



# Child Care Needs Assessment

June 2010



*Curry T. Eagles, Ph.D.*  
Superintendent





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# Introduction

Every five years, the Local Child Care Planning Council of Humboldt County must conduct a child care needs assessment. This is required through a mandate outlined in Title 1, Division 1, Part 6, Chapter 2.3 of the California Education Code (shown in box). The following report fulfills that mandate.

1. Child care needs of families eligible for subsidized care.
2. Child care needs of families not eligible for subsidized care.
3. Waitlists for programs funded by California Department of Education and Department of Social Services.
4. The need for child care for children who have been abused, exploited, or neglected, or at risk of abuse, exploitation, or neglect.
5. Number of children receiving public assistance.
6. Family income among families with preschool or school age children.
7. Number of children of migrant workers.
8. Number of children with special needs.
9. Number of children from all identifiable linguistic and cultural backgrounds.
10. Special child care needs based on geographic considerations.
11. Age of children needing services.
12. Any other factor deemed appropriate by the council.

The Local Child Care Planning Council (LCCPC) was formed in response to legislation. The first meeting was held on January 27, 1998. The Council consists of 10 members from various backgrounds including parents, providers, community members and administrators. Currently there are two members in each of the five categories. The categories are provider, public agency, consumer, community and discretionary. The Board of Supervisors and the Superintendent of Schools jointly appoint council members. The LCCPC meets regularly and has committees that meet as needed.

# Local Child Care Planning Council Members

## Provider Members

Danielle Hart, Family Child Care Provider  
Kathy Montagne, Executive Director, Northcoast Children's Services

## Discretionary Members

Jackie Hamilton, Ready to Learn Educator, KEET TV  
JoAnn Ricci, Department of Health and Human Services

## Consumer Members

Jeanine Canedo-Moncrief, Child Care Services Director, Changing Tides Family Services  
Jessica Callahan, Parent Consumer

## Community Members

Larry Hourany, community activist  
Rita Carole, Speech Therapist, Glen Paul School

## Public Agency Members

Sydney Fisher Larson, Professor of Early Childhood Education  
Patti Hafner, Ed.D, Superintendent of Fortuna Union School District

### The Mission of LCCPC of Humboldt County

Assess, plan, and promote quality, accessible, affordable child care and development services reflecting the diverse needs of families throughout Humboldt County.

## Note Regarding Data Sources

Various agencies and providers of child care have specific ways of grouping children's ages. There is no one way to define infant/toddler, preschooler, and school-age. For the purposes of this assessment, the following age groups were used:

- Infant/Toddler – 0-36 months;
- Preschool – 3-5 years;
- School-Age – Kindergarten through 12 years.

There are instances where data could not be broken down by these age groups, and the best available data regarding children were used. When this is the case, the relevant age ranges are provided.

Although every effort to gather the most recent data was made, there are instances where the data source has been limited. The oldest data presented here are demographic data, based on the 2006-2008 American Community Survey Estimates. The most recent data are from June 2010 provided by Humboldt County and local child care organizations.



## County Regions Overview<sup>1</sup>

Humboldt County is approximately 3,600 square miles and has an estimated population of 128,897.<sup>2</sup> It is located on the North Coast of California and is heavily forested; nearly 80% is forestlands, protected redwoods and recreation areas.

The county has seven incorporated cities whose population varies from 400 to 35,000 people. Nearly half of the county's residents live in the incorporated communities, and 59 percent of the population lives in the area surrounding Humboldt Bay. Most population growth is around the communities of McKinleyville and Garberville, and the cities of Arcata and Fortuna.

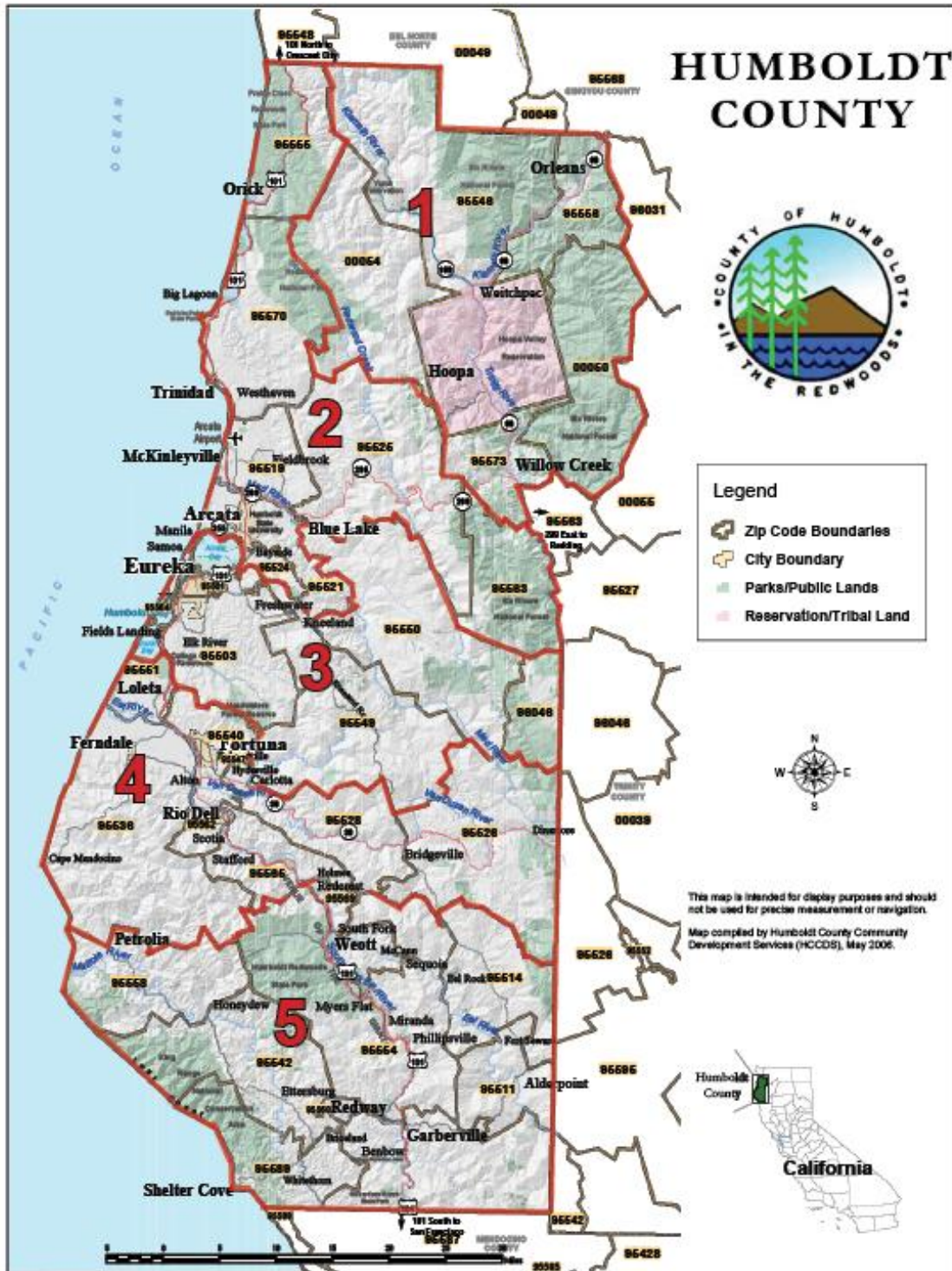
The regions presented in this report were determined in part by the local high school district boundaries. Also, various geographic barriers were taken into consideration (see map). Some areas of Humboldt County are easier to travel in and are generally more urban than the rest of the county. These areas were grouped together when possible.

### Region Breakdowns

Region	City/Town	Zip Codes
1	Willow Creek, Hoopa, Orleans	95546, 00054, 95556, 00050, 95573
2	Trinidad, Orick, Westhaven, Blue Lake, McKinleyville, Arcata	95555, 95570, 95525, 95530, 95563, 95518, 95519, 95524, 95521, 95522
3	Eureka, Freshwater, Kneeland, Fields Landing	95501, 95564, 95503, 95537, 95549, 95550, 96046, 95534
4	Fortuna, Rio Dell, Ferndale, Loleta	95551, 95540, 95547, 95562, 95536, 95565, 95528, 95526
5	Petrolia, Weott, Redway, Garberville	95558, 95542, 95569, 95554, 95589, 95511, 95553, 95559, 95560, 95571, 95514, 95440, 95545

<sup>1</sup> County Overview provided by the Humboldt County Website, About Humboldt County, available at: <http://co.humboldt.ca.us/portal/about.asp>. Accessed May 12, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> American Community Survey, 2006-2008. Other population estimates include 131,600 from the County and 133,269 from the State.



Adapted with permission from the County of Humboldt, Community Development Services.  
[http://co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/maps/countydisplay5\\_zipcode.pdf](http://co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/maps/countydisplay5_zipcode.pdf). Accessed May 14, 2010.

## Types of Care

There are two categories of providers: family child care homes and child care centers.

- Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) – care takes place in the home of the provider. Non-medical care and supervision is provided for less than 24 hours. FCCHs can be small or large with the size determined by licensing. Small homes can provide care for no more than eight children and large homes can provide care for no more than 14 children.
- Child Care Centers are not home-based facilities of any capacity. Non-medical care and supervision is provided for less than 24 hours.

Additionally, these two categories can be licensed or license-exempt.

- Licensed providers must go through a process with the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, and are regulated by state laws and regulations.
- License-exempt providers must meet various detailed criteria. Examples of license-exempt providers are after-school programs operated by schools, facilities where the parent remains on site, relative care or care that is considered exempt from licensing according to Community Care licensing regulations.

## Executive Summary

We respectfully submit this Assessment of Child Care Needs in Humboldt County to the California Department of Education, Child Development Division and the Community. Commissioned by the Local Child Care Planning Council of Humboldt County, this document reviews many key factors that will influence child care needs including: demographic trends, child care demand and supply, services for children in special populations, information about subsidies and cost and briefly reviews the child care workforce. It is our hope that this information will be used as a tool for local stakeholders to inform future child care planning and implementation and to target resources towards the regions within the county that need the most attention. We would like to thank all of the agencies and individuals for their time, interest and contributions, especially the members of the Assessment and Planning Committee. Many local agencies provided the council with data for the assessment including: Changing Tides Family Services, Northcoast Children's Services, Department of Social Services, Humboldt County Office of Education and the Yurok and Hoopa Valley Tribes.

### Family and Child Demographic Trends

There are approximately 30,394 families in Humboldt County. Eleven percent are single parent households. Of the 17,021-21,749 children in the area, a large majority live within regions 2 and 3. There has been consistent growth in the child population since 2001. Of the child population, 60% identified as white, 12% identified as Hispanic or Latino, and 11% identified as American Indian. The ethnicity of children is similar to the composition of the rest of Humboldt County.

Child care needs can largely rely on the social characteristics of the population. Workforce participation and family income are factors that weigh heavily on the family's need for child care and if they will be able to afford that child care or qualify for subsidies. Approximately 15,064 parents are in the workforce and potentially seeking care for their children. In Humboldt County, the highest percentage of families in poverty, 38.8%, were those where the sole householder was female. For all families, those with related children 0-5 also had a higher percentage of poverty, 20.8%, than the other categories.

Of all residents, 91% of the county speaks English at home. The next most predominant language is Spanish, which 5.6% of the population speaks at home.

### Child Care Demand

Data regarding demand was gathered from several sources. The Centralized Eligibility List and local Resource and Referral provide insight into the type of childcare requested, hours child care is needed, and the reasons parents are seeking child care. Additional sources for demand include a report of Child Care Needs completed in 2008 and a Child Care Survey done in 2009. These indicated that the main reason parents seek care is because of employment or to seek work. The most common barrier to care reported was cost. Full time care (more than 30 hours per week) is the most frequently

requested type of care. Families with children aged 0-5 request small family child care homes more often than other types of care.

According to the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, there were 226 total licensed child care facilities in 2008. As of June 2010, the local Resource and Referral shows that there are a total of 220 licensed child care facilities. It appears that facilities are closing, despite the obvious growth in child population. This trend is partially confirmed by the local California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division in Humboldt County. Most notable is the closure of approximately seven facilities in the month of May 2010.

### Child Care Supply

As of June 2010, the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division shows there are approximately 2,754 licensed child care slots. This number does not include small family child care homes. In addition to these slots, After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs can serve approximately 1,600 children. There may be more slots available through other types of exempt providers. Number of slots is not necessarily a good indicator for how many openings there may be for care. One slot can be used to serve one child in full-time care or two children in part-time care.

Of the licensed facilities, 25% of the family child care homes (small and large) and 45% of child care centers had Spanish speaking staff available.

### Services for Children from Special Populations

According to the Humboldt County Office of Education Special Education Local Plan Area there are 1,655 children, age 0-12, in the special education programs.

In the school based English Language programs, 79% of the children are Spanish speakers.

There are not many services for migrant families in Humboldt County; the sole service for migrant families is the Migrant Educational Program and it serves 342 children.

