

Information Regarding Subsidized Child Care in Alameda County

What is Subsidized Child Care?

State and Federally funded Subsidized Child Care Programs are available to assist low-income families with financial resources to find an affordable quality child care for their children. **California Alternative Payment Programs (CAPP)**, and **California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)** child care programs offer a choice of child care arrangements for parents, such as licensed centers, licensed family child care homes and license exempt child care.

Families must meet one of the below criteria:
(may not apply to Stage 1 cash aided families)

- Family has a child or children at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or receiving **Child Protective Services (CPS)** through the **County Welfare Department (CWD)**
- Family is homeless
- Family is income eligible and has a 'need' for services. 'Need' means the parent or guardian must be working, in school, looking for work, looking for permanent housing, or medically incapacitated
- Family is a public assistance recipient



California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP)

The AP program can be accessed through the Eligibility List for Subsidized Child Care. Families must be income eligible and have a 'need' for services.

CalWORKs Child Care

In order to allow participants to engage in required Welfare-to-Work activities, subsidized child care may be authorized as a support service to families participating in the CalWORKs program. Participants must be currently receiving cash aid or have received cash aid within the last 24 months.

CalWORKs Child Care is administered in 3 stages:

Stage 1 is funded by the California Department of Social Services through the CWD. This stage begins when a participant enters CalWORKs and receives an approved Welfare-to-Work plan developed by their Employment Counselor. Social Services refers families to local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies to assist in finding child care. Child Care Links and 4C's of Alameda County may be able to pay child care providers directly for their services.

Stage 2 is administered by the **California Department of Education (CDE)**. Stage 1 families are transferred into Stage 2 when the CWD deems the family to be stable. Participation in Stage 1 and/or Stage 2 is limited to 24 months after the participant stops receiving CalWORKs cash assistance.

Stage 3 is administered by CDE. A family may move to this stage when it has exhausted its 24 month limit in Stage 1 and/or Stage 2 (referred to as timing out), and for as long as the family remains otherwise eligible for child care programs.

Who Do I Contact To See If I am Eligible for the Subsidized Child Care?

Contact one of the following agencies to check your eligibility for subsidized child care and to get on an Eligibility List for services:

4C's Oakland 510.272.0669
Oakland

BANANAS 510.658.7353
Albany, Alameda, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont

Child Care Links 925.417.8733
Dublin, Fremont, Livermore, Newark, Pleasanton, Sunol, Union City

Child Family Community 510.441.2220
Hayward

Davis Street 510.347.4620
Albany, Berkeley, Castro Valley, San Leandro, San Lorenzo

Finding Licensed Child Care:

If you need assistance locating a licensed child care provider in Alameda County, contact the Resource & Referral agency in your area:

- **Child Care Links**
925.417.8733
Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and Sunol
- **BANANAS**
510.658.0381
Alameda, Albany, Oakland, Emeryville and Piedmont
- **4C's of Alameda County**
510.582.2182
Castro Valley, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, San Leandro, San Lorenzo and Union City

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's):

- **How long is the waiting list?**
The length of time on the waiting list varies. Eligible families are placed on the waitlist based on family size and lowest income first. **Children at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation have priority, regardless of income.**
- **I am on cash assistance through the county welfare system. Do I qualify for services?**
You may qualify for the CalWORKs child care program. Contact the agency in your area to determine eligibility.
- **Does Child Care Links provide child care?**
No. Child Care Links does not provide child care onsite. The parental choice program allows parents and guardians to select child care providers who best meets the needs of the child(ren) and family.
- **What ages of children does Child Care Links serve?**
Child Care Links can pay for child care for children ages infant up to thirteen years of age. With verification from a legally qualified professional, children with exceptional needs and severely disabled children may receive services up to the age of 21 years of age.
- **Do I have to pay anything to be on the program?**
Family fees are applied on a sliding scale, and are based on family size and income. You will not be charged a fee if you are below 40% of the state median income level. Family fees may be waived depending on the program in which the family is enrolled. If a fee is applied, your Eligibility Specialist will determine the fee amount based on income and family size.

