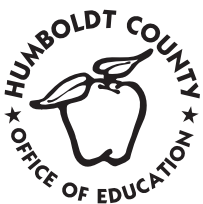




Child Care Needs Assessment

May 2005



Garry T. Eagles, Ph.D.
Superintendent

NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PROCESS	OUTCOME
Needs Subcommittee	Reviewed past Needs Assessment and reviewed mandates
Data Collection	Data was collected from local, state and national sources
Draft Needs Assessment	Data was compiled into a draft
Board Input	Draft Needs Assessment was presented to Council
Revision	Revisions from the Council were incorporated
Public Input Opportunities	Open forum, Web site, newspapers, public libraries. Resulted in four responses from the community. Responses available for viewing by contacting http://www.humboldt.k12.ca.us/lccpc

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREAS

For purposes of planning, the LCCPC has divided the county into three geographic planning areas: the Northern Area, the Central Area and the Southern Area.

The Northern area covers from the Del Norte County line at the north edge, to the Trinity County line in the east, to just above Eureka and includes the zip codes: 95550, 95570, 95564, 95555, 95556, 95525, 95524, 95519, 95546, 95573, 95521, 95530

The Central area encompasses the greater Eureka area and includes the zip codes: 95501, 95503, 95537, 95534, 95549

The Southern area starts just south of Eureka and stretches to the Mendocino County line and includes the zip codes: 95545, 95558, 95536, 95542, 95571, 95514, 95553, 95560, 95589, 95511, 95554, 95559, 95569, 95587, 95540, 95447, 95565, 95562, 95551, 95547, 95440, 95528, 95526

These divisions allow us to look at data by area to give a general picture. One drawback of looking at data in such large areas is that individual communities may be lacking child care services. The majority of the population and the services are concentrated along the 101 corridor spanning the Northern, Central and top portion of the Southern Area.



INTRODUCTION

We respectfully submit this Assessment of Child Care Needs in Humboldt County to the California Department of Education, Child Development Division and the Community. It is the result of months of planning and data collection. It is the intention of the Local Child Care Planning Council of Humboldt County to give the most complete picture of the needs of its families and the services available. This document is the result of the efforts of the council in cooperation with child care providers. We would like to thank all of the agencies and individuals for their time, interest and contributions, especially the members of the Assessment and Planning Committee. Many local agencies provided the council with data for the assessment including: Humboldt Child Care Council Resource and Referral, Department of Social Services, Humboldt County Office of Education, and the Employment Development Department.

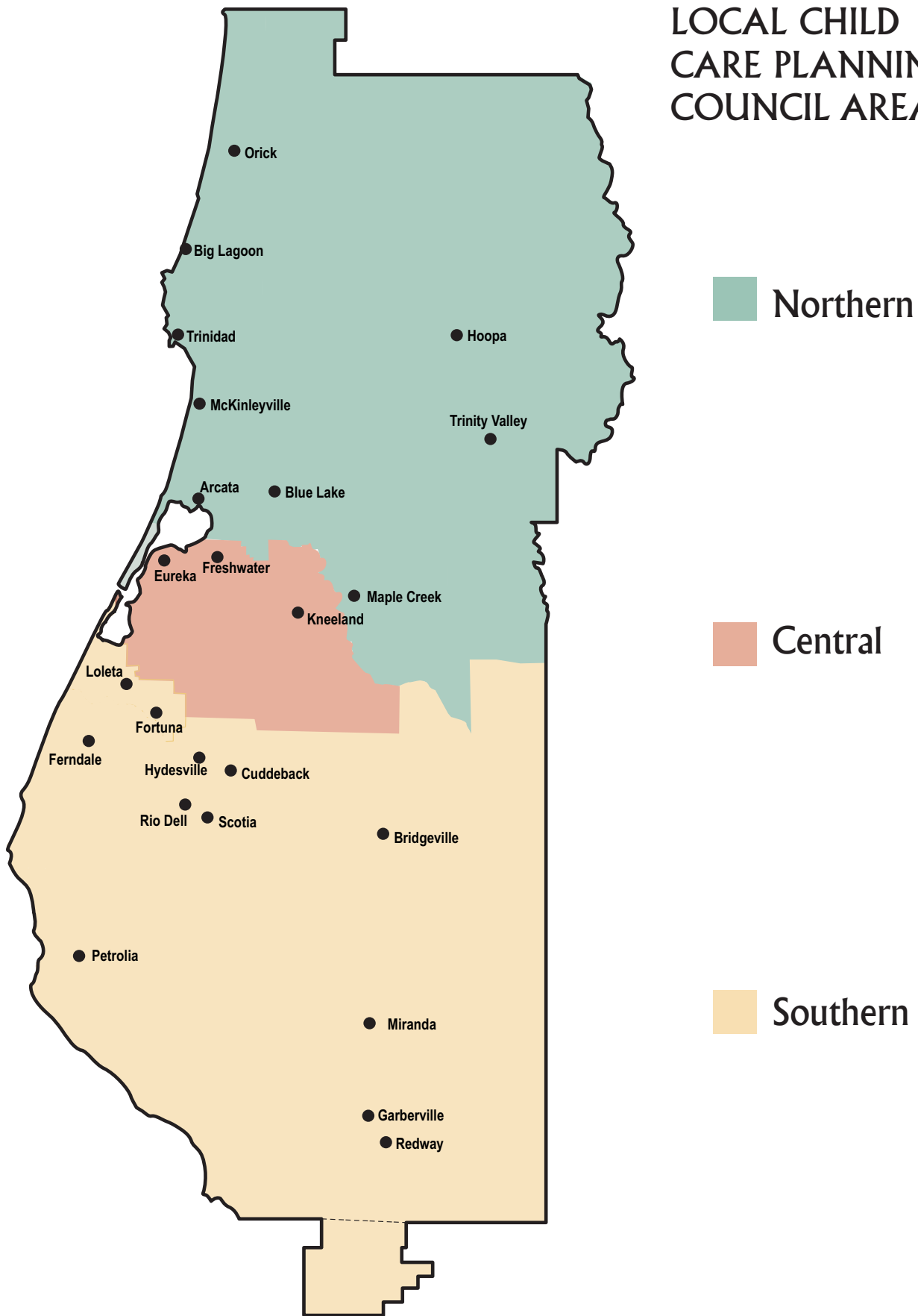
LOCAL CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL

“Pursuant to the Statutes of 1997 (AB 1542, Chapter 2.3 8499.3 and 8499.5) which establishes California’s welfare reform program, or CalWORKS (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids), a Local Child Care Planning Council (LCCPC) is to be established for each of the 58 counties in California to assess and prioritize their community’s child care and development needs. Based on the local child care needs of families who are seeking or are currently receiving subsidized and/or non-subsidized services, the LCCPC’s are responsible for providing recommendations to the CDE on local priorities in the allocation of state and federal child care and development funds.”

