



Alameda County
**Social Services
Agency**

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Alameda County Awards \$4 Million in Grants for Licensed Early Care & Education Providers

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA – The Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved the distribution of \$4 million in one-time federal relief grants to support local Early Care and Education (ECE) system needs and infrastructure made possible by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

“The COVID pandemic has highlighted the critical role of child care in the United States and especially in Alameda County. Child care is a key economic driver for families, employers, and communities to thrive,” said Supervisor Keith Carson, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

To apply for grants, licensed child care providers will be required to complete a general County online application to verify they are currently active, licensed and providing care. Applications are available in the County’s threshold languages and can be found at this [link](#). For inquiries regarding the program or application, you may email: SSAChildCareGrant@acgov.org.

The application portal for federal relief funds will be promoted by local Resource and Referral agencies (BANANAS, 4Cs and Hively), First 5 Alameda County, Emergency Child Care Response Team and the ECE Planning Council.

Large Family Child Care (FCC) and Center-based licensed programs will qualify for a minimum award of \$3,350 and small licensed FCC’s will qualify for a minimum award of \$2,350.

“While the ECE field has shown tremendous creativity and resilience to keep their doors open to support children and families, they have also been severely impacted by the challenges of COVID-19 and struggle to keep their doors open,” said Andrea Ford, Interim Agency Director for the Alameda County Social Services Agency.

“Child care keeps Alameda County working and these awards are one step to supporting equity and social justice in a field where the workforce is held predominantly by women of color,” said Ford.



Since March 2020, the Alameda County Emergency Child Care Response Team (ECCRT), a cross-sector collaborative of eight county-wide stakeholder agencies, has convened and concentrated its efforts to plan and align its immediate County COVID-19 response to support the ECE field.

Led by the Alameda County Social Services Agency, partner agencies include Alameda County Early Care & Education Planning Council, Alameda County Office of Education, Alameda County Public Health, BANANAS, Community Child Care Council (4Cs) of Alameda County, First 5 Alameda County (F5AC) and Hively. The goal is to ensure the grants funding reaches most if not all licensed ECE providers throughout the County.

The pandemic continues its impact on the ECE system. Nationally, nearly half of child care providers closed at the beginning of the pandemic, and while many have reopened, data shows that, “86% are serving significantly fewer children than they were prior to the pandemic; on average, enrollment is down by 67%. Two out of five child care providers are certain that they will close permanently without additional public assistance.”¹

“Alameda County tremendously values the local ECE field and is honored to provide some relief as we collectively work towards the long road to recovery,” said Ford.

For more information, contact Anissa Basoco-Villarreal, SSA Assistant Agency Director, Government & Community Relations, at abvillarreal@acgov.org or (510) 271-9181.

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About Supervisor Keith Carson

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson represents the Fifth District, which includes the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont, and West Oakland, North Oakland, Rockridge, Grand Lake, and portions of the Fruitvale, Manzanita and Dimond District neighborhoods. Supervisor Carson chairs several Alameda County committees and organizations including the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA), one of the largest business organizations consisting of public/private partnership serving the San Francisco East Bay. Their mission is to establish the East Bay as a world-recognized location to grow businesses, attract capital and create quality jobs. He is also the Chair of the Alameda County Budget Work Group Committee, the Alameda County Personnel, Administration and Legislation Committee, and a member of the Alameda County Health Committee. For more information on Supervisor Carson’s accomplishments and current initiatives, please visit <https://district5.acgov.org/about/>

1 U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Piecing Together Solutions: Childcare: An Essential Industry for Economic Recovery, September 2020, https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/sites/default/files/media-uploads/EarlyEd_Minis_Report3_090320.pdf.



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About Alameda County Social Services Agency (ACSSA)

The Alameda County Social Services Agency promotes the economic and social well-being of individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities. Working collectively and in partnership with community-based organizations, neighborhood groups and policy makers to serve the needs of the community, the ACSSA reaches nearly 25% of the County's 1.6 million residents to assure that all people's basic needs are met and protect the most vulnerable children, older adults, homeless, immigrants and refugees. ACSSA serves the needs of fourth most diverse County in the United States, and seventh largest County in California. For more information on Alameda County Social Services Agency, please visit www.alamedacountysocialservices.org

