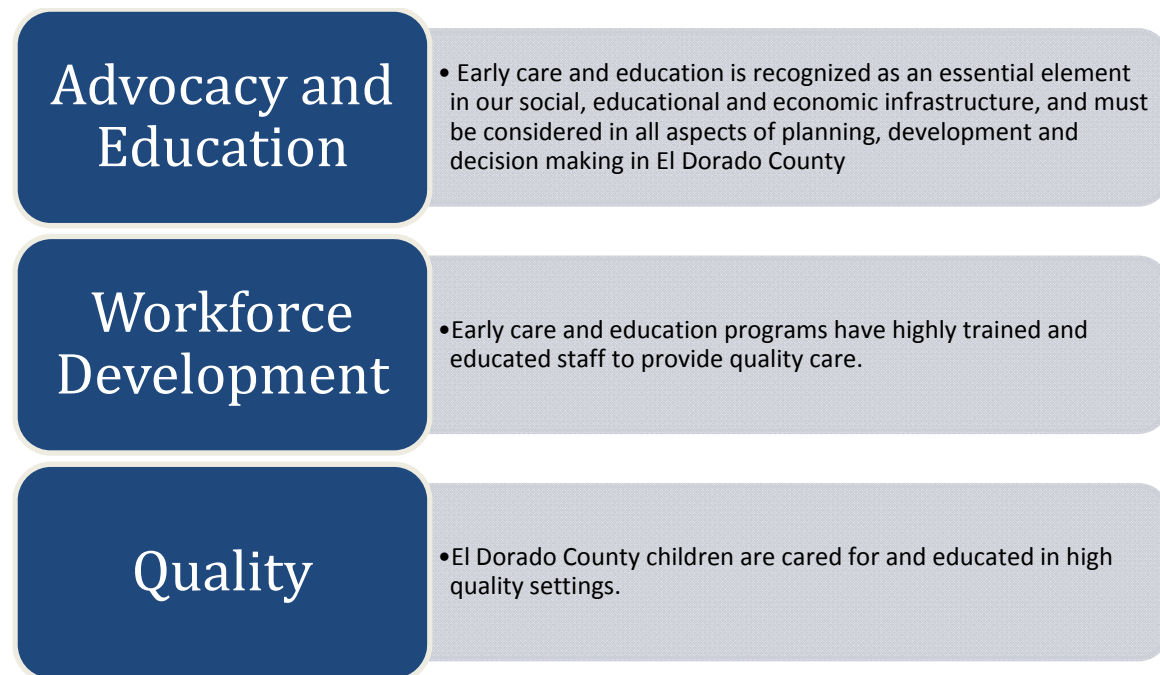
The goal of the new Strategic Plan is to organize, prioritize, inspire and guide the work of the El Dorado County Early Care and Education Planning Council. Given that the next Needs Assessment is not scheduled until 2009, but a new Strategic Plan is due in 2008, and that the availability of new data is extremely limited, the El Dorado County Early Care and Education Planning Council decided to formulate a 3-year plan at this time.

In addition to the continual focus on access, availability, and quality, the El Dorado County Early Care and Education Planning Council wants to ensure that as they evaluate potential projects and activities and work to address previously unaddressed areas of concern, the new Strategic Plan provides a framework for making decisions that are clearly aligned with the Council's mission and current goals. The Council also wants to ensure that they focus on goals that are realistically in their scope of ability to successfully impact.

To create this Strategic Plan, the El Dorado County Early Care and Education Planning Council reviewed a variety of documents, including:

- the previous Strategic Plan,
- the current and projected projects list for the El Dorado County Early Care and Education Planning Council,
- the new El Dorado County Child Care Workforce Survey data, and
- All available updated local data since the last needs assessment.

The following goals were created by the Council to address current and emerging concerns:



GOAL 1: ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

Early care and education is recognized as an essential element to our social, educational and economic infrastructure and must be considered in all aspects of planning, development and decision making in El Dorado County.

Overall Strategy: LPC will educate and advocate on behalf of children and families by having a presence with relevant community stakeholders and policy makers.

Strategies	Activities	Who Responsible
1. LPC will raise business, government and community awareness of the early care and education needs of children and families in the community.	Establish targeted outreach group talking points.	Advocacy and Outreach Committee
2. LPC will raise awareness of the challenges facing the early care and education profession	Establish targeted outreach group talking points.	Advocacy and Outreach Committee
3. LPC will advocate for the inclusion of early care and education in county planning, community and economic development and in the General Plan.	Meet with Planning Department	County Planning Committee
4. LPC will review and update plans for outreach to targeted populations and develop effective education and advocacy plan.	Outreach and education to potentially underserved populations Latino and Native American communities. Outreach and education to the families and providers of children with diverse abilities.	Advocacy and Outreach Committee
6. LPC will assess the availability and accessibility of school age care and non traditional hours care in El Dorado County and develop further strategies based on this assessment.	Review licensed supply and cost data for school age and non-traditional hours care including legally licensed exempt care	Advocacy and Outreach Committee

Desired Outcomes:

- El Dorado County government, business, education effectively supports early care and education services.
- Public policy in El Dorado County reflects the needs of all children and families.

GOAL 2: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Early care and education programs have highly trained and educated staff to provide quality care.

Strategies	Activities	Who Responsible
1. LPC will research best practices to determine effective strategies for recruitment, retention and education of the early care and education workforce.	LPC will collect research to inform Committee work.	Workforce Committee
2. LPC will develop further strategies based on the findings.	LPC will review best practices and make recommendations to full Council on strategies.	Workforce Committee
3. LPC will effectively implement AB212 legislation.	Recruit, Review AB212 participant applications Distribute AB 212 funds. Review program and develop upcoming year's plan based on results.	LPC staff Workforce Committee
4. LPC will actively explore alternative funding opportunities for workforce development.	Ongoing agenda item for full council input.	Workforce Committee

Desired Outcomes:

- Increased recruitment and retention of early care and education workforce.
- Increased participation in professional development opportunities

GOAL 3: QUALITY

El Dorado County children are cared for and educated in high quality settings.

Overall Strategy: Ensure that early care and education providers have access to training and professional development through collaboration with agencies/programs and services and achieve locally defined Quality standards.

Strategies:	Activities:	Who Responsible:
1. LPC will collaborate with the Early Care and Education/Kindergarten Transitional Planning Group.	LPC will assist in publicizing outcomes from the Early Care and Education/Kindergarten Transitional Planning Group.	Representation from the Council
2. LPC will link providers to resources and training including Special Needs and Child Abuse Prevention	LPC will actively participate in the development of the professional development web based resources.	Representation from the Council
3. LPC will collaborate with and support First 5's 'High Five for Quality' initiative and other resources to help programs achieve quality standards.	Attend First 5's 'High Five for Quality' initiative meetings and offer support and assistance.	Representation from the Council

Desired Outcomes:

- Increase in early care and education programs that offer high quality services by achieving locally defined quality standards.
- Increase in early care and education providers participate in professional development opportunities

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Center Director's Network

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and The El Dorado County Board of Education

The 2007-2008 Early Care and Education Planning Council Members

Sherri Springer, Chair - Happy Kids Child Care

Juline Aguilar - Consumer

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Jennifer Lawrence - Choices For Children

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Ellen Vaughn - EDC Chamber of Commerce

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