

# Orange County Child Care Landscape Analysis

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Phase I Report of Findings

October 7, 2020



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# Introduction

# Purpose of this Analysis

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First 5 Orange County contracted with NP Strategies to conduct Phase I of the Orange County Child Care Landscape Analysis to understand the child care system in the county for children 0-5, with a focus on infants and toddlers aged 0-2. In particular, the purpose of this landscape scan was to understand:

- 1) The landscape of players involved
- 2) The supply and utilization of child care
- 3) The flow of public funding for child care into and through the county
- 4) Bright spots, opportunities, challenges and system barriers

Phase II, which is already underway, will assess the impact of child care issues in Orange County on the economy, employers and working parents/caregivers.

# Timing of Data Collection and COVID-19

The majority of the information in this report was collected between November 2019 and February 2020. As a result, data regarding funding, capacity and enrollment for various programs is for FY 2019/2020\*, at pre-pandemic levels.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had severe impacts on the child care system in Orange County and throughout the country. Child care providers closed their programs initially, and then some began reopening with new requirements and reduced capacities to maintain social distancing guidelines. Those that remained open in the first couple months of the pandemic were caring for children of essential workers.

We do not yet know the full extent of the pandemic's impact on child care providers, but we do know that many are struggling.

Even with the changes that have occurred during the pandemic, the overarching findings from this analysis in terms of opportunities, challenges, and system barriers still hold, and if anything are *more* critical today than they were before the pandemic.

\*Unless otherwise noted

# Thank You to All Our Contributors

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# Thank You to All Our Contributors (Cont.)

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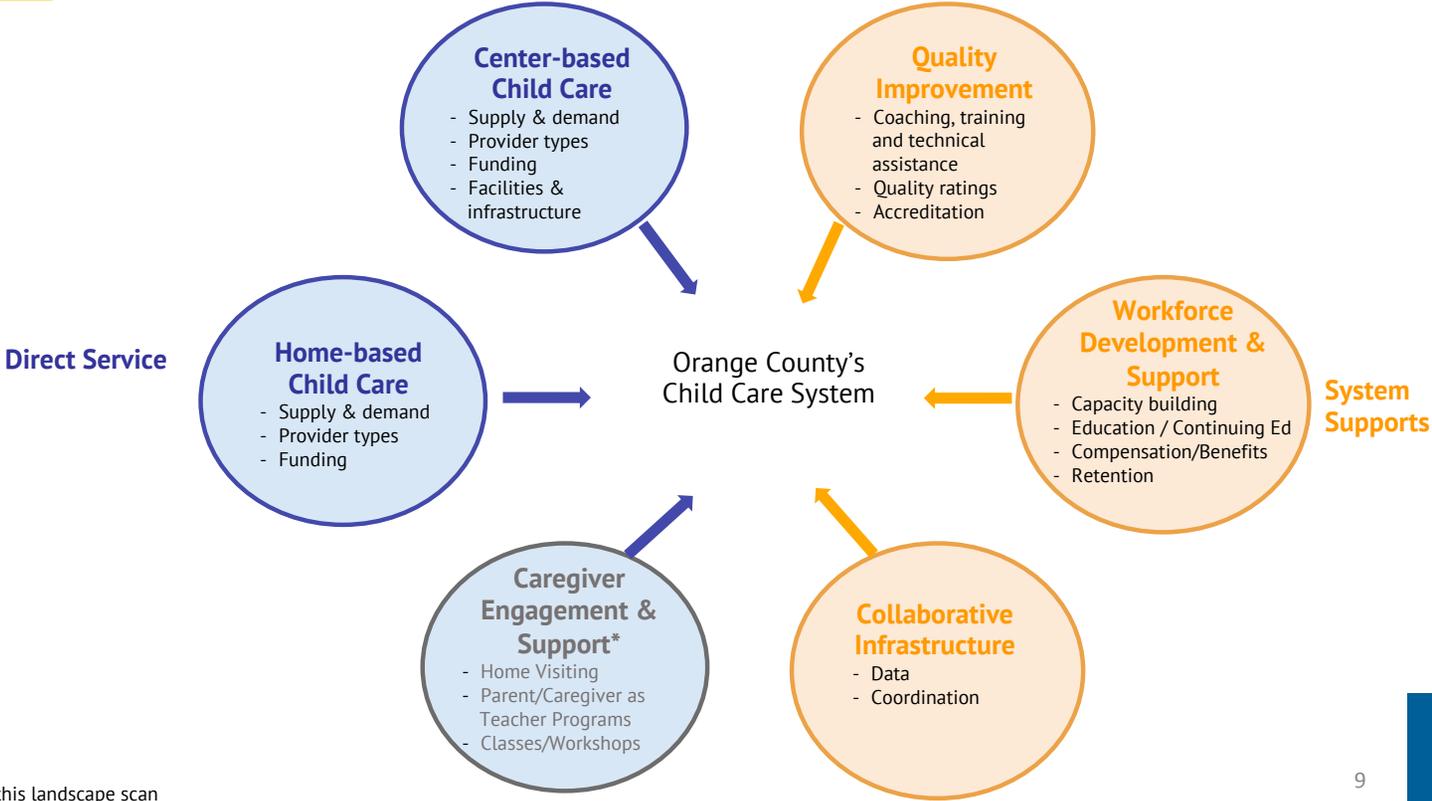
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# Limitations of this Report

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- **Demographic Data:** The primary source for demographic data included in this report is the U.S. Census Bureau; this data is based on projections from the last census; the new census will hopefully provide a more up-to-date picture of demographics in the county.
- **Parent/Caregiver Support Programs:** Early learning specialists strongly believe that parents/caregivers are their child’s first teacher. Home visiting and other parent engagement programs are critical resources for early childhood development. They are mentioned but not included in this scan, as this analysis focused on child care programs that support parent/caregiver’s abilities to participate in the workforce.
- **Special Needs Programs & Funding:** Analyzing programs that care for young children with special needs and their funding was not the focus of this scan.

