

SAN DIEGO COUNTY
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT
LOCAL PLANNING COUNCIL

ZIP Code Funding Priority Report
Fiscal Year 2025-2026





FORMAL APPROVAL STATEMENT

On April 13, 2026, the Local Child Care and Development Planning Council (LPC) of San Diego County formally approved the ZIP Code Funding Priority Report, including the priority designations assigned to each ZIP code for state-funded early learning and care programs.

This approval was carried out in accordance with the requirements of California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10486, which charges local planning councils with identifying and prioritizing child care needs within their counties to inform state funding decisions.

In advance of this action, the LPC received a comprehensive presentation detailing the purpose of the report; data collection and calculation methodologies; locally applied methodology and priority thresholds; considerations and refinements; ZIP code-level and countywide summary outcomes; data limitations; and data sources.

Following the presentation, the LPC convened a public hearing, providing an opportunity for council members and the broader community to offer input on the identified priorities. This process ensured transparency and meaningful community engagement in the development of funding priorities.

Upon the close of the public hearing, the LPC took formal action to approve the report. This approval reflects the LPC's ongoing commitment to equity, data-informed decision-making, and inclusive community engagement in identifying and addressing unmet needs for children eligible for publicly funded early learning and care programs across San Diego County.

INTRODUCTION

The ZIP Code Funding Priority Report identifies areas of San Diego County with the greatest need for publicly funded, state subsidized early learning and care (ELC) services among children who meet eligibility criteria for those programs, including income and other priority factors such as special needs. Developed annually in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10486, the report provides a data-informed framework to guide state and local funding decisions, support strategic expansion of services, and strengthen alignment across the county's mixed-delivery system.



This report focuses specifically on children who are eligible for **state-funded ELC programs** and compares the population to those currently served through state-funded ELC settings. It is not intended to represent total supply and demand across all ELC services, such as private-pay, license-exempt, and other federally or locally funded programs.

State leaders at the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) use this report to guide the allocation of new or adjusted child care funding, specifically for General Child Care and Development (CCTR) and California State Preschool Program (CSPP), to areas with the highest need. Locally, early learning and care providers use the report to inform decisions about where to open or expand services. The LPC Coordinator also relies on the report when reviewing Voluntary Temporary Transfer (VTT) of Funds and Program Narrative Changes.

Because these priorities guide resource allocation, it is important to understand how data is collected, how priority levels are calculated, and what limitations may affect the results. Readers are encouraged to review the data collection methods, calculations, and limitations alongside the priority rankings for each ZIP code.

Together, this analysis highlights a system in transition, where access has expanded significantly for preschool-age and school-age children, while substantial unmet need remains for infants and toddlers.

State provided details about the purpose, background, and process for establishing LPC ZIP Code Funding Priorities can be found on the CDSS Management Bulletin 15-04.

DATA COLLECTION

Summary of Approach

This report estimates need by comparing the number of children who meet eligibility criteria for publicly funded early learning and care (ELC) programs to the number of children currently served through those programs. It integrates data from multiple state and federal sources and applies standardized methods to ensure comparability across age groups, program types, and ZIP codes. This analysis focuses on eligible children and does not represent total system-wide supply and demand.

San Diego County's priority designations reflect an integrated methodology that incorporates both state-subsidized and publicly funded expanded learning program data to represent need within the county's eligible mixed-delivery ELC system. By combining multiple funding streams and program types, this approach provides a more comprehensive view of service availability and gaps.

Eligible Children Estimates

The total number of eligible children by age group and ZIP code is estimated using five-year American Community Survey (ACS) data for children living in households earning below 85 percent of the State Median Income (SMI), the eligibility threshold for CDSS-administered subsidized child care programs. CDSS calculated the percentage of households below 85 percent SMI and applied it to the ACS child population estimates to determine the number of potentially eligible children in each ZIP code. These estimates were provided to LPC Coordinators.

While CDSS programs use an 85 percent SMI threshold, CDE-administered programs may use a 100 percent SMI threshold, which should be considered when interpreting results.

Children Served (Publicly Funded Programs)

The number of children served is collected by age group and ZIP code using data provided by CDE and CDSS. Programs included are Transitional Kindergarten (TK), California State Preschool Program (CSPP), CalWORKs Stages 2 and 3, General Child Care (CCTR), Family Child Care Home Education Networks (CFCC), California Migrant Child Care (CMIG), and the Alternative Payment Program (CAPP).

