
Early Child Care Strategic Plan & Needs Assessment

Mariposa County



June 2009

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Mariposa County Local Child Care Planning Council
"Promoting and supporting a community-wide effort
that results in a child care system that meets the needs of our children."





Mission and Goals

Mission

On behalf of Mariposa children, the Child Care Planning Council is dedicated to promoting and supporting a community-wide effort that results in a child care system that meets the needs of all our children.

Goals

THE LOCAL CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL WILL:

- ❖ Promote and enhance public awareness of child care issues.
- ❖ Develop a variety of child care choices.
- ❖ Work to improve the quality of child care in Mariposa County.
- ❖ Recognize child care providers in a formal way.

Age Ranges Defined

Throughout this document three different age ranges of children are referenced. Each is defined as follows:



Infants/Toddlers
Birth to 23 months of age

Preschoolers
2-5 years, 11 months of age



School-aged Children
6 years of age & older



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Strategic Plan



2009 – 2014

Background

Purpose

The primary purpose of the Mariposa County Local Child Care Planning Council (LCP), as defined by state statutes and regulations, is to bring together all the resources of our communities to identify, assess, and prioritize the early care and education needs within Mariposa County and to develop plans to address these needs. A secondary purpose is to act as an advocate to insure that all children of Mariposa County have these needs met.

History

In October 1991, the United States Congress established a federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). Through this grant, each state was allocated funds to assist low income families in obtaining child care services. In the same year, Assembly Bill 2141 was authored and passed. Bill 2141 mandated each county in California establish a Local Child Care Planning Council to identify county-wide priorities for CCDBG grant funds based on the child care needs and development services of all children and families living in its respective county. This was a historical turning point for child care. For the first time in California child care history, local communities were given a voice in the appropriation and allocation of child care dollars.

In 1994, the Child Care Planning Council functioned as a voluntary group of individuals coming together in the interest of Mariposa County children. In 1996, the advent of federal and state welfare reform legislation caused the next significant milestone in the Planning Council's history. The new welfare reform legislation had a strong emphasis on moving responsibility to each county to create and to administer welfare programs. This emphasis impacted the role of the Planning Council. In 1997-1998, the California Department of Education Child Development Division significantly increased the dollar amount given to each county Planning Council.

In September 1998, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, in conjunction with the Mariposa County Superintendent of Schools, sanctioned the formation of the Mariposa County Child Care Planning Council. The Council's first task was to submit local child care priorities for appropriation and allocation of federal Child Care and Development Block funds.

Since this time, Mariposa County's Local Child Care Planning Council has functioned as a formal organization to carry out the mandates of Bill 2141 and engage the community in the development of annual child care priorities for Mariposa County.

Responsibilities

According to Education Code section 8499.3, the local Planning Council membership has the following responsibilities:

- Conduct an assessment of child care needs in the county no less than once every five years.
- Prepare local comprehensive countywide child care plans designed to mobilize public and private resources to address identified needs.
- Identify local funding priority areas for child care services for General Child Care and Development Programs for new state and federal funds.
- Conduct local forums to encourage public input in the development of local priorities.
- Foster local partnerships with subsidized and non-subsidized providers, local and state children and families commissions, county welfare departments, human service agencies, regional centers, job training programs, employers, parent organizations, early start family resource centers, family empowerment centers on disability, local child care resource and referral programs, and other interested parties.
- Coordinate part-day programs, including state preschool and Head Start, with other child care and development services to provide full-day child care.
- Collaborate with local First Five Commission and other entities to carry out child care staff retention initiatives.

Roles

The Council fulfills its legislative purpose and pursues its vision by serving the following roles within Mariposa County:

Planning: We develop and regularly revise a comprehensive countywide strategic plan for early care and education.

Coordination: We offer a common ground for service providers to share ideas, communicate needs, research solutions, coordinate services, and avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.

Advocacy: We are a catalyst for enhancement of child care services, advocating for child development issues, funding, community involvement, and the importance of child care quality and availability.

Education: We educate service providers and the public at large on state and local child care issues, serving as a central information resource on child care options and issues.

Promoting Quality: We promote initiatives for maximizing the quality of early care and education services, including advancement of education opportunities for service providers.

Capacity Building: We work to enhance the level of services in order to meet current and projected community needs for child care.

Support: We offer support for addressing the needs and concerns of service providers, advocating for the needs of providers within the county.

Evaluation: We evaluate the effectiveness of the Mariposa County Local Child Care Planning Council's efforts and strive to use evaluation results to improve the outcomes achieved for children and parents in our county.

Guiding Principles

The actions of the Council are guided by a strong commitment to the following principles and values:

- ◆ We value, respect, and honor diversity in culture, language, community, special needs, and other forms of diversity. Further, we are open to expression and encourage participation from diverse viewpoints.
- ◆ We seek to be inclusive, striving to help all people throughout the entire county who may somehow be impacted by the early care and education system.
- ◆ Our central focus is advocacy for children and families. As part of our family focus, we honor parental choices in selecting child care.
- ◆ We value collaboration and partnerships, through which we avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. Working together, we create a greater good.
- ◆ Quality care develops children. Recognizing that children deserve quality child care and early education, we honor the work that leads to quality care.
- ◆ We seek to be creative and to be open to new ideas and new learning.
- ◆ We treat all people with courtesy, respect, and honesty.
- ◆ We are committed to evaluating the results of our efforts in order to ensure accountability and use the learning from the evaluations to achieve greater results in the future.
- ◆ The Mariposa County Local Child Care Planning Council will be operated in an effective, accountable, ethical manner. It will be fiscally responsible and well managed. It will develop and support leadership from within. We will recognize and honor the hard work of the Council and be willing to promote the beliefs of the Council.

Membership

Planning Council membership follows the specific mandate of California State law. The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools each appoint one-half of the members. In the case of uneven membership, both appointing entities shall agree on the odd-numbered appointee. Presently, 10 members sit on the Planning Council.

According to Education Code § 8499.5, the local Planning Council membership shall be comprised of the following:

- 20% shall be consumers of child care: a parent or person who receives, or who has received child care services within the past 36 months.

- 20% shall be child care providers, reflective of the range of child care providers in the county: a person who provides child care services, or represents persons who provide child care services.
- 20% shall be public agency representatives: a person who represents a city, county, city and county, or local educational agency.
- 20% shall be community representatives: a person who represents an agency or business that provides private funding for child care services, or who advocates for child care services through participation in civic or community-based organizations but is not a child care provider and does not represent an agency that contracts with the State Department of Education to provide child care and development services.
- 20% shall be at the discretion of the appointing agencies.

Members of the Mariposa Local Child Care Planning Council

MEMBERS

ALTERNATES

-Child Care Provider Representatives-

Susan Johnson
Child Care Provider
(209) 966-5988

Margaret Essary
Head Start Teacher
(209) 966-6161

Marie Pretzer
Child Care Provider
(209) 966-6455

-Community Representatives-

Gwen Nitta
Mother Lode Job Training
(209) 966-3643

Alan Wright
Parent
(209) 966-5171

Gussie Kidd
NET Representative
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-Child Care Consumer Representatives-

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Infant/Child Enrichment
Services (ICES)
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(209) 966-3689

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of Human Services
(209) 966-3609

-Additional Representatives-

Nancy Damm
Mariposa County Unified
School District
(209) 742-0231

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Mariposa County First 5
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-Staff-

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Executive Summary

In the Spring of 2009, the Mariposa County Local Child Care Planning Council conducted an assessment of needs surrounding child care issues in the County. This needs assessment was completed in accordance with the requirements of Educational Code § 8499.5, and was used to inform the development of the Council's 5-year Strategic Plan (2009-2014).

The needs assessment was completed using a variety of tools including surveys from parents/primary caregivers and providers, as well as key informant interviews and focus groups with professionals, child care providers, and parents.

The assessment demonstrated that although simply looking at the *numbers* (families needing child care vs. number of child care slots in the County) revealed that there is enough child care to meet the needs of the community, the numbers do not tell the whole story. Many of the child care slots in the County are not filled. Furthermore, many families indicate their specific child care needs are not being met or that there are barriers to them accessing affordable, quality child care.

Some of the key areas where there seem to be unmet needs include: families needing care during alternative hours (weekend, evenings and early mornings); families needing occasional care through "drop-in" availability (in other words needing it here or there, rather than committing to a regular schedule); and families needing care for children ages 0-2.

The two most frequently reported barriers that families experience with regards to child care were affordability, followed by hours and days care is offered. Priorities for choosing child care were quality of care, followed by cost of care.

In addition, there were some specific populations that seem to have unmet needs, and yet the strategies for addressing these needs requires further exploration. These populations include Spanish speaking families in El Portal, families in the northern areas of the County, and families who have a child with special needs.