# Child Care System Framework

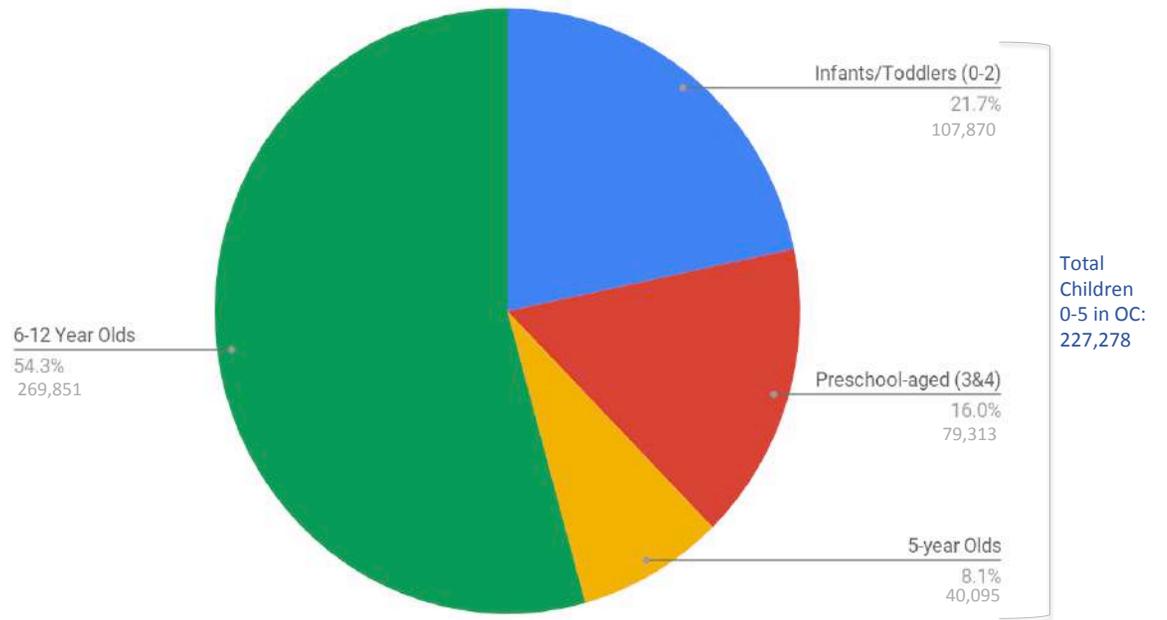


\* Not the focus of this landscape scan

# Direct Service



# Population of Young Children

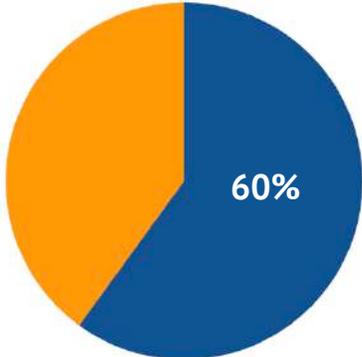


Sources: Orange County 2020-2025 LPC Needs Assessment (submitted 5/30/20); demographics based on American Community Survey (ACS)

# Why Affordable, Quality Child Care Matters

- **Caregivers’ abilities to participate in the workforce**
  - Throughout CA, and in Orange County in particular, the high cost of living means that the majority of families with young children rely on all parents/caregivers to work

**% of Young Children in OC with All Parents Working**



<b>% of Young Children with All Available Parents in the Workforce</b>	
Orange County (0-4)	60%
California (0-5)	61.40%

- *Quality* child care is critical for children too—high quality care supports children’s emotional, social and cognitive development

Sources: Orange County 2020-2025 LPC Needs Assessment (submitted 5/30/20); Center for American Progress Early Learning Factsheet for California (2019)



# Direct Service Child Care Settings & Key Players

## Center-based Child Care

- Infants/toddlers (0-2)
- Preschool-age (3-4)
- School-age (5-12)

- Provider Types**
- 1,211 Licensed Programs
  - License-exempt Centers
- Schedules**
- Full-day
  - Part-day
  - Before/After-school
  - Limited nontraditional hours
- Key Players (Licensed)**
- Nonprofit and for-profit providers
  - Faith-based providers
  - Local Education Agencies (LEAs): Community Colleges and K-12 School Districts

## Home-based Child Care

- Infants/toddlers (0-2)
- Preschool-age (3-4)
- School-age (5-12)

- 1,242 Licensed Programs
  - License-exempt Family, Friend & Neighbor Care
- Schedules**
- Full-day
  - Part-day
  - Before/After-school
  - Nontraditional hours (nights, weekends, etc.)
- Key Players (Licensed)**
- Licensed Family Child Care Homes
    - Large Family Child Care Homes (up to 14 children); 712 programs in Orange County
    - Small Family Child Care Homes (up to 8 children); 530 programs in Orange County

# Supply/Capacity Compared to # of Children

## Orange County Lacks Sufficient Infant/Toddler Care

	Infants/Toddlers (0-2)	Preschool-age Children (3-4)
Number of Children in Orange County	107,870	79,313
Licensed Capacity in Orange County	5,170 licensed slots	55,361 licensed slots
Licensed Centers	4,476	54,274
Licensed Family Child Care Homes	694	1,087
Approx. Number of Children Per Licensed Slot	21	1.4
% of Children for Whom a Licensed Slot is Available	5%	70%

