

Improving Access to Quality Child Care

Child Care Initiative Project and Home-Based Care



Home-Based Care

Family Child Care Homes

Family child care homes uniquely meet many of the needs of working families. Compared to centers, they're more likely to provide nontraditional hours (41% of homes versus 3% of centers),¹ offer flexible scheduling, care for infants and toddler (less than 7% of center spaces are for children under two), and are more affordable. 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. The supply of family child care has been on a steep decline since 2008; with the number of parents in the workforce on the rise, families need a safe and affordable place to for their children. While there is a severe lack of licensed care in California (only 23% children 0-12 with working parents have a licensed space available,¹ and this is even lower for infants and toddlers), the decrease in homes is particularly concerning - not only because of the rate (some counties saw a 19% decrease in just two years)¹ but the important role they play for families.

License-Exempt Care

Recognizing the importance of enhancing the quality of care in every setting, and knowing that many children are cared for by license-exempt, or family, friend and neighbor caregivers, R&Rs are also focusing their efforts on providing support and training to these providers. This takes the form of meaningful playgroups with the caregivers and children, where trained facilitators use tailored curriculum to demonstrate quality adult-child interactions, early learning experiences, and knowledge of child development.

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

Child Care Initiative Project

Since 1985, Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) programs have been implementing the Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP), which by 2002 had expanded to all 58 counties in California. The CCIP builds home-based licensed capacity (new and additional child care spaces) and improves the quality of care through:

- Assessment and analysis of child care supply and demand
- Recruitment of family child care providers
- Technical assistance and support for prospective and existing family child care providers (e.g., pre-licensing visits, environment assessments, etc.)
- CCIP Module Training. (to be considered a Trainee, participants must complete 25 hours of training; 5 hours from each module). Topic areas are:
 1. Operating a Strong Family Child Care Business
 2. Health, Safety and the Learning Environment
 3. Developmental Needs of Children
 4. Professionalism and Provider Support
 5. Infant/Toddler

Local R&Rs receive CCIP contracts on an annual basis, and the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network is separately contracted by CDE/CDD to monitor local R&R contracts and provide training and technical assistance to R&R staff. To address the quality enhancement component of CCIP, each R&R develops a detailed training plan that is specifically tailored to meet the skill level, cultural and linguistic diversity, and interests of new and returning providers.

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 Since 2011, CCIP has provided over 33,000 hours of training and over 188,000 hours of technical assistance to providers.² An outside evaluation CCIP found that 91% of participants believed CCIP was a significant reason for staying in the business, and 95% rated the CCIP trainings as either excellent or good. The evaluation also 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

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.