Masked Data Estimation

To protect privacy, CDSS suppresses small cell counts and, in some cases, applies secondary suppression to additional cells. When data are masked, San Diego County applies a structured, constraint-based estimation process using row totals, column totals, known zero values, and suppression rules to approximate missing values as accurately as possible.



School-Age Program Data

For school-age populations, the report incorporates CDE-provided After School Education and Safety (ASES), 21st Century Community Learning Center (21CCLC), and Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) data.

ASES and 21CCLC attendance are converted into comparable (October-equivalent) estimates using a methodology developed by the Data and Impact Center of Excellence (DICE) at the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), with support and recommendations from CDE.

ELOP participation, reported at the Local Educational Agency (LEA) level, is proportionally allocated to ZIP codes based on student enrollment distribution and then converted into comparable estimates using the same DICE-developed methodology, also supported by CDE. This ensures consistency across all school-age program data included in the report.



DATA CALCULATION

San Diego County's priority designations use an integrated methodology that combines state-subsidized and expanded learning program data to represent need within the county's eligible publicly funded mixed-delivery early learning and care system.

Priority levels are calculated by comparing the number of children who meet eligibility criteria for subsidized and publicly funded programs with the number of children currently served through those programs. The difference between these values represents the number of underserved children. These calculations are applied consistently across ZIP codes and age groups to support equitable comparison. Eligibility reflects program requirements, where income is a primary factor and additional priorities, such as special needs, may be applied.

The priority-setting process follows the guidance outlined in Attachments 1–3 of CDSS Management Bulletin 15-04, with locally applied methods used to ensure results reflect San Diego County's geographic diversity and service delivery.

*Data helps us see where we are, but
calculation helps us decide where to go.*



COUNTY METHODOLOGY APPROACH

San Diego County includes ZIP codes with widely varying population sizes, from dense urban areas to sparsely populated rural regions. Standard large-county methodologies do not always accurately reflect need in low-population areas, where smaller numbers of children can mask meaningful gaps in access to publicly funded early learning and care services.

To address this, the county applies two methodologies allowable under CDSS Management Bulletin 15-04:

- **Urban ZIP codes:** Standard methodology for counties with populations over 1 million
- **Rural ZIP codes:** Methodology designed for counties with fewer than 60,000 residents

ZIP codes with populations under 10,000 were grouped and treated as a single “small county,” with a combined population of 52,147. The remaining ZIP codes, representing a population of 3,151,078, follow the standard large-county methodology.

This approach ensures that smaller communities are not overlooked in data-driven processes and that priority designations reflect both the proportion and number of underserved children across diverse geographic contexts.

Several sparsely populated ZIP codes include tribal lands and Native communities. In recognition of tribal sovereignty and the importance of culturally responsive planning, this methodology is designed to ensure that these communities are meaningfully represented in priority designations. This approach supports more equitable identification of need and helps elevate priorities in areas that may otherwise be underrepresented due to population size.

Priority levels are assigned for each ZIP code and age group based on both the percentage and number of underserved children, ensuring that areas with high relative need and those with larger numbers of underserved children are both appropriately identified.

The priority-setting process follows the guidance outlined in Attachments 1–3 of CDSS Management Bulletin 15-04, with locally applied methods used to ensure results reflect San Diego County’s geographic diversity and publicly funded mixed-delivery system.



PRIORITY THRESHOLDS

Urban ZIP codes (Ages 0–4)

- **Priority 1:** 40% or more of eligible children underserved and more than 300 children underserved
- **Priority 2:** 40% or more underserved and more than 200 children underserved
- **Priority 3:**
 - Option 3.1: 25% or more underserved and more than 100 children underserved
 - Option 3.2: All other ZIP codes
 - Option 3.3: No other ZIP codes

Urban ZIP codes (Ages 5–12)

- **Priority 1:** 40% or more underserved and more than 500 children underserved
- **Priority 2:** 40% or more underserved and more than 200 children underserved
- **Priority 3:**
 - Option 3.1: 25% or more underserved and more than 100 children underserved
 - Option 3.2: All other ZIP codes
 - Option 3.3: No other ZIP codes

Rural ZIP codes (Ages 0–12)

- **Priority 1:** 50% or more underserved and more than 10 children underserved
- **Priority 2:** 35% or more underserved and more than 10 children underserved
- **Priority 3:**
 - Option 3.1: 20% or more underserved and more than 10 children underserved
 - Option 3.2: All other ZIP codes
 - Option 3.3: No other ZIP codes

Rural ZIP Codes with Populations Under 10,000

91905, 91906, 91916, 91917, 91931, 91934, 91935, 91962, 91963, 91980, 92003, 92004, 92036, 92059, 92061, 92066, 92067, 92070, 92086, 92091, 92121, 92135, 92140, 92145

Unique ZIP Codes and P.O. Boxes

A unique ZIP code includes military zones and postal areas that typically would not require a priority number. P.O. Boxes also have ZIP codes that do not require a priority number. In both cases the priority will be indicated as zero (0).