Strategic Planning goals and Council Priorities were developed taking into account the mandates of the Council, as well as the needs identified in the current needs assessment. Identified priority areas for 2009 include:

1. Increase access to child care through:

- Advocacy for financial assistance for families
- Advocacy for alternative child care hours
- Advocacy for drop-in capacity
- Advocacy for access for underserved populations

2. Increase quality child care through provider, consumer and community education.

Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Increase community awareness about quality child care and related resources and how to assess and access those resources

Objectives	Activities	Evaluation (Process and Outcome Measures)
a. By June 2014 provide information to primary caregivers (parents, grandparents, etc.) through print media.	Write and publish at least 6 articles in local newspapers throughout the County regarding issues of quality child care, assessing quality child care, accessing Infant Child Enrichment Services (ICES) and other services, etc.	Maintain copies of all articles.
	Identify other media outlets to access primary caregivers (Parent Magazine, etc.) and submit articles for publication, as appropriate.	Maintain copies of all articles.
b. By June 2014 distribute information through public events.	Identify at least 6 key events annually that are well attended by primary caregivers (Safe at Home events; Halloween Carnival; Children’s Fair; El Portal events; Toys for Tots; School Open House events; etc.).	Maintain information about events attended.
	Compile, develop, or purchase information and resources to distribute through events.	Maintain copies of all information distributed.
	Attend and distribute information at public events.	Maintain records of number of individuals who access information at events.
c. By June 2014 inform community through presentations and trainings.	Identify at least 4 forums for presenting information regarding assessing and accessing quality child care (community baby showers, etc.).	Maintain information about events/forums which may be good locations to make presentations.
	Compile, develop, or purchase information and resources to distribute through presentations and trainings.	Maintain copies of all information distributed.
	Facilitate and/or support ICES to facilitate presentations and trainings for primary caregivers throughout the community.	Maintain agendas, sign-in sheets. Distribute a brief survey to assess usefulness and other areas of interest for future presentations.

Goal 1: Increase community awareness about quality child care and related resources and how to assess and access those resources (Continued)

Objectives	Activities	Evaluation (Process and Outcome Measures)
d. By June 2014, provide support to groups/agencies that are promoting information about the MCLCCPC child care and related topics.	Inform community agencies about the availability of advertising dollars to promote the goals of MCLCCPC.	Maintain records about how this information is distributed.
	Provide funds, logos, banners, etc. to groups or agencies for advertising MCLCCPC goals as deemed appropriate by the Council.	Maintain Log of agencies/groups that receive support and how the funds are utilized.
	Collect data from the agencies/groups receiving funds to determine how many individuals were reached.	Documentation of how many individuals and populations reached (Sign in sheets, logs, etc.).

Goal 2: Increase community access to affordable child care.

Objectives	Activities	Evaluation (Process and Outcome Measures)
a. By June 2014 educate child care providers about community needs, available resources, services and aide for families, etc.	Based on needs assessment results, identify topic areas in which providers may need or want more information or training (serving children with special needs, etc.).	Maintain an ongoing list of topic areas.
	Identify at least 3 avenues for providing information to providers (presentations, articles, letters, etc.).	Maintain a list of appropriate strategies/venues for accessing providers.
	Obtain or create materials to increase awareness about identified topic areas.	Maintain materials/resources for providers.
	Provide information to providers through identified strategies.	Maintain a list of strategies through which information was provided.
b. By June 2014, educate policy and decision makers about issues of quality child care access and affordability.	Identify and schedule presentations to policy/decision makers (school board, board of supervisors, etc.) annually.	Maintain information about presentations scheduled.
	Produce an annual report to present.	Copy of annual report.
	Facilitate at least 2 presentations annually. One of these will serve as a public hearing, as required by EC § 8499.5.	Maintain records of presentations made and number in attendance.

Goal 2: Increase community access to affordable child care (Continued).

<p>c. By June 2014 educate public on how to advocate for increased funding for child care.</p>	<p>Identify at least 3 strategies for disseminating information regarding advocacy, taking advantage of opportunities that may affect current legislation, funding, etc. (examples: “action alerts” “sample letters to policy makers”, etc.).</p>	<p>Maintain information and strategies to be utilized.</p>
	<p>Develop or create tools for timely dissemination of advocacy information (list-serves, email blasts, etc.).</p>	<p>Maintain information about these tools and utilizing them.</p>
	<p>When appropriate, disseminate information to public through the identified strategies.</p>	<p>Maintain a log about information distributed and venues in which they were distributed.</p>

Goal 3: Advocate to increase child care capacity for under served populations and unmet needs identified in 2009 Needs Assessment, including: Child care during non-traditional hours (early mornings, evenings, weekends); Drop-in/Respite Capacity; and Infant care (0-2)

Objectives	Activities	Evaluation (Process and Outcome Measures)
<p>a. By June 2014 encourage existing child care providers to expand their capacity to meet the needs of underserved populations.</p>	<p>Determine which underserved populations can currently be served through existing providers.</p>	<p>Matrix of providers and specialized services they offer.</p>
	<p>Partner with Infant and Child Enrichment Services (ICES) to educate and encourage providers to expand services to meet needs of underserved populations.</p>	<p>Copies of education and outreach materials to providers</p>
	<p>Partner with Infant and Child Enrichment Services (ICES) to provide technical assistance/training to providers who are willing to expand services to meet needs.</p>	<p>Records of Training and Technical Assistance Provided; Sign-in Sheets.</p>
	<p>Re-assess how many providers have increased their ability to serve underserved populations during this strategic planning period.</p>	<p>Updated Matrix of providers who provide specialized services.</p>
<p>b. By June 2014 explore whether a child care center could help meet unmet needs in Mariposa.</p>	<p>Retain consultant to complete a feasibility study for a child care center in Mariposa.</p>	<p>Contract with Consultant.</p>
	<p>Complete Feasibility Study.</p>	<p>Final Feasibility Study Report.</p>
	<p>Analyze if the development of a child care center can meet unmet needs and if not, continue to explore and advocate for other options.</p>	<p>Final Feasibility Study Report. Records of other options explored.</p>

Goal 3: Advocate to increase child care capacity for under served populations and unmet needs identified in 2009 Needs Assessment, including: Child care during non-traditional hours (early mornings, evenings, weekends); Drop-in/Respite Capacity; and Infant care (0-2) (Continued).

Objectives	Activities	Evaluation (Process and Outcome Measures)
c. By June 2014, further explore unmet needs identified in the 2009 Needs Assessment.	1) Further explore the following communities to determine what the specific unmet needs are: Spanish Speaking families-El Portal Lake Don Pedro families Greeley Hill families Families with children with special needs	Documentation of strategies for further exploration.
	2) Explore strategies to meet the unmet needs for the above-mentioned communities.	Documentation of Strategies.

Goal 4: Advocate for new and existing resources for child care development in Mariposa County.

Objectives	Activities	Evaluation (Process and Outcome Measures)
a. By June 2014 advocate for the development of new child care resources to meet unmet needs and serve underserved populations.	Identify 3 new strategies for meeting unmet needs or serving underserved populations.	Listing of strategies.
	Identify 3 avenues for advocating for the implementation of new strategies (presentations to policy makers, presentations to ROP Classes, incentives for providers, etc.).	Listing of avenues for advocacy.
	Advocate for new strategies.	Listing of advocacy strategies used and copies of tools used.
b. By June 2014 advocate for programs that encourage child care provider development within Mariposa County.	Encourage ongoing Regional Occupation Program (ROP) class for Child Care Careers in Mariposa County Schools.	Report of how advocacy was achieved.
	Partner with Mother Lode Job Training, CalWorks and other job placement programs to expand opportunities for individuals to gain experience in child care.	Report of what was undertaken to expand opportunities.

Goal 4: Advocate for new and existing resources for child care development in Mariposa County (Continued).

Objectives	Activities	Evaluation (Process and Outcome Measures)
<p>c. By June 2014 provide information to businesses regarding child care needs of employees, model programs for employee assistance, potential tax benefit programs for employers, etc.</p>	Identify information to share with employers regarding child care and programs.	Listing of topic areas.
	Develop and/or acquire informational materials to distribute to employers.	Copies of all informational materials.
	Determine outreach strategies for reaching employers (Chamber of Commerce meetings, County Administrative meetings, MCUSD Administrative meetings, letters/packets, etc.	Listing of outreach venues/strategies.
	Distribute information to employers.	Records of how and to whom information was distributed.
	Determine how many employers expanded child care opportunities for their employees during this period.	Listing of employers who expanded opportunities.
<p>d. By June 2014, the Council will have identified training needs and received the training necessary to inform decisions and advocate for Child Care in Mariposa County.</p>	Annually, the Council will conduct a self-assessment to identify training needs.	Listing of topic areas identified by assessment and plan for accessing those trainings.
	Trainings will be accessed or facilitated for Council members and community partners, as appropriate.	Listing of training topics and members in attendance.

Child Care Needs Assessment



June 2009

Purpose & Components of the Needs Assessment

According to Education Code § 8499.5, by May 30 of each year and upon approval of the County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools, each local planning council shall submit to the California Department of Education the local priorities it has identified that reflect all child care needs in the county. To accomplish this, each local planning council shall conduct an assessment of child care needs in the county no less than once every five years. The Local Planning Council (LPC) shall identify data and other information to be included in the needs assessment in order to obtain an accurate picture of the comprehensive child care needs in the county. The factors shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

Population Indicators:

- The number of children in the county by primary language pursuant to the department's language survey;
- The number of children in migrant agricultural families;

Family Economic Indicators:

- Family income among families with preschool or school age children;
- The number of children in families receiving public assistance including food stamps, housing support, MediCal, Healthy Families and TANF;

Safety Indicators:

- The need for child care for children determined by the child protective services agency to be neglected, abused, or exploited, or at risk of being neglected, abused or exploited;

Special Needs Indicators:

- Special needs based on geographic considerations, including rural areas;

Child Care Indicators:

- The needs of families eligible for subsidized child care;
- The needs of families not eligible for child care;
- The waiting lists for programs funded by the Department of Education and the State Department of Social Services;
- The number of children who have been determined by a regional center to require service pursuant to an individualized family service plan; and,
- The number of children needing child care services by age cohort.

Community Planning for Mariposa County's Child Care Needs

Information for the needs assessment was collected using three methods. First, child care surveys were distributed to parents throughout the county.¹ One hundred-thirty-one surveys were included in the final analyses. Second, key informant interviews with members of the community, LCP and ICES were conducted to get qualitative information regarding child care in the County. Third, the required statistical indicators regarding County population, family economics, safety, special needs, and child care were collected from various Federal, State, and County sources.

