



**ALAMEDA COUNTY FAMILY STABILIZATION:
EMERGENCY CHILD CARE VOUCHERS AND SERVICES FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

Problem Statement:

According to a poll of local Child Care Agencies and Centers by the Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council, there are an estimated 10,000 families waiting for child care in throughout the County. Families make up 43% and children comprise 23% of the County's homeless population. According to Alameda County's Point-In-Time count in 2015, the homeless population is estimated at just over 4,000 residents. Addressing economic stability for one of the most vulnerable populations – families with young children, will require a strong investment in early education. As a high cost County with a rapidly rising number of displaced working families, local solutions are critical in addition to advocating for state and funding.

In the 2016-2017 adoption of the County Budget, it was declared that Alameda County is experiencing a **"Housing State of Emergency"**.

Additionally, it has been recommended that with the passage of bond Measure A1 the Community Development Agency (CDA) utilize former redevelopment "Boomerang" funds for Anti-Displacement and Homelessness Assistance programs.

Proposal:

Parent Voices Oakland is proposing that \$4mi in County discretionary and "Boomerang" or CDA funding be used to provide a collaborative approach to streamlining housing, early childhood education, provide quality afterschool care to school aged children, and supportive services for homeless families residing in temporary shelters. These programs will stabilize families, minimize risk for entry into the Child Welfare System, and create pathways to permanent housing and child care or preschool opportunities.

This program will be introduced as a pilot for two years. There are currently **34 emergency shelters and transitional housing programs have beds specifically for families in Alameda County.**

There are approximately 956 beds available for households with children that are in the County housing database depending on season (during winter months, additional shelters are open).
Source: 2016 Housing Inventory Count (Alameda County)

There are an estimated 114 children from 0-5 are in a shelter or transitional housing program. There is currently no data to count the number of unsheltered children, or children in families without permanent housing who are staying with family, friends, or tent encampments. **Please see tables at the end of this document for demographic breakdown of homeless families.**
Source: Data from Alameda County HMIS

Total # of Households	324
Total # of persons	985
# Persons (Under 18)	258
# Persons (18-24)	96
# Persons (Over age 24)	361

Program:

The proposed program will contain the following components –

Child Care Vouchers:

200 vouchers to serve children ages 0-3 years old, whose families are currently living in transitional housing or family shelters. Families will be able to utilize the vouchers for up to 1 year. Families with preschool and school-aged children will be supported in finding placement in existing programs. The funding is to be passed through one of the County Departments that administers Health and Human Services, and will contract with community-based child care agencies such as BANANAS, 4Cs of Alameda County, and Child Care Links. The estimated cost per voucher to the County is \$8,000 per child, per year.

Shelter/Transitional Housing Family Navigation: Families will have access to a trained, supervised family partner or navigator to: obtain or maintain employment opportunities; provide support for transportation needs; secure housing; and develop economic stability. The family navigator/s will also refer parents to available parental supports such as parent education, support groups, and mental health services.

Child Care Resource and Referral Case Management: Resource and Referral Agencies will provide case managers to liaison with shelters, clean up the “Waiting List,” and identify families that qualify for other existing child care programs they may not be aware of. Case managers will identify families that do qualify for CalWORKs, Preschool, and other subsidized programs and support the process of enrolling their children into these programs.

On-site Parent Driven Family Enrichment Programs: Parents throughout the County have expressed concerns that their children do not have enough age appropriate activities, or that there are not enough opportunities for them to bond with their children when they are in shelters or transitional housing. Funding community-centered and parent sustained programs within shelters will support the growth and development of children while their families are in temporary living facilities. Families will have an opportunity to develop their leadership, heal trauma, and build community through on-site play groups, support groups, and classes that are generated by families for families.

Implementation and Program Monitoring Committee: Our request is that implementation and oversight committee consisting of a diverse group of partner agencies including the Early Education Planning Council, community members, and service providers. This Committee will develop implementation strategies, explore the integration and coordination of early childhood homelessness data to be used in future anti-poverty initiatives, and will coordinate a thorough evaluation of the program. The implementation committee will ensure alignment with the Alameda County Pilot Program (AB833).

Other considerations:

-Additional funding for family child care providers to provide quality, trauma informed care to children impacted by homelessness.

-Funding to implement Homeless prioritization in Title V Centers, and provide education to center directors and staff.

Attachments:

- 1) FY 2016-2017 Final Budget 6-28-16
- 2) Compass ACCESS Program Description: P500 Program in San Francisco Model