**Note:** “Licensed slots” refer to the number of child care spots in licensed child care settings at any one time

**Sources:** Orange County 2020-2025 LPC Needs Assessment (submitted 5/30/20); NP Strategies’ Analysis

# Supply/Capacity Compared to # of Children

- There are approximately 21 infants/toddlers in Orange County per licensed slot
- Some infants/toddlers do not need child care because they have at least one parent/caregiver at home or they are cared for by a family member or nanny

**Even if only  $\frac{1}{3}$  of infants and toddlers in Orange County required child care, there would still only be enough licensed capacity for 1 in 7 children.**



## Need for Full-Day Care

- Providers and other stakeholders interviewed shared that they consistently receive inquiries and have demand for full-day programs
- Head Start has wait lists in its full-day programs, whereas part-day programs sometime have vacancies
- Similarly, while the majority of State Preschool programs are part-day, those that are full-day tend to operate at capacity with wait lists
- Orange County's Resource and Referral Agency, Children's Home Society, reported that the majority of requests are for full-day care

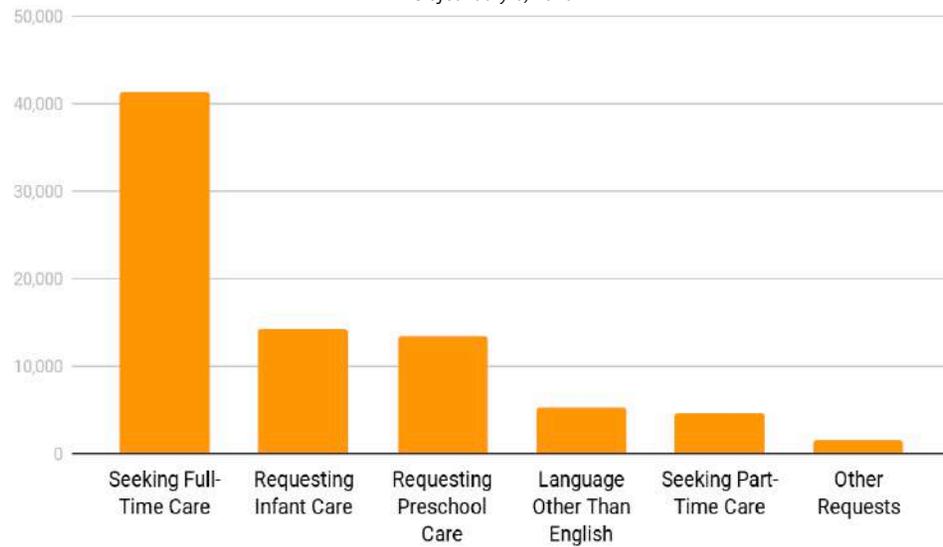
Sources: Stakeholder interviews and data shared



# Need for Full Day Care (Cont.)

## Child Care Requests to Resource & Referral

*As of January 6, 2020*



Sources: Resource & Referral (CHS) data as of January 6, 2020



## Need for Nontraditional Hours

- In addition to full-day care, providers interviewed shared that they frequently receive requests for nontraditional hours such as weekends and nights
- Many workers have unpredictable or nontraditional hours, meaning their schedules frequently change and/or they do not work during the normal business day

***“What we [family child care providers] hear the most is the need for infant care and for nontraditional hours. We are located in Anaheim and are open nearly 24/7. We are not open on Sundays but we consistently have a lot of demand for weekends--families ask for letters saying that we aren’t open on Sundays so they can show their employers and try to not get Sunday shifts.”*** -- Family Child Care Home Provider, Anaheim

Source: Stakeholder interviews

# Where are Infants/Toddlers Cared For in OC?

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- Home-based child care fills an important need for nontraditional hours, flexibility and a home setting
- However, family child care homes comprise a small portion (less than 15%) of licensed capacity for infants/toddlers in the county
- Assumption is that the of majority infants/toddlers are served in unlicensed settings, where health and safety are unknown and may vary

# Price of Child Care in OC Breaks Most Families' Budgets



**\$15,650**

Average Annual Price in OC of Full-time, Center-based Care for 1 Infant/Toddler

**\$26,150**

Total Avg Annual Cost in OC for a Family w/ 2 Young Children in Full-time Care

**\$10,500**

Avg Annual Price in OC of Full-time Center-based Care for 1 Preschooler

**26%\***

Share of Median Family Income in OC for a Family w/ Children

10% is considered "affordable"

\*Based on ACS Median Income in 2018 Inflation-Adjusted dollars (US Census Bureau)  
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACS%20Median%20Income%20Past%2012%20Months&q=0500000US06059&tid=ACST1Y2018.S1903&hidePreview=false>  
Sources: LPC Orange County Needs Assessment (Submitted 5/30/20), US Census Bureau

# Costs to Deliver Infant/Toddler Care Pose Barriers for Providers

- The cost of providing quality infant/toddler care is high
  - Factors that contribute to high costs include low teacher/child ratios and supplies needed for infants/toddlers
- Reimbursement rates do not cover costs and are a disincentive for providers, even if they want to serve young children
- Increases in requirements for teachers are often not matched by increased reimbursement rates
- As a result, the sector relies on an underpaid workforce

Sources: External stakeholder interviews; secondary research

# Role of Subsidized Programs

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- In Orange County, more than half of children 0-4 are eligible for state or federal subsidy based on income
- Subsidized programs provide the most vulnerable children with access to child care

Source: Orange County 2020-2025 LPC Needs Assessment (submitted 5/30/20)