There were 327 substantiated claims of child abuse and 110 entries into the welfare system. Of children served by foster care those ages 11-15 comprise the largest age group. The second largest groups of children are ages 1-2 and 6-10.

### Subsidies and Cost

Preschoolers make up the largest portion on the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL), those receiving Alternative Payment, and on Family Child Care Home Education Network.

There are 469 children on CalWORKS Stages 1, 2 and 3.

There are seven state preschools in the county that serve a total of 250 children. There are 29 Head Start programs, two of which are tribal based. Four hundred and forty four

children are enrolled in all non-tribal Head Start programs. Ninety six children are enrolled in Early Head Start.

Humboldt County has three California School Age Families Education programs that serve parenting teens with a total capacity of 37. There are 26 ASES Programs in the county that serve approximately 1,600 school-age children.

The cost of care in Humboldt County is slightly less than the rest of the state, but the median household income is also less than the rest of the state. This indicates that child care, although on the whole less expensive, is still one of the largest expenses for a Humboldt County family. Humboldt County families are affected more by the cost of child care than other families in California. For example, cost of full time care for an infant in a center, as a percentage of median income for an average Californian, is 15%. For a family in Humboldt County, this figure is 19%.

### Priority Areas for Subsidized Care

The Local Child Care Planning Council assesses the priority zip codes for state subsidized care annually and can be found in **Appendix A**. These priorities are submitted to the California Department of Education, Child Development Division in May. The current priority 1 zip codes for general child care are: 95501, 95502, 95503, 95519, 95521, 95540, 95542, and 95560. Current Priority 1 zip codes for half-day state preschool are: 95501, 95502, 95503, 95519, 95521, 95540, 95542, and 95560.

### Workforce

The child care workforce in California is presented with a particular set of new problems. Already experiencing low salaries and high turnover, the workforce is further burdened by increasing budget cuts. The consistently tenuous status of the budget has put child care facilities at a grave disadvantage. Many facilities are reducing staff and reducing their desired capacity or offering half day services. Child care providers frequently receive reimbursements in arrears and funding is frozen when the California budget cannot be resolved. This has resulted in many leaving the workforce all together.

### Overall Recommendations

There is a need for regular and consistent data collection among those that serve children. Currently, many organizations and agencies use different definitions of the terms commonly used in the industry. For example, the age groups of the children are not consistent among agencies. "Special needs" is also defined differently by federal and state regulations and agencies. Consistent definitions would greatly ease data collection and make it more useable in a practical way.

Several sources used in this needs assessment can be collected on a regular basis. Funding should be sought so this data could be gathered annually to track trends in the overall child care system:

- Numbers of children age 0-12 by location;
- Numbers of child care centers and family child care homes by location;

- Data regarding county administered programs such as those found in the “Special Populations” section of this report; and
- Numbers of children receiving subsidized care by location and age.

There are many areas where insufficient data exists. Future data collection and funding should be directed towards the following topics:

- Children in tribes and where they seek care;
- Migrant population and migrant children in schools and child care facilities;
- Numbers of exempt providers;
- Children requiring other types of special needs care, besides those having Individual Education Plans;
- Numbers of closures and openings of facilities. Inactive and active status data, paired with reasons for inactivity;
- After-school program and care alternatives for school-age children including location, hours and capacity;
- Localized fee survey or file review of local resource and referral provider fees based on type of care and location;
- Tracking local workforce: turnover, entries and advancement within field; and
- Accurate city specific income data.

The State of California is still reimbursing subsidized providers at 2005 rates based on a survey done in 2006. The reimbursement rate must be updated to reflect the current cost of care.

Agencies report that families have been requesting more special needs services for their children. Additionally, providers have been requesting training in behavioral management. Although there is no quantifiable data to support these observations, particular attention should be paid to future data collection or additional trainings on the issue of behavior.

Both tribes consulted regarding child care needs indicated that more care was needed in their region.

### **Region Specific Recommendations**

Humboldt County was divided into five regions for this assessment. The major cities and towns included in each region are:

- Region 1: Willow Creek, Hoopa, Orleans
- Region 2: Trinidad, Orick, Westhaven, Blue Lake, McKinleyville, Arcata
- Region 3: Eureka, Freshwater, Kneeland, Fields Landing
- Region 4: Fortuna, Rio Dell, Ferndale, Loleta
- Region 5: Petrolia, Weott, Redway, Garberville

Although region 1 does not have a particularly large number of children aged 0-24 months in proportion to the rest of its child population, it had the most children in this

age category on the CEL. Region 1 also only has child care centers, most of which take children age 3 to 5 and all are funded through the State Preschool program or Head Start. Only the Early Head Start in Hoopa takes children under 3. Typically, these children are cared for in FCCH's or through an exempt provider. According to the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, there are no large FCCH's in region 1, and there could be only one small FCCH in the area. Region 1 also has one zip code, 95573, which especially lacks care for children 0-5. There is only 1 licensed facility in region 1 that cares for children of this age and it is currently at capacity and not in 95573. There should be more care for children ages 0-5. Region 1 also may need more American Indian language providers.

Region 2 has the second largest population of children (approximately 4894 children ages 0-12). Region 2 has the largest proportion of 1 year olds among children 0-5 (approximately 447 children total), but only has 207 licensed slots divided between large family child care homes and infant care centers in which would be the most likely type of care for these children to receive. The remaining children are likely served by a small FCCH or exempt provider. Region 2 may benefit from more care centers or homes for infants/toddlers. There is one zip code, 95519, which lacks care for children 0-5 according to the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division. According to the local child care capacity survey, however, one FHC that responded in 95519 indicated that there may be a small number of openings. More research should be done regarding this age group to resolve the possible discrepancy.

Region 3 has the largest population of children (approximately 6503 children ages 0-12). All 8 of the ASES programs in region 3 are exceeding their attendance goals and have waitlists. This may or may not be an indicator of increased need for school-age children. ASES programs are exempt providers and may determine how many children to serve. Additional data regarding school-age care should be targeted to this region. Region 3 has a larger number of children aged around age 2-3 in proportion to the rest of its child population. Region 3 also has one zip code, 95503, which lacks care for children 0-5 according to the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division. However, the local child care capacity survey indicates that there may be openings for 0-5 year olds in FCCHs. More research should be done regarding this age group to resolve the possible discrepancy.

Region 4 has largest percentage, 11%, of children enrolled in special education programs. Data should be gathered regarding this population and the possible reasons for the larger number of special needs children. Region 4 has a larger number of children aged 3-4, 23%, in proportion to the rest of its child population. The California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, shows that region 4 has three zip codes, 95536, 95540 and 95562 that lack care for children 0-5. 95536 has two FCCHs and both are at full capacity. This suggests that there may be a need for more child care providers. A large amount of the FCCHs are focused in one zip code, 95540, although these are willing to take more children. There are newer providers in 95540 who may have available child care slots because they have just opened. These providers should be tracked to determine if they are going to meet the



need of the 0-5 population. The FCCHs in 95562 are willing to take a small number of children, indicating that the need may be overstated. More research should be done in these zip codes regarding the 0-5 age group.

Region 5 has slightly more 2-3 year olds, 21%, in proportion to the children 0-5 in the other regions. The only care available is child care centers or large family child care homes. Both of the large FCCHs are full and located in 95560. Child care for 2-3 year olds may be needed in region 5, unless the child care centers are meeting the full needs of each zip code in the area. More research should be done regarding region 5 to determine if care is needed. Although region 5 has a relatively small child population, it has a slightly larger proportion of school-age children. Additional research should be done to be sure their needs are being met.

Data around child care needs only gives us a partial picture of the child care needs in Humboldt County. The reasons parents chose care are varied and complex. Data will show there are program openings in an area when there are also people searching for care. People may still need care because the hours of care are not suitable for the need, the child care may be too expensive or the providers available may not be the type of care the family was searching for. The Local Child Care Planning Council utilizes the best data available to make funding recommendations, while always looking to improve the quality and completeness of its information.

## 1. FAMILY AND CHILD DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

It is important to examine the specific characteristics of Humboldt County's families as precisely as possible because this will better predict child care needs. Features such as the numbers of families, the numbers and ages of children, family income, ethnicity and language spoken at home will influence child care needs.

### a. Families with Children

Humboldt County is made up of slightly over 50% of family households (table 1). Of those households, approximately half, 26.8%, have children under 18. There are 2,522 single father families and, out of those, 1,602 have children under 18. There are 6,265 single mother families and, out of those, 4,171 have children under 18.

Table 1: Families with Children

	Estimate	Percent
<b>Family households (families)</b>	30,394	57.8%
<b>With own children under 18 years</b>	14,113	26.8%
<b>Married-couple family</b>	21,607	41.1%
<b>With own children under 18 years</b>	8,340	15.9%
<b>Male householder, no wife present, family</b>	2,522	4.8%
<b>With own children under 18 years</b>	1,602	3.0%
<b>Female householder, no husband present, family</b>	6,265	11.9%
<b>With own children under 18 years</b>	4,171	7.9%

Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2008 Estimates

### i. Income

The average earnings and wages in Humboldt County are approximately \$32,894. This figure represents an average between two sectors of employment, private and government. Government employees in the area make \$10,343 more than private employees.<sup>3</sup> (table 2) Only one city, Arcata, can provide income data that is more recent than the last Census (2000). Arcata's median annual income is \$27,709.<sup>4</sup>

Table 2: 2009 Average Annual Wages & Earnings, by Sector

Category	Amount
<b>Total Covered</b>	\$32,894
<b>Private</b>	\$30,093
<b>Government</b>	\$40,436

Source: Personal Communication, California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, North Coast Region. June 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Personal Communication, California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, North Coast Region. June 2010.

<sup>4</sup> City of Arcata, Economic Development Strategic Plan 2010-2014. [http://www.cityofarcata.org/sites/default/files/files/document\\_center/Building%20-%20Planning/Documents%20For%20Review/Economic%20Development%20Strategic%20Plan%20Chapters%201-5.pdf](http://www.cityofarcata.org/sites/default/files/files/document_center/Building%20-%20Planning/Documents%20For%20Review/Economic%20Development%20Strategic%20Plan%20Chapters%201-5.pdf). Accessed August 20, 2010.

The self-sufficiency standard is one method to inform how much a family must make to afford all things, including child care. A self sufficiency standard measures how much a family must earn to meet their “minimal basic needs.” This takes into account all costs such as food, housing, child care,<sup>5</sup> and transportation.<sup>6</sup> Table 3 shows the self-sufficiency standard for selected family types. According to the data, only 28% of jobs meet the standard for a household with one adult and two young children (both ages between 0-5). Only 40% of jobs meet the standard for a smaller family consisting of 1 adult and 1 child.

**Table 3: Proportion of Jobs Paying a Wage above the Self-Sufficiency Standard**

	<b>Household 1: Single Adult with 1 Child (infant)</b>	<b>Household 2: Single Adult with 2 Children(infant + preschooler)</b>	<b>Household 3: 2 Adults, both working with 2 children (infant + preschooler)</b>
<b>Self-Sufficiency Hourly Wage</b>	\$17.14	\$22.48	\$13.00 each
<b>Percentage of all jobs paying this wage</b>	40%	20.94%	82%

Source: Adapted with permission from VanArsdale J. Rural Community Vital Signs Taking the Pulse of Communities in Rural Northern California. Humboldt State University: California Center for Rural Policy. Paper Presented at Vital Signs Workgroup Meeting; July 6, 2010; Arcata, CA. Data Sources: California Department of Labor <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>. Insight Center for Community Economic Development <http://www.insightcced.org/index.php?page=ca-sss>. Calculations of average percent of all jobs with hourly wage above the Self-Sufficiency Standard used survey data from the 2007 Occupational Employment Statistics survey with wages updated to the first quarter of 2008.

### *b. Child Population*

According to larger estimates, Humboldt County has approximately 21,749 children residing within it. A smaller estimate based on local data suggests that this figure is around 17,456. Of these children, most live within regions 2 and 3 (28% and 37% respectively). Countywide, 60% identified as white, 12% identified as Hispanic or Latino, and 11% identified as American Indian. All other races totaled 17% (table 7). The ethnicity of children is similar to the composition of the rest of Humboldt County.

### *i. By Age*

According to the American Community Survey (ACS), approximately 16.87% of Humboldt County’s population are children. ACS divides children into three groups: below 5 years, 5-9 years, and 10-14 years. Thus, 7,554 children are under 5; 6,889 are 5-9; and 7,306 are 10-14.

<sup>5</sup> Child care costs are determined without subsidies and according to the most recent California Market Rate Survey.

<sup>6</sup> Pierce DM. *Methodology Appendix. The Self-Sufficiency Standard for California 2008*. Insight Center for Community and Economic Development.

**Table 4: Number of Children in Humboldt County Based on ACS Estimates**

Age of Child	Estimate	Percent
<b>Under 5 years</b>	7,554	5.90%
<b>5 to 9 years</b>	6,889	5.30%
<b>10 to 14 years</b>	7,306	5.70%
<b>Total</b>	21,749	16.87%

Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2008 Estimates

The American Community Survey cannot always provide an accurate picture of children in rural areas such as Humboldt County. The numbers of children can also be determined by looking at birth rates for the infant/toddler and preschooler categories, and elementary school enrollment for school-age children. Because the data are local and specific to the region, they may provide an accurate picture of the true composition of the children in Humboldt County.

