

SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

How to Get Help Paying for Child Care

Quality Child Care Impacts Everything



**Do You Need Help Finding
Quality Child Care?"**

**Do You Need Help Paying
for Child Care?**



We provide financial assistance so families can work, go to school, or complete training while knowing their children are safe and cared for. Our subsidy programs connect you with trusted providers and ease the cost of quality child care.

Overview of Child Care Subsidy Programs in Sacramento County

Program	Descriptions
Child Development Programs	Full-day care for children (birth to 12+ for those with special needs). Available for income-eligible families needing care for work, school, or training. Operated by school districts and nonprofits, covering educational, social, emotional, nutritional, and health needs.
State Preschool	Early education and parenting support for income-eligible families.
Head Start/Early Head Start	Infant and preschool education with parenting support. Available for income-eligible families (some exceptions for children with disabilities). Head Start serves ages 3–school age; Early Head Start serves ages 0–36 months. Operated by SETA in areas not served by school districts.
Universal Pre-Kindergarten	Offers early learning options for 3 and 4-year-olds, open to all families regardless of income or immigration status. Includes State Preschool, Head Start, and private family care. Four-year-olds can attend Transitional Kindergarten (TK) at elementary schools. Schedules and costs vary. Contact Child Action, Inc. for assistance.
Migrant Child Care	Seasonal full-day care for children of migrant and seasonal agricultural workers, typically located in Migrant Housing Projects.
Campus Child Care	Available for income-eligible parents enrolled in UC, CSU, and California Community Colleges. Age ranges served vary by campus.
Foster Bridge	Short-term child care for children in foster care, supporting safe and stable placements while a long-term plan is arranged. Available to resource (foster) families through the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program.

The Child Care Eligibility List (CEL) Child Action, Inc. manages the Child Care Eligibility List (CEL) for families needing Child Care or financial assistance in Sacramento County. Adding your information allows programs serving the county, specific age groups, or your child's school to consider you for enrollment. Programs funded by the California Department of Education or Department of Social Services can access the CEL and contact you about no-cost or low-cost Child Care.

Waiting for Assistance These programs have limited funding and may not serve all eligible children. Some use the Child Care Eligibility List, while others have their own eligibility lists. When you contact programs, be prepared to give information on your family size, income, and work or school schedules.

Sacramento County Subsidy Assistance

Program	Description
Alternate Payments Program (APP)	Child Action (CAI) offers Child Care certificates, allowing parents to choose a licensed or exempt provider, including centers, family homes, relatives, or qualifying non-licensed providers. Parents are placed in programs based on need and eligibility, with all participants required to be engaged in an activity (employment, training, job search, or medical incapacitation) that necessitates Child Care. Families may also be referred for services from Child Protective Services.
Beanstalk	Beanstalk offers sliding fees and free programs at licensed centers and family Child Care homes. Programs include full-day and part-day preschool, as well as before/after-school care. The Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN) provides flexible hours at various locations in the greater Sacramento area, with income eligibility required.

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKs)

3 Stages of CalWORKs Child Care:

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered by the County of Sacramento (Department of Human Assistance – DHA). Begins when a participant enters the CalWORKs grant program and starts a welfare-to-work plan. DHA refers families to Resource and Referral agencies for assistance with finding Child Care. Child Care providers enroll with the APP agency and receive payment from the county. Families receive cash aid while in training, work programs, or starting work. Eligible for up to 2 years after leaving aid if certain conditions are met. Children up to age 13 (unless special needs). Contact: County Social Service Departments, (916) 874-6000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered by Alternative Payment Program (Child Action – CAI). Begins when a parent's activity is stable or transitioning off aid. Child Care is available up to 24 months after leaving cash aid. Child Care providers work with CAI to enroll and receive payment. Families leave Stage 2 when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They've received 24 months of Child Care. Their income exceeds 85% of the state median income. They no longer need Child Care. Contact: Child Action, (916) 369-0191 or visit us on www.childaction.org. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered by Alternative Payment Program (Child Action – CAI). Begins after families exhaust their 24-month Stage 2 limit. Available as long as the family remains eligible and needs care. Child Care providers work with CAI to enroll and receive payment. Eligibility based on income at or below 85% of the state median income. Children up to age 13 (unless special needs). Contact: Child Action, (916) 369-0191 or visit us on www.childaction.org.