# Subsidized Programs & Key Players

## Federal

### Programs

- Head Start (HS)
- Early Head Start (EHS)

### Eligibility

- Families living below the federal poverty level (e.g. \$26,200 for a family of 4)
- HS: children ages 3 to compulsory school age
- EHS: serves pregnant women and children up to age 3

### Key Players

- Orange County Head Start (HS & EHS)
- Rancho Santiago Community College District (EHS)

## State

- State Preschool (CSPP)
- Center Based Child Care (CCTR)
- Voucher Programs (CalWORKs & CA Alternative Payment Program or CAPP)

- CSPP is for 3 and 4 year olds whose families are considered low income based on the state median income (to qualify, families must earn below 85% of the state median income or \$80,623 for a family of four); income eligibility is the same for CCTR and CAPP
- For CalWORKs, families must also have a need (e.g. in school, seeking employment, working, etc.)

- School Districts (particularly for CSPP)
- Nonprofit and for-profit providers
- Administration of voucher programs: Orange County Dept of Ed, Children's Home Society of CA, OC Social Services Agency

# Infants/Toddlers Served in Subsidized Child Care in Orange County, by Program

Program	Number of Children Served (0-2) Total in OC: 107,870 Estimated # Eligible for State or Federal Subsidy: 56,817 (53%)
Title 5: Center Based Child Care	278
Early Head Start	736
Vouchers CA Alternative Payment Program CalWORKs Stage 1 CalWORKs Stage 2 CalWORKs Stage 3	~2,500
Total infants/toddlers served by state and federal subsidized programs (overall % eligible served)	3,514 (6%)



Sources: LPC Orange County Needs Assessment (Submitted 5/30/20); voucher data collected from 3 sources; Head Start/Early Head Start numbers provided by Lead Agencies in Orange County



# Total Contracted Dollars for Direct Service Programs in Orange County (Public Funding)

Program	Contracted Amount (19/20) – All Ages Served	Funding Source
Title 5: State Preschool (CSPP)*	\$58,407,231	State: CA Dept of Ed
Title 5: Center Based Child Care (CCTR)	\$9,090,182	State: CA Dept of Ed
Head Start	\$27,137,434	Federal
Early Head Start	\$14,090,887	Federal
Vouchers: CalWORKs Stage 1 CalWORKs Stage 2 CalWORKs Stage 3 Alternative Payment Program (CAPP)	\$5,745,858 \$24,849,131 \$17,071,083 \$47,605,017	State: CA Dept of Social Services CA Dept of Education CA Dept of Education CA Dept of Education

\* Does not include Easter Seals, which is based on Orange County but does not have programs operating here  
**Sources:** CATS Combined Contract Report for 2019-2020; Head Start grantees in Orange County, OCDE, SSA



# Direct Service Bright Spots

- ★ **Shifts and growth in federal and state funding** to serve more infants/toddler in Orange County
  - Shifts from Head Start to Early Head Start
  - Opportunity for growth in CCTR programs and funding that serve infants/toddlers
  - School District interest in growing preschool programs
- ★ **Role of Family Child Care Homes** in supporting families, serving infants/toddlers, and offering nontraditional hours
- ★ **Parent/caregiver support programs (e.g. Home Visiting, Learning Links)**
  - While not the focus of this scan, cited by stakeholders interviewed as a bright spot in infant/toddler early learning in Orange County
  - Examples: Home Visiting programs, Learning Links

# Direct Service Barriers & Gaps

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- **Scarcity of infant/toddler care in Orange County**
- **Insufficient and inappropriate facilities** for infant/toddler care
- **Economics of caring for infants/toddlers** are a disincentive for providers
- **Need for affordable, quality child care options that meet working caregivers' needs**
  - Flexible hours, full-day care

# System Supports

# Key Players

**Quality Improvement**

- Coaching, training and technical assistance
- Quality ratings
- Accreditation

**F5 CA and CA Dept of Education** provide funding for Quality Start OC

**Orange County Dept of Education (OCDE)** leads Quality Start OC and provides training and technical assistance to providers

**School District Early Learning Specialists (Funded by First 5 OC)** bring early learning expertise to their school districts

**Workforce Development & Support**

- Capacity building
- Education / Continuing Ed
- Compensation/Benefits
- Retention

**Community Colleges** play an important role in educating the child care workforce

**Orange County Department of Education** provides training and technical assistance to providers and their staff as part of Quality Start OC

**Children’s Home Society of CA** provides workshops and training for providers and their staff

**Collaborative Infrastructure**

- Data
- Coordination

**Resource & Referral** services in Orange County are provided by Children’s Home Society of CA

**Community Care Licensing** oversees licensing and compliance for child care and other programs

**Local Planning Council (OCDE)** conducts child care needs assessment once every 5 years and creates and oversees a strategic plan

**First 5 Orange County** leads the Early Development Index, a population-level data source regarding school readiness

**Early Childhood OC** convenes and coordinates stakeholders to ensure young children reach their potential

**Note:** This list focuses on the key players and does not include all players in the child care system



# Public Funding for System Supports (by Initiative)

Program	Funding Amount/Year	Funding Sources
Quality Start OC IMPACT CSPP QRIS Block Grant QCC Block Grant Hub	\$2,100,697 \$3,200,000 \$500,000 \$783,340	F5 CA CA Dept of Ed CA Dept of Ed F5 CA
Resource & Referral	\$653,505	CA Dept of Education
Local Child Care & Development Planning Council - One time federal Preschool Development Grant in FY 19/20	\$79,639 \$28,779	
Higher Education & Degree Attainment (AB212 & CPIN)	\$672,775	
Inclusive Early Learning & Care Coordination	\$750,000	
School Readiness Initiative Early Development Index (EDI)	\$5,451,400 \$520,000*	