Table 5 shows the number of children under 5 in Humboldt County.<sup>7</sup> Thirty-seven percent of all the county's children reside in Region 3. Region 3 also contains Eureka, one of the most urban cities in Humboldt County. Region 2 has the second largest child population in the county, 28% of all children live there. Among children 0-5:

- Region 1 has a higher proportion of 5 year olds than any other region in the county.
- Region 4 has a higher proportion of 4 year olds than any other region in the county.
- Regions 3 and 5 have higher proportions of 3 year olds than any other region in the county.
- Most regions have similar numbers of 2 year olds.
- Region 2 has a higher proportion of 1 year olds than any other region in the county.

**Table 5: Number of Children 5 and Under in Humboldt County by Region**

Region	2005 (~5 Years)	Percent by Age of All Children in Region	2006 (~4 Years)	Percent by Age of All Children in Region	2007 (~3 Years)	Percent by Age of All Children in Region	2008 (~2 Years)	Percent by Age of All Children in Region	2009 (~1 Year)	Percent by Age of All Children in Region	Total in Region
<b>1</b>	116	21.89%	105	19.81%	100	18.87%	111	20.94%	98	18.49%	530
<b>2</b>	427	19.71%	414	19.11%	441	20.36%	437	20.18%	447	20.64%	2166
<b>3</b>	654	20.48%	652	20.41%	680	21.29%	621	19.44%	587	18.38%	3194
<b>4</b>	302	18.97%	369	23.18%	276	17.34%	334	20.97%	311	19.54%	1592
<b>5</b>	92	20.72%	100	22.52%	97	21.85%	84	18.92%	71	15.99%	444
<b>Total by Age</b>	1591	20.07%	1640	20.69%	1594	20.11%	1587	20.02%	1514	19.10%	7926

Source: Personal Communication, Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services, Vital Statistics, May 2010.

<sup>7</sup> Vital Statistics were not available for the current year, 2010.

Countywide, the following trends for each grade were observed from the 2007-2008 school year to the 2008-2009 school year:<sup>8</sup>

- First and third grade enrollment decreased slightly.
- Kindergarten and second grade enrollment increased slightly.
- Fourth through sixth grades only experienced small fluctuations in enrollment.

Table 6 shows the number of school-age children according to each region. For each region, the school-age population was about half of the total child population.

**Table 6: School-age Children in Humboldt County by Region**

Region	Number of Children
1	604
2	2728
3	3309
4	2074
5	815

Source: California Department of Education. DataQuest, 2008-2009. <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>. Accessed May 12, 2010.

## ii. Ethnicity

Taking the total population of Humboldt County, the largest group is white. Nearly 80% of Humboldt County residents identify as white (table 7). The second largest grouping is Hispanic or Latino (of any race); 8.2% of the population identify in this way. The third most prevalent grouping is American Indian and Alaska Native, with 5.3% of the population identifying as such.

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<sup>8</sup> California Department of Education. DataQuest, 2008-2009. <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>. Accessed May 12, 2010.

Table 7: Ethnicity of Humboldt County

Ethnicity	Estimate	Percent
<b>Total population</b>	<b>128,897</b>	<b>128,897</b>
<b>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</b>	10,580	8.2%
<b>Mexican</b>	7,781	6.0%
<b>Puerto Rican</b>	483	0.4%
<b>Cuban</b>	51	0.0%
<b>Other Hispanic or Latino</b>	2,265	1.8%
<b>Not Hispanic or Latino</b>	118,317	91.8%
<b>White alone</b>	102,287	79.4%
<b>Black or African American alone</b>	1,072	0.8%
<b>American Indian and Alaska Native alone</b>	6,810	5.3%
<b>Asian alone</b>	2,720	2.1%
<b>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone</b>	211	0.2%
<b>Some other race alone</b>	211	0.2%
<b>Two or more races</b>	5,006	3.9%
<b>Two races including Some other race</b>	31	0.0%
<b>Two races excluding Some other race, and Three or more races</b>	4,975	3.9%

Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2008 Estimates

Variation may exist among the regions of the county. For example, tribal lands have a larger American Indian count than surrounding regions.

Table 8: Ethnicity of Children in Humboldt County Based on Birth Rates & School Enrollment

Age of Child	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	Multi/Unk.	Other	White
<b>0-5 Years</b>	1112	76	673	266	570	855	5549
<b>K-8</b>	876	151	1059	343	427	**	3305
<b>Total</b>	1988	227	1732	609	997	855	8854
<b>Percent of total</b>	13.03%	1.49%	11.35%	3.99%	6.53%	5.60%	58.01%

Source: California Department of Education. DataQuest, 2008-2009. <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>. Accessed May 12, 2010.; Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services, Vital Statistics.

\*\* Data Quest did not provide an "other" category, so this could not be determined.

### c. Social Characteristics

Child care needs can largely depend on the social characteristics of the population. Workforce participation and family income are factors that weigh heavily on whether a family will need child care and if they will be able to afford that child care or apply for subsidies. In Humboldt County, the highest percentage of families in poverty, 38.8%, were those where the sole house member was a female.<sup>9</sup> For all families, those with related children under 5 also had a higher percentage, 20.8%, than the other categories.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> American Community Survey, 2006-2008 Estimates.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

### i. Workforce Participation

A parent's presence in the workforce affects the need for child care. When both parents are working, it is assumed that child care will be needed. When one parent is working in a single parent household, it is assumed that child care will be needed. By examining the number of parents in the workforce, there can be an estimate of how much child care is needed in the County. The local child care planning council recognizes this is an overestimate of child care needed, as parents may arrange work schedules in a way that does not require care (table 9).

A significant number of parents who are in the workforce have children. Fifty-four percent of families with children under age 6 (predominantly in the infant/toddler and preschool aged groups) have working parents. Sixty-five percent of families with children ages 6-17 have working parents. When added together, these numbers represent approximately 15,064 parents who are in the workforce and potentially seeking care for their children.

**Table 9: Parents in the Workforce**

	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Own children under 6 years</b>	<b>8,326</b>	
<b>All parents in family in workforce</b>	4,541	54.5%
<b>Own children 6 to 17 years</b>	<b>16,065</b>	
<b>All parents in family in workforce</b>	10,523	65.5%

Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2008 Estimates

### ii. Family Income

The average earnings and wages in Humboldt County are approximately \$32,894. This figure represents an average between two sectors of employment, private and government. Government employees in the area make \$10,343 more than private employees.<sup>11</sup>

#### 1. Poverty Level

Income presents the greatest barrier to accessing child care. Families who qualify for state subsidized care or programs are able to eliminate or reduce this barrier. In Humboldt County, the highest percentage of families in poverty is those whose single head of household is a female (table 10). Regardless of child's age, 34% were at poverty, and 57% of those caring for related children 0-5 were at poverty. For all families, those with related children under 5 also had a higher percentage in poverty than the other categories. Overall, 20% of families with children 0-5 were below the poverty level.

<sup>11</sup> Personal Communication, California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, North Coast Region. June 2010.

Table 10: Percentage of Families and People Whose Income in the Past 12 Months is Below the Poverty Level<sup>12</sup>

	Estimate
<b>All families</b>	12.0%
<b>With related children under 18 years</b>	16.9%
<b>With related children under 5 years only</b>	20.8%
<b>Married couple families</b>	5.7%
<b>With related children under 18 years</b>	6.0%
<b>With related children under 5 years only</b>	5.5%
<b>Families with female householder, no husband present</b>	34.0%
<b>With related children under 18 years</b>	38.8%
<b>With related children under 5 years only</b>	57.3%
<b>All people</b>	18.4%
<b>Under 18 years</b>	20.3%
<b>Related children under 18 years</b>	19.7%
<b>Related children under 5 years</b>	21.8%
<b>Related children 5 to 17 years</b>	18.8%

Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2008 Estimates

The total population in poverty can also be divided by the regions in the county. The higher percentages (29-44%) of people in poverty are in Hoopa (Region 1), Arcata (Region 2), and parts of Eureka (Region 3).<sup>13</sup> For a full map, see **Appendix B**.

## 2. Language Spoken at Home<sup>14</sup>

The predominant language spoken at home in Humboldt County is English, as only 8.9% of residents speak a language other than English. The next most predominant language group is Spanish, which 5.6% of the population speaks at home.

## 2. CHILD CARE DEMAND

The child care demand in Humboldt County can be determined by a few local sources. The Centralized Eligibility List and local Resource and Referral may provide insight into the types, hours and reasons for child care. Additional sources for demand include a report of Child Care Needs completed in 2008 and a Child Care Survey done in 2009.

### a. Centralized Eligibility List and Resource & Referral Data

Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) and Resource & Referral (R&R) data are provided by Changing Tides Family Services. Both capture a large amount of information regarding the families seeking care and the child care providers who serve the county.

<sup>12</sup> It is uncertain what the federal poverty level was at the time of the survey. However, in 2006, the poverty level for a family of four was \$20,000; in 2007 it was \$20,650; and in 2008 it was \$21,200.

<sup>13</sup> Van Arsdale J, Peeters-Graehl L, Patterson K, Barry J, Bayer A. Rural Poverty and its Health Impacts: A Look at Poverty in the Redwood Coast Region: 20. Humboldt State University: California Center for Rural Policy, 2008.

<sup>14</sup> American Community Survey 2006-2008 Estimates



**i. Centralized Eligibility List<sup>15</sup>**

The CEL is a list of families in need of free or low-cost child care in Humboldt County. The CEL has information regarding the openings for all child care programs in Humboldt County that are funded by the State of California. The CEL collects data that includes the ages of children on the eligibility list, their preferred location of care, the reasons for care and the types of care requested. The CEL has a predetermined age grouping for their data: 0-24 months, 2-5 years, and 6+ years.

Most children on the CEL are 2-5 years old (table 11). The majority of parents, 74%, are on the CEL because of employment related reasons.<sup>16</sup> The two most frequent reasons for requesting care were employment or to seek work (58% and 16% respectively). Other reasons for care are that the parent is a student or has medical incapacity (9% and 3% respectively).

**Table 11: CEL Children by Age**

Age	Number
0-24 months	227
2-5 years	468
6+ years	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>895</b>

Source: Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, May 2010.

Children are listed on the CEL by place of residence and preferred location of care (tables 12 and 13). The preferred location of care list may overstate the need for child care in a location since parents can list multiple locations for where they desire child care.<sup>17</sup> Region 1 has more children 0-24 months on the CEL, than 2-5 years or 6+ years old. For all other regions children aged 2-5 is the dominant age group (tables 12 and 13).

**Table 12: CEL by Residence**

Region	0-24 months	2-5 years	6+ years
1	7	5	4
2	61	99	51
3	102	205	70
4	49	116	62
5	5	37	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>198</b>

Source: Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, May 2010.

<sup>15</sup> Description provided by Changing Tides Family Services.

<sup>16</sup> Reasons for care are provided by Changing Tides Family Services, May 2010.

<sup>17</sup> Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, May 2010.

**Table 13: CEL by Preferred Location**

Region	0-24 months	2-5 years	6+ years
1	10	7	6
2	78	169	53
3	346	629	203
4	60	131	71
5	7	56	8
<b>Total</b>	501	992	341

Source: Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, May 2010.

The children are placed on the eligibility list and remain there for a number of days. As of May, the shortest wait time was five days for a school-age child in region 3, and the longest wait time was 532 days for a school-age child in region 4. Although wait time may be indicative of an unmet need for care, this is not necessarily the case. There are times when a parent opts to remain on the eligibility list in hopes of obtaining care at a different location or at a different type of care facility. For this reason, eligibility list times cannot offer a full picture of demand.

**ii. Resource & Referral<sup>18</sup>**

R&R is provided by Changing Tides Family Services and provides a free service to all parents in Humboldt County. The R&R database includes all types of providers who elect to be part the database. The R&R database can provide data regarding the types of care requested, the ages of the children needing care, the preferred location of care and the reasons for needing care. R&R has a predetermined age grouping for their data: 0-24 months, 2-5 years, and 6+ years.

According to the most recent quarterly report for Changing Tides Family Services, R&R got 428 child care referral requests and 710 informational requests.<sup>19</sup> A majority of parents were seeking care because of employment (65.7%) or because they are looking for employment (14.5%). The third most common reason to seek care is because of school or training (9.5%). Only two children went through R&R on a Child Protective Services referral.

A majority of families, 91%, who called R&R needed full-time care. Of those who specified what kind of care they needed: 68 wanted before/after school, 17 wanted another type,<sup>20</sup> and only two wanted summer only care.

*b. Child Care Needs Report*

The Child Care Needs Report was done in 2008, to assess child care for infants and toddlers.<sup>21</sup> The report was on a particular age group, so its utility is limited for making assumptions about child care for older children.

<sup>18</sup> Description provided by Changing Tides Family Services, May 2010.

<sup>19</sup> Changing Tides Family Services, Resource and Referral Program Service Data Report. 2009-2010 Quarter 3, January, February, March.

