
Expanding the California Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP)

What is CCIP?

In 1985, the California Department of Education, Child Development Division (CDE/CDD), in recognizing the importance of family child care homes, established the Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) in the education code to build and retain home-based licensed child care capacity and enhance quality of care. In 1996 the CDE/CDD provided federal funds for the implementation of CCIP with an Infant/Toddler focus (over two-thirds of all licensed care in California are in centers; however, only 7% of center slots are for children under two years of age)¹ and since 2002 CCIP has been implemented by Resource & Referral agencies (R&Rs) in every county in California. CDE/CDD has provided funding for R&Rs to offer CCIP training at the local level, and has supported the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network in providing an infrastructure of professional development services for licensed and pre-licensed family child care providers from diverse backgrounds.

Why family child care homes?

Family child care homes uniquely meet many of the needs of working families. Compared to centers, they are more likely to provide nontraditional hours (41% of homes versus 3% of centers),¹ offer flexible scheduling, care for infants and toddlers, and – possibly most importantly – are more affordable. According to the 2017 California Child Care Portfolio, the average annual cost for full-time infant care is \$16,452 at a center and \$10,609 at a family child care home. Lower-income families tend to have less traditional work hours and unpredictable schedules, so the price and flexibility offered by homes is often the only viable option for licensed care. Younger children are more expensive for providers to care for (due to the ratio restrictions in licensing), so very few centers even offer infant/toddler care (7%).¹ While homes are more likely to care for infants/toddlers, the supply is still low due to the financial disincentive. Because of this dilemma, CCIP has a concerted focus on increasing supply and access of infant/toddler care in family child care homes.

Why now?

During the Great Recession, California saw a very steep decline in the number of licensed family child care homes. Parents losing their jobs and providers losing their housing meant many family child care homes were forced to close. As the economy continues to stabilize and unemployment decreases, the number of licensed homes still continues to drop. With the number of families with all parents in the workforce on the rise, parents need a safe and affordable place to put their children - licensed family

¹ 2017 California Child Care Portfolio.” *California Child Care Resource and Referral Network*. February 2018. <https://www.rrnetwork.org/2017_portfolio>.

child care homes are often precisely that. While there is a severe lack of licensed care in California (only 23% children 0-12 with working parents have a licensed slot available, and this is even lower for infants and toddlers),¹ the decrease in homes is particularly concerning - not only because of the rate (some counties saw a 19% decrease in just two years) but the important role they play for more vulnerable families.¹

Why CCIP?

Recently, the decline in home-based care has been well-documented by both pundits and the media; while it's clear that this is a problem that deserves attention, possible solutions are less documented. CCIP is the most well-established infrastructure of support for home-based providers in California and is the only free training, professional development, and technical assistance resource. It's also unique in its breadth and reach of support; because CCIP programs are housed in local R&Rs, participation often opens doors for caregivers. In realizing their professional development options, many pursue additional trainings at the R&R (health & safety, food program, peer support, Strengthening Families, trauma-informed care, etc.) or even go on to outside programs, such as higher learning institutes.

CCIP has been supporting home providers in California for decades and has seen impressive results. Since 2007, CCIP's recruitment efforts have opened 7,889 new licensed family child care homes, adding 63,112 spaces for children (75% of which were for infants or toddlers).² CCIP's efforts don't end at increasing supply; CCIP staff provide ongoing linguistically- and culturally-appropriate training and technical assistance to child care providers, in a continuing effort to improve the quality of care for children. Since 2011, CCIP has provided over 33,000 hours of training and over 188,000 hours of technical assistance to providers. Training topics follow the California Early Childhood Educator Competencies and range from health and safety and child development, to business and administrative support. A survey of CCIP participants found that 91% believed CCIP was a significant reason for staying in the business, and 95% rated the CCIP trainings as either excellent or good. An outside evaluation of CCIP found that "CCIP helped [providers] make positive changes to the family child care home environment, become more responsive to children, and use more positive guidance with the children in their care."³

The decline in licensed family child care homes in California (and subsequent lack of infant/toddler care) cannot be ignored when they play such a pivotal role for working families. Given that CCIP is the foundation of caregiver support in California, expanding it is the clearest way to help remedy this problem. For the benefit of working families, the healthy development of children, California's economy, and the support of these providers - who are doing a labor of love for very little compensation - expansion of CCIP is both fiscally and ethically necessary.

² Statistics based on annual cumulative reports through June 30, 2017.

³ Family Child Care Quality Improvement Report (March 2009). WestEd, Center for Child and Family Studies Evaluation Team.