Priority 0 indicates that a ZIP code either represents a P.O. Box, postal area, military zone, *or has no eligible children and no children served*; therefore, no priority level is assigned.





ZIP CODE PRIORITIES BY AGE GROUP

The following data-table section presents ZIP code-level priority designations by age group:

- **Infant/Toddler (I/T):** 0-35 months
- **Prekindergarten/Transitional Kindergarten (PK/TK):** 3-4 years
- **School Age (S/A):** 5-12 years (Kindergarten through 6th grade before- and after-school)

Priority designations are based on a comparison of children who meet eligibility criteria for publicly funded early learning and care programs and those currently served through those programs. These results reflect need within the publicly funded system and should not be interpreted as total system-wide supply and demand.

Across age groups, distinct patterns of unmet need emerge. The highest concentration of Priority 1 ZIP codes is observed among infants and toddlers, indicating substantial gaps in access to care for the county's youngest children. Preschool-age ZIP codes are largely classified as lower priority, reflecting expanded access through the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) and Transitional Kindergarten (TK). School-age findings incorporate both state-subsidized and expanded learning programs, providing a more comprehensive view of publicly funded capacity.

Some ZIP codes are assigned to a Priority 0 designation. This occurs when a ZIP code represents a P.O. Box or unique ZIP code (such as military zones), or when no eligible children and no children served are identified. In these cases, a priority level cannot be calculated.

San Diego County ZIP Code Funding Priorities Data Set				Number of Children		I/T	Number of Children		PK/TK	Number of Children		S/A
City Class	City	ZIP Class	ZIP	Eligible	Served	Priorities	Eligible	Served	Priorities	Eligible	Served	Priorities
Urban	Alpine	General	91901	161	43	3	107	161	3	590	444	3
Urban	Bonita	General	91902	126	44	3	84	162	3	452	762	3
Other	Alpine	P.O. Box	91903	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural	Boulevard	General	91905	11	4	3	8	16	3	70	151	3
Rural	Campo	General	91906	31	6	1	21	70	3	288	258	3
Other	Bonita	P.O. Box	91908	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other	Chula Vista	P.O. Box	91909	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban	Chula Vista	General	91910	1154	266	1	769	1119	3	3476	5188	3
Urban	Chula Vista	General	91911	1492	354	1	995	1192	3	4299	5499	3
Other	Chula Vista	P.O. Box	91912	0	13	0	0	9	0	0	31	0
Urban	Chula Vista	General	91913	469	138	1	313	859	3	2116	3456	3
Urban	Chula Vista	General	91914	99	9	3	66	229	3	402	1002	3
Urban	Chula Vista	General	91915	391	79	1	261	407	3	1186	1966	3
Rural	Descanso	General	91916	11	1	1	7	31	3	85	131	3
Rural	Dulzura	General	91917	15	1	1	10	1	3	70	2	1
Other	Chula Vista	P.O. Box	91921	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Rural	Guatay	General	91931	32	1	1	21	3	1	86	10	1
Urban	Imperial Beach	General	91932	573	79	1	382	405	3	1312	1819	3
Other	Imperial Beach	P.O. Box	91933	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural	Jacumba	General	91934	21	1	1	14	1	1	56	0	1
Rural	Jamul	General	91935	145	4	1	97	59	2	256	261	3
Urban	La Mesa	General	91941	392	74	1	261	553	3	1040	2304	3
Urban	La Mesa	General	91942	766	94	1	510	294	2	1811	1226	3
Other	La Mesa	P.O. Box	91943	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	La Mesa	P.O. Box	91944	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban	Lemon Grove	General	91945	497	144	1	331	450	3	1345	1953	3
Other	Lemon Grove	P.O. Box	91946	0	2	0	0	12	0	0	22	0
Other	Mount Laguna	P.O. Box	91948	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Urban	National City	General	91950	1257	233	1	838	864	3	3596	4841	3
Other	National City	P.O. Box	91951	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Rural	Pine Valley	General	91962	5	2	3	3	18	3	68	0	1
Rural	Potrero	General	91963	26	1	1	17	36	3	115	251	3
Other	Spring Valley	P.O. Box	91976	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban	Spring Valley	General	91977	1050	264	1	700	773	3	3052	3064	3
Urban	Spring Valley	General	91978	132	26	3	88	87	3	329	279	3
Other	Spring Valley	P.O. Box	91979	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Rural	Tecate	General	91980	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	Tecate	Unique (Agua Caliente Spring)	92001	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