<sup>20</sup> This other category included: evening, overnight, weekends, rotating, and drop in.

The report provided information regarding the child care needs both for all of Humboldt County and for specific areas of Humboldt County. These areas loosely correlate to the ones chosen for this report.

The report found that 73% of respondents need child care to work or look for work, while 63% want care for child's growth and development.<sup>22</sup> Many respondents preferred that care be located near the home, and 39% of respondents said that care costs too much.<sup>23</sup> The top three types of child care preferred were: small family care, other relative and child care center.

Although caretaker language was not given a high importance ranking, certain areas of the county do need care in another language. In Eastern Humboldt (Region 1), there is a need for caretakers to speak one of the American Indian Languages.<sup>24</sup>

Most care is needed during the typical work week, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.<sup>25</sup>

*c. City of Arcata Child Care Survey*

This study was done to reveal the child care issues of residents and workers in Arcata specifically (Region 2). The data are useful as a snapshot for one area of the county.

A total of 44% of the respondents in this survey have children preschool-aged, defined as ages 3-5 and 8% of the children were reported as having special needs. Affordability was ranked as an important feature of child care, which mirrors the thoughts of the parents from the Child Care Needs Report of 2008. Respondents also requested pre-teen programs in the summer, more meals, extended hours and a location closer to work.

### **3. CHILD CARE SUPPLY**

There are a few sources available to determine the child care supply in Humboldt County, and each will provide pieces of the overall picture.

The local R&R can provide information regarding the licensed providers that register with them. Not all providers in the county work with R&R. Those that do, however, can supply information regarding their location, types of care offered, capacity and openings. R&R can also provide information regarding child care trends, such as the closures of facilities.

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<sup>21</sup> Rose MA. *The Child Care Needs of Humboldt County Children Ages 0-3*. Humboldt County Local Child Care Planning Council. May 2008.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

The California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division can provide further information regarding the total number, capacity and location of various licensed facilities except for small family child care homes.

Some license-exempt data is in the ASES program section of the assessment, as many of those facilities are exempt. Additionally, information is provided by Changing Tides Family Services, which provides reimbursements for subsidized care to license exempt providers. Although this is probably not the total number of exempt providers, it is currently the best measurement tool.

*a. Full and Part Time Supply*

Most providers in Humboldt County offer both full and part time slots for children. However, they may use two children to fill up one day; one child in a morning part-time slot and second child in an afternoon part-time slot. When reporting their available openings, they may only report one full-time opening instead of two part time openings. This practice varies among providers.

*b. Future Supply*

Child care supply has been greatly impacted by the state budget and general state of the economy. Parents who were formerly employed and needing child care have decreased demand, and limited funding has forced centers to close, cut staff, or become inactive.<sup>26</sup> There have been reports of closed facilities and members of the child care workforce leaving the profession or leaving the area. Informal data suggests that the number of licensed child care providers has gone down recently.<sup>27</sup>

The local California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division has shown an overall decrease of approximately 70 facilities in the past nine years.<sup>28</sup> More recently, seven FCCHs in Humboldt County have closed in May of 2010. Nearly as many child care centers and other FCCHs have been placed on inactive status. The formal data have not yet caught up with this possible trend, so it will be important to track providers in 2010 to determine if and how many have been lost due to the economic climate.

*c. Overall Supply*

According to the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, there were 226 total licensed child care facilities in Humboldt County in 2008 (tables 14 and 15). As of March 2010, the local R&R shows that there are a total of 220 licensed child care facilities. If this is an accurate count, it appears that facilities are closing. There are approximately 2,754 licensed child care slots. In addition to these slots, ASES Programs can serve approximately 1,600 children.

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<sup>26</sup> A provider becomes inactive when they retain their license, but agree to not provide care that would require a license and regular site visits.

<sup>27</sup> California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division. Humboldt County office, June 2010.

<sup>28</sup> This calculation includes both Del Norte and Humboldt facilities.

**Table 14: Supply of Licensed Family Child Care Homes**

Year	2008	2010	Percent Change
<b>Number Licensees</b>	169	159	-6%

Source: California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. Data from 2007 and 2009 California Child Care Portfolios; Changing Tides Family Services, Resource and Referral Program Service Data Report. 2009-2010 Quarter, January, February, March.

**Table 15: Supply of Licensed Child Care Centers**

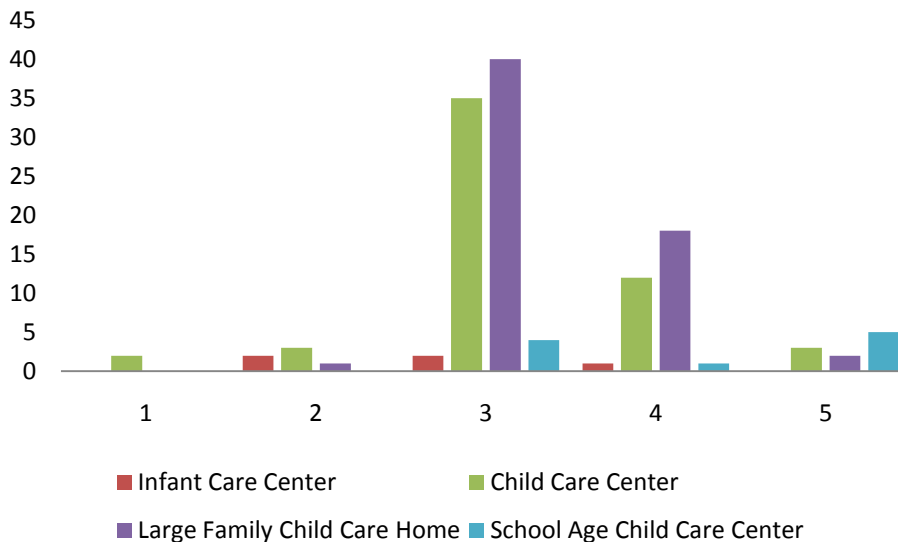
Year	2008	2010	Percent Change
<b>Number of Licensees</b>	57	61	7%

Source: California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. Data from 2007 and 2009 California Child Care Portfolios; Changing Tides Family Services, Resource and Referral Program Service Data Report. 2009-2010 Quarter, January, February, March.

*d. Child Care Supply by Region*

Child care supply can also be broken down by region (chart 1 and table 16). These figures only represent the facilities licensed by the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division. Some data regarding small family child care homes was not available. As shown in table 15, regions 1 and 2 do not have many facilities. Both have small numbers of child care centers and neither has school-age or infant care centers.

**Chart 1: Licensed Child Care Centers by Region<sup>29</sup>**



Source: California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division. Facility Search. [https://secure.dss.cahwnet.gov/cclid/securenet/cclid\\_search/cclid\\_search.aspx](https://secure.dss.cahwnet.gov/cclid/securenet/cclid_search/cclid_search.aspx). Accessed June 2, 2010.

The licensed capacity of the various child care centers and large FCCHs is outlined in table 17. However, a facility’s licensed capacity may not reflect its true capacity. They may be limited by resources, such as staff, that will result in less than the licensed capacity. Typically this is called desired capacity. Also, multiple children may fill one “slot.” Licensed capacity refers to the number of children that can be present at the same time.

<sup>29</sup> Small Family Child Care Homes data are not available on the Community Care Licensing Division Website.

**Table 16: Licensed Child Care by Region**

Region	Infant Care Center	Child Care Center	Small Family Child Care Home	Large Family Child Care Home
1	0	4	1	0
2	2	21	36	10
3	2	18	45	28
4	1	12	10	18
5	0	3	1	2

Source: Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, June 2010.

**Table 17: Licensed Child Care Capacity by Region and Type**

Region	Infant Care Center	School Age	Large FCCH	Child Care Center	Total by region
1	0	0	0	35	35
2	59	52	148	608	867
3	41	72	398	576	1087
4	12	19	260	343	634
5	0	30	26	57	113
<b>Total</b>	112	173	832	1619	2736

Source: California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division. Facility Search. [https://secure.dss.cahwnet.gov/cclid/securenet/cclid\\_search/cclid\\_search.aspx](https://secure.dss.cahwnet.gov/cclid/securenet/cclid_search/cclid_search.aspx). Accessed June 2, 2010.

The California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, observed that there are certain zip codes in the county where the 0-5 population is without a licensed child care space. Data were unavailable for some zip codes, but what was available is shown in table 18.

**Table 18: Percent of Children, Age 0-5, without Licensed Child Care Space**

Region	Zip	Percent Without Licensed Space
1	95556	0-69.9%
	95573	81.2-87.99%
2	95570	0-69.9%
	95525	0-69.9%
	95519	81.2-87.99%
	95521	0-69.9%
3	95503	81.2-87.99%
4	95551	69.9-81.19%
	95540	81.2-87.99%
	95562	81.2-87.99%
	95565	69.9-81.19%
	95536	88.0-99.2%
	95528	0-69.9%
	95526	0-69.9%
5	95560	0-69.9%

Source: California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division. Facility Search. [https://secure.dss.cahwnet.gov/ccld/securenet/ccld\\_search/ccld\\_search.aspx](https://secure.dss.cahwnet.gov/ccld/securenet/ccld_search/ccld_search.aspx). Accessed June 2, 2010.

*e. Special Needs*

In March of 2010, Changing Tides Family Services, in conjunction with the Local Child Care Planning Council of Humboldt County, conducted a survey to determine child care capacity in Humboldt County. One of the questions asked pertained to the number of special needs children served in FCCHs and child care centers. Surveys were distributed in English and Spanish. County-wide data are shown in table 19, and the full survey results are in **Appendix C**.

This portion of the survey is useful for assessing the care for children who have special needs. For the purposes of the survey, no specific definition was given of special needs. The largest number of children getting special needs care was preschoolers.

**Table 19: Special Needs Children Served by Care Type**

	Family Child Care Home	Child Care Center
Less than 3 Years	6	6
3 Years to Kindergarten	19	108
Kindergarten to 12 Years	7	1

Source: Changing Tides Family Services, Child Care Capacity Survey. June, 2010.

*f. Language Capacity*

The survey also provided information regarding language capacity of the FCCHs and child care centers. The survey is useful as a baseline for future surveys and for estimating what the current capacity is in Humboldt County.

About 25% of the FCCHs have staff that speaks Spanish. Other languages include: sign, Italian, French, Yurok, German and Japanese. There are additional languages the children may speak, but it is unclear if this is an unmet language need. Table 20 shows the number of children cared for, by language, during the capture week.<sup>30</sup>

**Table 20: Number of Children Cared for in Family Child Care Homes**

	<b>Part Time English</b>	<b>Part Time Spanish</b>	<b>Full Time English</b>	<b>Full Time Spanish</b>
<b>Less than 3 Years</b>	154	10	205	27
<b>3 Years to Kindergarten</b>	181	8	187	27
<b>Kindergarten to 12 years</b>	168	2	13	2

Source: Changing Tides Family Services, Child Care Capacity Survey. June, 2010.

Table 21 shows how many more children, by language, the homes would be willing to care for during the capture week.

**Table 21: Number of Openings in Family Child Care Homes**

	<b>Part Time English</b>	<b>Part Time Spanish</b>	<b>Full Time English</b>	<b>Full Time Spanish</b>
<b>Less than 3 Years</b>	39	3	58	17
<b>3 Years to Kindergarten</b>	38	1	80	21
<b>Kindergarten to 12 years</b>	22	0	23	1

Source: Changing Tides Family Services, Child Care Capacity Survey. June, 2010.

Child care centers also responded to the survey, but data regarding Spanish-speaking children in their care were not available. However, 45% of child care centers had Spanish speaking staff available. The other languages spoken by staff include: sign, Italian, French, Yurok, German and Japanese. There are additional languages the children may speak, but it is unclear if this is an unmet language need.

Table 22 illustrates the number of children cared for in the capture week and the number of additional children who providers would be willing to care for.

**Table 22: Children Served and Openings in Child Care Centers**

	<b>Part Time Served</b>	<b>Part Time Openings</b>	<b>Full Time Served</b>	<b>Full Time Openings</b>
<b>Less than 3 Years</b>	57	20	142	13
<b>Three Years to Kindergarten</b>	727	158	430	57
<b>Kindergarten to 12 years</b>	149	30	3	0

Source: Changing Tides Family Services, Child Care Capacity Survey. June, 2010.

### *g. Tribal Child Care*

Humboldt County has over 20 federally recognized tribes residing within the community. Tribal child care needs are an important part of the county's overall demand for child care. The section below outlines some of the resources available to tribes in Humboldt

<sup>30</sup>The capture week was March 7-13, 2010.



County. Additionally, the Tribal Child Care Association of California (TCCAC) is an association of child care professionals focused on Native American child development and care needs. TCCAC educates and coordinates with tribally funded programs and privately funded programs located off of tribal land.

#### **i. Individual Tribal Programs**

The Hoopa Valley tribe has a few different child care options, but there is a need for more care. There is a state preschool program. Current enrollment is 40 children total, with 16 children in the part-time morning program and 24 children in the full-day full-year program. The same program also receives money for general daycare and has three children in that program. Hoopa Valley also has a tribal-funded after-school program that has 22 children enrolled and a waitlist of seven. Additionally, the tribe administers a provider choice program to help families pay for care.

