

Business & Community Support Workgroup

Merced County Local Child Care and Development Planning Council

Workgroup Charge

Name: Business & Community Support Workgroup

Parent Body: Merced County Local Child Care and Development Planning Council (LPC)

Purpose

The Business & Community Support Workgroup strengthens connections between employers, chambers of commerce, and the early learning and care (ELC) sector to position child care as an essential part of the local economy. The group will advance family-friendly workplace policies, promote employer-supported ELC, and expand business training opportunities for providers.

Scope of Work

- Educate employers and HR leaders on benefits of family-friendly policies.
- Provide technical assistance for employers to establish worksite ELC programs, flexible benefits, or purchased slots/vouchers.
- Collaborate with legislative leaders to support policies such as expanded parental leave and flexible work hours.
- Promote use of Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts (DCFSA's).
- Offer business workshops and training to ELC providers to strengthen operations and sustainability.

Membership

LPC members, sub-committee appointees, and partners including chambers of commerce, large employers, workforce boards, city councils, MCOE, and other local business associations.

Responsibilities

- Attend monthly meetings and actively engage in planning.
- Share employer and community perspectives to inform strategy.
- Help recruit businesses to participate in ELC advocacy and partnership.
- Support development of training and technical assistance for ELC providers.

Proposed Monthly Meeting Series (Sept – May)

September – Kickoff & Charge Adoption

October – Employer Education on Family-Friendly Policies

November – Technical Assistance for Employer-Supported ELC

January – Policy & Legislative Collaboration for Family Supports

February – Promoting Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts

March – Business Training Workshops for ELC Providers

April – Cross-Sector Partnership Development

May – Reflection, Progress Review & Next Steps

Draft Agendas

September: Kickoff & Charge Adoption

- Welcome & Introductions
- Review LPC Goals and Workgroup Charge
- Approve Workgroup Charge and Membership Roster
- Map desired outcomes (5B–5C) to year-long meeting topics
- Next Steps: Assign sub-tasks for October

October: Employer Education on Family-Friendly Policies

- Review Desired Outcome 5B
- Presentation: Benefits of family-friendly workplace policies
- Brainstorm outreach strategies to employers and HR managers
- Identify potential employer champions
- Assign development of outreach toolkit

November: Technical Assistance for Employer-Supported ELC

- Review Strategic Action 5B-2
- Presentation: Examples of employer-supported ELC models
- Discuss options for TA: worksite programs, purchased slots, vouchers

- Identify business partners to pilot strategies
- Assign TA resource development team

January: Policy & Legislative Collaboration for Family Supports

- Review Strategic Action 5B-3
- Presentation: Current policies on flexible hours and parental leave
- Draft recommendations for local legislative advocacy
- Identify legislative representatives to engage
- Assign drafting of advocacy briefs

February: Promoting Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts

- Review Strategic Action 5B-4
- Presentation: Overview of DCFSA benefits for employers and employees
- Develop educational materials for chambers and businesses
- Assign outreach roles for DCFSA campaign

March: Business Training Workshops for ELC Providers

- Review Desired Outcome 5C
- Presentation: Current training resources available to providers
- Brainstorm workshop topics (financial management, HR, compliance, marketing)
- Draft plan for technical workshop series
- Assign partners to co-host workshops

April: Cross-Sector Partnership Development

- Review combined Desired Outcomes (5B, 5C)
- Identify gaps in business-ELC partnerships across the county
- Brainstorm partnership models (chambers, workforce boards, city councils)
- Draft strategy for sustaining cross-sector collaboration
- Assign follow-up partner recruitment tasks

May: Reflection, Progress Review & Next Steps

- Review accomplishments against Desired Outcomes 5B–5C

- Identify unfinished business and recommendations for next year
- Document successes for LPC reporting
- Celebrate contributions of members
- Transition planning for summer/fall 2026

One-Page Calendar Overview (Sept – May)

Month	Focus Topic
September	Kickoff & Charge Adoption
October	Employer Education on Family-Friendly Policies
November	Technical Assistance for Employer-Supported ELC
January	Policy & Legislative Collaboration for Family Supports
February	Promoting Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts
March	Business Training Workshops for ELC Providers
April	Cross-Sector Partnership Development
May	Reflection, Progress Review & Next Steps