

Data Workgroup

Merced County Local Child Care and Development Planning Council

Workgroup Charge

Name: Data Workgroup

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

Purpose

The Data Workgroup advances Merced County's capacity to use high-quality, equity-driven data to inform early learning and care (ELC) planning, policy, and advocacy. The group ensures that decision-making is guided by accurate, timely, and comprehensive data on children, families, workforce, and community needs.

Scope of Work

- Conduct equity-centered data analysis on access and availability of ELC programs.
- Prepare workforce studies and wage disparity evaluations.
- Summarize and disseminate findings on teacher training impacts across ELC sectors.
- Collect and analyze data on barriers and supports for parent involvement.
- Conduct market research and economic impact studies to inform investment in ELC.

Membership

LPC members, sub-committee appointees, and partners such as First 5, UC Merced, Merced College, Ci4Ci, providers, family advocacy groups (All Dads Matter, Parents Helping Parents, PLTI).

Responsibilities

- Attend monthly meetings and provide expertise in data collection, analysis, and interpretation.
- Ensure equity-driven approaches in all data-related efforts.
- Translate data into actionable recommendations for LPC and partners.
- Support transparent communication of findings to the community and stakeholders.

Proposed Monthly Meeting Series (Sept – May)

September – Kickoff & Charge Adoption

October – Equity Data Analysis (Access & Availability)

November – Workforce Study & Wage Disparities

January – Teacher Training & Shared Professional Development Data

February – Parent Engagement Data Collection & Barriers Study

March – Market Research on Funding Mechanisms

April – Economic Impact of ELC & Lack of Care

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 (1B, 3A, 3D, 4C, 6A) to year-long meeting topics
- Next Steps: Assign sub-tasks for October

October: Equity Data Analysis (Access & Availability)

- Review Desired Outcome 1B-2
- Presentation: Current data on racial and economic equity in ELC access
- Identify data gaps and next steps for Needs Assessment updates
- Assign analysis tasks with UC Merced, Ci4Ci, First 5, and Merced College

November: Workforce Study & Wage Disparities

- Review Desired Outcome 3A-4
- Presentation: Draft of “Merced County Workforce Survey and Study”
- Discuss data on wage disparities and workforce challenges
- Identify strategies to share findings with stakeholders
- Assign refinement and finalization tasks

January: Teacher Training & Shared Professional Development Data

- Review Desired Outcome 3D-1

- Presentation: Data from higher education institutions and CARES
- Discuss impacts of teacher training on quality of ELC programs
- Develop communication strategies to highlight findings
- Assign development of summary report

February: Parent Engagement Data Collection & Barriers Study

- Review Desired Outcome 4C-3
- Presentation: Survey tools and data collection methods
- Discuss known barriers/supports to parent participation
- Plan countywide parent survey rollout
- Assign analysis and reporting tasks

March: Market Research on Funding Mechanisms

- Review Desired Outcome 6A-1
- Presentation: Potential mechanisms (sales tax initiatives, parcel taxes, developer impact fees)
- Discuss feasibility in Merced County context
- Assign partners to explore legal/policy steps

April: Economic Impact of ELC & Lack of Care

- Review Desired Outcome 6A-2
- Presentation: Draft economic impact study results
- Discuss the cost of lack of care to families and county economy
- Draft advocacy messages based on data
- Assign report finalization tasks

May: Reflection, Progress Review & Next Steps

- Review accomplishments against Desired Outcomes 1B, 3A, 3D, 4C, 6A
- Identify unfinished business and recommendations for next year
- Document successes for annual 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	Equity Data Analysis (Access & Availability)
November	Workforce Study & Wage Disparities
January	Teacher Training & Shared Professional Development Data
February	Parent Engagement Data Collection & Barriers Study
March	Market Research on Funding Mechanisms
April	Economic Impact of ELC & Lack of Care
May	Reflection, Progress Review & Next Steps