A community needs assessment done every two years for the Hoopa Valley tribe indicated that there is a need for more day care in the area.

The Yurok tribe has a child care program but it does not extend to Humboldt County. The tribe is attempting to address this need. Typically, Yurok parents will get their child care out of the Yurok service area, find a relative to babysit or use a voucher to help pay for care.

Other tribes receive vouchers through a tribal Child Care and Development Fund grant. Tribes that have vouchers and may serve Humboldt County are: Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, Dry Creek Rancheria, Karuk tribe, Round Valley Indian Tribes, and the Wiyot tribe.<sup>31</sup>

#### **ii. Tribes Served by Consortiums**

Statewide tribal consortiums offer vouchers to tribes that are members. The California Rural Indian Health Board serves three local tribes that may have members residing in Humboldt County: Resighini, Elk Valley, and Big Lagoon (table 23). Tribal members receive certificates that will fund part or all of child care costs. To be eligible for child care subsidies, they must be able to prove lineage and have income that is 85% or under the State Median Income.

The Intertribal Council of California serves two local tribes in Humboldt County: Blue Lake and Trinidad Rancheria (table 23). They use vouchers to reimburse the tribes for child care costs. Reimbursement is based on the State Market Rate Survey for child care providers.

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<sup>31</sup> Tribal Child Care Association of California. California Tribal CCDF Grantees FFY 10. <http://tribalchildcarecalifornia.com/TribalCCDFGrantees.aspx>

**Table 23: Tribes Participating in Consortium Programs**

Tribe	Number of Children	Number Served by Program
Resighini	159	19
Elk Valley	50	17
Big Lagoon	460	40
Blue Lake	12	6
Trinidad Rancheria	50	2

Source: Personal Communication, Intertribal Council of California, June 2010. Personal Communication, The California Rural Indian Health Board, June 2010.

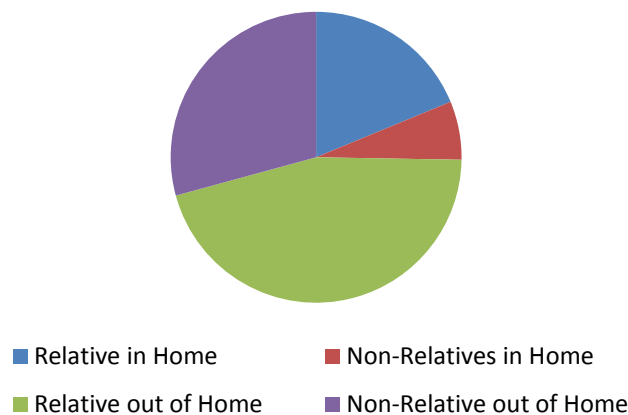
*h. Subsidized Exempt Providers*

As mentioned previously, some data about exempt providers can be found within the ASES section of this report. Active home-based exempt providers can also be tracked by examining who receives reimbursements for subsidized care.<sup>32</sup> There are four types of exempt providers that receive reimbursements:

- Relatives who provide care in the child’s home
- Non-relatives who provide care in the child’s home
- Relatives who provide care outside of the child’s home
- Non-relatives who provide care outside of the child’s home

There are 277 active exempt providers receiving reimbursements: 45% of these providers are exempt relatives caring for the child outside of their home and 29% are non-relatives caring for the child outside of the home (chart 2).

**Chart 2: Numbers of Active Exempt Providers Receiving Reimbursements for Subsidized Care**



Source: Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, June 2010.

**4. SERVICES FOR CHILDREN FROM SPECIAL POPULATIONS**

Data from some programs or populations may be unavailable or not reportable, so this section serves as the best available snapshot of county services. Each subsection

<sup>32</sup> Subsidized care in this instance is Parent Choice/AP, CalWORKS Stage 2 and CalWORKS Stage 3.

includes a program description followed by the number of children served by the program.

*a. Services for Children with Disabilities*

Regional centers coordinate services and support for individuals with developmental disabilities. They have offices throughout California to provide a local resource to help find and access the many services available to individuals and their families.

Redwood Coast Regional Center (RCRC) coordinates services and supports for children and adults with developmental disabilities who live in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake and Mendocino counties. RCRC coordinates services for infants and toddlers (ages birth through three years) who are at substantial risk for a developmental disability or who are showing a delay in their development, as well as children and adults throughout their lives.

According to DataQuest, nearly 50% of the disabled children in Humboldt County have a speech or language impairment. The second most common disability is a “specific learning disability” which has not been described by DataQuest.

Table 24 outlines the number of children enrolled in special education programs. Children will only be enrolled in a special education program after an assessment and individual educational plan (IEP) has been created. Children that do not meet the IEP criteria can enroll in a Section 504 plan which will provide them with other services. Currently, there are no data on children with Section 504 plans. Thus, the numbers of children with special needs may be underreported.

**Table 24: Humboldt County Children Enrolled in Special Education**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Number enrolled</b>
<b>Infant/Toddler</b>	43
<b>Preschool</b>	261
<b>School-Age</b>	1346
<b>Total</b>	1650

Source: California Department of Education. DataQuest, 2008-2009. <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>. Accessed May 12, 2010.

Table 25 shows the number of children enrolled in special education programs by region. Region 4 has a slightly higher percentage, 11%, of special needs children than the other regions in the county.

**Table 25: Humboldt County Children Enrolled in Special Education by Region<sup>33</sup>**

Region	Infant/Toddler	Preschool	School age	Total	Percent of Region's Child Population
1	1	20	83	104	9%
2	6	71	377	454	9%
3	18	119	445	582	9%
4	8	58	344	410	11%
5	0	11	65	76	6%
<b>Total</b>	33	279	1314	1626	

Source: Personal Communication. Humboldt Office of Education. June, 2010.

*b. English Learners<sup>34</sup>*

English Learners (ELs) are students who speak a primary language other than English on the state-approved “Home Language Survey.” They have undergone an oral language assessment and been determined to lack defined language skill of listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing necessary to succeed in the school’s regular instructional programs.

ELs receive special types of instruction either in combination or singly: English language development services, specially designed academic instruction in English, primary language support and/or other EL instructional services.

The most prevalent language spoken by EL students is Spanish (79%) (table 26). With the exception of Grade two, the number of Spanish speaking ELs decreases after kindergarten. The second most prevalent language is Hmong (10%). The third most prevalent group is all other non-English languages (2%).<sup>35</sup>

<sup>33</sup> This data excludes children that may be served by Humboldt County but are outside of the county limits. There are about 29 children, ages 5-11, that comprise this figure.

<sup>34</sup> The description of English Learners is provided by the California Department of Education.

<sup>35</sup> “All other non-English Languages” does not specify the other languages.

Table 26: English Learners in Humboldt County Schools by Grade and Language

Language/ Rank	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total	Percent of EL Total
Spanish	126	88	108	83	80	58	56	599	79.87%
Hmong	15	10	10	16	9	12	8	80	10.67%
All other non- English Languages	4	7	3	2	0	1	1	18	2.40%
Lao	2	4	3	2	2	1	0	14	1.87%
Punjabi	2	0	0	4	2	1	0	9	1.20%
Mandarin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	0.93%
Filipino	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	5	0.67%
Arabic	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	5	0.67%
Cantonese	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	4	0.53%
Vietnamese	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0.27%
Mien	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.13%
Japanese	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0.27%
Khmer	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.27%
Korean	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.13%
Cebuano	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.13%
<b>EL Totals</b>	154	115	130	110	97	77	67	750	

Source: California Department of Education. DataQuest, 2008-2009. <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>. Accessed May 12, 2010.

There is not any complete data for the number of ELs in child care, however, the survey performed by Changing Tides Family Services in March 2010 showed that 63 children from the responding agencies spoke Spanish and 16 surveys were filled out in Spanish indicating a need for Spanish speaking child care services.<sup>36</sup>

*c. Services for Children from Migrant Families*

The sole service for migrant families is the Migrant Educational Program. The Migrant Educational Program (MEP) is coordinated through “Region 2 Butte County Office of Education.”<sup>37</sup> The Santa Rosa area office serves Humboldt, Del Norte, Lake, Mendocino, Marin and Sonoma counties. MEP provides supplementary educational and support services, working with school districts and community agencies to maximize the potential of migrant students.

To be eligible, the child must be the child of a migratory agricultural/lumber worker or a migratory fisherman whose family has moved during the past three years across school district boundaries or from one state to another for the purpose of finding temporary or seasonal employment.

There are 52 children served by MEP in Humboldt County: five are infants/toddlers, 11 are preschoolers, and 36 are school-age.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Changing Tides Family Services, Child Care Capacity Survey. June, 2010.

<sup>37</sup> Program descriptions comes from Migrant Education Region 2.

<sup>38</sup> Personal Communication, Region 2 Butte County Office of Education, Santa Rosa Office. May, 2010.

*d. Services for Abused, Neglected or Exploited Children*<sup>39</sup>

Humboldt County Child Welfare Services' (CWS) goal is to protect children from abuse, neglect and exploitation, and to promote the health, safety and nurturing of children, recognizing that a caring family is the best and most appropriate environment for raising children.

The CWS system is a continuum of programs and services aimed at safeguarding the well-being of children and families in ways that strengthen and preserve families, encourage personal responsibility, foster independences and ensure permanency for youth. Services include: social worker response to allegations of child abuse and neglect, ongoing services to children and their families who have been identified as victims or potential victims of abuse and neglect by their families, and services to children in foster care and their families who have been temporarily or permanently removed from their families because of abuse and neglect.

When a report is received, it is screened for assignment to a CWS social worker. If it meets assignment criteria, the report is investigated. The investigation results in an inconclusive (unknown), unfounded (not true) or substantiated (true) conclusion. If a report does not meet the criteria for an in-person CWS response, but there are identified service needs in the report, CWS uses the Differential Response process of referring these families to an appropriate voluntary community service provider.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Program description comes from the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services Integrated Trends Report, Spring 2010.

<sup>40</sup> Differential response offers alternative paths to addressing reports of suspected abuse: community response or a combination of community response and CWS. The investigator will determine which path is best for the child and family.

**Table 27: Humboldt County Child Care Population and Children with Child Maltreatment Allegations, Substantiations, and Entries<sup>41</sup>**

Age Group	Total Child Pop	With Allegations	Incidence per 1,000	With Substantiations	Incidence per 1,000	% of Allegations	With Entries	Incidence per 1,000	% of Substantiations
Under 1	1,397	199	142.4	54	38.7	27.1	20	14.3	37
1-2	2,776	280	100.9	51	18.4	18.2	19	6.8	37.3
3-5	4,529	408	90.1	76	16.8	18.6	21	4.6	27.6
6-10	7,570	586	77.4	75	9.9	12.8	22	2.9	29.3
11-15	7,913	565	71.4	53	6.7	9.4	19	2.4	35.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,185</b>	<b>2,246</b>	<b>81.2</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>33.6</b>

Source: Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Williams, D., Zimmerman, K., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Frerer, K., Lou, C., Peng, C. & Moore, M. (2010). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 5/18/2010, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: [http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare) Accessed May 18, 2010.

Children are placed in a foster care home after they have been removed from the household because of parental neglect, abuse or exploitation. The length of stay in a foster home fluctuates from weeks to years.

Table 28 shows the numbers of children in foster care in Humboldt County. They exclude guardianship placements. Children ages 11-15 comprise the largest age group of children in foster care. The second largest groups of children are ages 1-2 and 6-10.

**Table 28: Number of Children in Foster Care**

Age Group	Number	Percent
Under 1	11	7%
1-2	30	20%
3-5	28	18%
6-10	30	20%
11-15	32	21%
16-17	21	14%
18-20	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	

Source: Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Williams, D., Zimmerman, K., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Frerer, K., Lou, C., Peng, C. & Moore, M. (2010). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 5/20/2010, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: [http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare). These figures exclude guardianship placements.

*e. Children in Families Receiving Food Stamps and Medi-Cal*

Humboldt County oversees and administers a number of different programs that assist families with children and children individually. This section summarizes the data

<sup>41</sup> **Allegation:** an assertion of fact that has yet to be proven. County of Humboldt, Child Welfare Services. **Substantiated:** “means a report that is determined by the investigator who conducted the investigation to constitute child abuse or neglect, as defined in Section 11165.6, based upon evidence that makes it more likely than not that child abuse or neglect, as defined, occurred.” CA Penal Code 11165.12. **Entry:** child was removed from the home and placed in protective custody or foster care. County of Humboldt, Child Welfare Services.

available for families or children that receive food stamps and Medi-Cal. Many CalWORKS families and families receiving other forms of cash assistance are also eligible for food stamps and Medi-Cal.

When available, the ages are broken down into the appropriate categories. However, at times data was only available in certain predetermined age groups and could not be manipulated to give a more precise picture of the children served.

#### **i. Food Stamps<sup>42</sup>**

The food stamp program is a federal nutrition program that helps eligible low-income people purchase the food they need for good health. Food stamp benefits are not cash. To be eligible, the family must reside in Humboldt County, have a Social Security number, meet the property and income limits and not receive SSI or SSP.

