



Early Childhood 101

The Future is in Our Hands

**Early Childhood
Council of Kern**

Early Care and Education



Critical to the success of two Kern County priorities:

- Helping families work**
- Ensuring that every child enters school ready to succeed**



Quality Early Childhood Makes A Lasting Impact



- Years between birth & kindergarten are crucial to children's brain development
- Quality early childhood programs play an important role in school readiness
- Shapes a child's future
 - Research shows that positive effects of quality early childhood programs can last into adulthood, especially for at-risk children



Quality Statement



The Early Childhood Council of Kern believes that a high quality early childhood setting promotes:

Child development

- Enhancement of the whole child through physical, social, emotional and intellectual development with respect to a child's ability and culture,
- Frequent, positive, warm interactions appropriate to a child's age and development,
- Varied learning activities appropriate to a child's age and development.

Health and safety

- Healthy, safe, and nurturing environments,
- Provision of nutritious meals and snacks,
- Knowledgeable and skilled providers to respond to the needs of each child.

Effective Program Administration

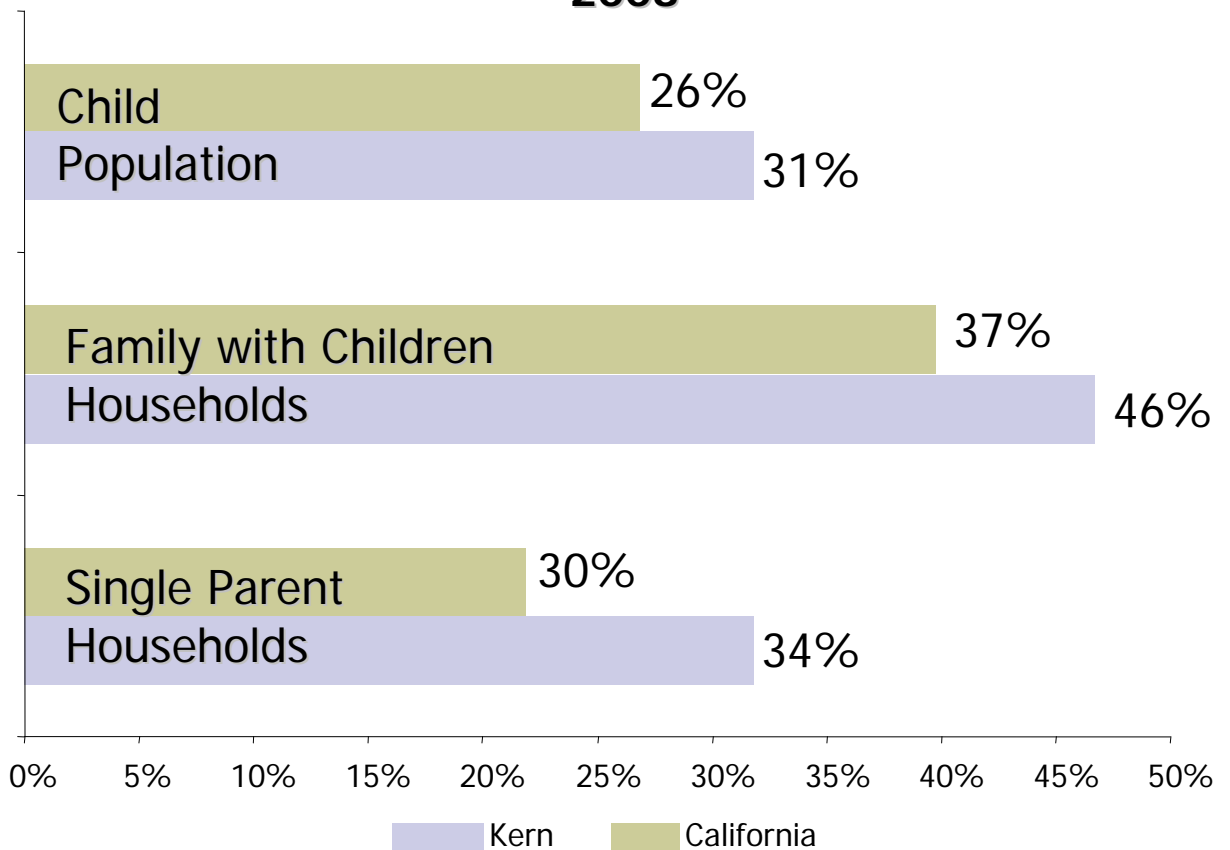
- On-going communication with families and opportunities for meaningful family involvement,
- Opportunities for training and support for providers,
- Implementation of an on-going systematic evaluation process.

