
SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT LOCAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Zip Code Funding Priority Report



LPC approved priority numbers on April 29, 2024, and April 28, 2025. Priority numbers also require approval from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and County Superintendent of Schools only if significant changes occur. Data has not been updated and therefore the same priority numbers are being used in 2025.

LPC ZIP CODE FUNDING PRIORITY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Zip Code Funding Priority Report is completed by May of each year, as required by Welfare and Institutions Code 10486. The overarching purpose of the priority report is to identify which zip codes within a county have the highest need for state-subsidized early learning and care services within mixed delivery settings.

State-level leaders at the California Department of Education (CDE) and Department of Social Services (CDSS) use the priority report to allocate newly available funds towards early learning and care services, based on greatest need. County-wide early learning and care (ELC) mixed delivery providers use the priority report to help determine where to open or expand ELC services throughout the county. The LPC Coordinator uses the priority report to recommend, support, or decline the shift of state-subsidized early learning and care slots when processing Voluntary Temporary Transfer of Funds (VTTF) or Program Narrative Change requests.

This report holds significant weight and is used meaningfully at the state and local levels. As such, it's important to understand how data is gathered, how priority numbers are calculated, as well as data details and limitations. Those using the priority funding report are encouraged to carefully review the data collection, data calculations, and limitation details of this report, along with the actual priority numbers available for each zip code.

DATA COLLECTION

The LPC Zip Code Funding Priority Report uses collective data from multiple sources. Data from these sources are gathered by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) using an Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool (ELNAT), available only to LPC Coordinators through a state-wide collaborative subscription. Data sources include the Census Bureau American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), CDE, and CDSS.

Using the AIR ELNAT, first the total number of eligible children, by age group and zip code, is obtained. The number of eligible children is gathered from five-year estimates of children living in households earning under 85% state median income (SMI) from the American Community Survey. Next, the total number of subsidized spaces being used in the month of October are obtained, by age group and by each zip code. The number of subsidized spaces is gathered from the CDE and CDSS for Transitional Kindergarten (TK), California State Preschool Program (CSPP), CalWORKs Stage 2 and 3, General Child Care (CCTR), Family Child Care Home Education Networks (CFCC), Migrant Child Care (CMIG), and Alternative Payment Program (CAPP).

Ultimately, this report compares the total number of eligible children with the total number of state-subsidized early learning and care spaces being used as described above.

DATA CALCULATION

To calculate priority numbers by age group and zip code, the number of children served (using ELC subsidies) is subtracted from the number of eligible children. The outcome provides the number of children eligible for but not using subsidized ELC services – this number is identified as ‘eligible children underserved.’

The LPC Zip Code Funding Priority Report includes priority numbers 1-3 (1 being high and 3 being low) for each zip code within the county, by age category. Attachments 1-3, within [Management Bulletin 15-04](#) describe and define the process by which LPC priorities are established based on the population of each county.

San Diego County encompasses a diverse range of zip codes, varying in population density from highly populated areas to sparsely populated regions. The conventional calculation methods for large counties fail to accurately assess the level of priority or need in these less populated areas. To address this, a distinct approach was adopted. We segregated moderately and highly populated zip codes from less populated ones, and then applied appropriate methodologies tailored to both large and small counties, drawing on local insights and expertise.

Sparse regions were pinpointed by adapting the methodology used for counties with fewer than 60,000 residents. All zip codes in San Diego County with less than 10,000 residents were combined and treated as a small county, totaling 56,328 residents. Therefore, the methodology is used for small counties. The remaining zip codes, with a population of 3,206,719, follow the standard methodology for counties with over 1 million but under 10 million residents, typical for San Diego County.

For children ages 0-4 years old, in San Diego County's highly populated urban areas, priorities are established as follows:

- Priority 1: A zip code qualifies as Priority 1 when there are 40% or more of eligible children underserved, and there are more than 300 children underserved.
- Priority 2: A zip code qualifies as Priority 2 when there are 40% or more of eligible children underserved, and there are more than 200 children underserved.
- Priority 3 (Option 2): All other zip codes in the county are placed in Priority 3.

