

SACRAMENTO COUNTY LOCAL CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COUNCIL

**Methodology for Assessment of Child Care Needs in Sacramento County (March 2006)**

**Objective:** To identify and prioritize geographic regions, at the zip code level, that are most in need of additional child care resources and services.

**Approach:** All zip codes in the county will receive a child care needs priority score based on three indicators of need for general child care and development services. The three indicators and their weightings in the methodology are described in the table below.

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Description</i>
Capacity Needs Indicator (33%)	Estimates the need for childcare services by comparing the size of the resident population of children from birth through age twelve (demand) with the number of available licensed childcare slots (capacity). The estimate is weighted according to the availability of childcare services for children in three age groups (0-2, 3-5 & 6-12) because the cost of providing childcare services varies considerably by age.
Educational Needs Indicator (33%)	Increases the ranking where there is a relatively greater need for additional educational services or resources to serve children (1) at risk of abuse or neglect, (2) of migrant workers, (3) with disabilities, (4) whose home language is other than English, and (5) at risk of low academic achievement.
Financial Needs Indicator (33%)	Increases the ranking based on the number of families with financial limitations that may prohibit them from obtaining child care services.

**Scoring Formula:** Each of the three indicators will be incorporated in the scoring for a total of 1000 maximum points indicating the highest priority zip code area. The value for each of the three indicators will range from 0 (low priority) to 1 (high priority). Because the three indicators are weighted equally, the Priority Score is calculated by taking the average of the three indicator values and multiplying by 1,000 to obtain a whole number that could theoretically range from 0 (low priority) to 1,000 (high priority) as indicated in the calculation formula below.

**Formula**

<p><b>PRIORITY SCORE = [ ( A + B + C ) ÷ 3 ] x 1000</b></p> <p><u>Key</u></p> <p>A = Capacity Needs Indicator            B = Educational Needs Indicator            C = Financial Needs Indicator</p>
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**CAPACITY NEEDS INDICATOR**

Funding for childcare services should be allocated where there is the greatest number of children for who childcare services are not available. The Capacity Needs Indicator estimates the adequacy of available childcare services by comparing the size of the resident population of children from birth through age twelve (demand) with the number of available licensed childcare slots (capacity). This results in a higher Priority Score for those zip code areas with a greater proportion of children for whom no licensed childcare slots are available.

Furthermore, because regulated caregiver ratios and the hours of care needed per week vary considerably for children of different ages, the Capacity Needs Indicator is weighted according to the unmet demand for childcare services in three age group populations: (1) infants/toddlers, (2) preschool-age, and (3) school-age. The age group weightings are based on adjustment factors specified in *Education Code* Section 8265.5 and used by the California Department of Education to reimburse child development contractors. The age group weightings used for the Childcare Need Indicator are as follows:

- Infants and toddlers (0 to 2 years of age) are weighted by a factor of 1.55,
- Preschool children (3 to 5 years of age) are unweighted (i.e., factor of 1), and
- School-age children (6-to-12-years of age) are weighted by a factor of .25.

**Formula**

$$\text{CAPACITY NEEDS INDICATOR} = [(1.55 \times A + B + .25 \times C) \div D] \times 300$$

Key

- A = Number of infants and toddlers for whom no childcare slots are available
- B = Number of preschool children for whom no childcare slots are available
- C = Number of unserved school-age children for whom no childcare slots are available
- D = Total number of children age 0-to-12 in population

**Data Sources**

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Source</i>
Licensed Childcare Capacity by Age Group	Child Action, Inc. R&R database with licensing capacity data from county and state agencies; updated quarterly
Size of Resident Population Age 0 to 12	United States Census Bureau <a href="http://www.census.gov">www.census.gov</a> QT-P2. Single Years of Age Under 30 Years and Sex: 2000

**EDUCATIONAL NEEDS INDICATOR**

Funding for childcare services should be allocated where additional resources are required to meet the needs of children most at risk of entering school lacking critical readiness skills. This indicator will increase the Priority Score for those zip code areas that are likely to have a greater proportion of children requiring additional resources. The Educational Needs Indicator is calculated by averaging across five percentage-based indicators.

**Formula**

<b>EDUCATIONAL NEEDS INDICATOR = <math>([A+B+C+D+E] \div 5)</math></b>	
<u>Key</u>	
A =	Percent of children at risk of abuse or neglect
B =	Percent of children from families of migrant workers
C =	Percent of children with disabilities
D =	Percent of children whose home language is other than English
E =	Percent of children at risk for low academic achievement

**Data Sources**

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Source</i>
A. Child Protective Services Total Referrals Rate per 1,000 Children Aged 0-17	Community Services Planning Council <a href="http://www.communitycouncil.org">www.communitycouncil.org</a> Social Indicator Reports by Zip Code in Sacramento County: 2003
B. Percent of Foreign Born Non-Citizens in Total Population	United States Census Bureau <a href="http://www.census.gov">www.census.gov</a> QT-P14. Nativity, Citizenship, Year of Entry, and Region of Birth: 2000
C. Percent of Population 5 to 15 Years with a Disability	United States Census Bureau <a href="http://www.census.gov">www.census.gov</a> QT-P21. Disability Status by Sex: 2000
D. Percent of Primary Language Non-English in Total Population	Community Services Planning Council <a href="http://www.communitycouncil.org">www.communitycouncil.org</a> Social Indicator Reports by Zip Code in Sacramento County: 2003
E. Percent of Total Number of Mothers in Zip Code with Highest Educational Attainment Below Grade 12	Community Services Planning Council <a href="http://www.communitycouncil.org">www.communitycouncil.org</a> Social Indicator Reports by Zip Code in Sacramento County: 2003

**FINANCIAL NEEDS INDICATOR**

Access to childcare services is largely dependent on the income levels of families requiring services. The Financial Needs Indicator increases the ranking based on the percent of children in working families whose incomes are less than 75 percent of the State Median Income.

**Formula**

<b>FINANCIAL NEEDS =</b>  <b>(NUMBER IN LOW INCOME FAMILIES ÷ TOTAL FAMILIES IN POPULATION)</b>
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**Data Sources**

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Source</i>
Percentage of Households with Income Less than \$34,999	Community Services Planning Council <a href="http://www.communitycouncil.org">www.communitycouncil.org</a> Social Indicator Reports by Zip Code in Sacramento County: 2003

**SAMPLE PRIORITY SCORE CALCULATIONS**

**Low Priority Example**

<b>PRIORITY SCORE = [ ( A + B + C ) ÷ 3 ] x 1000</b>	
<u>Data</u>	
Capacity Needs Indicator	= .004
Educational Needs Indicator	= .101
Financial Needs Indicator	= .341
<b>Priority Score</b>	<b>= 149</b>

**High Priority Example**

<b>PRIORITY SCORE = [ ( A + B + C ) ÷ 3 ] x 1000</b>	
<u>Data</u>	
Capacity Needs Indicator	= .851
Educational Needs Indicator	= .590
Financial Needs Indicator	= .578
<b>Priority Score</b>	<b>= 673</b>