In response to the legislation, Humboldt County formed a Local Child Care Planning Council (LCCPC). The first meeting was held on January 27, 1998. The Council consists of 15 members from various backgrounds including parents, providers, community members, and administrators. There are three members in each of the five categories. The categories are provider, public agency, consumer, community and discretionary. The Board of Supervisors and the Superintendent of Schools jointly appoint council members. The LCCPC meets regularly and has committees that meet as needed.



LOCAL CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL AREAS



MISSION STATEMENT

Assess, plan, and promote quality, accessible, affordable child care and development services reflecting the diverse needs of families throughout Humboldt County.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to promote quality, accessible, affordable child care and development services reflecting the diverse needs of families throughout Humboldt County, the Local Child Care Planning Council recommends **ALL** of the following:

- More availability of affordable child care for all ages, but especially infant care, throughout the county.
 - Partnerships between the business and child care community to help make child care more affordable and accessible for employees.
 - Increase in child care during non-traditional hours to reflect the growing trend of service industry jobs.
 - Increase in public and private support so that all families can pay for child care services.
 - Increase knowledge of school-age programs and data.
-

LOCAL CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Provider

Carol Hill
Kathy Montagne
Susan Smith

Community

Rita Carole
Marianne DeSobrinio
Kathy Fraser

Public Agency

Sydney Fisher Larson
Dr. Deborah Roberts

Discretionary

Jackie Hamilton
Diana Munzer

Consumer

Heather French
Linda Maxon
Terri Vroman



CHANGES

The following changes have occurred since the last Humboldt County Local Child Care Planning Council Needs Assessment was produced in 1999.

1999	2004-2005
There were approximately 1500 births per year countywide (Public Health, Vital Statistics)	There are approximately 1400 births per year countywide (Public Health, Vital Statistics)
39% of children between 0-17 had both parents in the workforce (1990 Census)	51% of children 0-5 and 62% of school-age children have both parents in the workforce (2000 Census)
25 licensed Family Child Care Homes in the Southern area (Community Care Licensing)	32 licensed Family Child Care Homes in the Southern area (Humboldt Child Care Council)
85 licensed Family Child Care Homes in the Central Area (Community Care Licensing)	82 licensed Family Child Care Homes in the Central Area (Humboldt Child Care Council)
59 licensed Family Child Care Homes in the Northern Area (Community Care Licensing)	45 licensed Family Child Care Homes in the Northern Area (Humboldt Child Care Council)
489 child care center slots in the Southern area (Community Care Licensing)	1014 child care center slots in the Southern area (Community Care Licensing & self report of license exempt afterschool programs)
1125 child care center slots in the Central area (Community Care Licensing)	1644 child care center slots in the Central area (Community Care Licensing & self report of license exempt afterschool programs)
1166 child care center slots in the Northern area (Community Care Licensing)	1193 child care center slots in the Northern area (Community Care Licensing & self report of license exempt afterschool programs)
0\$ were spent on Retention of child care staff	To date \$757,175 has been spent on Retention Incentive efforts (A program funded by First 5, LCCPC, HAEYC/CARES to reward child care providers for obtaining professional growth and continuing to work in child care).

Although Humboldt County's birth rate has declined and we have seen a number of center closures, there appears to be an increase in child care center slots in all 3 planning areas. This is in part due to the availability of federal and state funds for afterschool programs. Community Learning Centers which provide afterschool care at many school sites throughout the county did not exist when the 1999 Needs Assessment data was compiled. Reporting the number of slots can be misleading when trying to determine a need for services. An individual program may have both a wait list and an opening because a slot may be available but not at the time the parent needs care, or in the area where the parent needs care. The weekly number served can exceed capacity because more than one child may fill a slot, for example one child may come Monday, Wednesday, Friday and another Tuesday, Thursday, serving two children, using one slot.



CHALLENGES TO ENSURING SAFE, AFFORDABLE, AVAILABLE, AND ACCESSIBLE QUALITY CHILD CARE FOR ALL WHO NEED IT

- Ability to recruit and retain qualified staffing in outlying areas
- In some communities there is a need but not enough population to support a viable child care business
- The process of obtaining and maintaining a license
- Zoning barriers: Child Care centers and Family Child Care Homes are not included in zoning plans in all communities
- Lack of adequate public transportation
- Increase in the number of working parents of young children, including low and moderate income families
- An increasing number of jobs that require non-traditional hours, and rotating shifts
- High cost of renting or purchasing a site or home for child care

AVAILABILITY

The Child Care Market

There are approximately 274 formal child care facilities in Humboldt County, including:

- 159 licensed family child care homes
- 26 licensed child care centers
- 21 Head Start and Early Head Start Programs
- 30 child development programs funded by the California Department of Education
- 38 license-exempt before- and after-school programs

Currently the child care industry, including licensed child care centers, licensed family child care homes, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, license-exempt before-and after-school programs, and programs funded by the California Department of Education has the capacity to serve just 5,000 children at any one time. In 2003 there were over 13,000 children ages 0 through 12 with all parents in the labor force, and the formal child care industry had the capacity to serve 36 percent of those children at any one time. While not all families utilize formal child care arrangements—some may arrange work schedules so that one parent is home with children and others may place children with family, friends or neighbors—this information does highlight that there is a significant percentage of children with all parents working that are not in formal child care. (*The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in Humboldt County prepared by the National Economic Development and Law Center, 2004.*)



Center Based Child Care

The following charts capture the capacity of licensed child care providers according to zip code. It also indicates how many children are on wait lists, how many openings a provider might have and the number of children a program serves in a typical week. An individual program may have both a wait list and an opening because a slot may be available but not at the time the parent needs care. The weekly number served can exceed capacity because more than one child may fill a slot. For example, one child may come Monday, Wednesday, Friday and another Tuesday, Thursday, serving two children, using one slot. This information was collected in the Spring of 2004.