For children ages 5-12 years old, in San Diego County's highly populated urban areas, priorities are established as follows:

- Priority 1: A zip code qualifies as Priority 1 when there are 40% or more of eligible children underserved, and there are more than 500 eligible children underserved.
- Priority 2: A zip code qualifies as Priority 2 when there are 40% or more of eligible children underserved, and there are more than 200 eligible children underserved.
- Priority 3 (Option 2): All other zip codes in the county are placed in Priority 3.

For children ages 0-12 years old, in San Diego County sparsely populated areas, priorities are established as follows:

- Priority 1: A zip code qualifies as Priority 1 when there are 50% or more of eligible children underserved, and there are more than 10 eligible children underserved.
- Priority 2: A zip code qualifies as Priority 2 when there are 35% or more of eligible children underserved, and there are more than 10 eligible children underserved.
- Priority 3 (option 2): All other zip codes in the county are placed in priority 3.

In the Zip Code Level Outcomes below, highlighted priority numbers indicate changes from the 2023 report to this updated 2024/2025 report, using the newly adapted sparsely populated methodology.

ZIP CODE LEVEL OUTCOMES

ZIP Code	County	Priority Assigned for Children 0-35 months old	Priority Assigned for children 3-4 years old	Priority Assigned for children 5-12 years old
91901	San Diego	1	2	1
91902	San Diego	1	2	1
91903	San Diego	3	3	3
91905	San Diego	1	1	1
91906	San Diego	1	1	1
91908	San Diego	3	3	3
91909	San Diego	3	3	3
91910	San Diego	1	1	1
91911	San Diego	1	1	1
91912	San Diego	3	3	3
91913	San Diego	1	1	1
91914	San Diego	1	2	1
91915	San Diego	1	2	1
91916	San Diego	1	1	1
91917	San Diego	1	1	1
91921	San Diego	3	3	3
91931	San Diego	3	3	3
91932	San Diego	1	1	1
91933	San Diego	3	3	3
91934	San Diego	1	1	1
91935	San Diego	1	1	1
91941	San Diego	1	1	1
91942	San Diego	1	1	1
91943	San Diego	3	3	3
91944	San Diego	3	3	3
91945	San Diego	1	1	1
91946	San Diego	3	3	3
91948	San Diego	3	3	3
91950	San Diego	1	1	1
91951	San Diego	3	3	3
91962	San Diego	1	1	1
91963	San Diego	1	1	1
91976	San Diego	3	3	3
91977	San Diego	1	1	1
91978	San Diego	1	1	1
91979	San Diego	3	3	3
91980	San Diego	3	3	3
92001	San Diego	3	3	3
92003	San Diego	1	1	1
92004	San Diego	1	1	1
92007	San Diego	3	3	2

ZIP Code	County	Priority Assigned for Children 0-35 months old	Priority Assigned for children 3-4 years old	Priority Assigned for children 5-12 years old
92008	San Diego	1	3	1
92009	San Diego	1	2	1
92010	San Diego	3	3	2
92011	San Diego	2	3	1
92013	San Diego	3	3	3
92014	San Diego	3	3	2
92018	San Diego	3	3	3
92019	San Diego	1	1	1
92020	San Diego	1	1	1
92021	San Diego	1	1	1
92022	San Diego	3	3	3
92023	San Diego	3	3	3
92024	San Diego	1	1	1
92025	San Diego	1	1	1
92026	San Diego	1	1	1
92027	San Diego	1	1	1
92028	San Diego	1	1	1
92029	San Diego	1	1	1
92030	San Diego	3	3	3
92033	San Diego	3	3	3
92036	San Diego	1	1	1
92037	San Diego	1	1	1
92038	San Diego	3	3	3
92040	San Diego	1	1	1
92046	San Diego	3	3	3
92049	San Diego	3	3	3
92051	San Diego	3	3	3
92052	San Diego	3	3	3
92054	San Diego	1	1	1
92055	San Diego	1	1	1
92056	San Diego	1	1	1
92057	San Diego	1	1	1
92058	San Diego	1	1	1
92059	San Diego	1	1	1
92060	San Diego	3	3	3
92061	San Diego	1	1	1
92064	San Diego	1	3	1
92065	San Diego	1	1	1
92066	San Diego	1	3	1
92067	San Diego	3	3	2
92068	San Diego	3	3	3
92069	San Diego	1	1	1
92070	San Diego	1	1	1