Generally, food stamp households have increased by 32.5% from January, 2008 to November, 2009.<sup>43</sup> Children from birth to 17 years old on average represent 48.1% of food stamp recipients per month. As of February, 2010, 2,391 children ages 1-5 were receiving food stamp benefits and 3,160 children ages 6-17 were receiving food stamp benefits.

#### **ii. Medi-Cal<sup>44</sup>**

The state Medi-Cal program is administered through the County Department of Health and Human Services, Social Services Branch. Eligibility is determined and ongoing benefits authorized for a variety of different Medi-Cal programs. These programs provide medical coverage for a variety of health care services. Persons who receive cash benefits through the CalWORKs and Foster Care programs may also receive Medi-Cal Benefits. The Medi-Cal caseload is rising in Humboldt County, and considering the recent federal health care reform bill's expansion of Medi-Cal eligibility, will continue to do so.

As of May, 2010, the state reports that there are 10,497 children ages 0-18 on Medi-Cal in Humboldt County.<sup>45</sup> This figure includes children from all aid categories: medically indigent, medically needy, public assistance, undocumented and other.

### **5. SUBSIDIES AND COST**

Several services in Humboldt County provide eligible families with either free or subsidized care. These programs are vital for families who would not otherwise be able to obtain care for their children. The cost of care is also reviewed in this section from a statewide and local standpoint. Child care is one of the highest expenses for a family,

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<sup>42</sup> The description below explaining the program comes from the Humboldt County Department Health & Human Services, Social Services Branch Website. <http://co.humboldt.ca.us/HHS/SSB/FoodStamps.asp>. Accessed May 16, 2010.

<sup>43</sup> Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services. Integrated Trends Report. Spring 2010.

<sup>44</sup> The description below explaining the program comes from the Humboldt County Department Health & Human Services, Public Health Branch Website. Available at: <http://co.humboldt.ca.us/HHS/SSB/Medi-Cal.asp>

<sup>45</sup> State of California, Department of Health Services, Medi-Cal Beneficiaries, Summary Pivot Table, Most Recent 24 Months, Report Date: 0-18.



although costs in rural areas such as Humboldt are slightly less than urban areas. However, the median income in rural areas is also less than urban areas, so this does not indicate that cost is less of a barrier.

*a. Free and Subsidized Child Care*

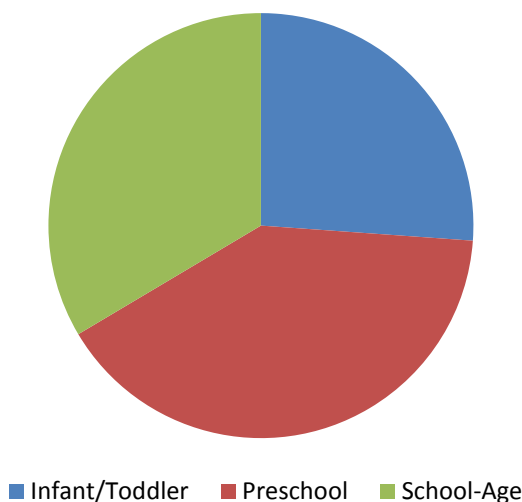
Each program in Humboldt County is described below. For each program, data regarding the current caseload are provided and these are representative of the overall caseload for each program. When possible, data are given in the age groups described in the introduction.

**i. Alternative Payment Program**

The Alternative Payment program (AP) is a parent choice program funded by the California Department of Education. If eligible, the family's child care provider receives reimbursements for child care costs. The families can chose center-based, licensed family child care or non-licensed care. To be eligible, the children must live in the State of California and must have parents who live or work in Humboldt County. Also, families must meet one of the following: family gross income meets current State requirements of less than 75% of California SMI (a fee is charged if the family is between 40%-75%); parent is currently receiving public assistance; parent is homeless; child(ren) is receiving protective services through the local county welfare department, or is referred by appropriately qualified entities as being at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.<sup>46</sup>

Preschool aged children are the biggest group of recipients on AP.<sup>47</sup> As shown in chart 3, 40% were preschool aged, 33% were infant/toddlers and 26% were school-aged.

**Chart 3: Children on Parent Choice/AP**



Source: Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, May 2010.

<sup>46</sup> Changing Tides Family Services. Parent and Provider Handbook for Subsidized Child Care Services. October 28, 2008.

<sup>47</sup> Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, May 2010.

A majority of infants/toddlers in AP are using their benefits to obtain care in a licensed child care home. Preschoolers, however, are currently using licensed child care centers more often than other types of care, and school-aged children are using exempt child care more often than other types of care (table 29).

Table 29: AP Recipients by Age and Type of Care

Care Type	Infant/Toddler	Percent	Preschool	Percent	School-Age	Percent
Licensed Child Care Home	61	48.03%	66	33.67%	41	25.15%
Licensed Child Care Center	21	16.54%	75	38.27%	24	14.72%
Exempt Child Care Center	3	2.36%	9	4.59%	46	28.22%
Exempt Child Care Home	42	33.07%	46	23.47%	52	31.90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>		<b>196</b>		<b>163</b>	

Source: Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, June 2010.

## ii. CalWORKS<sup>48</sup>

The CalWORKs program is the state version of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The program is intended to provide temporary cash assistance to families while they are working to become self-sufficient. There are three CalWORKs stages. Stage 1 is a Department of Health & Human Services Social Services program, while Stages 2 and 3 are funded by the California Department of Education.

Families eligible for CalWORKs enter at Stage 1. Currently, there are 210 children in Humboldt County in Stage 1 CalWORKs (chart 4).<sup>49</sup> While on Stage 1, they receive employment training services, job search assistance, work experience, vocational training, behavioral health services and learning needs are assessed. Child care is one of the supportive services families can access while participating in required welfare-to-work activities. After six months or when their situation becomes stable, they will leave Stage 1 and enter Stage 2.

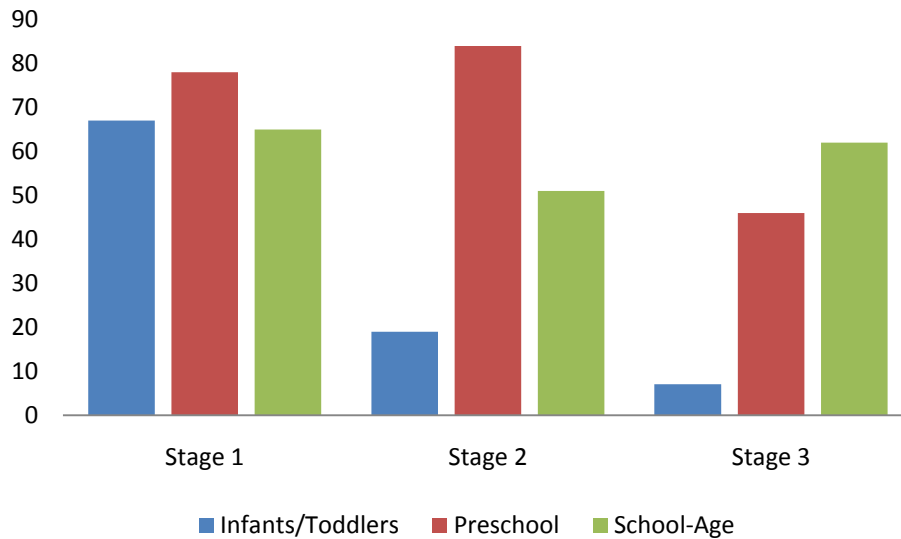
Stage 2 begins once a family begins to transition off Stage 1 aid. Currently, there are 147 children in Humboldt County in Stage 2 CalWORKs (chart 4). Not all of the children in Stage 2 are current CalWORKs recipients; they may be off official CalWORKs aid. Families may still receive Stage 2 child care for up to two years after they are not eligible for aid.

Stage 3 begins when the parents have been off cash aid for 24 months, and it can continue for as long as the family income remains within the eligibility guidelines. There are 112 children in Humboldt County in CalWORKs Stage 3 (chart 4). None of the Stage 3 children is a current CalWORKs recipient.

<sup>48</sup> The description below explaining the program comes from the California Department of Social Services website. <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/PG78.htm>. Accessed June 4, 2010.

<sup>49</sup> Personal Communication, Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services, Social Services Branch, June, 2010.

**Chart 4: Number of Children on Cal-WORKS Stages by Age**



Source: Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, May 2010.

A majority of infants/toddlers and preschool children in CalWORKs Stage 2 and 3 are using their child care subsidy to obtain care in a licensed child care home (table 30). School-aged children, however, are currently using license-exempt child care centers (Stage 2) or license-exempt child care providers (Stage 3) more often than other types of care.

**Table 30: CalWORKS Recipients by Age and Type of Care**

Care Type		Age 0 to 3	Percent	Age 3 to 5	Percent	Age 6+	Percent
<b>CalWORKS Stage 2</b>	Licensed Child Care Home	17	48.57%	34	55.74%	12	23.53%
	Licensed Child Care Center	8	22.86%	16	26.23%	8	15.69%
	Exempt Child Care Center	0	0.00%	1	1.64%	17	33.33%
	Exempt Child Care Providers	10	28.57%	10	16.39%	14	27.45%
<b>Total</b>		35		61		51	
		<b>Age 0 to 3</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Age 3 to 5</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Age 6+</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>CalWORKS Stage 3</b>	Licensed Child Care Home	6	42.86%	16	43.24%	21	34.43%
	Licensed Child Care Center	1	7.14%	8	21.62%	3	4.92%
	Exempt Child Care Center	1	7.14%	2	5.41%	12	19.67%
	Exempt Child Care Providers	6	42.86%	11	29.73%	25	40.98%
<b>Total</b>		14		37		61	

Source: Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, June 2010.

### iii. State Preschool

State preschools receive funding from the California Department of Education and serve children ages 3-5. Most of the state preschools in Humboldt County offer part-time and full-time services. State preschools offer child development services and free meals and snacks. Families must be at or below 75% of the State Median Income, which varies based on family size.

Seven agencies operate state preschools in Humboldt County that serve approximately 250 children in regions 1, 2, 3 and 5.

### iv. Head Start and Early Head Start<sup>50</sup>

There are 29 Head Start programs in Humboldt County, with 27 administered by Northcoast Children's Services. There is at least one Head Start location in every region of the county. The remaining two Head Start programs are administered by two different tribal governments: the Yurok tribe and the Hoopa Valley tribe.

#### 1. Northcoast Children's Services

Head Start and Early Head Start serve pregnant women and families with children from 0-5. Priority for enrollment is to families who are homeless, foster children and/or families in the greatest need. In addition, eligibility is gained if family income is at or below the federal poverty guidelines or if families are enrolled in TANF or receive Social Security.

All Head Start programs are center- or school-based facilities. Head Starts in Humboldt County serve 444 preschool aged children. This breaks down as: 303 children ages 3-4 and 141 children 5 years and older (table 31). The most common racial identification in Head Start is white (46%). The second and third most common racial identification are Hispanic and American Indian respectively (14% and 13%). Of the families in Head Start, 35% are TANF recipients and 14% are receiving SSI.

**Table 31: Head Start Enrollment for 2009 to 2010**

Age	Enrollment
3 to 4	303
5 +	141
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>444</b>

Source: Personal Communication, Northcoast Children's Services, May 2010.

All Early Head Start programs are home-based with the exception of one center-based facility. There are 96 infant/toddler aged children total enrolled in Early Head Start. The majority of the children enrolled in Early Head Start are 24-36 months old. Table 32 shows the enrollment for 2009-2010. Like Head Start, most children enrolled are white (49%), and the second most identified racial category is Hispanic (22%). Of the families in Early Head Start, 39% are TANF recipients and 17% are SSI recipients.

<sup>50</sup> The description explaining the program comes from the Northcoast Children's Services Annual Report for January, 2010. <http://www.ncsheadstart.org/>. Accessed June 3, 2010.

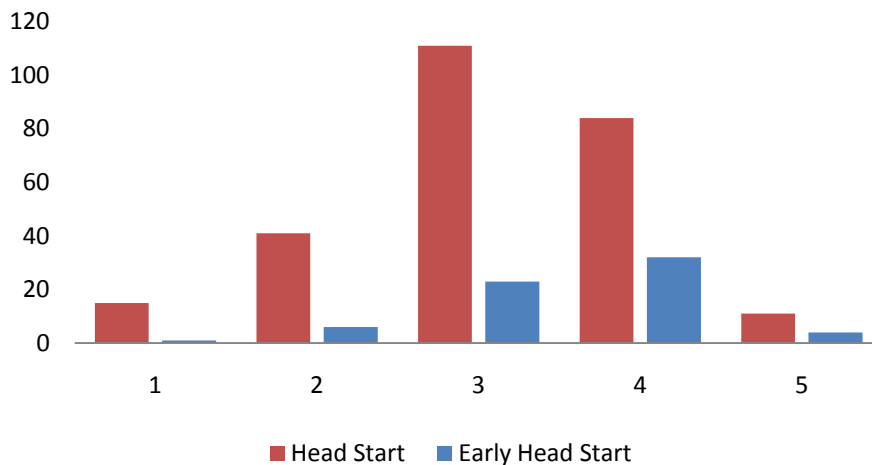
**Table 32: Early Head Start Enrollment for 2009 to 2010**

Age in Months	Enrollment
0 to 12	15
12 to 24	30
24 to 36	51
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>96</b>

Source: Personal Communication, Northcoast Children's Services, May 2010.