NORTHERN

ZIP CODE	CAPACITY	WAIT LIST	OPENINGS	WEEKLY # SERVED
Infant				
95521	59	75	0	74
Preschool				
95521	243	266	3	333
95524	14	0	0	20
95519	117	29	3	142
95525	24	0	0	16
95555	15	2	0	10
95556	15	1	0	13
95573	20	11	0	14
95546	24	7	9	9
95570	34	5	0	38
School-age				
95525	36	0	12	24
95570	30	0	7	23
95546	50	0	0	100
95521	266	1	19	302
95519	204	3	23	185
95524	42	8	16	59

**This data was collected in the Spring of 2004 and does not reflect closures or openings that have occurred subsequent to data collection.*



CENTRAL

ZIP CODE	CAPACITY	WAIT LIST	OPENINGS	WEEKLY # SERVED
Infant				
95503	12	0	4	8
95501	29	50	10	33
Preschool				
95501	340	153	19	333
95502	48	3	0	47
95503	176	35	9	324
School-Age				
95501	351	0	46	285
95502				
95503	688	23	51	667

**This data was collected in the Spring of 2004 and does not reflect closures or openings that have occurred subsequent to data collection.*



SOUTHERN

ZIP CODE	CAPACITY	WAIT LIST	OPENINGS	WEEKLY # SERVED
Infant	0	0	0	0
Preschool				
95560	68	43	12	77
95528	24	0	9	18
95536	20	10	0	61
95540	154	114	0	181
95526	15	1	0	14
95553	13	2	0	11
95562	52	27	12	34
95551	22	1	3	22
95565	27	0	5	25
School-Age				
95560	110	3	0	86
95536	19	5	0	28
95540	310	67	0	289
95589	15	0	5	10
95526	12	0	6	6
95551	35	0	0	35
95514	6	0	0	12
95562	45	0	0	80
95528	40	0	10	30
95565	27	0	3	10

**This data was collected in the Spring of 2004 and does not reflect closures or openings that have occurred subsequent to data collection.*



Subsidized Child Care Center Wait Lists
(a subset of all center wait list information)

AREA	ZIP CODE	WAIT LIST
NORTHERN		
Infant		
	95521	75
Preschool		
	95521	49
	95546	7
	95519	11
	95570	5
School-Age		
	95521	1
	95519	3
	95524	8
<hr/>		
CENTRAL		
Infant		
	95501	50
Preschool		
	95501	80
School-Age		
	95503	20
<hr/>		
SOUTHERN		
Infant		
Preschool		
	95540	11
	95551	1
	95560	30
	95562	10
School-Age		
	95540	60
	95560	3



Family Child Care Homes

Humboldt Child Care Council (HCCC) Resource & Referral (R&R) Data for the Local Child Care Planning Council of Humboldt County

In April of 2004, R&R surveyed licensed family child care providers to determine child enrollment averages in a given week (the week prior to the contact from HCCC). Surveys were conducted over the phone and through the mail. Of 159 licensed family child care homes (FCCHs) contacted, 149 responded with their week's average enrollment information.

The table below includes:

1. First column represents a zip code where at least one licensed family child care provider has located their business.
2. The second column indicates the total number of family child care homes located in the corresponding zip code.
3. The third column represents the total number (by zip code) of full-time children (more than 30 hours per week) enrolled in FCCHs in the week prior to HCCC contact.
4. The fourth column represents the total number (by zip code) of part-time children (15-30 hours per week) enrolled in FCCHs in the week prior to HCCC contact.
5. The fifth column represents the total number (by zip code) of part-time children (less than 15 hours per week) enrolled in FCCHs in the week prior to HCCC contact.

Zip Code	Total FCCH per Zip Code	FT children (over 30)	PT children (15-30)	PT children (under 15)
95501	38	136	108	99
95503	44	123	80	69
95519	19	46	40	47
95521	21	59	55	56
95540	19	57	36	56
95536	4	12	7	6
95565	1	4	15	15
95547	2	12	6	6
95556	1	1	5	9
95560	3	20	13	9
95562	1	2	6	4
95524	2	8	3	2
95573	1	0	0	0
95525	1	0	5	2
95542	1	1	1	3
95551	1	4	7	9
TOTAL	159	485	387	392



Family Child Care Homes by Region

Region	Total FCCH by Region	FT children (over 30 hours)	PT children (15-30 hours)	PT children (under 15)
Northern	45	114	108	116
Central	82	259	188	168
Southern	32	112	91	108

Information compiled from data provided by Humboldt Child Care Council Resource and Referral.



AFFORDABILITY

Child Care and the Family Budget

*(Unless otherwise noted the information in this section comes directly from the report **The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in Humboldt County prepared by the National Economic Development and Law Center, 2004.**)*

Child care programs are a significant expense for families in most income brackets. The average annual cost for full-time licensed home based child care for an infant is \$6,400 and full-time center-based care for preschoolers and school-age children costs \$5,500 in Humboldt County. Full time unsubsidized child care center costs for infants, preschoolers, and school-age children cost more than the undergraduate tuition for California residents at Humboldt State University (\$2,536 for two semesters). For a family at the county's median family income (\$39,370) with an infant in full-time home-based care, these costs take up 16 percent of the total family budget. For a family at median income that has both a preschooler and infant in full-time care, these child care costs take up more than 30 percent of total income. Families are likely to have fewer resources when parents and children are young, thus increasing the child care burden for families when they need it.

Programs that reduce child care costs for low-income families are critical to sustaining parents' participation in the workforce. In SFY 2003 2,248 children were receiving child care subsidies which provide child care financial assistance for low-income working parents, and in April 2004, there were 1,311 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care. The number of those on the waiting list for child care assistance is more than 26 percent of the industry's total capacity. Many more income-eligible families do not receive support and do not place themselves on the long list.