Kern's Most Precious Resource



- 31% of Kern's population are children
- Nearly half of Kern's households have children
- More than one-third are single parent households

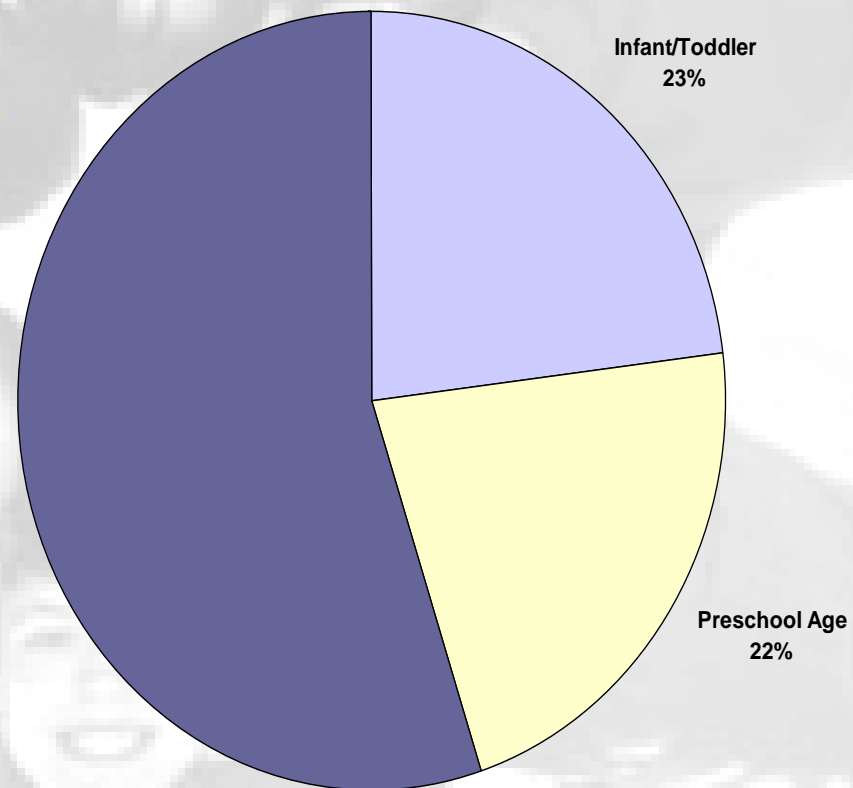
**A Young Population:
Kern & California
2008**



Access to Early Childhood Programs: A Challenge for Kern County Families



Nearly 101,000 Kern County children ages birth to 13 years need access to high quality early childhood programs



Cost is an Obstacle



- **Kern County's average cost of full-time care for one young child in a licensed center is:**

Infant/Toddler (birth – 2 years)

\$8,736 annually or **\$728** per month

Equals 20% of Kern County's median income for families with children

Preschool age (3 - 5 years)