San Diego County ZIP Code Funding Priorities Data Set				Number of Children		I/T	Number of Children		PK/TK	Number of Children		S/A
City Class	City	ZIP Class	ZIP	Eligible	Served	Priorities	Eligible	Served	Priorities	Eligible	Served	Priorities
Rural	Bonsall	General	92003	67	22	1	45	110	3	175	395	3
Rural	Borrego Springs	General	92004	0	3	3	0	48	3	19	210	3
Urban	Cardiff By the Sea	General	92007	184	2	3	122	2	3	297	106	3
Urban	Carlsbad	General	92008	293	5	2	196	216	3	895	578	3
Urban	Carlsbad	General	92009	305	14	2	203	253	3	1342	1277	3
Urban	Carlsbad	General	92010	154	4	3	102	27	3	697	169	1
Urban	Carlsbad	General	92011	164	28	3	109	17	3	646	97	1
Other	Carlsbad	P.O. Box	92013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban	Del Mar	General	92014	50	2	3	33	1	3	84	107	3
Other	Carlsbad	P.O. Box	92018	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Urban	El Cajon	General	92019	557	227	1	372	784	3	1939	3991	3
Urban	El Cajon	General	92020	1461	465	1	974	1198	3	3523	5749	3
Urban	El Cajon	General	92021	1591	573	1	1061	1274	3	4388	4943	3
Other	El Cajon	P.O. Box	92022	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Other	Encinitas	P.O. Box	92023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Urban	Encinitas	General	92024	374	25	1	249	107	3	1143	635	2
Urban	Escondido	General	92025	1014	153	1	676	878	3	2834	2649	3
Urban	Escondido	General	92026	875	147	1	583	724	3	1899	2685	3
Urban	Escondido	General	92027	1017	216	1	678	1029	3	2759	3685	3
Urban	Fallbrook	General	92028	888	90	1	592	584	3	2214	2621	3
Urban	Escondido	General	92029	274	22	2	183	186	3	493	455	3
Other	Escondido	P.O. Box	92030	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	Escondido	P.O. Box	92033	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural	Julian	General	92036	39	10	1	26	60	3	104	115	3
Urban	La Jolla	General	92037	289	25	2	193	174	3	941	874	3
Other	La Jolla	P.O. Box	92038	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Urban	Lakeside	General	92040	663	110	1	442	507	3	1871	1825	3
Other	Escondido	P.O. Box	92046	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	11	0
Other	Oceanside	P.O. Box	92049	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	Oceanside	P.O. Box	92051	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	11	0
Other	Oceanside	P.O. Box	92052	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban	Oceanside	General	92054	586	80	1	391	289	3	1335	1546	3
Urban	Camp Pendleton	Unique (Camp Pendelton)	92055	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban	Oceanside	General	92056	837	74	1	558	634	3	1958	2222	3
Urban	Oceanside	General	92057	687	91	1	458	643	3	2300	2977	3
Urban	Oceanside	General	92058	1758	86	1	1172	705	1	3097	3067	3
Rural	Pala	General	92059	35	0	1	23	1	1	86	98	3
Other	Palomar Mountain	General/P.O. Box	92060	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0