Additionally, there are many low and moderate-income families that are ineligible for child care assistance, but still struggle to meet child care costs. As families continue to transition from welfare to work, there will be an additional demand for affordable child care that can meet the needs of families earning just enough income to be ineligible for child care assistance and not enough income to afford child care, an essential component of their sustained employment.

The *Self-Sufficiency Standard* measures the amount of income needed for a family to adequately meet its needs without government assistance. Humboldt County's self-sufficiency wage is \$34,481 for an adult with two young children. While Humboldt's self-sufficiency wage is comparably low to more affluent counties in California, the percentage of jobs in Humboldt County whose full-time yearly pay is below this standard is high. The median hourly wage for all occupations in Humboldt County is \$12.97 an hour—significantly lower than the self-sufficiency wage for a single adult with an infant (\$14.77/hour). Of the top ten jobs with the greatest absolute projected growth in Humboldt County from 2001 to 2008, only 30 percent paid an hourly self-sufficiency wage (\$11.85/hour for a single-parent family with two school-age children).

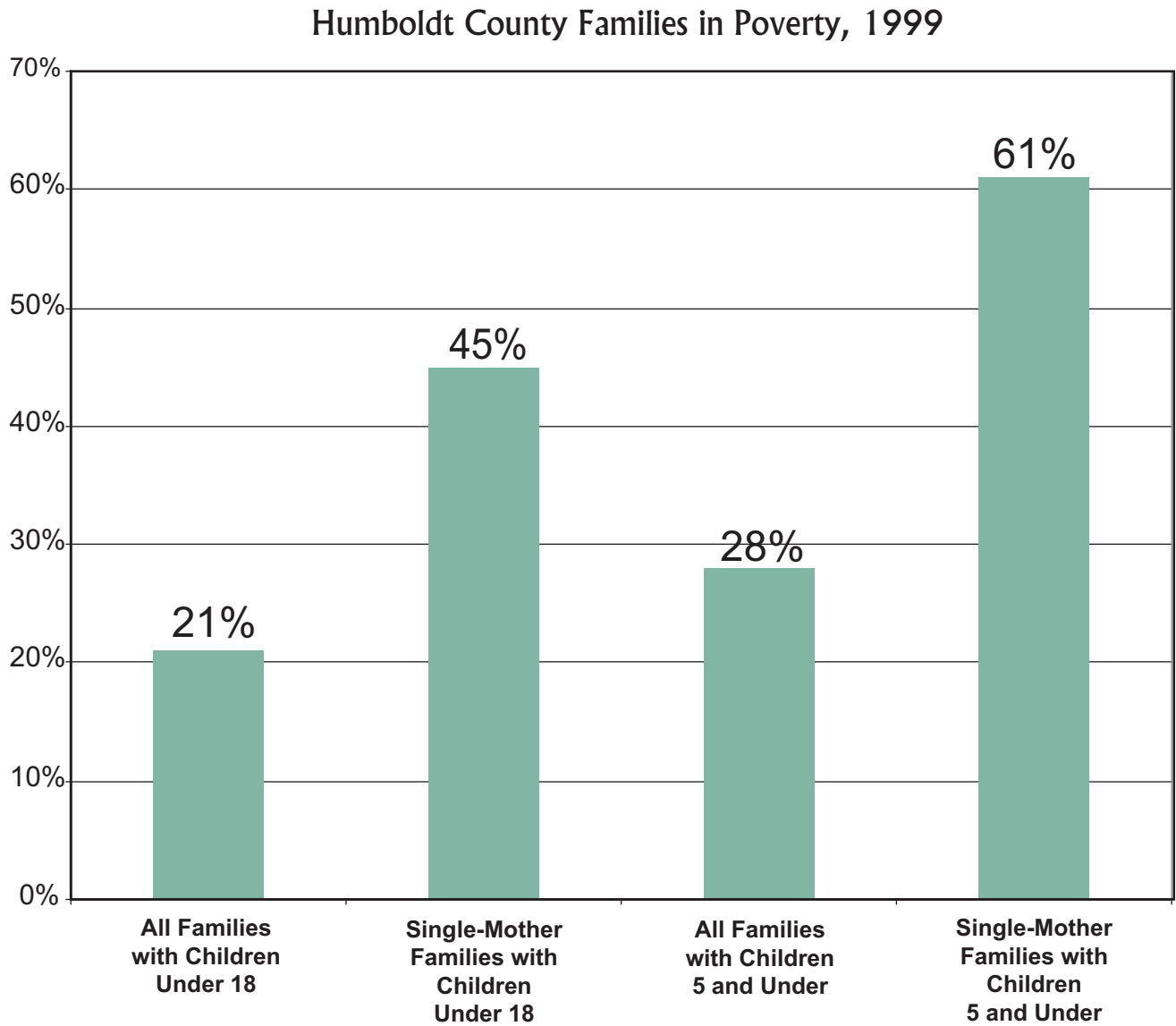
One of Humboldt County's strongest attributes for attracting businesses and high-skilled workers to the area is its relatively low cost of living and high quality of life. The median cost of a home in the county however is \$206,500 up 67% from January 2000. While the costs of housing may be low in comparison to more affluent parts of California, Humboldt County's housing affordability has been in steady decline with only 28 percent of households capable of affording a median-priced home in January 2004. (*According to the Humboldt County Association of Realtors, these numbers have gotten even bleaker with the median cost of a home in the county increasing to \$265,000 and only 21 percent of households were capable of affording a median priced home in August 2004.*)

Almost one-fourth of all Humboldt County households earn an annual income of less than \$15,000. In 1999, almost 4,000 families lived under the federal poverty line in the county—almost 13 percent of all families. Of all areas in the county, the area surrounding Eureka and the eastern part of the county experience the highest levels of poverty.

The percentage of families living under the federal poverty line increases for families with younger children. While 21 percent of families in Humboldt County with children 18 and under are in poverty, over 28 percent of families with children under five live below the poverty line. Furthermore, the percentage of families living in poverty increases significantly for single-mother families; those most dependent on child care services for labor force participation. While 28 percent of all families in Humboldt County with children five and under live below the poverty line, 61 percent of single-mother families with children five and under live in poverty. Families living in poverty depend on child care subsidies in order to participate in the labor force or attend school.