ZIP Code	County	Priority Assigned for Children 0-35 months old	Priority Assigned for children 3-4 years old	Priority Assigned for children 5-12 years old
92071	San Diego	1	1	1
92072	San Diego	3	3	3
92074	San Diego	3	3	3
92075	San Diego	3	3	2
92078	San Diego	1	1	1
92079	San Diego	3	3	3
92081	San Diego	1	1	1
92082	San Diego	1	1	1
92083	San Diego	1	1	1
92084	San Diego	1	1	1
92085	San Diego	3	3	3
92086	San Diego	1	1	1
92088	San Diego	3	3	3
92091	San Diego	3	3	1
92093	San Diego	3	3	3
92101	San Diego	1	1	1
92102	San Diego	1	1	1
92103	San Diego	1	1	1
92104	San Diego	1	1	1
92105	San Diego	1	1	1
92106	San Diego	3	3	2
92107	San Diego	2	3	1
92108	San Diego	1	2	1
92109	San Diego	1	2	1
92110	San Diego	1	3	1
92111	San Diego	1	2	1
92112	San Diego	3	3	3
92113	San Diego	1	1	1
92114	San Diego	1	1	1
92115	San Diego	1	1	1
92116	San Diego	1	1	1
92117	San Diego	1	1	1
92118	San Diego	2	3	1
92119	San Diego	1	1	1
92120	San Diego	1	1	1
92121	San Diego	1	1	1
92122	San Diego	1	1	1
92123	San Diego	1	3	1
92124	San Diego	1	1	1
92126	San Diego	1	1	1
92127	San Diego	1	3	1
92128	San Diego	1	3	1
92129	San Diego	1	3	1

ZIP Code	County	Priority Assigned for Children 0-35 months old	Priority Assigned for children 3-4 years old	Priority Assigned for children 5-12 years old
92130	San Diego	1	3	1
92131	San Diego	1	2	1
92132	San Diego	3	3	3
92134	San Diego	3	3	3
92135	San Diego	3	3	3
92136	San Diego	3	3	3
92137	San Diego	3	3	3
92138	San Diego	3	3	3
92139	San Diego	1	1	1
92140	San Diego	3	3	3
92142	San Diego	3	3	3
92143	San Diego	3	3	3
92145	San Diego	3	3	3
92147	San Diego	3	3	3
92149	San Diego	3	3	3
92150	San Diego	3	3	3
92153	San Diego	3	3	3
92154	San Diego	1	1	1
92155	San Diego	3	3	3
92159	San Diego	3	3	3
92160	San Diego	3	3	3
92162	San Diego	3	3	3
92163	San Diego	3	3	3
92164	San Diego	3	3	3
92165	San Diego	3	3	3
92166	San Diego	3	3	3
92168	San Diego	3	3	3
92169	San Diego	3	3	3
92170	San Diego	3	3	3
92171	San Diego	3	3	3
92172	San Diego	3	3	3
92173	San Diego	1	1	1
92174	San Diego	3	3	3
92175	San Diego	3	3	3
92176	San Diego	3	3	3
92177	San Diego	3	3	3
92178	San Diego	3	3	3
92182	San Diego	3	3	3
92191	San Diego	3	3	3
92192	San Diego	3	3	3
92193	San Diego	3	3	3
92195	San Diego	3	3	3
92196	San Diego	3	3	3

ZIP Code	County	Priority Assigned for Children 0-35 months old	Priority Assigned for children 3-4 years old	Priority Assigned for children 5-12 years old
92198	San Diego	3	3	3

COUNTY WIDE SUMMARY OUTCOMES

Over 75,000 children aged 0-35 months were identified as living in households earning under 85% SMI, eligible to receive ELC subsidized services. A total of 2,991 ELC state-subsidized spaces were used, and over 72,000 subsidized spaces are still needed. The 3- to 4-year-old age group received about 10,000 more subsidized ELC slots than the 0-35-month-old age group. The 0-35-month-old age group continues to hold the highest need for subsidized support. Over 50,000 children aged 3- and 4-years-old were identified as living in households earning under 85% SMI. About 13,000 ELC state-subsidized spaces were used for this group, but more than 37,000 subsidized spaces are still needed.