The following community programs and agencies are instrumental in the development of the County's child care resources. Many were active in this assessment and planning process:

Early Start is funded by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It offers early intervention services to children under the age of 3 who have special medical, physical, and/or developmental needs. Mariposa's Early Start program is administered by Madera County Department of Education.

Mariposa County Health Department provides a wide variety of health services to families. The Child Health and Disability program is just one of many. Charles Mosher, M.D., Director.

Infant Child Enrichment Services (ICES) administers the child care Resource and Referral program, assists parents in finding quality child care, and administers child care financial assistance for qualifying families. Angela Steele, Director.

Mariposa County Unified School District consists of 13 schools with a total student population of approximately 2,360 students. Special education services are available at all school sites. The School District administers the Local Child Care Planning Council. Randy Panietz, Superintendent.

Mariposa County Human Services Department administers many programs to support and assist families. These programs include Welfare to Work, MediCal, Food Stamps, TANF, Housing Services, Child Welfare Services, Mental Health Services, and the Children's System of Care. Jim Rydingsword, Director.

Motherload Job Training is an employment resource center that provides a wealth of services to both job seekers and employers. Gwen Nitta, Director

First 5 Commission of Mariposa County was created in 1999 to evaluate the current and projected needs of young children and their families, develop a strategic plan that describes how the community needs will be addressed, determine how to expend local First 5 resources, and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and activities funded. Jeane Hetland, Executive Director.

Mariposa Safe Families is the designated Local Child Abuse Prevention Council. They offer a number of prevention activities to the community, including Family Enrichment Centers,

¹ See Appendix A for additional information regarding the Child Care Surveys.

Community Link web-based information and referral services, parenting classes, and prevention/education workshops. Kathy Delaney, Executive Director.

Mariposa County Profile

Mariposa County is a small, rural county located in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Central California. Nearly half of the 1,451 square miles of the eastern part of the County is home to Yosemite National Park, two national forests, and the U.S. Department of Land Management. Much of the county is mountainous with winding, narrow roads. There is great scenic beauty. Open range land dominates the lower elevations, giving way to forested areas and mountain peaks as one travels into the high Sierra. There are no incorporated cities in Mariposa County; however, there are five small, distinct population centers throughout the county (Mariposa, El Portal-Yosemite National Park, La Grange-Lake Don Pedro, Catheys Valley, and Coulterville-Greeley Hill).

The U.S. Census 2008 for Mariposa County estimates the following ethnic breakdown: 81.3% Caucasian persons non-Hispanic, 10.3% Hispanic, 3.7% American Indian and the remaining 4.7% is shared by Asian, African American, and multi-ethnic people. English is the primary language, with only 5.2% reporting a language other than English spoken at home. 96.0% spoke English and 3.5% Spanish as their first language.

Overview of Children and Families in Mariposa County

The U.S. Census 2008 estimates 17,976 people, 7,347 occupied households, and 4,995 families in the county. This population is fairly evenly divided between males (51%) and females (49%). There are approximately twelve people per square mile, as compared to the state average of 217 people per square mile. The town of Mariposa, which is the county seat, has the largest population density with about 1,700 people. Four other areas of the county have more wide spread populations, and each has its own distinct cultural norms. These communities are El Portal-Yosemite National Park (pop. 1556), La Grange-Lake Don Pedro (pop. 2043), Catheys Valley (pop. 1370), and Coulterville-Greeley Hill (pop. 2355).

Of the 7,347 households in the County, 25.6% had children under the age of 18 living in them, 55.8% were married couples living together, 8.0% had a female householder with no husband present, and 32.1% were non-families. 1,650 families had children. 28% of these families were headed by a single parent, 10.5% of the single parents had a child under the age of 6. The average family size was 2.86.

Between 2000 and 2008, overall population estimates of children ages 0-13 in Mariposa County, and in the state of California, have decreased by approximately 18%. According to 2006 U.S. Census Bureau child populations estimations, children under the age of two are the only group of children that have actually seen an 11% growth in the county. For the past decade, the average birthrate for Mariposa County has been 139 births per year. The 2008 U.S. Census projection for California state populations of children between the ages 0 and 13 years of age showed populations once again on

the rise.¹ The U.S. Census projects that the number of children in the State will continue to rise in future years.

Mariposa County Child Population Estimates

	2000	2006
Children 0-13	2,704	2,206
0-2	275	306
3-4	479	401
5-13	1,950	1,499
Children 0-13 with parents in the workforce ²	1,594	1,300³
0-2	180	147
3-4	259	212
5-13	1,155	941

Family Income, Employment, & Poverty

Mariposa’s economy depends heavily on the tourist industry. Accordingly many jobs are seasonal, low paying with irregular and rotating work schedules. Mariposa’s 2009 estimated median household income is \$38,757, compared to California’s median household income of \$55,450. Males have a median income 18% higher than females. Service jobs, including tourism and retail, provide 42.4% of the jobs in Mariposa County. The 2000 per capita income rate for the county was \$18,190.

Unemployment rates are at a historical high. Consistent with the current deep economic recession of the past two years, unemployment rates in Mariposa have slowly increased from 12.9% in January 2009 to 13.2% in March 2009. This is a dramatic increase from the average unemployment rates of 6.06% during 2007, and 7.68% during 2008.

U.S. Census 2007 estimates about 10.5% of families and 14.8% of individuals of Mariposa County are below the federal poverty level. *Children Now 2007* reports 17% of the children in Mariposa County live in poverty, compared with the state percentage of 19%. According to social services reports, it is believed that the number of families and children living in poverty has increased over the past year.

There are approximately 3,492 women in the labor force: 74% work 35 or more hours per week, of these 19% work non-traditional hours, 5% work from home, and 12.1% have a child under the age of 6.

Social Services Program Use

Use of social services, such as food stamps, housing, and financial assistance, provides an additional indicator as to the current overall economic vitality of a community. Mariposa's local businesses, and primary employers, have been impacted by the current economic recession. Over the past year, Mariposa County Department of Social Services has seen an increase in applications for a variety of services.⁴

- 42% increase in Food Stamp applications
- 45% increase in CalWORKs program applications
- 27% increase in the County Mental Health Programs

Many of the requests for services are from families who have never before received benefits, and more two-parent families are turning to the county for assistance compared with previous years.

As of June 1, 2009, the number of children receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) is 367. The number of children receiving housing assistance is 68.⁵ As of May 2009, 226 children were enrolled in the Healthy Families Medical Program.

Special Education Services

Of the 2,360 enrolled children in the Mariposa County Unified School District (MCUSD), 425 children are receiving special education services, plus 61 pending eligibility. MCUSD is also providing supportive services

to 76 students currently classified as homeless. The Early Start program serves 8 children under the age of 3 who have an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Child Welfare Services

Regarding child dependency, in July 2008, 43 children were in foster care, of which 37% were under 2 years of age. Only 2 children received pre-placement family maintenance.⁶ Families are under-utilizing the state subsidized CPS/Child Respite child care services. Only one referral was requested over the past two years. This is a dramatic decline from the 11 referrals received in 2006. Key informant interviews revealed that parents may be intimidated to say that their child is "at-risk" of abuse in order to receive this service.

Child Care's Impact on Local Economy

Child care providers, both licensed or unlicensed, significantly contribute to Mariposa's economy. According to Sue Overstreet, author of Mariposa County 2002 Child Care Economic Impact Report, "The child care industry provides a social infrastructure that is critical to the County's overall economic vitality and its quality of life."⁷ In 2002, the industry supported over 70 local jobs and generated almost 2 million dollars.⁸ Child care is central to sustaining the County's growing workforce by enabling parents to enter new jobs or return to them sooner and by providing increased productivity for already employed parents. According to Overstreet, licensed care is a more stable support for parental employment than informal care.

Quality Child Care

The term "Child Care" means all licensed child care and development services and license-exempt child care. This includes, but is not limited to, private for-profit programs, nonprofit programs and publicly funded programs for all children up to and including 12 years of age, including children with exceptional needs, children from all cultural backgrounds and languages.⁹

Components of Quality Child Care

Child care has become an essential component of life in our society. Quality child care can make a significant difference in children's development. Key ingredients for quality child care are essential to have a positive influence on children's development. Researchers for The National Network of Child Care have identified the following five essential components of quality child care.¹⁰ Quality child care needs to be a high priority and be supported by all in our community.

Child Care Provider - Children need providers who speak to them and actively encourage them to respond. The provider should discipline children in positive ways, teaching social skills, instead of blaming, criticizing, or punishing. Children in better quality programs had more positive interactions with their caregivers, while children in poor quality programs spent more time in unoccupied behavior and in solitary play.

Environment - A quality environment is a child care center or home that is well planned and invites children to learn and grow. Centers and family child care homes that are neat, clean, and oriented to the child's activity are found to promote good child development. Developmentally appropriate materials and equipment for different age levels should be available. Planned activities must also be developmentally appropriate and allow for imaginative play.

Staffing - Good staffing ratios are an essential ingredient in quality child care settings. Researchers have found that centers with low child-staff ratios were seen as providing higher quality care and that centers rated as higher quality

had teachers with more specialized training and education in early childhood.

Safety - A key aspect of providing a good environment for children is safety of the setting. Adults must be vigilant in their supervision of the children at all times. The child care provider needs to know what to do in case of an emergency and know how to reach the parents when necessary. Sanitary procedures such as hand washing and local licensing standards must be followed. Adequate lighting, temperature, and noise control are also factors that contribute to a safe environment.