Most Head Start and Early Head Start locations have waitlists. The regions with the longest waitlists are 3 and 4. Region 4 has a slightly longer Early Head Start waitlist than region 3.

**Chart 5: Head Start and Early Head Start Waitlist by Region**



Source: Personal Communication, Northcoast Children's Services, May 2010.

## 2. Tribal Programs

There are two tribal Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Humboldt County, and their Early Head Start features and eligibility guidelines are similar to those described above.

The Yurok Head Start serves a total of 28 children in Humboldt County at two Head Start locations. It also has a new Early Head Start program that serves 30 children. The Early Head Start program is both home-based and center-based. There are waitlists for both programs.<sup>51</sup>

The Hoopa Head Start serves approximately 68 children and families, while the Early Head Start serves 45 families and has a waitlist of more than 25 families. The Early Head Start program is both home based and center based.<sup>52</sup>

<sup>51</sup> Personal Communication, Yurok Head Start, May 2010.

<sup>52</sup> Personal Communication, Hoopa Head Start, May 2010

The Hoopa Valley tribe also has Even Start, a federally funded program that is monitored by the state. Even Start assists parents with enrolling their children in an early childhood program and helps parents track their child’s progress to age 7. Early Childhood education combined with other programs assures parents and children an “Even Start.”<sup>53</sup> Currently, Even Start is serving 22 families and does not have a waitlist. There is a need for child care in the Even Start Program, but the program lacks an early childhood instructor.<sup>54</sup>

Other tribes in nearby counties may also have Head Start programs that serve tribal members residing in Humboldt County, but it is difficult to assess precisely how many children this may be.

**v. California School Age Families Education**

California School Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE) is a program funded by the California Department of Education and offered to pregnant teens and teen parents in a high school setting. The program provides child care for infants and toddlers (ages 0-2 or 3, depending on the license of the provider).

Humboldt County has three Cal-SAFE programs: Eureka City Unified School District, Fortuna Union High School District, and Klamath-Trinity Joint Unified School District (table 33).

**Table 33: Cal-SAFE Program Features**

School	Capacity	Caseload	Ages Served	Community Children Accepted	Waitlist
Eureka High School	13	9	0-3*	yes	rarely
Fortuna High School	12	5	0-2.5	yes	rarely
Hoopa Valley High School	12	8	0-5**	no	yes

\*Eureka High School will take children up to 3 years old if they have developmental needs. Otherwise, they take ages 0-2.

\*\* Hoopa Valley High School will take children up to 5 years old when the program is not full.

**vi. After School Education and Safety Program<sup>55</sup>**

ASES are funded through the California Department of Education. ASES uses partnerships between schools and local community resources to provide literacy, academic enrichment and safe constructive alternatives for students in kindergarten through ninth grade (K-9). The program is free and open from the end of the regular school day until 6 p.m. Some programs may charge a materials fee based on program elements. The program must have an academic component, educational enrichment, nutrition and physical activity.

<sup>53</sup> Description from Hoopa Valley tribe Website. Available at: <http://www.hoopansn.gov/departments/education/evenstart.htm>. Accessed May 14, 2010.

<sup>54</sup> Personal Communication, Hoopa Even Start, May 2010.

<sup>55</sup> Description from the California Department of Education Website. Available at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ba/as/pgmdescription.asp>. Accessed May 14, 2010.

There are 26 elementary and middle schools in Humboldt County offering ASES programs. Table 34 shows the attendance target for each region. Approximately 1,600 children are served by ASES in Humboldt County, although this figure may be slightly more.

**Table 34: ASES Programs by Region**

Region	Number of Programs	Total Attendance Target
1	2	64
2	4	304
3	8	615
4	11	529
5	3	87

Source: Personal Communication, California Department of Education, After School Education and Safety Program, May 2010.

A number of the schools have varying waitlists. High demand of a school program can be inferred from the previous cycles reports. Several schools reported attendance was above their attendance targets. This could be an evidence for greater need in these areas. Regions 2, 3 and 4 had schools with higher reported attendance.

#### **vii. Family Child Care Home Education Network<sup>56</sup>**

The Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN) is funded by the California Department of Education. FCCHEN partly or fully pays for child care services to children age 0-13 in the caring environments of qualified licensed family child care home providers. Children served through the FCCHEN receive child care by licensed caregivers who have made an extra commitment to enhance their professionalism and quality of care. These providers attend ongoing professional development workshops, provide nutritious meal service at no additional expense to the family and work closely with Changing Tides Family Services to best meet the needs of children enrolled in care.

To receive a child care subsidy through this program, parents must have a specific eligibility and need for care (examples include working, attending school, obtaining approved vocational training and for other reasons) and be within certain income ranges unless a child needs care in order to prevent the occurrence of child abuse.<sup>57</sup>

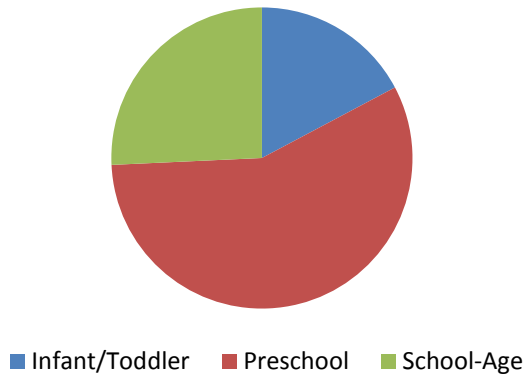
The largest category of children participating in the FCCHEN is preschool aged (chart 6). More than twice as many preschoolers receive these services as the next largest category, school-age.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>56</sup> Description below from: Changing Tides Family Services website. Available at: [http://changingtidesfs.org/home\\_ed\\_net.php](http://changingtidesfs.org/home_ed_net.php). Accessed May 20, 2010.

<sup>57</sup> Changing Tides Family Services. Parent and Provider Handbook for Subsidized Child Care Services. October 28, 2008.

<sup>58</sup> Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, May 2010.

Chart 6: Children on FCCHEN



Source: Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, May 2010.

*b. Cost of Care*

Child Care is one of the highest household expenses.<sup>59</sup> Monthly child care fees are often more than other costs such as food and – in some states – even the mortgage.<sup>60</sup> Many families struggle to pay for child care, but single parents are impacted more than others. Even middle-income families have trouble paying for adequate child care. This section outlines statewide care costs and Humboldt County specific costs.

**i. Statewide Cost of Care**

California is one of the most expensive states for child care, regardless of the child's age.<sup>61</sup> The average price of care for an infant in full-time care is nearly double a year of college tuition.<sup>62</sup>

It is difficult to get a completely accurate picture of the true child care cost. The cost of child care in California ranges among provider types and between individual providers. Table 35 shows the variance in cost to the family based on the type of center and age of the child. Family child care homes are less expensive than centers for infants and four year olds. Typically, as the child gets older, care is less costly. The cost of full-time child care as a percentage of median income ranges from 4% to 15%.

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<sup>59</sup> National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. *Parents and the High Price of Child Care: 2009 Update*. May 2009.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*



**Table 35: Average Annual Fees for Full-Time Child Care**

	Infant in Center	4 Year Old in Center	School-Age Care in Center	Infant in Family Child Care Home	4 Year old in Family Child Care Home	School-Age Care in Family Child Care Home
<b>Average Annual Fees for Full-Time Child Care</b>	\$11,580*	\$8,234**	\$2,929	\$7,937	\$7,180	\$3,077
<b>Cost as Percent of Income<sup>63</sup></b>	15%	10%	4%	10%	9%	4%

Source: National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, 2008 Price of Child Care.

\*Urban figure (population of 50,000 or more). Rural fees are approximately \$10,515.

\*\* Urban figure (population of 50,000 or more). Rural fees are approximately \$7,422.

**ii. Humboldt County Cost of Care**

By using the average cost of care for various local providers, it appears that the yearly cost is lower for a preschool aged child in Humboldt County than the rest of the state. However, costs do vary among the types of providers. Additionally, license exempt centers and homes are still the least costly choices for care. Licensed homes are typically the most expensive (table 36).

Table 36 illustrates the varying cost for full-time care of a preschooler. The table also shows the State Regional Market Rate for each type of provider. This rate is what the state will reimburse the provider for subsidized care. The remaining balance is the parent’s responsibility and called the “co-pay.” As the chart shows, the parent will be responsible for a co-pay when they choose licensed home care as their child care option. The other types of care would not typically require a co-pay from the parent.

**Table 36: Average Cost of Care for a Full Time Preschooler**

	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Regional Market Rate
<b>Licensed Family Child Care Home</b>	\$ 4.40	\$ 25.00	\$ 118.50	\$ 720.00	\$ 540.01
<b>Licensed Center</b>	\$ 3.72	\$ 23.00	N/A	\$ 395.00	\$ 681.34
<b>Exempt Center</b>	\$ 2.87	\$ 28.50	\$ 52.50	\$ 72.50	\$ 681.34
<b>Exempt Provider</b>	\$ 8.75	\$ 30.00	\$ 155.00	\$ 372.00	\$ 486.01

Source: Personal Communication, Changing Tides Family Services, June 2010

California last surveyed Humboldt County’s average rates of care for family child care homes and child care centers based on 2005 rates. Table 37 shows the rates of care for the three age groups. According to this fee schedule, the average cost of care per year is slightly less than the California average. Also, licensed child care centers appear more expensive than licensed child care homes (table 37).

<sup>63</sup> Based on California’s Median income for a married couple family with children under 18: \$78,948.

**Table 37: Average Cost of Child Care in 2005**

Type of Care	Age Group	Full Time Daily	Full Time Weekly	Full Time Monthly	Part-time Hourly	Part-time Weekly	Part-time Monthly
<b>Child Care Centers</b>	0-24 mo.	46.45	\$207.00	\$837.17	\$7.31	\$143.90	\$565.33
	2-5 yrs.	30.43	\$140.13	\$558.55	\$5.68	\$93.73	\$359.68
	5-12 yrs.	25.66	\$117.73	\$448.80	\$5.94	\$65.17	\$260.18
<b>Family Child Care Home</b>	0-24 mo.	26.53	\$122.62	\$489.87	\$4.69	\$99.04	\$381.84
	2-5 yrs.	24.01	\$113.33	\$549.61	\$4.36	\$81.87	\$329.34
	5-12 yrs.	\$21.48	\$103.67	\$412.75	\$4.06	\$72.99	\$289.83

Source: California Department of Education, Reimbursement Ceilings for Subsidized Care. 2006.

The cost of care as a percentage of family income is still significant and higher than the rest of the state (table 38). Humboldt County families are affected more by the cost of child care than other families in California. For example, cost of full-time care for an infant in a center, as a percent of median income for an average Californian, is 15%. For a family in Humboldt County, this figure is 19%.

**Table 38: Humboldt County Cost of Care as Percent of Income**

Type of Care	Age Group	Full Time Care Costs as Percent of Income
<b>Child Care Centers</b>	0-24 mo.	19%
	2-5 years	13%
	5-12 years	10%
<b>Family Child Care Home</b>	0-24 mo.	11%
	2-5 years	13%
	5-12 years	9%

Sources: California Department of Education, Reimbursement Ceilings for Subsidized Care. 2006. American Community Survey Estimates 2006-2008. ACS estimates the Median Family Income to be \$52,755.

## 6. WORKFORCE

The child care workforce is an essential component to child care needs. Quality child care depends on a trained, stable and adequately paid workforce.<sup>64</sup> Family decisions as to what type of child care to chose may depend on the training or experience of the workforce as well. This section will briefly review workforce information regarding California and Humboldt County.

### *a. California Workforce*

The child care workforce consists of several team members: teachers, assistants and supervisors or directors. Typically child care wages are low in comparison to other

<sup>64</sup> Whitebook, M., Gombay, D., Bellm, D., Sakai, L., & Kipnis, F. (2009). *Preparing teachers of young children: The current state of knowledge, and a blueprint for the future. Executive Summary*. Berkeley, CA: Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, University of California at Berkeley.

professions with similar levels of education, and there is a high turnover of staff because of low wages.<sup>65</sup> Some studies have documented discrepancies in the level of education and stability of the workforce depending on the facilities' source of funding. These are issues that are consistent across California.

In California, the hourly wage was \$11.14.<sup>66</sup> Depending on the type of program and position, requirements can range from basic health and safety training to four year college degrees with years of experience. Table 39 illustrates the various salaries for different types of child care workers across the nation.

**Table 39: Salary of Child Care Workers, 2009**

Type	Salary
Elementary School Teacher	59,850
Kindergarten Teacher	54,470
Head Start Teacher	30,935
Preschool Teacher	27,920
Child Care Worker	21,490

Source: National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. *State of Americas Children, 2010*.