\* Three-year funding as data is collected over 3 years  
Sources: OCDE, F5 Orange County, CHS



# System Supports Bright Spots

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- ★ **Growing appreciation for the importance of quality child care among all sectors**
- ★ **Early Development Index** is becoming more widely recognized as a tool to help us know how children are doing when entering kindergarten
- ★ **Quality efforts:** Quality Start OC, National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation
  - Use of EDI data to target the most vulnerable communities to increase kindergarten readiness
- ★ **Innovative programs** that serve as examples for high quality child care

# System Supports Barriers & Gaps

- **The child care system in Orange County is fragmented**, with different components not always coordinating with one another
  - This was evidenced in this process by the gaps in data and understanding, particularly within the infant/toddler segment
- **Access to up-to-date, comprehensive data and data sharing** on capacity, enrollment and wait lists would help better understand demand and maximize enrollment
  - This gap became even more clear in March when the pandemic forced child care providers to close and there was not an easy way to find out who had reopened and their capacity to serve children of essential workers
- **Child care workforce challenges** are pervasive in child care, particularly infant/toddler care
  - Low pay is a key challenge – child care workers are more likely to live in poverty than other workers and teachers; leading to turnover

# Opportunities for Impact

# First 5 Orange County Opportunities for Impact

## Empower champions

- Shine a light on the importance of the child care sector
- Build champions for quality child care across sectors
- Explore what cities and employers can do and support their needs

## Coordinate local stakeholders

- Enhance communication and coordination among providers and system players
- Draw more funds into Orange County & leverage those we have

## Support system infrastructure

- Seek solutions for improved data sharing and access

## Work with partners to address systemic change

- Increase reimbursement rates
- Support for child care workers
- Work on state and federal policy



# Next Steps



## Next Steps

- Share findings from the Phase I with different stakeholder groups; invite them to participate in webinars
  - Business Community
  - Civic Leaders
  - Families
  - School Districts
  - Community Organizations
  - Providers
- Complete Phase II
  - Economic analysis
  - Employer interviews
  - Parent input
- Bring findings and recommendations back to the Board

# Key Questions for Phase II

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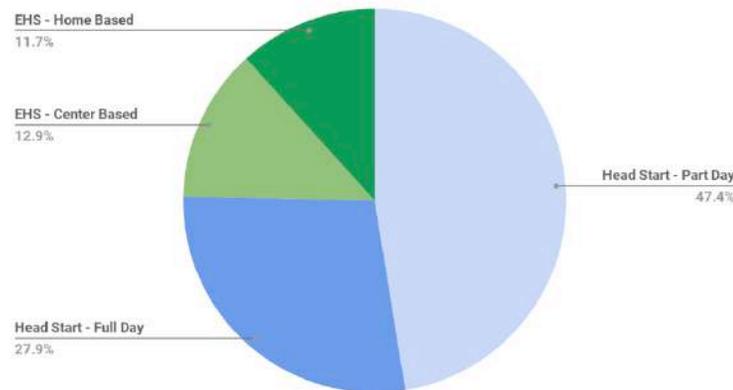
- What are parents/caregivers' and employers' perspectives on child care challenges?
- What is the impact of child care on labor markets, workforce development, the economy, parents and employers?
  - How does Orange County compare to the state and nation?
- What opportunities exist to work with the business community to address child care issues?

# Appendix: Program Summaries

# Head Start & Early Head Start

- Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) are **federally funded child development programs for very low income children**; eligible families are those living **below the federal poverty level (\$26,200 for a family of 4)**. Head Start serves children ages 3 to compulsory school age and their families, and Early Head Start serves pregnant women and children up to age 3. Head Start also provides funding for **Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships** that offer EHS supports to eligible children enrolled in partner home-based programs
- There are two main grantees for HS / EHS in Orange County: **Orange County Head Start** (both HS & EHS) and **Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD)** (EHS)
- **Total HS/EHS funding in Orange County for 2019/2020 was \$41,228,321** (Head Start: \$27,137,434; Early Head Start: \$14,090,887)
  - This represents approx. 3.3% of total CA HS funding; Orange County is home to ~8% of children ages 0-5 living at or below the poverty line
- **Orange County is funded to enroll a total of 3,015 children**, the majority in Head Start

Orange County Enrollment for Head Start & Early Head Start (2019-20)



**Sources:** Data provided by Head Start/Early Head Start grantees in Orange County; US Dept of Health & Human Services - Poverty Guidelines for 2020; Public Policy Institute of California - Child Poverty and Related Factors by Region; <https://www.ppic.org/data-set/child-poverty-and-related-factors-by-region-and-local-area-2011-2014/>

# Head Start & Early Head Start (Cont.)

## Trends / Opportunities

- **Shift in Capacity from HS to EHS** - For the past 10 years there has been a shift in Orange County from HS to EHS; Orange County Head Start increased EHS funded enrollment by 186% from 2014-15 to 2019-20 -- this trend is continuing and accelerating
  - Greatest need is for center-based EHS
  - EHS funding is ~34% of total HS/EHS funding in Orange County, though infants/toddlers account for more than half of eligible children (nationally EHS accounts for less than 10% of total HS appropriation)
- **Demand for Full Day** - Along with the shift to EHS, full day funded enrollment for HS has increased significantly since 2014-15 and is fully enrolled, whereas part-day funded enrollment has declined and reports vacancies
- Head Start provides **comprehensive services** including meals and other support for families; making it an important resource for eligible families