Quality Relationships- Forming positive relationships between the caregiver and the parent and the caregiver and the child is essential to providing quality care. A parent needs to feel free to visit the child care program any time and that they will be notified of any problems that arise. Equally important for parents is knowing what happens in the daily schedule of their child and having a sense that their child is important to the child care provider.

Quality child care has the capability of promoting trust, autonomy and a true sense of happiness and well being in children. It can lead to positive social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. Children in quality child care have improved physical health and overall development, which translates into improved school readiness.¹¹

Licensed care is not synonymous with quality care. However, licensed family child care has been determined to offer higher quality care than non-licensed care.¹²

Child Care Needed By Mariposa's Families

Maternal employment rates are increasing in part due to the higher cost of living and policies such as the Welfare to Work program enacted in 1996. With the growing majority of young children in early child care, availability becomes increasingly important. Use of child care is also growing among mothers not in the labor force as a means to provide child enrichment.

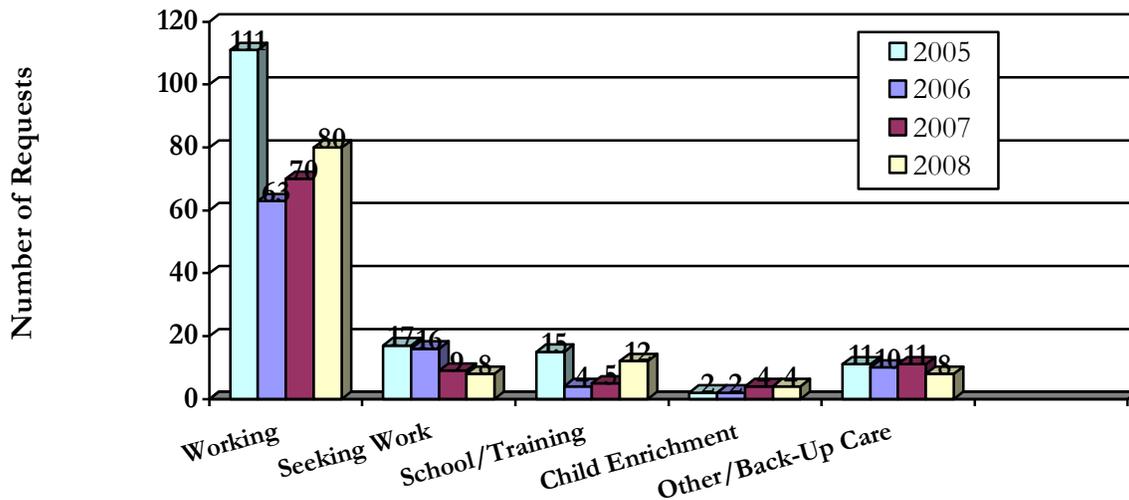
Choosing a child care provider is one of the hardest decisions parents make. Infant and Child Enrichment Services (ICES) is the local child care resource and referral agency to assist Mariposa County families in making this very important decision. They are also the primary collector of child care data for the county. When a parent calls ICES, a staff member inquires and documents the reason child care is needed, the number and ages of children needing care, and the type of care options that fit the parents needs, and when the care is needed. The following section summarizes the trends in child care requests received by ICES.

- From July 2007 to June 2008 ICES received 147 requests for child care referrals for 204 children. This is a decline from the prior two years, but is comparable to the number of referral requests in 2005.

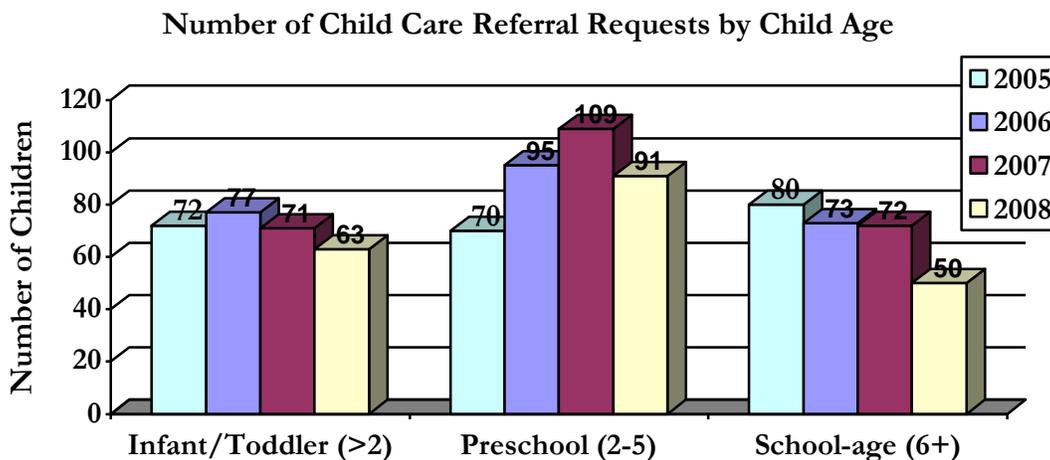
	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of Referral Requests	149	180	174	147
Number of Children	222	245	252	204

The majority of referral requests to ICES were from parents who were working, seeking work, or requiring other care or back-up care when their regular provider was unavailable.

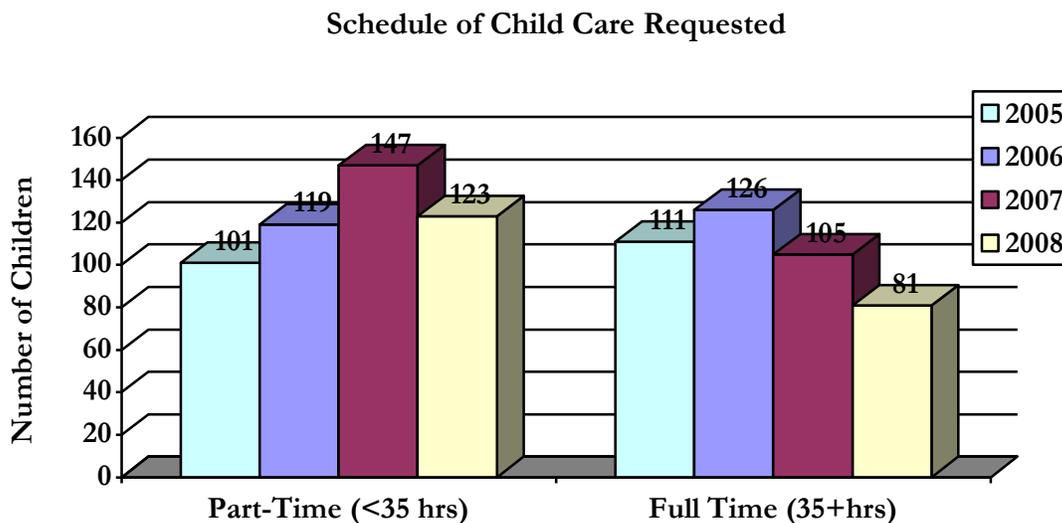
Reasons for Child Care Referral Requests



Parents are seeking child care for a different age group than they were four years ago. Since 2005 child care requests for preschool-aged children have increased 23.1%. School-age child care requests have declined 37.5%. Requests for infant/toddler care have declined 12.5%.

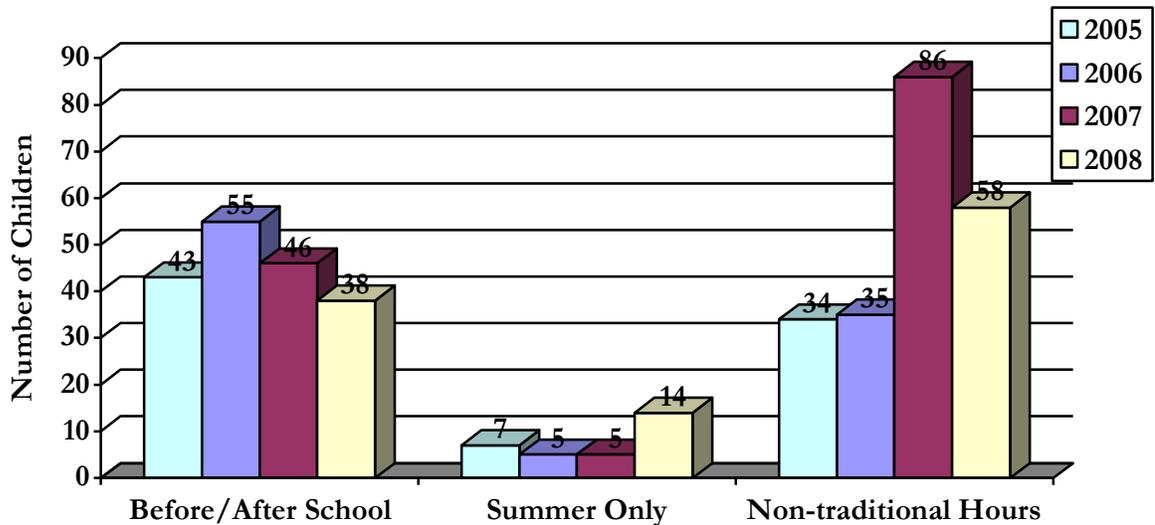


Parents are seeking more part-time child care. From 2005 to 2008, requests for part-time child care have increased 17.8%, while full-time requests have decreased 27.0%, over the same time period.



The request for child care during non-traditional hours has risen 41.4% over the past four years. According to the survey data, parents of infants/toddlers are more likely to work non-traditional hours. Summer care requests have also increased, while Before/After School care requests have decreased. The decrease in before and after school child care requests may correlate with the addition of more after school education programs provided through the Mariposa County Unified School District.