The school age group, inclusive of children aged 5 to 12 years old, shows about 185,000 children living in households earning under 85% SMI. Data gathered shows over 8,500 ELC state-subsidized spaces used for this age group. However, it should be noted that After School Education and Safety (ASES), 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC), and Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) enrollment was not available for our calculations. This is an area that the LPC coordinator will continue to investigate in the coming years.

Data Element	0-11 months	12-23 months	24-35 months	3 years old	4 years old	5 years old	6-12 years old
Number of children living in households earning under 85% SMI (ACS)	24,048	24,792	26,390	24,440	26,104	23,022	162,259
Number of children enrolled in General Child Care (CCTR)	30	96	205	82	10	21	82
Number of children enrolled in Family Child Care Home Education Networks (CFCC)	37	95	111	24	25	23	93
Number of children enrolled in full-day California State Preschool Program (CSPP)	-	-	-	261	654	11	-
Number of children enrolled in part-day California State Preschool Program (CSPP)	-	-	-	866	2,961	-	-
Number of children enrolled in Migrant Child Care, center-based child care (CMIG)	-	-	10	4	6	1	-
Number of children enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten (TK)	-	-	-	-	5,537	-	-
Number of children in CalWORKs Stage 2 program	117	370	526	580	563	553	2,449
Number of children in CalWORKs Stage 3 programs	106	219	248	331	490	505	3,237
Number of children in Alternative Payment Programs (CAPP)	88	296	437	460	417	352	1,353
TOTAL SUBSIDIZED SPACES USED	378	1,076	1,537	2,608	10,663	1,466	7,214
Number of Eligible Children NOT Served vis State-Subsidies	23,670	23,716	24,853	21,832	15,441	21,556	155,045
Percentage of Eligible Children NOT Served vis State-Subsidies	98%	96%	94%	89%	59%	94%	96%

DATA LIMITATIONS

The 2024/2025 LPC Zip Code Funding Priority Report used the most recent data available within AIR ELNAT. The data within ELNAT is updated for the state of California as funding allows and was last updated in 2020. Without current data, our ability to set funding priorities, plan for expansions, and advocate for new investments is severely limited. In San Diego County, where needs vary greatly across regions, using outdated data risks misdirecting resources and widening gaps in access to care. California must remain steadfast in its commitment to data-driven decision-making. Tools like AIR ELNAT are not just helpful, they are essential to ensuring local and state systems remain responsive, equitable, and resilient.

The Census Bureau did not release its standard 2020 ACS estimates because of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, the Census Bureau released experimental estimates for 2020. AIR chose to use 2019 ACS data instead of using 2020 experimental estimates for a more reliable estimate of eligible children. We do not expect this shift to impact overall estimates of eligible children.

AIR-administered surveys of Head Start programs previously captured zip-code level data for the number of children served in Early Head Start and Head Start. However, due to the pandemic, only county-level data was captured and is therefore not included in the zip-code level calculations for this dataset. The missing data may contribute to some zip codes showing a higher priority number than expected.

In January of 2023 eligibility criteria for CSPP shifted from 85% to 100% SMI. However, priority numbers for children ages 3 to 4 were established using the 85% SMI criteria. Both CDE and CDSS recommended the use of this data for the priority report because a data set with eligibility criteria using 100% SMI is not yet available. It is expected that priority numbers listed for children ages 3-4 are lower than they would be if 100% SMI data was used. This missing data may contribute to some zip codes showing a lower priority number than expected.

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