



Lassen County Office of Education

472-013 Johnstonville Road North • Susanville, CA 96130-8752
530.257.2196 Fax 530.257.2518

Patricia Gunderson, Superintendent

Teanna Day and Jamie Schultze
Lassen County Local Child Care Planning Council
472-013 Johnstonville Road, North
Susanville, CA 96130

March 12, 2025

Lassen County Board of Supervisors
220 S Lassen St. #4
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Supervisors,

In 1991, with the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 2141 the Lassen Child Care Planning Council was established. In 1997 Welfare Reform legislation, AB 1542, mandated Child Care Planning Councils in each county. The Council continues to operate in Lassen County and actively works toward the development of high-quality child-care services.

The primary mission of the Local Planning Council (LPC) is to plan for child care development services based on the needs of families in the local community. The LPC serves as a forum to address the child care needs of all families in the community for all types of child care, both subsidized and non-subsidized.

Section 84993(b) of AB 1542 states the County of Board of Supervisors and County Superintendents of Schools shall certify the members of the Local Child Care Planning Council. There are currently nine active council members. In accordance to AB 1542, the Lassen Child Care Planning Council is submitting the *2025-2026 Certification Statement Regarding Composition of LPC Membership* for consideration of approval by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

Jamie Schultze


Teanna Day and Jamie Schultze
Local Planning Council Coordinator

Lassen County

Child Care Planning Council

Strategic Plan

2020 – 2025

Lassen Child Care Planning Council
Lassen County Office of Education
Child and Family Resources
472-013 Johnstonville Road, North
Susanville, Ca 96130
(530) 257-9781



Lassen Child Care Planning Council

HISTORY

In October 1991, the United States Congress established a federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) through which each state was allocated funds to assist low-income families in obtaining child care and development services.

Subsequently, California developed a State Plan which specified that local communities should have a voice in the appropriation and allocation of CCDBG funds. In the same year, AB2141 authored by Assemblywoman Jackie Speier was passed which requested each county to establish a Local Child Care and Development Planning Council (LPC) to identify priorities for CCDBG funds based on the needs of families. In 1997, AB1542 was passed establishing welfare reform legislation (CalWORKS) revising the membership and responsibilities of local planning councils and establishing the County Superintendent of Schools and the County Board of Supervisors as the governing and appointing bodies of the Council. There are currently 58 individual planning councils representing each county in California. As council members are appointed by the public agencies, the councils are required to conduct business in accordance with The Brown Act.

The primary mission of the LPCs is to plan for child care and development services based on the needs of families in the local community. Through collaborative efforts with other individuals and organizations interested in the welfare of families, LPCs should also support the existing child care infrastructure by coordinating services that are locally available. As a result of planning, collaboration, and support for the child care systems that exist, the LPCs plan and determine local priorities for new state and federal funds. In order to be fully effective, councils are highly encouraged to strengthen the partnerships with both public and private organizations in each county. By forming strong community partnerships, each group involved becomes empowered to share their ideas and concerns during the local planning process.

Although the new language on governing local child care planning councils is found in the welfare reform legislation, the purpose and scope of the LPC goes beyond child care programs funded by the federal block grant. LPCs are intended to serve as a forum to address the child care needs of all families in the community and all child care programs – including both subsidized and non-subsidized child care.



Mission Statement

The mission of the Local Lassen Child Care Planning Council is to provide leadership and assistance in the establishment and support of quality child care by:

- ❖ Supporting quality child development programs and quality relationships in a child's life
- ❖ Assisting in the expansion and development of child care programs
- ❖ Serving as a focal point for community support of child care
- ❖ Supporting and enhancing the training and recruitment of child care professionals

Lassen Planning Council Membership Composition

20% Consumers:

Courtney Hanna - Parent
Ashley Beavers – Parent

20% Child Care Providers:

Brenda Poteete- Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities Head Start
James Hall – LCOE After School Program

20% Public Agency Representative:

Ronda Hall- Lassen County Public Health
Brie Buckler - Foster and Homeless Youth Educational Coordinator

20% Community Representatives:

Phoebe Freeman – Quality Counts

20% Discretionary Appointees:

Melissa Rojas- Community Member
Brittany Morin - Community Member



Parental Responsibility and Choices

The Lassen County Child Care Planning Council recognizes the fact that parents or guardians have the right and responsibility to make the best decisions for their child. Often, parents or guardians must make the critical decision to find care for their child so they can work outside the home.