The following table illustrates the need for child care subsidies in Humboldt County especially for those with children under 5.



U.S. Census, Census 2000 File 3, SF3, Sample Data (percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes).



ACCESSIBILITY

The supply of accessible child care is also a substantial problem for parents in Humboldt County. Accessibility refers to parents' ability to use programs. In a selective survey of employees in Humboldt County, 58 percent reported that they experienced problems in arranging for child care, some of which include:

- Friends or relatives unavailable
- Lack of flexible hours or drop in care
- Lack of substitute care when provider is sick
- Lack of care during the summer
- A shortage of available child care
- Lack of before-and after-school care and weekend care
- Lack of infant care
- Lack of transportation

Location, hours of operation, available transportation and transitions between part-day programs all affect accessibility. Rural and urban areas differ in the best service delivery system, since transportation, commute patterns, and parental preferences differ. While population projections and high vacancy rates in family child care homes indicate that the overall supply of child care may be adequate in Humboldt County, evidence suggests that there is already a shortage of quality, affordable, and accessible child care programs. Efforts to expand existing child care programs to meet the growing needs of working parents and to improve the quality will not be successful unless affordability and accessibility for parents are addressed. (*The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in Humboldt County prepared by the National Economic Development and Law Center, 2004.*)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Geography

Humboldt County has an area of approximately 4053 square miles, 80% of which is either forestlands, protected Redwoods and recreation areas. (*Prosperity: The North Coast Strategy, Volume III.*) According to the 2000 Census, there are 35.4 people per square mile and there is no metropolitan area.

Many residents in Humboldt County live in “rural settings” outside the Eureka, Arcata, and McKinleyville corridor. Rural Humboldt County parents make up over half the total county population. Humboldt’s rural population faces a number of unique barriers to child care including a shortage of suitable child care facilities stemming from houses that lack access to utilities or do not meet standards set by the Community Care Licensing Division. Furthermore, low population density, economic and transportation barriers often make child care businesses in rural areas financially unfeasible. Glenda Short, Site Coordinator for Mattole School, highlights the difficulties that these barriers place on rural communities, “Local parents are interested in having a licensed preschool/daycare combination program. We would need to become licensed to do this, but licensing barriers limit us from meeting the child care needs of parents here.”

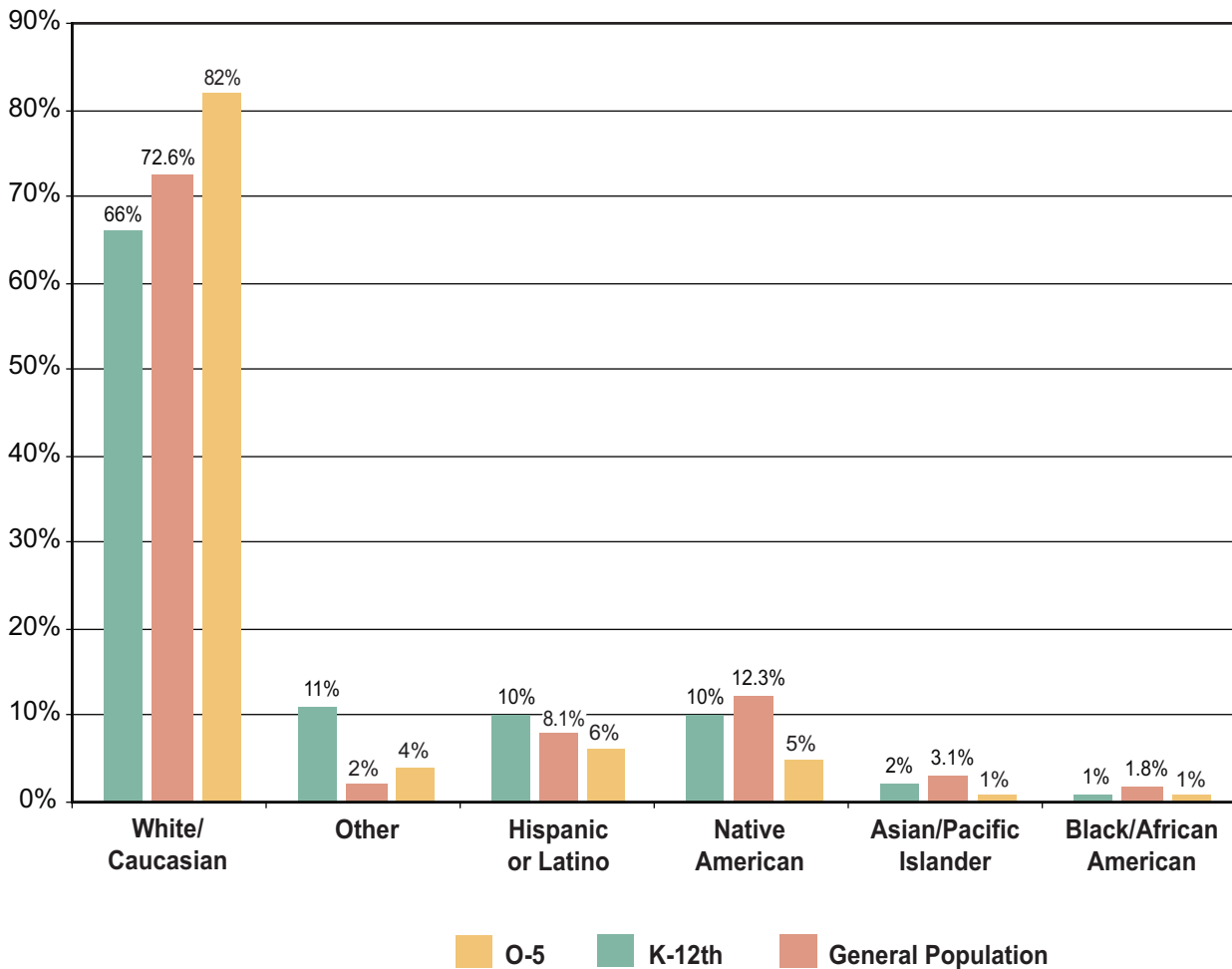
As a result, only 25 percent of licensed child care providers are located in “outlying rural communities”. Additionally, 21 of the 29 zip codes in Humboldt County have no licensed family child care homes. Research also demonstrates that respondents from all outlying areas indicated a need for “any and all” types of child care services. (*The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in Humboldt County prepared by the National Economic Development and Law Center, 2004.*)



Ethnicity

Humboldt County’s largest ethnic group is white/Caucasian with Latino and Native American being the second largest populations at 6 percent and 5 percent respectively. The graph demonstrates that the K-12 population is even larger in the Latino and Native American populations standing at 8.1% and 12.3%, indicating a large growth in both of these populations. The growth of the Latino population may have implications for the need for bilingual child care providers as well as K-12 teachers.