## Barriers / Challenges

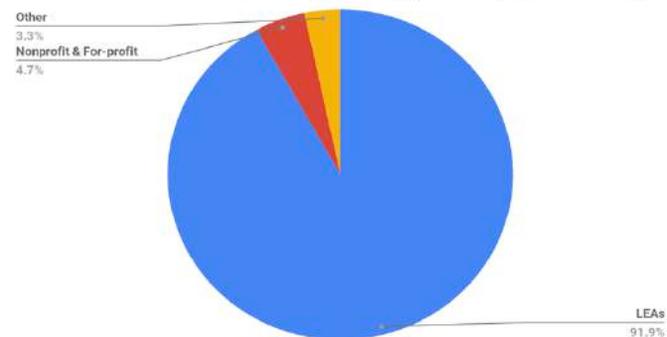
- **Facilities** - Availability of facilities was cited by Orange County HS/EHS grantees as one of the biggest barriers to expanding center-based EHS
- **Workforce** - HS/EHS providers often struggle to attract and retain their workforce due to competition with school districts' and other early learning programs that offer higher wages and better benefits; RSCCD also experiences a higher cost structure as teachers are unionized
- **Family Child Care Homes' Preparedness for Early Head Start- Child Care Partnerships** - Family Child Care Providers sometimes do not feel qualified to provide the quality EHS would expect in their homes, and lack the time to be able to learn and meet the expectations; this is a barrier to expanding partnerships

Sources: Interviews with and data provided by Orange County HS/EHS grantees (data from 2019/2020 Program Year); national HS program reports

# State Preschool (CSPP)

- CA State Preschool (CSPP) is a Title 5 program funded by the California Department of Education (CDE)
- CSPP is for **3 and 4 year olds** whose families are considered low income based on the state median income (to qualify, families must earn below 85% of the state median income or \$80,623 for a family of four)
  - Income eligibility guidelines were updated on July 1, 2019
  - Children must turn 3 by Sept 1st to enroll in State Preschool
- There are over **11,530 children aged 3-4 served by CSPP programs in Orange County**, mostly in part-day programs
  - 954 in full-day; 10,584 part-day
  - Providers that offer full-day slots are full (or filling up if they were new programs)
- In 2019-2020, the **total contracted amount for CSPP in Orange County is \$58,407,231**
  - There are 32 CSPP contractors in Orange County
- Over 90% of CSPP funding is directly contracted with Local Education Agency's or LEAs, including K-12 And Community College Districts

Total CSPP Contracted \$ in Orange County (2019-20) by Provider Type



Sources: CA Dept of Education Management Bulletin 19-03 <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/mb1903.asp>; Orange County Local Planning Council, 2020-2025 Needs Assessment; CATS Combined Contract Report for 2019-2020

# State Preschool (Cont.)

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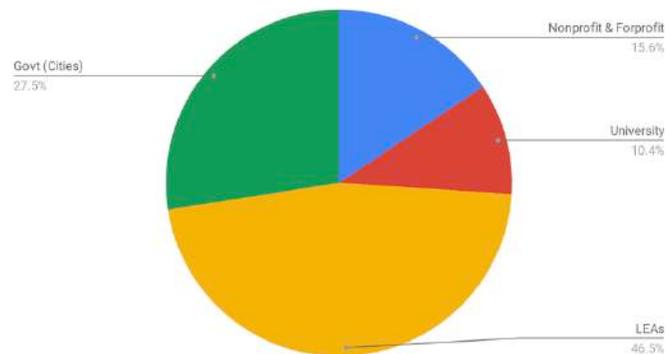
- 20 out of 24 elementary-serving school districts in Orange County have district-run State Preschool programs
- After school districts, the largest State Preschool programs include Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) and the City of La Habra
- Many **CSPP providers struggle to fill their part-time slots** each year
  - In recent years a significant portion of State Preschool funds have gone unused in California
  - For LEAs in Orange County (comprise majority of slots), enrollment in 2019/20 was approximately 11% below funded capacity
  - 15 out of 20 district-run State Preschool programs reported enrollment below funded capacity
- Primary reasons cited included caregivers' **need for full-day** and **staffing constraints**
- Most full-day programs report wait lists
- 4 LEA CSPP providers shared that they were **considering converting part-day to full-day slots** to address demand, and 5 others are exploring the possibility for the future

**Sources:** Survey conducted with school district ELSs as part of this Landscape Analysis in Feb 2020; Legislative Analyst's Office 2020-21 Budget Early Education Analysis

# Center Based Child Care (CCTR)

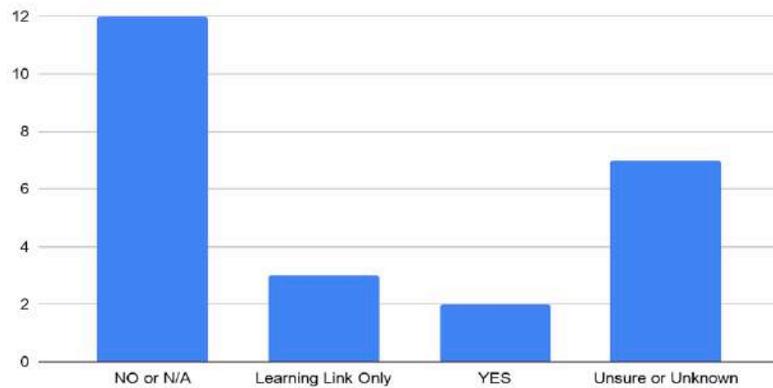
- Center Based Child Care (CCTR) is another program funded by the California Department of Education that is meant to serve infants/toddlers as well as preschool and school-aged children in afterschool programs
- Eligibility requirements are the same as State Preschool (CSPP), though **CCTR programs primarily provide full-day infant/toddler and school-aged after school care**
- There are approximately 1,500 children served by CCTR programs in Orange County, **just over 270 (18%) of which are infant/toddler (0-2)**
- In 2019-2020, the **total contracted amount for CCTR in Orange County is \$9,090,182**
  - There are 10 CCTR contractors in Orange County, the largest is the City of La Habra, 4 are LEAs (including Ranch Santiago Community College District, Coast Community College District, Tustin and Westminster); 3 are nonprofit & for-profit providers
- Stakeholders stated that the **reimbursement rate for CCTR for infant/toddler is not enough to cover Costs**