Non-Standard Hours Child Care Needed



Child Care Demand

Using a simplified formula presented by Child Action Inc., it is estimated that there are 557 children between the ages of 0-13 in Mariposa County that are in need of child care due to parental employment.² Of these, 180 are 0-4 years of age and 377 are 5-13 years of age. This estimate is based on the 2006 U.S. Census estimate of 1,300 children with two parents, or a single head of household that are employed. Child Action, Inc. bases its formula on national child care research, which estimates that 50% of children age 0-5 and 40% of school aged children will be in need of licensed child care, with remaining families using family members and friends.

This number should be used only as a rough approximation of the child care needs in the County, as there are additional child care use statistics that could further refine this number, but were unavailable at this time. For instance, children with one non-working parent who are enrolled in preschool primarily for enrichment services are not represented by the above estimate.

² Please see Appendix C for full calculation.

Child Care Availability in Mariposa County

Providing child care is one of the most important and difficult jobs. A variety of child care options are needed so parents can find the best match to meet their needs and the needs of their child. There are two types of licensed child care options for Mariposa parents: family child care homes and preschools. This section profiles availability of licensed and licensed-exempt child care providers.

Regulated Care

In an effort to ensure that they provide a safe and healthy environment for children who are in day care, the Community Care Licensing Division of the California Department of Social Services oversees the licensing of all child care facilities in California. In California, there are two types of licensed child care facilities:

- 1) **Licensed Family Child Care Homes** - These programs typically operate in the caregiver's own home and are required to be licensed by the State. There are no educational requirements for obtaining a family child care license. However, providers are required to take a 15-hour child care health and safety training which includes CPR and first aid. Different age configurations are allowed depending on the number and ages of children in care. Often care is provided for a mixed age group of children.

Small family child care is licensed to care for 6 to 8 children;

Large family child care is licensed to care for 12-14 children; the provider must have a full-time assistant.

➤ As of May 2009, there were 29 licensed family child care homes in Mariposa County. Of these, 17 were small family child care homes and 12 were large family child care homes. The 29 homes had a total of 294¹³ full-time licensed slots. Family child care providers can piece together multiple part-time children to fill one full-time licensing slot. Since 2005, the number of licensed family care homes in the County has ranged from 25 and 34.

In April 2009, 79% of licensed family homes reported having openings. Due to various provider to child ratios allowed by licensing, open slots can vary depending on the ages of children enrolled. There were either 26 openings for infants, or 45 openings for preschoolers, or 38 openings for school aged

children.³ Parent key informant interviews indicated that one year ago parents had more difficulty finding Family Child Care providers with availability.



³ Nineteen of 24 licensed family homes who accept ICES contact were able to be reached.

2) Child Care Centers (Preschools, Nursery Schools, School Age Programs): Centers may be large or small and can be operated independently or by a church or other organization. While they vary greatly, they generally have a curriculum and staff who have some early childhood education. In child care centers, hours are less flexible than in family child care homes, and they typically do not have mixed age groupings in one center.

➤ The number of preschools in Mariposa County has significantly increased from the 2 license-exempt child care centers in Mariposa County that existed in 2004. Presently, there are 6 licensed and 2 licensed-exempt preschools located in the County:⁴

- Mariposa County Head Start - licensed, capacity: 20 x 2 sessions (40), ages 3 – 4.9
- Almost Like Home Before & After School-Age Center - licensed, capacity: 21, ages 4.9 - 12
- Mariposa Preschool Co-Op - licensed, capacity: 20, ages 2.5 - 6
- First 5 Building Blocks - Greeley Hill - licensed, capacity: 24, enrollment limit 18; ages 2 - 5
- First 5 Building Blocks - Don Pedro - licensed, capacity: 24, enrollment limit 18; ages 2 - 5
- Mariposa Kiwanis Preschool Academy -licensed, capacity: 19, ages 2 - 6
- El Portal Child Development Center – license-exempt, capacity: 21, ages 4mo-12yrs
- Yosemite Child Development Center – license-exempt, capacity: 22, ages 4mo-12yrs

In total, there are 179 preschool slots, of which 136 slots are licensed and 43 slots are license-exempt. The 6 licensed preschools are all part-time, meeting half days, three to five days per week, with no classes during the summer. Therefore, their use as a child care provider for parents employed more than part-time is limited and these families must supplement with additional child care if full day care is needed. There are two license exempt preschools, one in El Portal and one in Yosemite National Park. They are the only full day preschool programs and are the only preschools that serve children less than 2 years of age. Since they are located on federal land operated by Yosemite National Park, enrollment is limited to children of Park employees and Park Partners agency employees. In addition, these two preschool also operate an outdoors After School program that can each serve an addition 10-15 children. Although they are license exempt, they maintain teacher to child ratios consistent with licensing standards.

Preschool is in demand. The actual percentage of families who use preschool primarily for enrichment and school readiness verses for child care is unknown. However, from key informant interviews it is anticipated that families with one non-working parent or flexible work schedules (such as with parents who are self-employed) represent the largest consumer of the local preschools. All 6 licensed preschools have a waiting list for the 2009-2010 school year. Many parents have their children on multiple preschool waiting lists.

Non-Regulated Care

Kin Care: By far, the most frequently used form of child care is when friends, family and/or relatives help care for children. Kin care works best when you both share a similar parenting style

⁴ First 5-Catheys Valley and Acorn Preschools were not included in this statistic. At the time of this report, Acorn was a license-exempt cooperative which required a parent to be on-site, so the program did not meet the definition of child care. First 5 - Catheys Valley Preschool was not licensed due to lack of a building. It is anticipated that in August 2009, Acorn will be offering a Sprouts drop-off program 3 half-days per week with a license capacity for 20 children ages 3-6, and First 5 - Catheys Valley Preschool will offer 4 half-days per week with a license capacity for 16 children ages 3-5.

and are comfortable talking about issues which may arise such as discipline, nutrition and attachment.

Babysitters: They are usually hired through word of mouth and work in the home of the children.

One-Family Child Care Providers: Licensing regulations allow that a paid child care provider may care for the children from one family in the home of the provider without a license. As soon as a child from a second family is added, the paid provider must be licensed.

Recreation and School Programs: Short-term programs run by Recreation Departments and programs run by school districts are sometimes exempt from Licensing Regulations.

- There are six license-exempt After-school programs in Mariposa County. Mariposa Unified School District serves approximately 150 total students in their After School Education Programs at El Portal Elementary School, Mariposa Elementary School, Greeley Hill School, and Mariposa Middle School. Yosemite Preschool and El Portal Preschool operate a fee based after-school program. In total there are 180 license-exempt After School Program slots.
- Due to the nature of non-regulated child care, accurate data as to the breadth of its use in Mariposa County is not available. As of May 2009, there were 17 relative and 11 non-relative providers paid child care subsidy payments by ICES.

Child Care Slots Available in Mariposa County

CHILD CARE		LICENSED PRESCHOOLS		LICENSE-EXEMPT PRESCHOOLS		LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES ⁵		LICENSE EXEMPT AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
	Total number of sites	6		2		29		5	
SLOTS	Total number of slots	136	21%	43	7%	294	45%	180	27%
	Infant Slots (age 0-2)	0		8			100%	0	
	Preschool Slots (age 2-6)	115		35				0	
	School aged slots (age 7-13)	21 ⁶						180	
SCHEDULES ⁴	Both Full-time and part-time slots	-	0%	43	100%	259	88%	-	0%
	Only full-time slots	-	0%	-	0%	35	12%	-	0%
	Only part-time slots	136	100%	-	0%	-	0%	180	100%
	Non-Traditional Hours		0%				36%		0%
LANGUAGE ^{E15}	English		100%		100%		100%		100%
	Spanish		25%		0%		18%		-
	Other language		25%		0%		4%		-

⁵ Breakdown by age is not available for family child care homes. They typically take a variety of ages.

⁶ Almost Like Home After School program is licensed and was included in the licensed programs calculations.

Cost of Child Care in Mariposa County

The cost of child care is a pressing issue for Mariposa families. Of those individuals surveyed, the cost of child care was an “extreme barrier” for 27.6%, a “slight to average barrier” for 21.7%, and “not a barrier” for 12.7% of families.

The cost of child care is determined by the child care provider, and therefore varies. A Family Child Care Home in Mariposa County costs between \$23 and \$30 per day for full-time child care (8-9hrs), with infants costing more than toddlers, who cost more than school-aged children. Half-day care (4-6 hrs) in Family Child Care Homes typically costs \$15 per child. Per hour, a Family Child Care Home costs approximately \$5. Preschool costs also vary. The three First 5 preschools are no-cost. First 5 also provides grants to many of the counties preschools to reduce costs to families. Preschool costs range from \$0-\$125 per month. Across all child care types, child care costs in Mariposa County are below the State’s maximum subsidized reimbursement rate.

For one child, the annual cost of full-time child care in a Family Child Care Home for a child 2 and older ranges from \$6,500 to \$7,800, depending on the care provider. For school aged children (6 years and older) child care costs approximately \$4,550 (part-time 39 wks, plus full-time 13 wks). Yearly infant care costs \$7,800. At present, family child care homes are the only licensed type of child care available for children under 2 years of age. However, it can be cost prohibitive for providers to accept infants. With regards to allowable ratio of staff to children, a provider can care for one infant or approximately three children 2 years or older. Caring for 3

children over age 2 translates into an increased income of \$45 more per day.¹⁶

According to the 2006 California Department of Education Survey, the maximum daily reimbursement rate (subsidized child care figures) for child care provided by relatives in Mariposa County is \$27.98 for a full-time care, and \$2.97 per hour for part-time care.¹⁷



Families with income at the middle of the economic distribution may not have access to high quality child care. If a family of four, with a toddler and a school aged child, earns 75% of the State Median Income for a family of 4, or \$49,620, they will spend approximately \$11,050 per year on licensed full-time child care, or 22.3% of their annual gross income. If this family has two children under the age of 5, they will spend \$15,600 annually on licensed child care, or 31.4% of their gross annual income. This family would qualify for subsidized child care, but would mostly likely never receive a subsidy due to limited funding available. Families with lower incomes or more children would get priority.