\$6,384 annually or **\$532** per month

School age

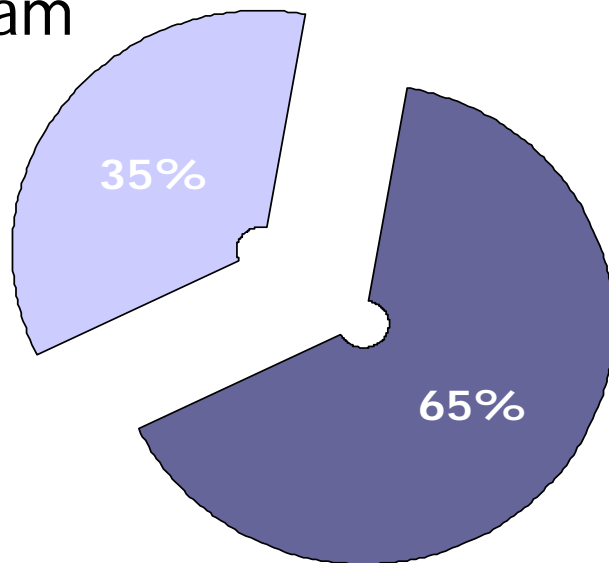
\$4,380 annually or **\$365** per month



Families Struggle to Afford Care



Early Childhood Program



Household Income

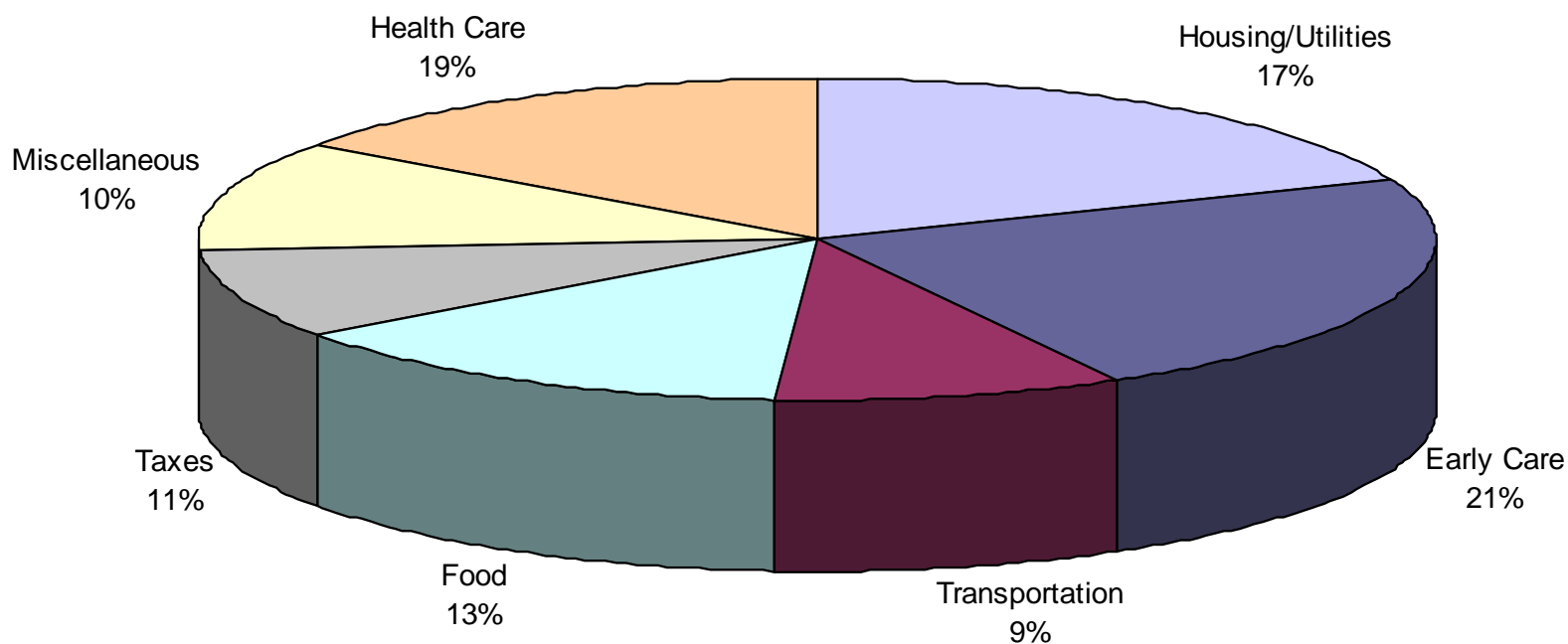
In 2008, Kern County's estimated median household income was \$3,598 per month. For two children (a toddler & a preschooler), approximately 35% of that monthly income was needed for child care.

