



Board Agenda Item 26

DATE: May 19, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Nerland, County Administrative Officer
Andrea Cervantes Woods, Fresno County LPC Coordinator
Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Approval of the 2026-27 Fresno County Child Care and Development Local Planning Council Priorities Report for California Department of Education

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the 2026-27 Fresno County Child Care and Development Local Planning Council County Priorities Report for State funding for preschool and infant/toddler programs, by zip code, under Welfare and Institutions Code 10486.

The Local Planning Council (LPC) develops and ratifies the County Priorities Report on an annual basis. Approval of the recommended action will allow the LPC to submit this report to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and California Department of Education (CDE) to ensure proper State directed preschool and child care services.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

Your Board may opt not to approve the LPC Priorities Report; however, this would result in the LPC not meeting the California Department of Social Services May 31st deadline and potentially disrupt resource allocation to the families with the most need.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no Net County Cost associated with the recommended action. This data will provide direction to the State on areas in most need of state preschool and child care should funds become available for Fresno County.

DISCUSSION:

Local Child Care Planning Councils were established by the state legislature in 1991 in every county in California. In Fresno County, the Child Care and Development Local Planning Council serves as that council. It is a publicly funded and appointed body that is mandated to identify priorities for the local distribution of state funding for early care and education services for low-income children and families. The LPC is also required to conduct an early care and education needs assessment, create a county-wide child care strategic plan every five years, develop policies, strategies and resources to promote the goals of the child care strategic plan, and advise Fresno County on the potential local impact of state and national policies and legislation.

One of the primary missions of the LPC is to plan for early care and education services based on the needs

of families in the local community. Through collaborative efforts with other individuals and organizations interested in the welfare of families, LPCs coordinate and plan to determine local priorities for new state and federal funds.

In accordance with Welfare Institution Code §§ 10486, upon approval by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, the LPC submits to the CDSS and CDE the local priorities it has identified. The Priorities are identified in a manner that ensures that all child care needs in the county are met to the greatest extent possible

Before submitting to CDSS and CDE, approval must be granted from the County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher, and the Board of Supervisors. Public input is highly encouraged in the development of the priorities. The Local Planning Council provided an opportunity for public input and will vote for approval of the county subsidy zip code priorities during the May 2026 LPC Meeting for CDSS and CDE funded:

- California State Preschool services for low income 3 & 4 year-old children
- Infant and Toddler Child Care and Development Services for low income 0-36 month-old children
- School-age Child Care and Development Services for low-income children aged 6-12 years old

LPCs develop priorities for funding using

- Census zip code data and American Community Survey data as a baseline to estimate the number of children eligible for State Funded Services
- CDSS, CDE and other available zip code level data to determine the number and percent of eligible children served/not served by State Funded Services or Head Start.

The data is then analyzed to assign a Priority 1, 2, and 3 designation to the zip codes of highest need using both a number and a percentage threshold for our county size.

- Priority 1: Option 1: For Priorities for Infant Toddler Services and Preschool, a zip code qualifies as Priority 1 when there are 40% or more eligible children underserved and there are more than 150 children underserved; and for Priorities for School-Aged Child Development Services zip code qualifies as Priority 1 when there are 40% or more eligible children underserved AND there are more than 200 eligible children underserved.
- Priority 2: Option 1: For Priorities for Infant Toddler Services and Preschool, a zip code qualifies as Priority 2 when there are 25% or more of eligible children underserved and there are more than 75 children underserved; and for Priorities for School-Aged Child Development Services a zip code qualifies as Priority 2 when: there are 25% or more of eligible children underserved AND there are more than 100 eligible children underserved
- Priority 3: Option 2: All other zip codes in the County.

OTHER REVIEWING AGENCIES:

Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

REFERENCE MATERIAL:

BAI #25, May 23, 2023

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AND/OR ON FILE:

On file with Clerk - LPC Local Priorities 2026-27

CAO ANALYST:

Ron Alexander