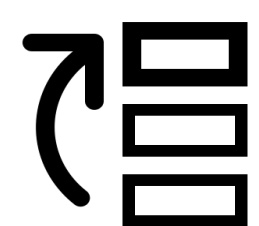


Access to Childcare



Why is this topic important?

Improving affordable childcare in Inland SoCal supports job retention and fosters career advancement, particularly for women and single parents, ultimately strengthening the overall local economy.

Why is Access to Childcare important for a strong and inclusive regional economy?

Accessible child care enables more people to pursue education and training, boosts productivity and entrepreneurship by alleviating caregiving burdens faced by many workers in low income families.

Reliable childcare boosts the labor pool and competitiveness while supporting educational or career advancement pursuits, leading to greater economic mobility and a more resilient economy.

Expanding accessible, affordable and reliable childcare can significantly reduce economic disparities and support equity-seeking groups in Inland Southern California including women, single parents, and minority entrepreneurs. Affordable childcare accessibility would increase and foster job retention and productivity, entrepreneurship and career advancement efforts by reducing major financial burdens, especially within low-income families.



What we have heard from the community ...

For example, Len noted that childcare can hinder access to education for young parents, that “sometimes it's just like, Oh, we don't get enough money. I don't qualify for this. I don't qualify for that. So financing is a main obstacle. *And especially if it's a young girl who's had a child early, then there's that. ... How is she going to make it to the school and still look after her kid even though they have the online stuff now? ... Sometimes it's like, what if what they want is not offered online?* ”

Connie Stopher, Executive Director of the Economic Development Coalition in Temecula, noted that affordable access to quality childcare impacts all parties - both in terms of youth outcomes but also in terms of helping parents in terms of time and finances. Stopher even went so far as to suggest that “*if we could somehow tackle this childcare system societally in a systemic sort of way, that it would have transformational impacts upon our workforce*”, and on you know, in the future, our future workforce.”



Key data findings...

People don't always have money to afford additional training and childcare that could be needed to attend school outside of their already long work hours.

We need more community-based day care facilities to allow workers to work.

In the two-county region, the financial impact of childcare is particularly evident when considering **the substantial costs of full-time care for infants**. In Riverside County, the annual cost for full-time infant care in a child care center is approximately \$15,504, while in San Bernardino County, it's slightly lower at about \$15,240. In family child care homes, these costs are \$11,472 in Riverside and \$11,292 in San Bernardino, as reported by the Regional Market Rate Survey of California child care providers in 2021.^[1] These figures highlight the substantial financial burden placed on families, especially those with younger children.

Source: <https://rrnetwork.org/research/child-care-data-tool#!0>



Strategies and tactics

Collaborate with local childcare providers to expand capacity to offer reliable and affordable childcare options : Collaborating with and supporting local entrepreneurs in childcare businesses to expand reliable and affordable childcare by providing financial and wraparound services, such as transportation and legal assistance to meet local demand.

Provide incentives for businesses that offer on-site childcare facilities and/or subsidies for employees : Tax incentives or grants to businesses that establish on-site childcare facilities and/or develop subsidy programs, would enhance workforce development while integrating with broader industrial policies and wealth building efforts.

Advocate for policy changes to increase funding for childcare subsidies and infrastructure : Advocacy for increased state and federal funding for childcare subsidies and infrastructure to integrate funding and training resources while also securing grants to expand existing facilities and improve the quality of existing childcare.

Establish government-funded childcare assistance programs for low-income families : Increased government funding towards childcare would establish eligibility criteria and streamline the application process for families, foster partnerships with local childcare providers to ensure high-quality care and follow through on state and federal initiatives to support early childhood education.

Invest in training and certifying more childcare professionals to meet demand : Efforts to invest and train and certify more childcare professionals through comprehensive programs, financial incentives and collaboration with local institutions or agencies to address the shortage of childcare providers and improve service quality.

Partner with community organizations to provide childcare vouchers or scholarships : Partnering with community organizations to provide childcare vouchers or scholarships and incentivizing employer collaboration would address the challenges faced by childcare providers and support them in providing affordable local childcare access for low income families.

TOPIC

(Economic Mobility and Wealth -Building)



Why is this topic important?

INSERT TEXT

What we have heard from community?

INSERT TEXT / QUOTES

Key data findings...

INSERT GRAPH(S) / TEXT



Strategies and tactics

INSERT TEXT