CCTR Contracted \$ in Orange County (2019-20) by Provider Type



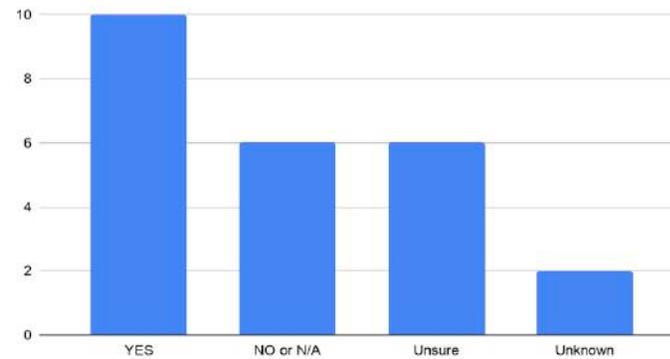
# School District Perspectives on Infant/Toddler Care

Plans to Create or Expand Infant/Toddler Program in District



Programs for expansion most frequently cited include: fee-based programs (3), Spanish dual immersion (2), State-funded preschool (3)

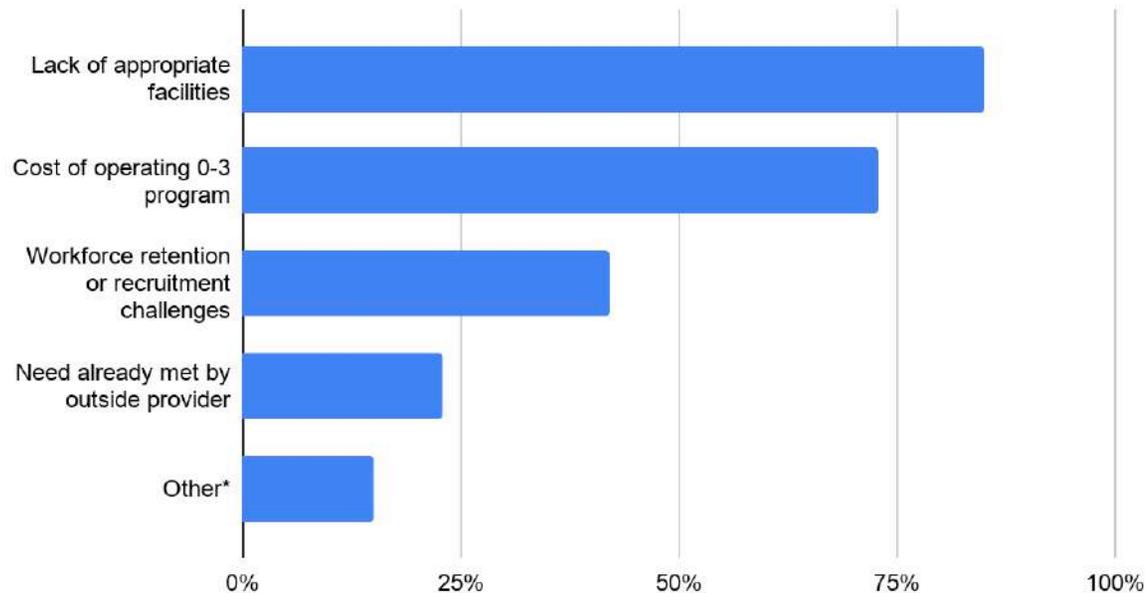
Plans to Create or Expand Preschool Program in District



Source: Survey conducted with school district ELSs as part of this Landscape Analysis; Feb 2020

# School District Perspectives on Infant/Toddler Care (Cont.)

Largest Barriers to Providing or Expanding Infant/Toddler Program



\*Other reasons included: awaiting shift from ADA to community-funded; meeting staffing and licensing requirements; all of the above

Source: Survey conducted with school district ELSs as part of this Landscape Analysis; Feb 2020

# Child Care Subsidies – Voucher Programs

- In CA, there are a number of **subsidized child care voucher programs** designed to both support caregiver participation in the work force and support child development
- Eligibility is based on the state median income (to qualify, families must earn below 85% of the state median income or \$80,623 for a family of four) and families must have a need (e.g. in school, seeking employment, working, etc.); the programs serve children from birth through 12 years of age
- Parents/**caregivers can use vouchers to purchase child care from licensed or license-exempt child care providers**
  - Licensed: Licensed Child Care Centers; Licensed Family Child Care Homes
  - License-exempt: Relative; Friend or Neighbor; Before or After School Programs
- There are three stages of voucher programs for families that are part of the Welfare-to-Work system or are working or in school (referred to as **Stage 1, 2, and 3 CalWORKs**)
- Another voucher program, the **CA Alternative Payment Program (CAPP)**, is for low-income working families (those not affiliated with CalWORKs) with children from birth through age 12
- **Key Players in Orange County:**
  - CalWORKs Stage 1 is administered by Orange County Social Services Agency (OC SSA)
  - CalWORKs Stages 2 & 3 and CAPP are managed by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and Children’s Home Society (CHS)