Humboldt County Ethnicity by Age Groups



Information obtained from 2000 Census, Humboldt County Schools Ethnic Diversity 2002-2003, and The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in Humboldt County.

Population

The birth rate has remained relatively stable over the past 6 years, with a high of 1473 births in 2001 and a low of 1342 births in 2000. There is no significant pattern of growth or decline in recent years. We do however see a decline in the school-age population.



Birth Data By Zip Code 1998-2003

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Northern						
95550	1	1	2	0	2	1
95556	13	11	7	3	7	8
95570	25	16	27	28	26	18
95564	5	2	5	4	3	2
95555	8	5	7	5	5	2
95525	17	14	16	15	29	17
95524	9	9	8	8	10	13
95519	199	200	164	189	182	157
95546	53	58	56	70	71	55
95573	22	13	14	22	14	22
95521	147	144	139	174	146	161
95518	1	0	0	0	0	2
95530	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Northern	492	473	445	518	495	458
Central						
95501	277	317	291	299	298	313
95503	218	229	227	234	234	225
95537	4	4	2	5	4	2
95534	0	0	0	0	0	0
95549	9	5	6	5	2	7
95502	3	7	2	7	9	14
Total Central	511	562	528	550	547	561
Southern						
95545	2	3	0	3	2	3
95558	2	2	4	3	4	0
95536	30	33	33	39	20	42
95542	33	25	22	23	16	25
95571	4	7	2	5	4	3
95514	3	5	5	0	0	2
95553	11	11	9	14	8	5
95560	25	26	13	28	19	22
95589	10	4	6	5	7	10
95511	6	5	4	6	1	6
95554	5	1	8	0	2	4
95559	5	2	2	2	0	0
95569	1	1	1	1	1	3
95587	0	2	3	2	0	0
95540	173	168	146	183	151	166
95447	0	0	0	0	0	0
95565	15	21	18	10	18	10
95562	50	39	54	40	49	66
95551	21	11	14	23	24	21
95547	3	11	12	8	8	9
95440	1	0	0	0	0	0
95528	11	8	9	5	4	10
95526	7	5	4	5	3	0
Total Southern	418	390	369	405	341	407

Birth data from County of Humboldt Department of Health and Human Services, Vital Statistics Department and Maternal Child Adolescent Health Department of Health and Human Services.



Humboldt County School-age Population

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Southern	446	423	440	432	424	448	477	504	451
Central	482	483	514	538	549	512	527	553	540
Northern	516	512	499	487	516	484	526	517	524

Information from California Basic Educational Data System 2003-2004, includes charter school data.

Children in Open Child Welfare Services Cases

(As of 1/29/04)

Age	Number
0-1	15
1	24
2	19
3	12
4	20
5	8
6	21
7	9
8	13
9	17
10	17
11	14
12	16
13	28

Information from Humboldt County Department of Social Services.



According to the work and education requirements of CalWORKS, all of the children receiving TANF have a need for child care. That care may be at a child care center, family child care home, from an exempt-provider or parent.

Children Receiving Public Assistance as of 1/29/2004

Type	Number*
TANF	3,488
Food Stamps	5,500
Medi-Cal	13,641
Healthy Families	2,367

Information from Humboldt County Department of Social Services.

* Numbers in this column cannot be totaled because those in each category are often in the other categories.

In California in order to transition off public assistance (CalWORKS), families are entitled to child care. Stage 1, 2 and 3 were established to support families moving through the process.

In a recent study entitled *Welfare and Work Status under TANF: Effects of Barriers to Employment and Implications for Program Planning* by Jean C. Norris and Richard Speigman, it was noted that along with transportation, child care is an extremely important support for TANF participants. Full time work is three to four times more likely with either family or non-family child care arrangements. (TANF: is temporary assistance to needy families and in California is called CalWORKS).

HCCC CALWORKS Families and Children served between FEB 02 - JAN 03

Families		
Stage 1	82-140	Average 118
Stage 2	106-135	Average 121
Stage 3	49-71	Average 56
Children		
Stage 1	132-228	Average 195
Stage 2	204-238	Average 224
Stage 3	92-114	Average 104

Numbers reported are the lowest and highest number served monthly, as well as the average number served monthly.



Special Needs Students

Children with special needs may also need child care. Sometimes the child with special needs requires special accommodations or may require more staffing. There have been trainings recently to help providers care for children with special needs.

Special Education Children by Area

Age	Northern	Central	Southern
0-1	1	2	2
1	5	2	3
2	3	9	5
3	10	21	13
4	31	41	13
5	24	31	11
6	44	50	44
7	69	49	60
8	67	82	67
9	74	72	68
10	69	86	75
11	72	85	62
12	60	80	74
13	70	62	79
14	38	66	57
15	51	69	59
16	63	61	72
17	64	53	61
18	38	14	27
19	10	2	5
20	4	1	0
21	1	3	4
22	0	2	1

This data is provided by Humboldt County Office of Education, Fall 2004.



Economics

*(Unless otherwise noted, the information in this section comes directly from the report **The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in Humboldt County**, prepared by the National Economic Development and Law Center, 2004.)*

In 2003, 61,000 people participated in Humboldt County's labor force. The county also experienced an annual unemployment rate of 6.5 percent. Female labor force participation, a key determinate of child care needs, is slightly higher in Humboldt County than in the state of California, 56 and 55 percent respectively. From 1990 to 2000, the percentage of females participating in the labor force in the county increased from 54 to 56 percent. If this trend continues, there will be a need for affordable and accessible child care programs to enable the participation of this growing sector of the workforce.