For families with one minimum wage salary (\$1,387 per month) the cost is more than 91% of their earnings!!

Reality for a Single Parent



A Kern County single parent would need to earn
\$25.55/hour to meet
all basic needs each month



Early Care is the largest living expense!

Early Childhood Programs



Child Development Center

- A facility which is not a family residence and is specifically designed to provide early care and education services.
- Is licensed through the California Department of Social Services/Community Care Licensing.
- Usually serve at least 24 children Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Can be private for-profit, private non-profit, or publicly funded (for income eligible families).
- Staff are required to have child development units, be free of tuberculosis and a criminal background.

Family Child Care

- Care that is provided to children in an individual's home.
- Licensed through the California Department of Social Services/Community Care Licensing.
- Will have either a small (6 to 8 children) or large (12 to 14 children) license. A large license requires a second adult provider.
- No child development units are required however providers must attend a licensing orientation and complete fifteen hours of health and safety training.
- Many providers offer care during non-traditional hours and on weekends.
- Each person over 18 years of age living in the providers' home must be free of tuberculosis and a criminal background.

License Exempt Care

- Care that is delivered by a provider that is exempt from the Title 22 and Title 5 State licensing requirements.
- May be a child's relative, guardian or conservator, or an adult that cares for the children of only one other family besides their own.
- Those other than Aunts, Uncles or Grandparents must go through the Trustline Process if they are receiving subsidies.
- Exempt providers are not required to obtain any training, however, in Kern County, exempt providers being paid with subsidy funds are required to attend an orientation in addition to going through the Trustline process.

Licensing Differences



Title 22

- Authority: The California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing.
- Licenses and monitors all child development centers and family child care homes in California.
- The licensee must meet standards including basic health and safety, staff education/training requirements and adult:child ratios.

Title 5

- Authority: California Department of Education, Child Development Division.
- Must adhere to Title 22 regulations in addition to the Program Standards of Title 5.
- Designed to meet the developmental needs of children who are eligible to receive state subsidized child development services.
- Have lower adult:child ratios, higher staffing standards, and curriculum requirements not present in Title 22 regulations.

Two Categories of Early Childhood Programs: Licensed



- Licensed

- Family Care

- Small
 - 1 adult
 - 1-8 children
 - Large
 - 2 adults
 - 7-14 children

- Center Care

- Private for profit
 - Private non profit
 - Subsidized (State and Federal)
 - Military Based



Access to Early Childhood Programs: A Challenge for Kern County Families



Licensed capacity in Kern County as of
December 2008:

- Licensed child development centers
 - 205 centers
 - approximately 11,400 spaces
- Family child care providers
 - 1,020 homes
 - approximately 10,026 spaces



Subsidies are Severely Limited for Families in Need



- No state can serve all families eligible for assistance under state and federal guidelines.
- In Kern County, there are approx. 4,902 subsidized spaces. There are an additional 6,108 children on the eligibility list in need of care.
 - 37% Infant/Toddler
 - 34% Preschool Age
 - 29% School Age
- Average of 11 children placed on the eligibility list each day.



How are Early Childhood Programs Paid For?



- Parent Fee: paid directly by the parent typically on a weekly or monthly basis.
- Subsidies: family must apply and be found financially eligible for either center based programs or voucher programs.