Subsidized Child Care

Infant Child Enrichment Services (ICES) administers the child care subsidy program with funding from the State Department of Education and Cal-Works. This program pays the child care costs for eligible parents at the child care provider of their choice. Eligibility is based on income and family size. Parents must have a reason for needing child care, such as the need for child care to work, attend school or a training program, or to actively look for work. In two parent households, both parents must have a need. And, the gross family income must be 75% or less than the State Median Income of \$59, 552 for a family of 3 or \$66,160 for a family of 4.⁷

At present, the need for subsidized care is greater than the amount of funding available. Families are placed on the waiting list using a rank order system. The ranking is based on family income and size. It does not operate on a first come, first serve basis. Families with the lowest income for their family size are enrolled first.

Subsidized payments can be made to preschools, child care centers, family child care homes, relatives (such as a child's uncle, aunt, or grandparent) or qualifying "TrustLined" providers. Many exempt child care providers must register with TrustLine, the California State registry of in-home child care providers who have passed a background screening, to receive subsidized child care payments.

- As of May 2009, in Mariposa County 86 families, with 118 children were receiving subsidized child care through ICES. Thirteen families, with 30 children, were

waiting for child care subsidy. ICES staff were actively enrolling families due to increased availability of funds at the time of this assessment. Over the past nine months, ICES has provided subsidized child care for an average of 128 children, between 118 and 154 children per month. This equals 9.8% of the 1,300 children between the ages of 0-13 in Mariposa that are in need of child care.

Of those individuals that completed the child care survey, 14.2% of families received subsidized child care; 76.1% did not. Of those that did receive assistance, 78.9% of families received it through ICES. Based on the average of two children per family in the respondents, this equals approximately 37.2 children.



⁷ See Appendix B for Subsidized eligibility chart of family income limitations.

Special Considerations

Children with Exceptional Needs

Formal information regarding children with exceptional needs is lacking. Presently, there are 8 children ages 0-3 who are receiving Early Start services and have an IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan). The local Family Resource Center (FRC) serves an additional 12 children ages 3-5 with exceptional needs through a First 5 grant, which will not be renewed next fiscal year.

- According to the survey, 14.5% of respondents had children with disabilities, which included physical, cognitive and behavioral. Of these, 50% said they had difficulty finding child care for their disabled child due to their disabilities, with an equal percentage reporting they did not have difficulties. 68.4% said they went without child care when they needed it. 42.2% had an income less than \$20,000.

Geographical Considerations

Mariposa has many communities that are separated from the county seat by windy mountain roads. The communities of Coulterville/Greely Hill and Lake Don Pedro, each only have one licensed provider. However, these providers have received very few referrals and have had to reconsider providing child care services. ICES receives very few referral requests from these communities.

- **North County (Coulterville/Greely Hill/Lake Don Pedro):**

83.3% did not have a child in child care.
21.4% had a child that needed child care.
28.6% had to go without child care when they needed it. The majority of families in this

region use family and friends combined with after school program. The majority would prefer to use their family or friends for child care more often.

Only 3.6% received child care subsidy assistance. 21.4% earn between \$10-20K, 28.6% earn \$20-30K. 69% percent of the children are 6 years of age and older, 15.6% are ages 3-5, 15.6% are 2 and younger.

It appears that licensed care options may be needed in some of these communities. Families may benefit from educational outreach as to the benefit of using licensed child care. Furthermore, license-exempt providers may need education and support services to ensure quality child care services are being provided. Due to the poor history of use of license child care providers, additional analysis is needed to better understand how to best serve the child care needs of these outlying communities.

Spanish Primary Language Learners

Mariposa's Hispanic community has increased over the past five years, and continues to increase. The community of El Portal has a large percentage of Spanish primary language learners enrolled in the local elementary school. These families work in the hospitality industry near Yosemite National Park, typically as hotel housekeepers. Due to the seasonality of this industry they are laid off for two to three winter months every year, and often return to their home country of Mexico during this time. According to the El Portal Elementary school principal, it is estimated that 35%, or 24 students, entered the Elementary school as Spanish speaking only. It takes approximately 3 to 4 years for these students to have academic level fluency in the English language. The elementary school has

much support staff who works diligently to assist these children to be successful in school. However, these children would have increased school readiness if they were exposed to the English language prior to kindergarten.

Spanish speaking families do not enroll their children in the local license-exempt preschool, opting to exchange child care with family and friends. It is believed that this is both for economic and cultural purposes. Since most of the friends and families also work in the hospitality industry, friends and family members alternate work schedules to cover the child care responsibilities. Key informant interviews revealed that preschool costs may be too expensive for families earning minimum wage. Furthermore, Hispanic families traditionally have the lowest rate of child care center use, with about 10% of

families choosing this type of child care.¹⁸ They may be more inclined to utilize a family home provider. For those families without available child care, the youngest child typically "hangs around" the elementary school until their older sibling is available to walk them home. The Elementary school attempts to accommodate these children, but is not a licensed child care provider and has limited resources. The Elementary school does have a free after school program during the school year, which many Spanish speaking families utilize.

- Mariposa County does not have any licensed child care providers (preschool or family home care) in the El Portal community.

Points for Consideration

Demand verses Supply Summary: Based on 2006 population estimates, there are approximately 557 children in Mariposa County with two working parents who need licensed child care. Of these, 180 are 0-4 years of age and 377 are 5-13 years of age. This demand has mostly likely declined due to recent high unemployment rates in Mariposa County. In addition, an unknown number of families with one non-working parent (or a work-at-home parent with a flexible work schedule) utilize preschool primarily for child enrichment and school readiness. There are currently 294 Licensed Family Child slots (open to varying age category configurations), 136 part-time licensed preschool slots, 180 After-school license-exempt program slots, and 43 licenses-exempt full-time preschool slots.

Early care and education professionals have long believed that there will never be a perfect match between the need for child care services and the supply of services. There will seldom, if ever, be a time when every child care space is filled and every child requiring care has a space. Location of services, hours that don't meet families' needs, type of setting, incompatible program curriculum, and cost are a few reasons for this mismatch. In order to best minimize the gap between needs and existing services, points to consider include:

- Quality is the most important factor identified by parents when choosing a child care provider. Quality child care promotes vitality and growth of children and the local community.
- Licensed Family Child Care Homes are not at capacity. In April 2009, 79% of licensed family homes reported having openings. There were either 26 openings for Infants, or 45 openings for preschooler aged, or 38 openings for school aged children. One year ago licensed Family Child Care Homes had significantly decreased availability.
- Survey data was gathered in the spring of 2008, and may be more reflective of child care needs at that time. Child Care providers report declining enrollment over the past year.
- There is a large demand for Preschools. The majority of preschools in southern Mariposa County have a waiting list.
- Efforts should be made to increase child care resources for specific ages, specific populations, and varied geographic locations. (I.e. caregivers of infants, Spanish-speaking providers in El Portal, providers with specialized training to care for children with special needs.)
 - A large number of mothers with children ages 0-2 work non-traditional hours (52%); they are an increasing population; there are limited licensed slots in Family Child Care homes for this age group. This age group is more costly to serve due to the 1:4 caregivers to infant ratio.
 - Growing Spanish speaking population in El Portal does not utilize English speaking child care, which impacts the child's school readiness. There are no licensed child care providers in El Portal/Yosemite.

- Parents of children with special needs have a hard time finding child care.
 - Greeley Hill/Coulterville families do not use the full capacity of the First 5 – preschool (no cost). They typically use friends or family members for child care. However, many say they have gone without child care when they needed it. This community may need educational outreach in the areas of skills to increase quality child care from non-licensed providers and availability and benefits of preschool.
- Funding to subsidize early child care is insufficient to serve the need. Activities should be embraced that will expand funding for those most in need of service, and for those earn less than 75% of the State Median Income, thus qualifying for services, but are ranked too high to ever receive child care subsidy.
 - Given that 19% of women in the labor force work alternative working schedules and ICES requests for alternative hour child care have increased 41%, activities to increase alternative hour child care should be undertaken. This includes “drop-off” child care.
 - Coulterville-Greeley Hill residents do not appear to be utilizing the licensed child care providers in their area. The First 5 – Greeley Hill Preschool enrollment is only meeting half of their capacity and the one license child care provider failed to get enough referrals. Despite low household incomes, only 3.6% are receiving subsidized child care. Families in this geographical location rely heavily on family and friends for child care. These families may benefit from outreach regarding the importance of quality child care, the availability of licensed child care, and the availability of free part-time preschool.

Appendixes

Appendix A Child Care Survey

During the spring and summer of 2008 child care surveys were distributed. In an attempt to capture a representative sample of the child care needs of all geographical regions, socio-economical levels, and ethnicities in Mariposa County surveys were distributed at various community events and agencies throughout the county, including the annual Mariposa Safe at Home fair in Mariposa and North County, The Department of Social Services, Woodland Elementary School, and Mariposa Elementary School. One hundred-thirty-three surveys were returned. Two surveys were removed due to duplicate respondents, leaving 131 surveys included in the final analyses.