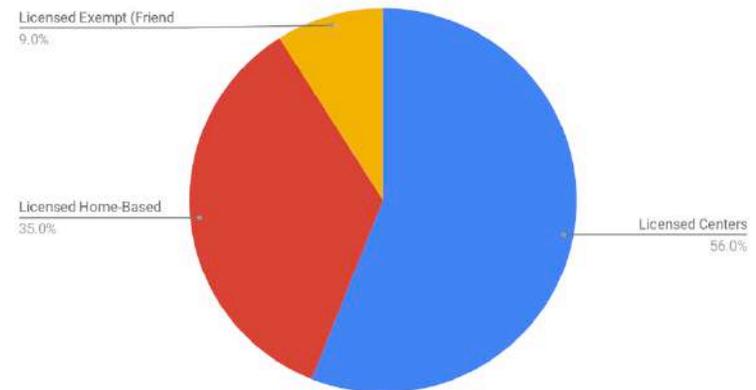
Sources: Key Stakeholder interviews; OCDE and CHS

# Child Care Subsidies – Voucher Programs (Cont.)

- Funding for voucher programs comes from the CA Department of Social Services (for Stage 1 CalWORKs) and CA Department of Education (for Stages 2 & 3 and CAPP)
- Total annual funding in Orange County in 2019/2020:
  - Stage 1 CalWORKs: \$5,745,858
  - Stage 2 CalWORKs: \$24,849,131
  - Stage 3 CalWORKs: \$17,071,083
  - CA Alternative Payment Program: \$47,605,017
- Approximately 2,000 children 0-2 are in families receiving vouchers to pay for child care
  - Vouchers are used for infants/toddlers (0-2) in Licensed Centers (56%) and Licensed Family Child Care Homes (35%)
- Vouchers are valued based on the Regional Market Rate (RMR) for child care (rates vary by age groups) and is different for each county; if a family chooses a provider that costs more they pay the difference through a copay
  - A Licensed Family Child Care Home provider shared that she sometimes has to waive the copay for families that can't afford it
- According to stakeholder interviews, the **reimbursement rate does not cover costs for care, particularly for infants/toddlers**

Sources: Key Stakeholder interviews; OCDE and CHS

How Vouchers Are Used for Children 0-2 (By Program Model):



# Quality Start OC

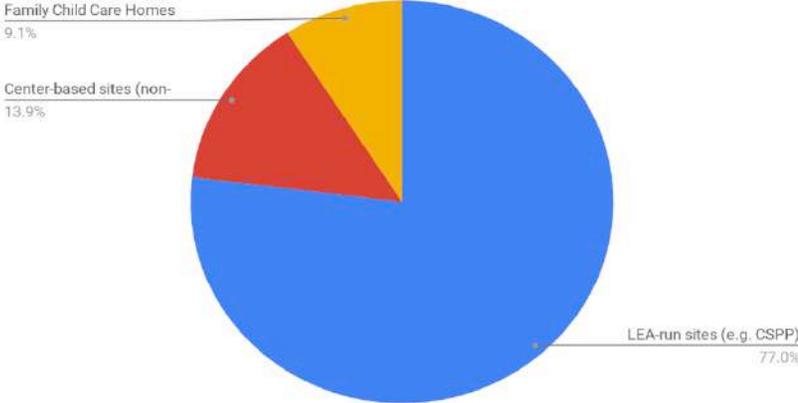
- Quality Start OC, led by the Orange County Department of Education, is focused on raising the quality of early learning programs across Orange County through:
  - **Training and technical assistance** for early education providers
  - **Operating Orange County's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)** or Quality Start OC QRIS
  - **Helping parents/caregivers** by providing information on what constitutes quality and offering a searchable list of Quality Start OC rated programs by city
- Quality Start OC QRIS **sets standards** for program quality based on 3 core areas, **rates programs based on a 5-star system** and **makes ratings available** for the public/caregivers
  - 3 core areas include: 1) Child Development and School Readiness (curriculum, assessments, developmental screenings); 2) Program and Environment (safety, parent involvement, etc.); and 3) Teachers and Teaching (interactions, planning, education and experience)
- Quality Start OC is **funded by the California Department of Education and First 5 CA**
  - CA Dept of Education: \$3,700,000
    - \$3,200,000 - CSPP QRIS Block Grant
    - \$500,000 - QCC Block Grant
  - First 5 CA: \$2,884,037
    - \$2,100,697 - IMPACT
    - \$783,340 - Hub

Sources: qualitystartoc.org; interviews with and data provided by OCDE

# Quality Start OC (Cont.)

- Over 400 provider sites throughout Orange County participate in some way in Quality Start OC; 277 were rated at the time this study was conducted
- 230 (83%) of sites are high quality (rating of 4 or 5 stars)

Early Learning Sites with 4 or 5 Star Rating by Provider Type (n=230)



Sources: qualitystartoc.org; interviews with and data provided by OCDE



# Early Development Index (EDI)

- The Early Development Index (EDI) is a **population-based measure of early child development and school readiness** in five key domains: physical health, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, and communications skills and general knowledge
- The EDI was licensed by UCLA in 2008 from the Offord Centre at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, and **First 5 Orange County pioneered its use in the United States**
- Today, the **EDI is a comprehensive, county-wide data set** that enables Orange County to make more strategic and informed decisions about allocating and prioritizing resources and services for young children
- EDI data can be looked at by neighborhood in Orange County, enabling it to be used for decision-making at local, regional and county-levels
- The EDI is funded by First 5 Orange County (\$520,000 over 3 years)