A recent study showed that there is a noticeable discrepancy in the workforce composition of child care centers based on whether or not they receive public subsidies.<sup>67</sup> Centers that are contracted with Head Start or the California Department of Education typically have ethnically and linguistically diverse staff. The staff also has higher levels of education and specialized trainings. Centers that receive vouchers are less likely to have the diverse staff or higher levels of education. Both voucher and contracted programs will have higher staff turnover than privately funded child care centers.<sup>68</sup> The study did not include family child care homes, but suggested that there may be even greater disparities in these facilities.

*b. Humboldt County Workforce*

In 2004, the National Economic Development and Law Center prepared a study on the child care industry in Humboldt County. The study ultimately determined that the child care workforce was vital to Humboldt County's economy. Not only did the child care workforce supply a significant portion of residents with employment, but it allowed those needing child care to attend work.<sup>69</sup> This fact is unlikely to have changed since 2004.

<sup>65</sup> California Child Care Resource and Referral Network & the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment. *California Early Care and Education Workforce Study: Statewide Highlights*. June 2006.

<sup>66</sup> National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies. What Child Care Providers Earn. <http://www.naccrra.org/randd/child-care-workforce/what-providers-earn>. Accessed May 14, 2010.

<sup>67</sup> Whitebook, M., Kipnis, F., & Bellm, D. (2007). *Disparities in California's child care subsidy system: A look at teacher education, stability and diversity*. Berkeley, CA: Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California at Berkeley.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>69</sup> The National Economic Development and Law Center. *The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in Humboldt County, 2004*.

Like California, the local child care workforce experiences high turnover at the entry level. However, it is difficult to determine if the high turnover are staff leaving the field of child care or moving up within the industry. The local office for the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing, has noticed that numbers of workers are decreasing quickly.

Again similar to California, the salary for workers was low and varies among the type of worker. The best data available locally is for teachers employed at elementary schools throughout the county. Salaries range depending on location and experience level. The annual salary range is from \$28,413 for entry level to \$72,209 for the highest obtainable salary.<sup>70</sup>

## Conclusion

Humboldt County child care providers serve an essential role in the community by caring for the children in the county. However, many people may still need child care. The economy in the past year has caused a great amount of fluctuation in both the workforce that would normally need child care and in those that provide care. In light of the California budget deficits, it will be vital that services are preserved where they are most needed. An effort must be made to ensure that children continue getting age appropriate and quality care. The recent downtrend of child care providers is concerning, especially since the number of children in need of care has not decreased. More attention should be given to regions where child care needs have been consistently detected.

Additionally, child care data should be regularly collected and made available to all stakeholders. Collection should be frequent enough to allow for the tracking of trends. Data regarding infants/toddlers, minority populations and the child care workforce should be obtained. For any data collected, it is important to gather it in a way that considers the geography of Humboldt County. Where there is no data available, new methods should be implemented to ensure an accurate picture of child care needs.

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<sup>70</sup> Personal Communication, Humboldt Office of Education. June 2010.

## Appendix A

Priority Rankings for May 2009<sup>71</sup>

Based on CEL Data from February 2009

These priorities are set in May annually by the local child care planning council to guide funding decisions for state subsidized programs.

### CCTR priority ranking (commonly referred to as general child care)

#### **Priority 1**

95501  
95502  
95503  
95519  
95521  
95540  
95542  
95560

#### **Priority 2**

95524  
95525  
95534  
95536  
95551  
95562  
95565  
95570

### CPRE priority ranking (commonly referred to as state preschool)

#### **Priority 1**

95501  
95502  
95503  
95519  
95521  
95540  
95542  
95560

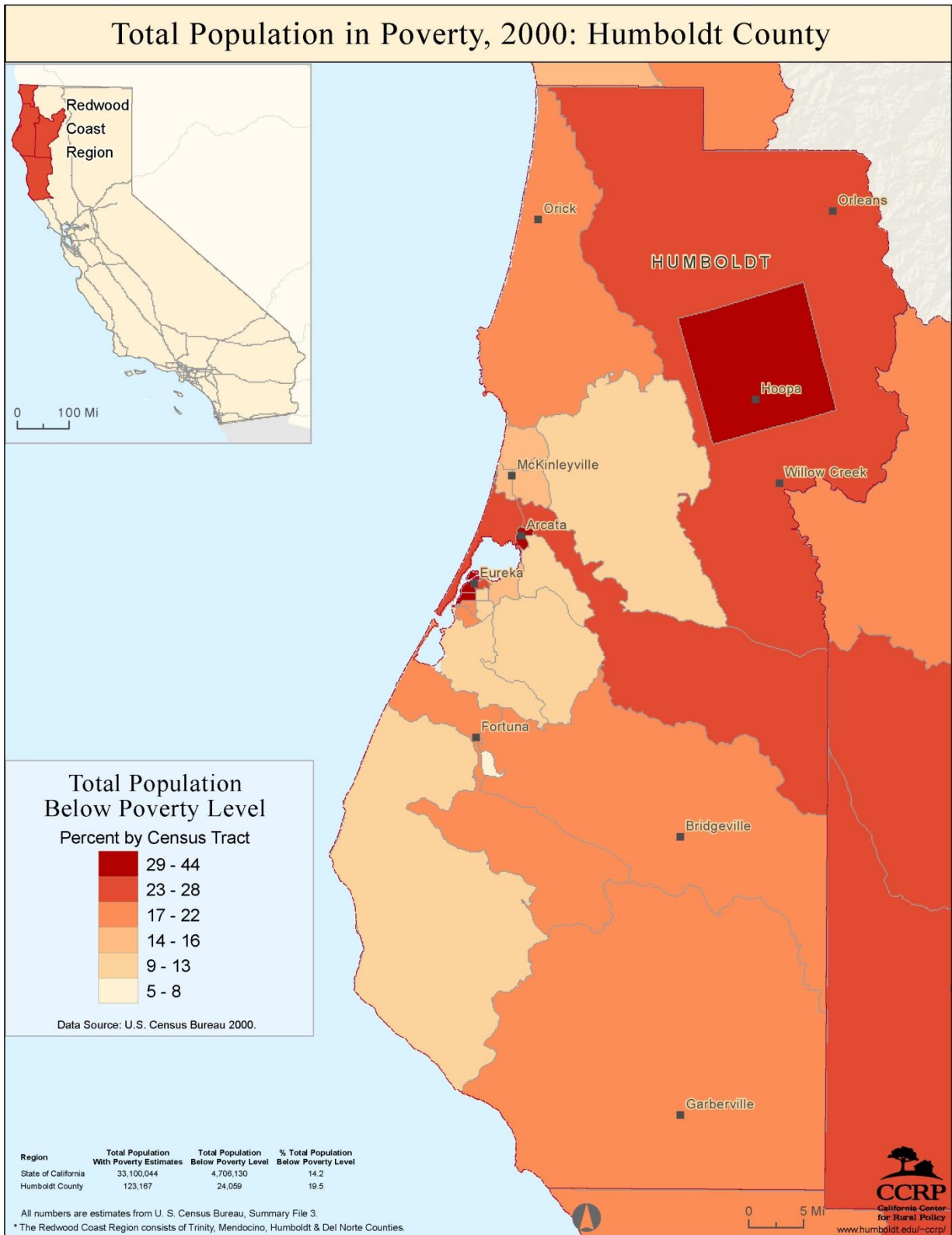
#### **Priority 2**

95524  
95525  
95534  
95536  
95551  
95562  
95565  
95570

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<sup>71</sup> 2010 Priority Rankings are identical.

## Appendix B



Source: Van Arsdale J, Peeters-Graehl L, Patterson K, Barry J, Bayer A. Rural Poverty and its Health Impacts: A Look at Poverty in the Redwood Coast Region: 20. Humboldt State University: California Center for Rural Policy, 2008.



**CHILD CARE CAPACITY SURVEY**

Changing Tides Family Services, in collaboration with the Local Child Care Planning Council of Humboldt County, conducted a survey to determine child care capacity in Humboldt County. A cover letter was included explaining the goals of the survey, the capture week of the survey, and the week of contact. Surveys were mailed on February 26, 2010 to:

159 Licensed Family Child Care Homes

62 Child Care Centers

Survey results were tabulated by each type of care overall, as well as by zip code.

**Family Child Care Homes, overall**

***Mailed to: 159***

90 completed the survey in English

***Completed Survey: 106***

16 completed in Spanish.

- ***During the week of March 7-13, 2010, how many different children did you care for in the following age categories:***

- ***Less than three years***

▪ Part time English:	<u>154</u>	Full time English:	<u>205</u>
▪ Part time Spanish:	<u>10</u>	Full time Spanish:	<u>27</u>
▪ Part time total:	<u>164</u>	Full time total:	<u>232</u>

- ***Three years old to before kindergarten***

▪ Part time English:	<u>181</u>	Full time English:	<u>187</u>
▪ Part time Spanish:	<u>8</u>	Full time Spanish:	<u>27</u>
▪ Part time total:	<u>189</u>	Full time total:	<u>214</u>

- ***Kindergarten to 12 years***

▪ Part time English:	<u>168</u>	Full time English:	<u>13</u>
▪ Part time Spanish:	<u>2</u>	Full time Spanish:	<u>2</u>
▪ Part time total:	<u>170</u>	Full time total:	<u>15</u>

- ***During this time did you serve any children with special needs in the following age categories:***

- ***Less than three years***

English:	<u>6</u>
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- **Less than three years** Spanish: 0
- **Three years old to before kindergarten** English: 17
- **Three years old to before kindergarten** Spanish: 2
- **Kindergarten to 12 years** English: 7
- **Kindergarten to 12 years** Spanish: 0
- **What is your best estimate of how many more children you would be willing and able to care for in the following age categories:**
  - **Less than 3 years**

▪ Part time English: <u>39</u>	Full time English : <u>58</u>
▪ Part time Spanish: <u>3</u>	Full time Spanish <u>17</u>
▪ Part time total: <u>42</u>	Full time total: <u>75</u>
  - **3 years to before kindergarten**

▪ Part time English: <u>38</u>	Full time English: <u>80</u>
▪ Part time Spanish <u>1</u>	Full time Spanish <u>21</u>
▪ Part time total: <u>39</u>	Full time total: <u>101</u>
  - **Kindergarten to 12 years**

▪ Part time English: <u>22</u>	Full time English: <u>23</u>
▪ Part time Spanish: <u>0</u>	Full time Spanish: <u>1</u>
▪ Part time total: <u>22</u>	Full time total: <u>24</u>
- **What languages other than English are spoken by you and/or any staff at your locations?**

Spanish: 27	Sign: 10	Italian: 2	French: 2
Yurok: 1	German: 1	Japanese: 1	
- **What languages other than English are spoken by the children and/or their families in your care?**

Spanish: 39	Portuguese: 2	Sign: 2	Yurok: 1
French: 1	Russian: 1	Farsi: 1	German: 1
Japanese: 2	Chinese: 1	Hebrew: 1	Italian: 2
Georgian: 1	Armenian: 1	Korean: 1	

**Child Care Centers, overall**

**Mailed to: 62**

**Completed Survey: 52**

- **During the week of March 7-13, 2010, how many different children did you care for in the following age categories:**
  - **Less than three**

▪ Part time: <u>57</u>	Full time : <u>142</u>
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  - **Three years old to before kindergarten**

▪ Part time: <u>727</u>	Full time: <u>430</u>
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  - **Kindergarten to 12 years old**



▪ Part time: 149 Full time: 3

• **During this time did you serve any children with special needs in the following age categories:**

- **Less than three years:** 6
- **Three years old to before kindergarten:** 108
- **Kindergarten to 12 years:** 1

• **What is your best estimate of how many more children you would be willing and able to care for in the following age categories:**

- **Less than three years**
  - Part time: 20 Full time: 13
- **3 years to before kindergarten**
  - Part time: 158 Full time: 57
- **Kindergarten to 12 years**
  - Part time: 30 Full time: 0

• **What languages other than English are spoken by you and/or any staff at your locations?**

Spanish: 24	Sign: 6	Hmong: 2	French: 2
Swedish: 1	German: 1	Chinese: 1	Japanese: 1
Yurok: 1			

• **What languages other than English are spoken by the children and/or their families in your care?**

Spanish: 25	Portuguese: 1	African: 1	Arabic: 1
Hungarian: 1	Sign: 1	Yurok: 1	Swedish: 1
French: 3	Russian: 2	Farsi: 1	Hmong: 2
Creole (Haiti): 1	Laotian: 1	German: 2	Lithuanian: 1
Tagalog: 1	Karuk: 1	Mandarin: 1	Vietnamese: 1

*Report prepared by Melissa R. Jones, Health Policy Analyst at the California Center for Rural Policy*

The California Center for Rural Policy at Humboldt State University is a research center committed to informing policy, building community, and promoting the health and well-being of rural people and environments.



California Center for Rural Policy  
Humboldt State University  
1 Harpst Street  
Arcata, CA 95521

[www.humboldt.edu/~ccrp](http://www.humboldt.edu/~ccrp)  
(707) 826-3400