Children represented

Two hundred thirty two children between the ages of 0-12 were represented in the survey responses. 15.09% are 0-2 years of age; 18.54% are 3-5 years of age; and 66.37% are 6-12 years of age. On average each family has 2.0 children.

Language

English was listed as a primary language in 124, or 92.5% of respondents. Of these, 4 were bi-lingual families, with 2, or 1.5% also speaking Spanish, 1 family also speaking Tagalong, and 1 family speaking Russian and German. Ten respondents did not provide a response.

Children Currently In Care

66 children, or 28.45%, were currently in child care of some kind.

Children Needing Care

35% of respondents needed child care for 80 of the children represented, or 34.5%.

Gone Without Child Care

39.6% of respondents had gone without child care when needed. 56.7% reported they had not gone without child care when needed. 3.7% did not provide a response.

Reasons for Going without Child Care. 78 respondents answered this question. Multiple reasons may have been provided by each respondent. 39.7% reported they went without child care due to lack of availability. This percentage includes 6 reports (13%) of when a family's regular child care provider was unavailable due to illness or vacation. 21.8% of respondents were not able to afford child care. Concerns over the quality of child care providers were listed by 7.7% of respondents, including one report of abusive treatment by child care provider. Part-time and after hours were listed as a problem by 3.8% of respondents, while location or lack of transportation and child sickness was listed by 5.1% and 3.8%, respectively.

Solutions to Child Care Issues

75 respondents answered this question. Multiple reasons may have been provided by each respondent. Alternative source of child care, including "begging family," using "friends,"

“neighbors,” or using a “kids club,” were listed by 12% of respondents. 10.6% took their children with them to appointments or work. 6.7% changed their schedule, 21.5% had to not work to stay home with their children. 6.7% took off time from work. 10.7% skipped their appointment.

Children with Disabilities

19 respondents, or 14.5%, had children with disabilities. Disabilities listed were ADHD (3), Asthma (1), Born Premature (1), Diabetic (1), Hearing Impaired (1), Learning handicap (2), Seizure disorder (1), didn't list type of disability (9). 50% said they had difficulty finding child care for their disabled child, with an equal percentage reporting they did not have difficulties. 68.4% said they went without child care when they needed it. 42.2% had an income less than \$20,000, 19.1% made between \$20,000-\$40,000, and 31.6% made over \$40,000.

Priorities for Choosing Child Care

Quality of child care was the number one priority when choosing child care (53.7%). Cost of child care was the second priority (16.4%). Listed as third, fourth, and fifth priorities were Provider's Qualifications (14.9%), Location of Care (9.7%), and lastly Type of Care setting (9.0%), respectively.

Barriers to Accessing Child Care

Cost of Care: 27.6% said cost was a large to extreme barrier, 21.7% slight to average barrier, 12.7% not a barrier. 38.1% didn't answer

Type of Care Offered: 17.2% large to extreme barrier, 23.9% slight to average barrier, 18.7% not a barrier. 40.3% didn't answer

Hours and Days Care is Offered: 21.4% large to extreme barrier, 19.4% slight to average barrier, 19.4% not a barrier. 39.6 didn't answer

Location of Care: 19.4% large to extreme barrier, 22.4% slight to average barrier, 17.2% not a barrier. 41% didn't answer

Transporting Children: 9.7% large to extreme barrier, 19.4% slight to average barrier, 16.4% not a barrier. 54.5% didn't answer

Other responses included: “lack of availability,” “don't need” or “use” child care, and “not properly trained.”

Income of Families

16.4% had an income of less than \$10,000, 17.9% were between \$10,000-\$20,000, 17.9% were between \$20,000-\$30,000, 7.5% were between \$30,000-\$40,000, and 30.6% had incomes above \$40,000.

Number of Children in Families

38.1% of families had one child, 22.4% had two children, 13.4% had three children, and 11.9% had 4 - 5 children.

Area Closest to Your Home

Mariposa, 56%; Midpines 6%; Jerseydale, 0.7%; Lake Don Pedro, 5.2%; Ponderosa Basin, 4.5%; Catheys Valley, 3.0%, Lushmeadows, 3%; Coulterville/Greely Hill, 14.9%; Woodland/Bootjack, 9.0%; Bear Valley/Hornitos, 3.7%.

Do you receive subsidized child care?

76.1% did not; 14.2% did receive subsidized care. Of those that did receive assistance, 78.9% received it through ICES, 5.2% from divorced parent, and 15.9% did not respond.

Care Currently Used

The majority of families used family or friends to care for their children (26.9%).

Would you use a Child Care Center in Mariposa?

No, 32.1%; Maybe 23.9%; Probably, 17.2%; Yes 18.7%; missing 8.1%.

Would you use a Drop-in Care in Mariposa?

No, 29.9%; Maybe 26.9%; Probably, 16.4%; Yes 18.7%; missing 8.1%.

Would you use Child Care when you child was Mildly sick?

No, 32.1%; Maybe 19.4%; Probably, 15.7%; Yes 19.4%; missing 13.4%.

Analyses By Age Cohort (0-2, 3-5, 6-13)

Ages 0-2:

N=34. 52.9% did not have a child in child care. 32.4% had only 1 child, 5.9% had 2 children, 5.9% had 3 children, and 2.9% had 4 children. 35.2% had a child that needed child care. 64.7 lived in the Mariposa/BootJack/Woodland area, 17.6 % lived in outlying areas. 44% made \$40,000 or more, while 32.3% made less than \$20,000 and 26.5% made \$20,000-\$40,000. 47.1% went without care when they needed it. 17.6% received subsidized child care through ICES.

Time Care is Needed: N=15. 53% needed care either on the weekends or weekdays before 7:30am and after 6pm. 47% needed standard weekday hours. 40% need care for work, 52% didn't respond.

Type of Care Used and Preferred: N=16. Primarily, parents of this age of child are currently using family or friends, followed by a licensed child care home. The majority would prefer to use family and friends for child care more then they are, followed by a licensed child care home.

Ages 3-5:

N=25. 48% did not have a child in child care. 36% had only 1 child in care, 12% had 2 children, and 4% had 4 children in care. 32% had a child that needed child care. 48% went without care when needed. 72% lived in the Mariposa/BootJack/Woodland area, 12 % lived in Coulterville/Greely Hill or Lake DonPedro. 36% made \$40,000 or more, while 36% made less than \$20,000 and 24% made \$20,000-\$40,000. 16% received subsidized child care through ICES.

Time Care is Needed: N=6. 50% needed early hour, evening, or weekend care. 50% needed standard weekday hours.

Type of Care Used and Preferred: N=16. Primarily, parents of this age of child are currently using licensed child care homes and family or friends. The majority would preferred to use family and friends for child care, followed by a child care center.

Ages 6-13:

N=55. 65.5% did not have a child in child care. 14.5% had only 1 child in care, 12.7% had 2 children, 5.5% had 3 children, had 1.8% had 4 children in care. 49.1% had a child that needed child care, 49.1 didn't have a child that needed child care. 45.5% went without care when needed. 56.3% lived in the Mariposa/BootJack/Woodland area, 23.7 % lived in Coulterville/Greely Hill/Bear Valley or Lake DonPedro. 38.2% made \$40,000 or more, while 30.9% made less than \$20,000 and 27.3% made \$20,000-\$40,000. 18.2% received subsidized child care through ICES.

Time Care is Needed: N=25. 83.6% needed standard weekday hours. 16.4% needed alternative hour, evening, or weekend care.

Type of Care Used and Preferred: N=48. Primarily, parents of this age of child are currently using licensed child care homes and family or friends. The majority would preferred to use family and friends for child care, followed by a before/after school program.

Low Income, less than \$20,000:

There were 44 respondents who had an income of less than \$20,000. Of those, 71.9% did not receive help paying for child care, while 23.9% did receive assistance.

21 respondents had an income less than \$20,000 and went without child care when they needed it; 47% said they went without child care because they couldn't afford it and 33% said that child care was unavailable, followed by not having care during provider vacation.

These families use family and friends more often than other types of child care providers, followed by licensed child care homes. For those with school aged children, the majority would like to use before and after school programs instead of family and friends, followed by licensed child care homes.

N=45. 42% need alternative hour care. 76% need care for work or school.

N=88 35.4% had one child, 23.2% had two children, 16.2% had three children, 12.1% had four children, and 2.0% had 5 children.

18.2% had children 2 or younger, 14.1% had children 3-5 years of age, 48.5% had children 6 years or older.

67% did not have a child in care. 34.5% had a child that needed care.

North County:

N=22. 83.3% did not have a child in child care. 10.8% had a total of 9 children in child care. 21.4% had a child that needed child care. 28.6% had to go without child care when they needed it.

The majority of families use family and friends combined with after school program. The majority would prefer to use their family or friends for child care more often.

3.6% received child care assistance. 21.4% earn between \$10-20K, 28.6 earn \$20-30K, 7.1% earn \$30-40K, and 39.3% earn over \$40k. 69% percent of the children are 6 years of age and older, 15.6% are 3-5, 15.6% are 2 and younger.

Appendix B Determining Subsidized Eligibility

Effective January 1, 2009, the following income ceiling table is used to determine the maximum income eligibility by family size. Program directors are to continue utilizing the current family fee schedule as noted in MB 06-19 (effective January 1, 2007). For an eligible family whose income exceeds the family fee schedule, contractors are to use the fees for 75 percent of the SMI on the current family fee schedule so that the family pays the maximum fee for their respective family size.