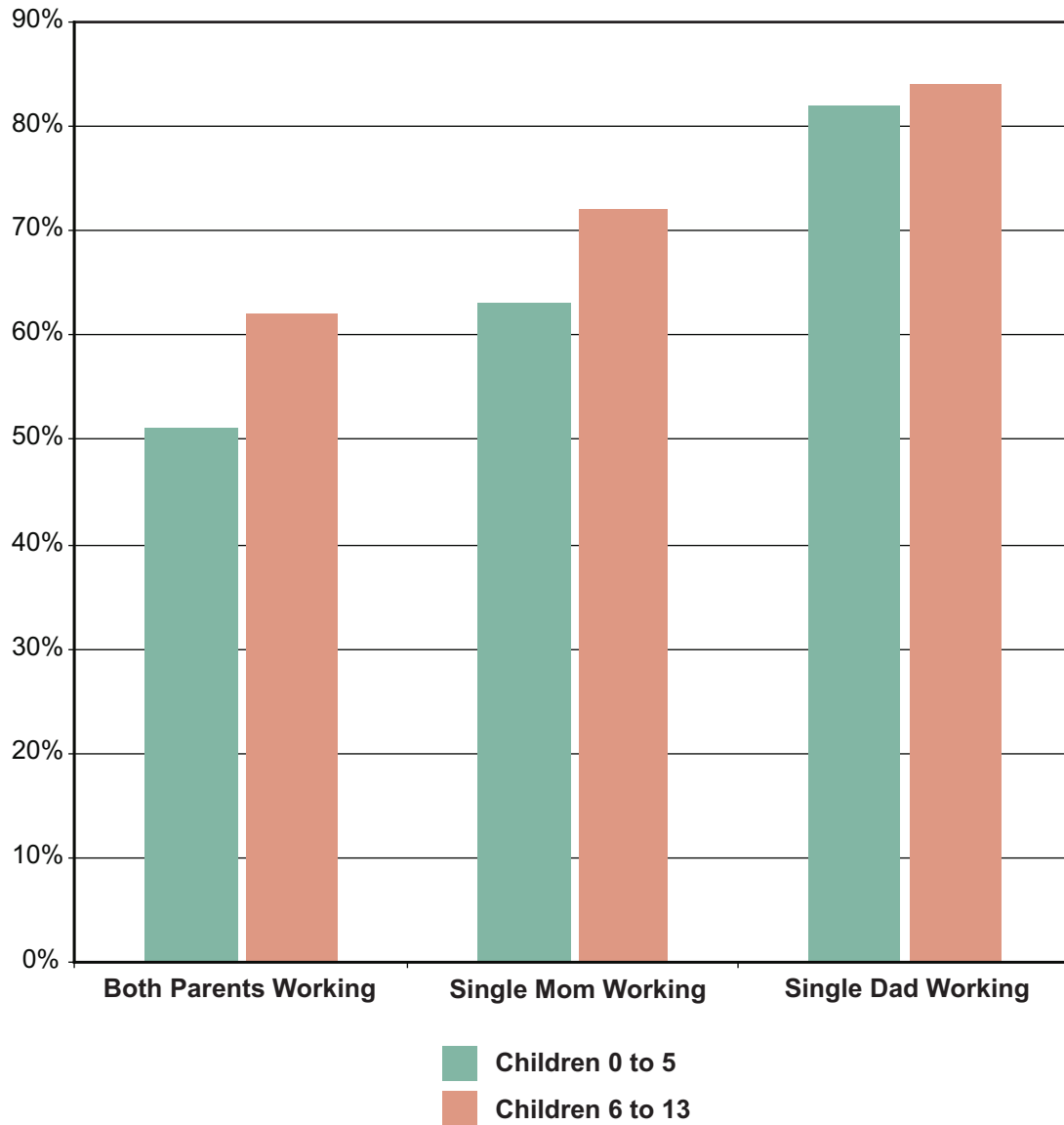
Given the high labor force participation rates of both men and women in Humboldt County, it follows that most of the county's children live in households where all parents are in the labor force. The 2000 Census indicates that in dual-parent households, 51 percent of young children and 62 percent of school-age children have both parents in the workforce. The vast majority of children living with single parents have their parent in the workforce in the county—63 percent of young children (ages 0-5) living with single mothers, 82 percent of young children living with single fathers, 72 percent of school-age children (ages 6-13) living with mothers, and 84 percent of school-age children living with fathers. One in five labor force participants in Humboldt County is a working parent with a child under 18 living in a household where all parents work. While not all families use licensed care- some may arrange work schedules so that one parent is home with children and others may place children with family, friends or neighbors—these demographics do highlight the need for child care programs for children so that their parents can work.

From 1990 to 2000 the Humboldt labor force grew by almost 4,500 people to almost 61,000 and overall grew older, more diverse and increasingly female. For example, in 1990, females accounted for 44 percent of the labor force and by 2000 they accounted for 48 percent of the labor force.



The graph below may indicate a need for child care services. Parents may make other arrangements for care or work opposite shifts to accommodate their child care needs.

Parents in the Workforce



U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



Employment

Humboldt County is in the long-term process of transitioning from an economy based primarily on natural resource extraction to a more diverse economy that also heavily relies on the service, retail trade and government sectors. The child care industry will play a pivotal role in Humboldt's future economic development as a result of this trend.

Although Humboldt's Economy depends on a diverse set of industries, the service and government industries have grown faster than other industries in the county, thus employing a larger portion of Humboldt's labor force in comparison to other major industry sectors. The government, service and retail trade industries are expected to continue employing an increasing share of the county's labor force, though with the current budget crisis it is unlikely that the government sector will grow as fast as projections indicate. Of these major industries, the service industry is expected to grow the fastest, nearly nine percent and adding 1,100 jobs from 2001 to 2008. The majority of new service jobs will be in the following focus areas.

- Business services (computer and data processing; personnel supply; public relations)
- Health services (surgical, medical, and other health services in facilities or in homes)
- Social services (family services, job training and residential care)

In addition, employment increases in the areas of wholesale and retail trade are expected, particularly:

- Eating and drinking establishments
- Wholesale trade
- Miscellaneous retail stores

The growth areas in services and in retail and wholesale trade have jobs with lower wages, which often require work outside of traditional workday hours. These workers require economic supports to sustain families who are not economically self-sufficient and economic infrastructures such as child care that enable employees to get to work during non-traditional hours.