Lassen Planning Council supports the parent or guardian's right to choose the appropriate care for their child. The Lassen Planning Council is striving to provide information and resources to assist parents and guardians in making the appropriate choice for their child's care.

The Council supports the local Resource and Referral program which provides information to parents and guardians of the options for child care in centers or licensed family child care. The Council also supports the Resource and Referral program which offers subsidized child care for qualifying families.

The Council's purpose is to advocate for and advise on county-wide child care programs and services to meet the varying needs of children and families of Lassen County.

Goal

Throughout the next five years, the Local Lassen Planning Child Care Council (LPC) will facilitate conversations and projects which support the needs of children and families for Lassen County. Through collaboration and coordination LPC hopes to support implementation of resources through a variety of agencies. By implementing this plan, the children of Lassen County will have a healthier environment and families will be supported enhancing the future.



Child Care Information

The following statistics are current as of June 2020:

- There are currently 697 available child care slots in Lassen County.
 - 121 designated School-age
 - 283 designated Preschool
 - 72 designated Infant & Toddler
 - 221 designated After School
- There are currently 442 year-round available child care slots in Lassen County at Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes
- There are 166 available child care slots in Family Child Care (FCC) in 15 active homes.
 - 8 active licensed large family homes (12 - 14 children)
 - 7 active licensed small family homes (6 - 8 children)
 - 5 offer possible care for non-traditional hours
- Lassen County's economic base is correctional officers for the three working prisons and the employees that maintain forests in the Lassen and Plumas Districts.
- The decrease in budget funding for child care and child care institutions Lassen County, of the State of California, and the United States of America has impacted the families in Lassen County greatly.
- The rural setting and vast distances between the communities of Lassen County present barriers for obtaining employment and child care services, especially in South County and Westwood.
- There is a need for child care during non-traditional hours of care, including extended hours, overnight, and weekends due to the fact that the economic base requires traditional and non-traditional hours of child care for employed families.
- There is a need for more infant and toddler child care.

*Information from the *Network Child Care Portfolio 2013* and Lassen Child and Family Resource



Strategic Plan Summary

The Lassen Local Child Care Planning Council meets regularly on the third Thursday of the month to discuss and notify agencies and individuals of programs and activities which support the families of Lassen County. Through this interaction, Lassen County is better able to serve the families and children through conversation and development of planned programs and support each agency's program.

LPC, with reduced funding of AB212, plans to collaborate with agencies to offer opportunities for families and child care providers to attend activities which provide information and strengthens families and programs for children.

Collaboration – LPC supports activities which provide information and training for child care providers, parents, and agencies to enhance the care of children. LPC supports all activities which improve the quality of care for all children and families of Lassen County.

LPC Website – The Website will be supported and maintained to provide information about LPC, Child and Family Resources, Subsidized Child Care information, Lending Library, Low Cost Car Seat Program, Exceptional Connections, and other pertinent information of family and child care needs. Links to agencies and information for families and child care.

Marketing – The marketing campaign plan is to recruit new family child care providers through posters and advertising on social media. Posters will be distributed throughout the community of Lassen County to inform the public of the advantages of Family Child Care Homes.

Give-away items and incentive bags will be used to promote Child and Family Resources which provides information to promote quality child care.

Ongoing outreach throughout the year will be done to promote child care in Lassen County.

Survey of Needs – A survey of parental and a survey of provider needs will be conducted every five years. The Survey will begin at the annual Children's Fair occurring on the first Saturday of May and will be conducted throughout the summer ending in August. The surveys will be compiled and presented at the November LPC meeting and available on the LPC website the first of November.



Priorities for 2020-2025

1. A need for more child care slots available for infants and toddlers.
2. A need for more child care slots available during non-traditional hours, evening, overnight, and weekend.
3. A need for more child care slots available in the outlying areas, out of Susanville, in Lassen County.
4. Support and maintain the information of the Lassen Planning Council at the Child and Family Resources Website as funding allows.
5. Support a Community Resource Directory maintained by Lassen County Public Health Department.
6. Provide professional learning opportunities and resources to child care providers to enhance the quality of child care programs.

Strengths and Weaknesses of Lassen County Child Care Needs

Strengths:

- Small community
- Local support
- Strong child care collaboration

Weaknesses:

- Weather
- Transportation
- Rural
- Large geographic region
- Economically depressed
- Shortage of Infant and toddler care
- Shortage of non-traditional, evening, overnight, and weekend care
- Lack of funding available



