

LOCAL PLANNING COUNCIL ANNUAL SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES REPORT

Agency Name: Child Care Coordinating Council
Address: 640 E. Main Street Suite #3 Grass Valley CA 95945
Contract Number: CLPC-9028

County: Nevada County

Contract Amount: \$83,728

1. List three major activities and accomplishments during the contract reporting period:
 - #1 We strengthened retention of and advancement of our ELC workforce through coordination and collaboration with local quality improvement initiatives. By leveraging funds to maximize professional growth opportunities, we were able to create a local system with meaningful incentives to support the ELC workforce in advancing along the career lattice/degree attainment. Our work has propelled the ELC workforce of Nevada County to move at an upward trajectory with educator engagement in professional development. For the past 5 years, with AB212 and IMPACT funds, we were able to have a 35% annual growth rate of early childhood educators participating in Quality Counts CA's Continuous Quality Framework activities and Workforce Grant (30 in 2015-16 to 135 in 2019-20). However, with the onset of the pandemic, our steep trajectory had been impacted and we only had 75 educators participating. That said, of those 75 educators:
 - a. 16% (12 of 75) upgraded their Child Development Permit
 - b. 29% (22 of 75) completed college courses towards an ECE/CD degree
 - c. 84% (63 of 75) completed professional development specifically to enhance their skills in caring for and educating young children
 - #2 We effectively carried out the LPC mandates by gathering specific information at the county level to inform the PDG needs assessment and begin a strategic plan to launch projects for systems improvements, including maximizing parental choice and knowledge, sharing best practices among early learning providers, improving the quality of ELC programs, strengthening the alignment between preschool and kindergarten, and supporting preschool children's school readiness and successful transitions into the K-12 system.
 - #3 We effectively supported our County Office of Education and local education agencies in planning and implementing Universal Preschool. This includes coordinating meetings with public and private early childhood programs, family-serving agencies (i.e. First 5 Nevada, R&R's, Head Start, etc.), providing information on parent needs and preferences so that LEAs have a deeper understanding of preschool gaps and needs to better inform their plan for how all children in the attendance area of the LEA will have access to full-day learning programs.
2. Identify problems and proposed resolutions to local planning issues and activities:

Continued low funding for LPCs decreases the effect of the importance of LPC's. At a time when coordination and leadership is needed, the LPC's are at a strong position to effectively take the lead and unite all agencies to support the work of CDSS, CDE and First 5's. This is particularly true, especially in rural counties where LPC's also take on the role of supporting UPK and operating all grants related to QCC - QCC Workforce, QCC Block, QCC CSPP, IMPACT, and PDG-R. Increased funding to allow for full-time funding for the LPC Coordinator position would allow for meeting and strengthening data coordination and building a policy agenda at the city and county level.
3. Coordination/Collaboration Efforts (California First 5, CalSAFE, Native American Indian Tribes, etc.):

The LPC in Nevada County serves as the primary lead and hub agency to connect and maintain an association of representatives from the early care and education field, including colleges, R&R's, Head Start, COE, and business partners, with the primary goal of supporting early childhood educators and maximum utilization of professional development resources to meet the needs of the ECE workforce.

For UPK Planning, we supported LEAs to create UPK Plans that are aligned with the vision of a P-3 continuum that includes community-based early childhood programs. This includes providing LPC needs assessment data to inform LEAs UPK needs assessment (preschool needs/gaps, parent needs/preferences); facilitating the development and strengthening of partnerships with local service providers in support of local UPK implementation; supporting LEAs to incorporate extended learning and care partners services in their UPK plan so that we can move towards a UPK vision in having a coordinated response to parental need and choice for UPK for their children, as well as ensuring our local services and funding are maximized.

Activities took place that included partnerships with:
Nevada County Office of Emergency Services, Nevada County Public Health Dept, Superintendent of Schools, CCL Regional Office, First 5 CA, First 5 Nevada County, First 5 Placer County, Gold Country Association for the Education of Young Children, Kidz Kount Head Start, Sierra Community College, Child Abuse Prevention Council of Western Nevada County, Community Support Network, Nisenan Tribe, Children's & Youth's Bill of Rights Group, Sierra Nevada Children's Services, PARTNERS Family Resource Center, California Child Care Coordinators Association.