

Early Childhood Council of Kern

Planning for quality early care and education.

We Thought You'd Like To Know!



What is the Council?

The Early Childhood Council of Kern (Council) is a 30-member, appointed advisory board working together to increase and enhance the quality of early childhood programs in Kern County. It is comprised of **people just like you!** Parents, early childhood professionals, employers, educators, public agencies, advocates—all with a common interest—increasing the availability of high quality early childhood services for young children ages birth to 12 years of age.

What does the Council do?

- ✓ Conducts child care needs assessments which are then used to determine local priorities and for the development of strategic plans.
- ✓ Provides information to the community regarding the importance of high quality early learning experiences for all young children.
- ✓ Distributes educational stipends through the Early Care and Education Retention Project.
- ✓ Coordinates trainings for the early childhood field
- ✓ Works with the County and its 11 incorporated cities to bring more **high quality early childhood services to local communities.**
- ✓ Collaborates with groups such as the business and faith based communities to address local early childhood needs.
- ✓ Advocates for children and the early childhood profession.

Why be involved?

- ✓ High quality early childhood programs are critical to a child's school and life success.
- ✓ We need input from across all sectors of the community in order to make fully informed decisions.
- ✓ We need you to help us shape the future of Kern County's children

How you can become involved?

- ✓ Participate with Council meetings—you don't have to be a member to attend!
- ✓ Apply to become an appointed member of the Council.
- ✓ Have your name added to the Council's electronic distribution list by contacting the Council office—you'll receive great information on events and resources.
- ✓ **Visit the Council's web site to learn more!**

Council meetings

The Council meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Bakersfield. Check the web site for location and agenda details. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate with all meetings.



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