The revised State Median Income (SMI) amount is lower than last year and thus the income ceilings are also slightly lower. The current SMI is \$55,584 for a family size of 1-2 people. Income eligibility for any new case should be determined using the revised table. The new income ceilings should be applied to any re-certifications, reported changes in income, or if an agency otherwise becomes aware that income has increased at the time the activity occurs, but no later than December 31, 2009.

Schedule of Income Ceilings for Child Care and Development Programs

Family Size	Family Monthly Income	Family Yearly Income
1-2	\$3,474	\$41,688
3	\$3,722	\$44,664
4	\$4,135	\$49,620
5	\$4,797	\$57,564
6	\$5,459	\$65,508
7	\$5,583	\$66,996
8	\$5,707	\$68,484
9	\$5,831	\$69,972
10	\$5,955	\$71,460
11	\$6,079	\$72,948
12	\$6,203	\$74,436

California Department of Education, Child Development Division, Management Bulletin 08-17, January 1, 2009.

Appendix C

Formula for Estimate of Need for Work-Related Child Care

<u>Age Group</u>	<u># of Children potentially needing child care</u>	x	<u>% children needing non-relative care</u>	=	<u># of children needing child care</u>
0-4 yrs	359	x	50%*	=	180
5-13 yrs	941	x	40%**	=	<u>377</u>
Total			557		

*Percentage derived from research based estimates provided by Child Action, Inc.

** This number may be an overestimate due to school aged children having a decreased demand for child care.

Appendix D



Mariposa
Local Child Care Planning Council

5065 Jones Street/P.O. Box 1162
Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-6299 (209) 966-2236

Community Needs Assessment Survey

The Mariposa Local Child Care Planning Council is conducting a survey in partnership with Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. and Mariposa Family Resource Center to assess needs specific to Mariposa County and how better to meet those needs. In order to do this effectively WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please take a few minutes and complete this survey and return it to your child's teacher.

Thank you for your help.

1. Number of children living in your residence (please write a number for each item)
_____ ages 0-2 _____ ages 3-5 _____ ages 6-12

2. Language(s) spoken most often in home:

3. How many of the children living in your home are in child care? _____

4. How many of the children living in your home need child care? _____

5. Have you ever had to go without child care when you needed it? Yes No

6. If you answered yes to #5 what was the reason you went without care?

7. How did you resolve the situation described in #6?

8. Do you have a child with a disability? Yes No
If you answered yes, have you had difficulty finding care? Yes No
If yes can you share what the difficulty was?

9. Please indicate the order of priority you place on each of the following when choosing child care (Number 1 is most important, 2 next in importance etc...)

_____ Cost of Care _____ Location of Care _____ Type of Care
 Setting
 _____ Quality of Care _____ Provider's Qualifications _____ Other (please
 specify)

10. Please indicate the degree to which the following items are barriers to accessing child care for your family.

	Other	Not a Barrier	Slight Barrier	Average Barrier	Large Barrier	Extreme Barrier
Cost of Care						
Type of care offered (infant/toddler, before/after school, etc.)						
Hours and days care is offered						
Location of care						
Transporting children (home/work, Head Start/day care, etc.)						
If "Other" Please Specify:						

11. Level of yearly income: _____ Less than \$10,000 _____ \$10,000-\$20,000
 _____ \$20,000-\$30,000 _____ \$30,000-\$40,000 _____ Over \$40,000

12. Which of these geographical areas is the closest to your home?

- Mariposa El Portal/Yosemite Cathey's Valley Coulterville/Greeley Hill
 Midpines Lake Don Pedro Lushmeadows Woodland/Bootjack
 Jerseydale Ponderosa Basin Fish Camp Bear Valley/Hornitos

13. Do you get help to pay for your child care? Yes No

If yes, where do you receive help from:

14. If there were a child care center in the town of Mariposa would you use it?

- No Maybe Probably Yes

15. If there was drop-in child care in the town of Mariposa would you use it?

- No Maybe Probably Yes

16. If there were child care for your child when he/she is mildly sick would you use it?

- No Maybe Probably Yes

17. Please complete the following table as completely as possible:

	Child 1 Age _____	Child 2 Age _____	Child 3 Age _____	Child 4 Age _____
Type of Care <i>Currently Used</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Before/after school <input type="checkbox"/> Child care center <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed child care home <input type="checkbox"/> Family or friend <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Before/after school <input type="checkbox"/> Child care center <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed child care home <input type="checkbox"/> Family or friend <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Before/after school <input type="checkbox"/> Child care center <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed child care home <input type="checkbox"/> Family or friend <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Before/after school <input type="checkbox"/> Child care center <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed child care home <input type="checkbox"/> Family or friend <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Type of Care <i>Preferred</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Before/after school <input type="checkbox"/> Child care center <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed child care home <input type="checkbox"/> Family or friend <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Before/after school <input type="checkbox"/> Child care center <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed child care home <input type="checkbox"/> Family or friend <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Before/after school <input type="checkbox"/> Child care center <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed child care home <input type="checkbox"/> Family or friend <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Before/after school <input type="checkbox"/> Child care center <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed child care home <input type="checkbox"/> Family or friend <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Days and Hours Care is <i>Needed</i>	Mon. ___am/pm ___am/pm Tues. ___am/pm ___am/pm Wed. ___am/pm ___am/pm Thur. ___am/pm ___am/pm Fri. ___am/pm ___am/pm Sat. ___am/pm ___am/pm Sun. ___am/pm ___am/pm	Mon. ___am/pm ___am/pm Tues. ___am/pm ___am/pm Wed. ___am/pm ___am/pm Thur. ___am/pm ___am/pm Fri. ___am/pm ___am/pm Sat. ___am/pm ___am/pm Sun. ___am/pm ___am/pm	Mon. ___am/pm ___am/pm Tues. ___am/pm ___am/pm Wed. ___am/pm ___am/pm Thur. ___am/pm ___am/pm Fri. ___am/pm ___am/pm Sat. ___am/pm ___m/pm Sun. ___am/pm ___am/pm	Mon. ___am/pm ___am/pm Tues. ___am/pm ___am/pm Wed. ___am/pm ___am/pm Thur. ___am/pm ___am/pm Fri. ___am/pm ___am/pm Sat. ___am/pm ___am/pm Sun. ___am/pm ___am/pm
Reason for Need (work, school, respite, social interaction, etc.):				

18. In your opinion, how can our community be more effective in preventing child abuse and neglect? (Check your top 2 choices)

- Increase support for families in crisis (hot lines, counselors, etc.)
- Increase parenting skills/parent education
- Training of people like teachers, school nurses, doctors, etc to recognize early warning signs of abuse
- Increase educational or job opportunities for parents
- Early intervention services to families at risk of child abuse before a formal complaint is filed
- Other:

19. How can our community help parents experiencing stress and anger get the help they need? (Check your top 2 choices)

- Parenting and relationship classes
- Home visitation programs
- Better linking of families to services
- School-based activities
- More recreation opportunities
- Employment assistance

20. What can be done to make community organizations more effective in serving the County's families? (Check your top 2 choices)

- More outreach programs focusing on at-risk communities and families
- More coordination among organizations working to help families
- More parent involvement
- More partnerships between agencies and existing community organizations
- Centralized location of services available (Family Enrichment Center)
- Other:

21. Which of the following services would you be interested in? (Check all that you would use)

- Public Transportation
- Parenting Classes
- Relationship Counseling

- Family Activity Nights Support Groups Life Skills Classes (sewing, cooking, anger management...)
- Sick Child Care Job Training Money Management
- Nutrition Literacy Program Play Groups

22. What would entice you to use these services?

23. What would prevent you from using these services?

24. If you have a child with special needs which of the following services might you use?

- Advocacy Research Assistance Transportation IEP/IFSP Training
- Sibling Support Play Groups Support Groups Referral Assistance
- Parent Support Home Visits Other: _____

If you would like to be contacted regarding any of the information shared please give us your name and number and we'll contact you. Otherwise, leave blank.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Thank you so much for helping us to better serve the community!!!

Endnotes

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Interim State Population Projections, 2005.
- ² This is the number of families where either two parents are working, or single head of household is working.
- ³ Estimate based on 2000 Census Data.
- ⁴ Human Services Report, Mariposa County, 2009.
- ⁵ Data Provided by the Mariposa County Department of Human Services. June 1, 2009.
- ⁶ Center for Social Services Research, University of California Berkeley, Mariposa County Caseload and Prevalence rates.
- ⁷ Child Care Economic Impact Report, produced for the LCP by Sue Overstreet, 2002.
- ⁸ Child Care Economic Impact Report, produced for the LCP by Sue Overstreet, 2002.
- ⁹ Education Code § 8449.5.
- ¹⁰ Ingredients for Quality Child Care, National Network for Child Care.
<http://www.nccc.org/Choose.Quality.Care/ingredients.html>
- ¹¹ First 5 California, Child, Family, & Community Indicators Book, August 2002.
- ¹² First 5, Child, Family and Community Indicators Book, August 2002.
- ¹³ This number varies and is somewhat inflated. There are approximately 3-4 licensed homes that have temporarily suspended providing child care at this time. Further, some family child care providers elect to serve a smaller number of children than their licenses permit, which is referred to as *desired capacity* rather than *licensed capacity*. Data on total desired slot capacity was unavailable at this time.
- ¹⁴ Data Source: The California Child Care Portfolio 2007
- ¹⁵ Data Source: The California Child Care Portfolio 2007
- ¹⁶ ICES Handout. Family Child Care Licensing Regulations Regarding Capacity.
- ¹⁷ California Department of Education Website. Reimbursement Ceilings for Subsidized Child Care. Mariposa County average cost for child centers.
- ¹⁸ First 5, California, Child, Family, & Community Indicators Book, August 2002.