Options for Parents: Parent Fee



- Private Child Care Centers
 - Licensed Family Child Care
 - License-Exempt Care
 - Before/After School Programs
 - School Readiness Programs



Options for Parents: Subsidies



Center Based Programs:

- California State Preschool Program (Full and half day programs)
- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- CalSAFE: Parenting Teens
- Migrant Center
- Before/After School Programs
- School Readiness Programs

Voucher Programs:

- CA Alternative Payment
 - Migrant Alternative Payment
 - CalWORKs Child Care
 - Workforce Investment Act
- (Note: Parent may use licensed or license-exempt care)

Federal Eligibility:

Up to 100% of Federal Poverty Guidelines = \$18,310 per year for a family of 3

State Eligibility:

Up to 75% of the State Median Income = \$45, 228 per year for a family of 3

Early Childhood and the Economic Infrastructure



As of December 2008:

- The early care and education industry in Kern County generated \$197 million for the local economy (greater than the cattle or alfalfa industries in Kern County)
- Provided direct employment for more than 9,000 people



Early Childhood Council of Kern: Meeting the Challenge



- Assessing the need for all Kern County Families.
- Planning for quality early care and education for Kern County children.



Early Childhood Council of Kern



Kern's Child Care and Development Planning Council

Funded by

California Department of Education,
Child Development Division

Governed by

Kern County Board of Supervisors and
Kern County Superintendent of Schools



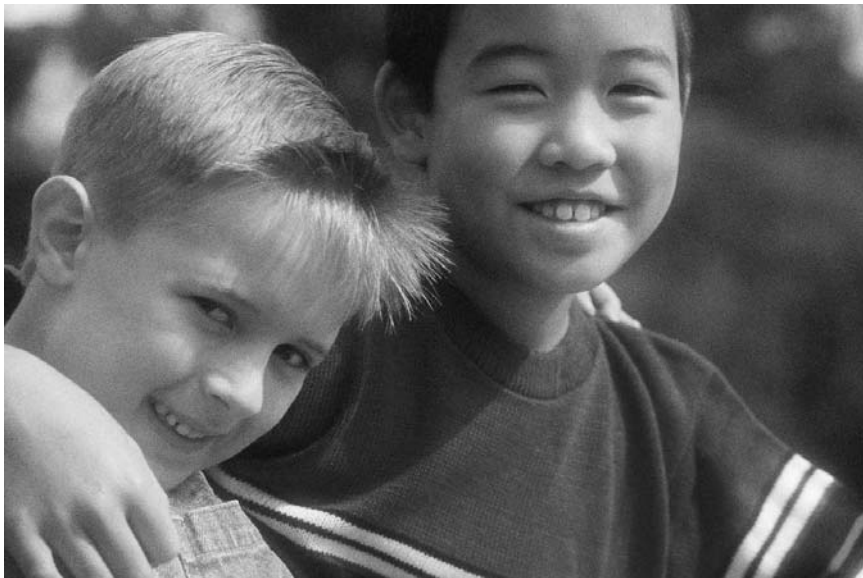
Early Childhood Council of Kern



Mission Statement

The Early Childhood Council of Kern is dedicated to promoting and supporting a community-wide effort that results in a high quality child care system which meets the needs of all Kern

County children and families.



Who We Are



The Early Childhood Council of Kern is an appointed advisory group working together to increase and enhance the quality of early childhood programs. The Council is a good mix of people from a variety of areas and professions in Kern County who advocate for children.

Mandated Council Composition



The Council is composed of 30 members, half each being appointed by the Kern County Board of Supervisors and the Kern County Superintendent of Schools

- 20% child care consumers
- 20% child care providers
- 20% public agency representatives
- 20% community representatives
- 20% discretionary

What We Do



- Advocate for all children and the early childhood profession.
- Act as a voice for communicating the importance of high quality early learning experiences for all children.
- Assess the early childhood field through needs assessments and center surveys.
- Promote professional development, education & training of the early childhood workforce.
- Provide leadership & resources in identifying and addressing key issues.



What We Do



- Act as a forum for the sharing of knowledge & information among early childhood stakeholders and facilitate community collaborations.
- Distribute educational stipends through the Early Care and Education Retention Project.
- Work with local government, the business and faith-based communities and the general public to address local early childhood issues including capacity building technical assistance.



Meetings



General Council Meetings

First Wednesday of each month

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

University Square Building, 2000 "K" Street, Bakersfield

The public is welcome to participate
with all meetings

Contact Information



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