Humboldt County has adopted an industry cluster approach to economic development, based on the belief that "individual businesses benefit from the development of sophisticated institutional and physical infrastructure tailored to the needs of the specific industry". Each of the nine base industry clusters identified in the *Prosperity! Strategy* require a skilled and productive workforce in order to thrive. *Prosperity!* Recognizes workforce quality and educational support as two of the most important characteristics that lead to a competitive advantage for industry clusters.

A strong economic infrastructure for workers in these industry clusters must be in place to secure the projected economic growth. The technical, business, information, educational, research, and manufacturing industry clusters require highly skilled workforces and have relatively high wages. Educational opportunities, including high-quality child care, must be available and affordable to develop a skilled future workforce.



Labor Market Information

These numbers are of interest in planning for child care needs as parents primarily want care in two different areas, close to home or close to work. The largest clusters of employment are in Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna and Mckinleyville respectively.

Number Of People Employed In The Top Ten Zip Codes

95501	19,807
95502	609
95503	2781
95518	214
95519	1321
95521	11564
95525	389
95534	27
95540	3507
95542	795
95556	60
95562	198
95573	361

This data, provided by Dennis Mullins of the Employment Development Department, represents 83% of Humboldt County's annual average wage and salary employment for 2002. This does not include self employed workers, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers and workers on strike.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Local Child Care Planning Council finds that although we have a declining birth rate in Humboldt County we still have unmet child care needs. This may be due in part to the shifting of the local economy to a largely service based economy. This shift has created more lower paying jobs with non-traditional hours and rotating schedules. There is a need for both subsidized and non-subsidized child care. As we found in 1999, there is still a gap for parents looking for infant care in many areas and there are large wait list numbers for preschool students in some zip codes. In order to have safe, affordable, available, and accessible quality child care for all who need it, the community needs to look for new and innovative ways to fund child care. This may include partnering with the business community to make child care more affordable and accessible. It is clear any solution requires the commitment of the whole community.



Appendix 1

REGULATION OF CARE

Child care in California is regulated by two different sets of California Codes of Regulations, Title 22 and Title 5. Some programs are exempt from formal regulations.

Community Care Licensing (CCL), a Division of the California Department of Social Services enforces the Title 22 regulations for all Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes except those specifically exempt from licensure. Title 22 regulations are designed to insure the basic health and safety of the children and include staffing standards, facility requirements and adult to child ratios. Licensing regulations are available on line at <http://cald.ca.gov/> In Humboldt County enforcement of these regulations is done by Deanna Sanders, Licensing Program Analyst. She can be reached at 707.441.3939.

Child Development Division (CDD), a division of the California Department of Education, oversees programs funded by the state. These programs provide subsidized child care and development services for income eligible families. An identified need for child care is required for all programs other than state preschool. **Title 5** regulations apply to all State-funded programs. All Title 5 programs must meet all Title 22 regulations. In addition, Title 5 requires higher adult to child ratios and increased levels of education for teachers and aides. Title 5 programs also have program and evaluation standards not required by Title 22. CDD Funding Terms and Conditions can be accessed at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/>

Licensed-Exempt Care refers to home or center-based programs that are not required to be licensed by the State. Individuals are not required to obtain a family child care license if they are caring for the children of only one family other than their own. Center-based programs are exempt from licensure when the programs are operated by a school district on a school site. Recreation programs, operating less than 16 hours per week and that allow children to come and go at will, and After School Education and Safety programs that operate no more than 30 hours per week do not require a license. Child Care Co-ops with 12 or fewer children involving no payment for services are license exempt. Any program located on the same site where parents are involved in an activity (i.e., adult education, gyms, Sunday schools), and the parents do not leave the site, do not need to be licensed. All Tribal programs are license-exempt.



Appendix 2

ZIP CODE KEY

Zip Code	Community
95440	Benbow
95501	Eureka-North of Harris
95503	Eureka-South of Harris and Freshwater
95511	Alderpoint
95514	Blocksburg
95519	Fieldbrook and Mckinleyville
95521	Arcata and Manila
95524	Bayside
95525	Blue Lake
95526	Bridgeville, Dinsmore and Van Duzen
95528	Carlotta
95530	Crannell
95534	Cutten
95536	Ferndale
95537	Fields Landing
95540	Alton, Fernbridge, Fortuna, Newberg, Rohnerville
95542	Briceland and Garberville
95545	Honeydew
95546	Hoopa and Weitchpec
95547	Hydesville
95549	Kneeland
95550	Korbel and Maple Creek
95551	Loleta
95554	Myers Flat
95555	Orick
95556	Orleans
95558	Petrolia
95559	Phillipsville and Redcrest
95560	Redway
95562	Rio Dell
95564	Fairhaven and Samoa
95565	Scotia and Shively
95569	Holmes, Pepperwood and South Fork
95570	Moonstone Beach, Trinidad and Westhaven
95571	Weott
95573	Willow Creek
95589	Whitethorn



Appendix 3

STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Local Child Care Planning Council prioritizes funding to the following zip codes, should funding become available, based on wait list data, birth rates and demographic data.

Direct service center based and family child care home network programs serving eligible families of infants and toddlers (0-3)

1st priority: 95519, 95521, 95501, 95503, 95540, 95525, 95565, 95562, 95560, 95542, 95546, 95547

2nd priority: All other zip codes in Humboldt County

General Child Care (0-5)

1st priority: 95519, 95521, 95501, 95503, 95560, 95540, 95562, 95525, 95565, 95562, 95542, 95546, 95547

2nd priority: All other zip codes in Humboldt County

Direct service part-day state preschool programs serving income eligible families of preschool-age children (3-5)

1st priority: 95562, 95564, 95503, 95519, 95546

2nd priority: All other zip codes in Humboldt County

School-Age Before- and After-school programs

1st priority: 95503, 95519, 95521, 95540, 95551, 95570, 95573

2nd priority: All other zip codes in Humboldt County



