



ORANGE COUNTY CHILD CARE STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-2015



The Orange County Child Care and Development Planning Council (Council), appointed by the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the Orange County Superintendent of Schools, partners with the community to help meet the child care needs of Orange County. Council members focus on issues dealing with all aspects of child care and development. This includes promoting high quality child care that is affordable and accessible, supporting the development of an educated workforce, and ensuring a safe developmentally appropriate environment for all children. The Council was responsible for drafting, seeking input, and finalizing the content of the 2010-2015 Child Care Strategic Plan.

The Council's strategic plan establishes goals addressing the county's comprehensive child care needs. The Plan provides a road map of how to effectively address the child care needs in Orange County. This plan is being implemented through the collaborative efforts of the county's educational community, child care providers, families, businesses, government agencies, community-based organizations, and other community partners.

The vision of the plan is to ensure Orange County's children and families have access to high quality child care and development programs. We invite your involvement and support with the implementation of this plan.

TARGET GOAL 1: INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY

Promote access to high quality child care and development programs for all children.

Strategies

1. Work to address the increasing demand for child care and development services.
2. Provide support for services which meet the child care and development needs of underserved populations, including children with special needs.
3. Publish a list of programs welcoming to children with special needs, including programs with the ability to serve non-ambulatory children.

TARGET GOAL 2: BUILD CAPACITY

Provide assistance for child care providers, public agencies, and community based organizations regarding strategies and practices for planning and expanding child care and development programs.

Strategies

1. Encourage municipalities, public entities, and school districts to develop consistent policies, regulations, and provisions which promote and support the development and expansion of child care and development services.
2. Explore the use of public facilities and land, school districts, commercial buildings, and affordable housing for the delivery of child care and development services.
3. Disseminate information regarding funding opportunities for child care and development services.
4. Establish traditional and nontraditional partnerships which work collaboratively to pursue funding for the development and expansion of child care and development services.
5. Sustain funds for child care and development services by successfully transferring California Department of Education (CDE) funds among and between agencies when available and appropriate.

TARGET GOAL 3: IMPROVE QUALITY

Promote educational opportunities for the professional growth of child care and development providers.

Strategies

1. Communicate with child care and development providers regarding training opportunities designed to improve program quality.
2. Support the development and implementation of higher education workforce requirements.
3. Disseminate information regarding effective program management strategies which improve the quality of child care and development services.
4. Support the use of quality standards identified in resources such as National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation, California Department of Education (CDE) Desired Results, and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) National Health and Safety Performance Standards.
5. Develop and promote quality rating systems.
6. Provide opportunities for collaboration and networking within the child care and development community.

TARGET GOAL 4: IMPROVE PUBLIC POLICY

Collaborate with legislators, child care providers, child service agencies, community organizations, government agencies, and other community partners to impact policy that will result in providing high quality child care and development services.

Strategies

1. Increase community advocacy efforts.
2. Educate the community regarding child care and development policy issues.
3. Develop and provide advocacy materials, tools, training, and involvement opportunities.
4. Advocate for sound legislation and public policy intended to improve child care and development capacity, accessibility, quality, professional development, and the healthy development of children.
5. Support compensation and retention policies and programs for child care and development professionals.
6. Collaborate with legislators and policy makers regarding legislation and public policies related to child care and development.
7. Recognize local legislators and policy makers for supporting legislation designed to improve child care and development.

TARGET GOAL 5: INCREASE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Increase public awareness regarding issues affecting the high quality, availability, accessibility, and affordability of child care and development programs.

Strategies

1. Develop and distribute culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate materials to assist families to better understand the benefits of high quality child care and development.
2. Develop and distributing materials identifying child care and development services, options, resources, and strategies for all children, including those with special needs.
3. Provide relevant sources of information regarding high quality programs and services as well as appropriate ways to evaluate these programs and services.
4. Provide opportunities for community stakeholders to discuss relevant child care and development issues

Orange County Child Care and Development Planning Council

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