

# Understanding Child Care Eligibility Lists in Contra Costa County

## What is subsidized child care?

Financial assistance is sometimes available to low-income families to help cover part or all of their child care costs, depending on the family's financial status and need for services. Targeted funding in the form of payments to child care providers is available to help parents within Contra Costa County and often has strict eligibility guidelines.

## How do families apply for subsidized child care?

Families must submit an application to place their name on each Eligibility List for the child care program(s) that best meet the needs of their family (see other side for list of subsidized programs in Contra Costa). When funding becomes available or a subsidized program has an opening, families will be contacted in priority order. Those with the lowest income have priority and are called first; not those who have been waiting the longest. Families do not automatically receive subsidized child care just by submitting an application.

### Step One – Establish Income Eligibility:

To be eligible, families must meet income requirements based on family size (see below). The California Department of Education establishes the definition of income based on a family's "gross" or total earnings before taxes and benefits are deducted. Each family member's Wages/salaries, Self-employment income, Child support, spousal support, Cash Aid (TANF or CalWORKs), Worker's compensation, Disability insurance payments, Unemployment, Pensions or annuities, Veteran's benefits are all considered part of the family's total earnings.

Family Size/Maximum Monthly Income

1-2	3	4	5	6	7
\$3,283	\$3,518	\$3,908	\$4,534	\$5,159	\$5,276

### Step Two – Establish Need for Services:

Families must have a need for child care for one or more of the following reasons: Working, Looking for work, attending school or in training, medically incapacitated and unable to care for the child for part of the day. Children receiving a child and family services referral or are at child at risk of abuse or neglect have first priority.

## Should a family fill out a new application each time there is a change in the family's information?

No, it is not necessary to fill out a new application. However, it is now required that families phone each program that received an application in order to update any changes to family size, income, address, telephone number, etc..

## Is the Eligibility List a waiting list?

No. The Eligibility List is maintained at each program, and determines which families should be served first when a space becomes available. The Eligibility List is based on factors determined by the State and includes: income, family size, and other needs. *The Eligibility List maintained at each program is not administered on a first-come, first-served basis—the amount of time that a family has been waiting does not determine who will be served first.* Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that a family will receive assistance through a subsidized child care program.

## Are there any exceptions?

Yes, families who are currently on Cash Aid (TANF) for the parent portion of the grant or who have been on Cash Aid (TANF) for the parent portion of the grant in the last two years, and who meet the above income and need guidelines may apply directly for services by calling (925) 676-8570.



# Application Contacts

## Contra Costa Subsidized Child Care Centers

Full time and Part time Programs

### West County

Contra Costa Community College	2600 Mission Bell Dr.	San Pablo, 94806	(510) 235-7800	2.9-5 yrs
El Nuevo Mundo (ICRI)	1707 Pennsylvania Ave.	Richmond, 94801	(510) 233-2329	2.9-5 yrs
West Contra Costa Unif Sch. Dist.	1108 Bissell Ave.	Richmond, 94804	(510) 307-4585	2.9-5 yrs

### Central County

Cambridge Community Center	1146 Lacey Lane	Concord, 94520	(925) 798-1078	3-5 yrs
Concord Child Care Center	1360 Detroit Ave.	Concord, 94520	(925) 689-5151	18 mos-6 yrs
Martinez Early Childhood Center	615 Arch Street	Martinez, 94553	(925) 229-2000	1-5 yrs
Mt Diablo Comm. CC Advocates	2750 Parkside Circle	Concord, 94519	(925) 798-5027	2.9-5 yrs

### East County

Kids Club	800 Gary Ave. #C	Antioch, 94509	(925) 706-1669 x65	3-5 yrs
Oakley Union School Dist.	100 Simoni Ranch Dr.	Oakley, 94561	(925) 625-7147	3-5 yrs
Pittsburg Unified School Dist.	950 El Pueblo Ave.	Pittsburg, 94565	(925) 473-4370	2-6 yrs
Starlight Academy	508 West Tregallas	Antioch, 94509	(925) 755-4543	2-6 yrs

### Contra Costa County Wide Programs

Contra Costa Child Care Council	Parental Choice-Alternative Payment Programs	(925) 676-8570	0-12 yrs
Community Services Bureau	East and Central County	(925) 427-8852	0-5 yrs
Community Services Bureau	West County	(510) 374-7144	0-5 yrs
Head Start	East and Central County	(925) 472-8852	2.9-5yrs
Head Start	West County	(510) 374-7144	2.9-5yrs
21 <sup>st</sup> Century After School	County wide	(925) 671-3034	5-12 yrs
YMCA of the Bay Area	County wide	(510) 837-6973	6 wks-12 yrs
YWCA of Contra Costa	County wide	(925) 825-9195	3-5 yrs

For more information contact:  
 Contra Costa Child Care Council  
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 Concord, CA 94518  
 (925) 676-8570  
[CCEL@cocokids.org](mailto:CCEL@cocokids.org)