San Diego County ZIP Code Funding Priorities Data Set				Number of Children		I/T	Number of Children		PK/TK	Number of Children		S/A
City Class	City	ZIP Class	ZIP	Eligible	Served	Priorities	Eligible	Served	Priorities	Eligible	Served	Priorities
Rural	Pauma Valley	General	92061	9	4	3	6	25	3	43	197	3
Urban	Poway	General	92064	460	54	1	307	1420	3	1561	975	3
Urban	Ramona	General	92065	424	68	1	283	332	3	1229	1362	3
Rural	Ranchita	General	92066	0	1	3	0	4	3	11	0	1
Rural	Rancho Santa Fe	General/P.O. Box	92067	39	0	1	26	0	1	204	105	2
Other	San Luis Rey	P.O. Box	92068	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban	San Marcos	General	92069	793	93	1	528	557	3	2228	1743	3
Rural	Santa Ysabel	General	92070	9	1	3	6	16	3	28	22	3
Urban	Santee	General	92071	1014	110	1	676	633	3	2300	1762	3
Other	Santee	P.O. Box	92072	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	Poway	P.O. Box	92074	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban	Solana Beach	General	92075	81	4	3	54	30	3	343	147	3
Urban	San Marcos	General	92078	638	50	1	426	334	3	2394	1870	3
Other	San Marcos	P.O. Box	92079	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Urban	Vista	General	92081	409	64	1	272	136	3	1223	411	1
Urban	Valley Center	General	92082	294	24	2	196	203	3	673	1033	3
Urban	Vista	General	92083	744	174	1	496	662	3	1893	3253	3
Urban	Vista	General	92084	862	126	1	575	647	3	2434	2275	3
Other	Vista	P.O. Box	92085	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Rural	Warner Springs	General	92086	14	0	1	9	19	3	51	124	3
Other	Fallbrook	P.O. Box	92088	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Rural	Rancho Santa Fe	General	92091	9	1	3	6	0	3	54	1	1
Urban	Escondido	General	92092	0	9	0	0	2	0	0	4	0
Other	La Jolla	Unique (UCSD)	92093	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	108	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92101	214	60	3	143	178	3	302	396	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92102	783	169	1	522	777	3	1809	3677	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92103	253	15	2	169	222	3	439	1188	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92104	498	74	1	332	320	3	1233	1079	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92105	1447	503	1	964	1443	3	4526	4361	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92106	253	13	2	169	206	3	564	1169	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92107	435	18	1	290	273	3	603	691	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92108	246	65	3	164	195	3	386	307	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92109	272	14	2	181	275	3	543	1127	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92110	507	39	1	338	250	3	811	787	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92111	573	109	1	382	609	3	1571	2303	3
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92112	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	8	0
Urban	San Diego	General	92113	1213	325	1	808	987	3	3990	3398	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92114	869	223	1	579	970	3	2871	3672	3

San Diego County ZIP Code Funding Priorities Data Set				Number of Children		I/T	Number of Children		PK/TK	Number of Children		S/A
City Class	City	ZIP Class	ZIP	Eligible	Served	Priorities	Eligible	Served	Priorities	Eligible	Served	Priorities
Urban	San Diego	General	92115	1253	305	1	836	734	3	2472	3254	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92116	254	33	2	169	330	3	616	1174	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92117	659	35	1	439	544	3	1359	2050	3
Urban	Coronado	General	92118	127	2	3	85	142	3	507	200	2
Urban	San Diego	General	92119	305	38	2	203	269	3	866	1238	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92120	461	27	1	307	386	3	1098	1537	3
Rural	San Diego	General	92121	27	4	1	18	6	1	78	2	1
Urban	San Diego	General	92122	419	13	1	279	301	3	1029	1217	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92123	374	52	1	249	369	3	824	1562	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92124	641	41	1	428	486	3	1341	1704	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92126	963	72	1	642	787	3	1991	2460	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92127	446	42	1	298	487	3	1174	1143	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92128	402	30	1	268	288	3	1128	546	1
Urban	San Diego	General	92129	447	32	1	298	460	3	1291	980	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92130	367	8	1	245	65	3	1553	982	3
Urban	San Diego	General	92131	211	15	3	141	421	3	708	1646	3
Other	San Diego	Unique (Naval Point Loma)	92132	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	Unique (Naval Medical)	92134	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural	San Diego	Unique (Naval Point Loma)	92135	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	Unique (Naval San Diego)	92136	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92137	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92138	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban	San Diego	General	92139	477	94	1	318	398	3	1560	1868	3
Rural	San Diego	Unique (Marine Recruit)	92140	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92142	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Other	San Ysidro	P.O. Box	92143	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rural	San Diego	Unique (Marine Air Station)	92145	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	Unique (USPS)	92147	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92149	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92153	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban	San Diego	General	92154	1162	311	1	775	955	3	3793	5680	3
Other	San Diego	Unique (Naval Coronado)	92155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92159	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92160	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	No data available	Unique (USPS)	92162	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92163	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Other	No data available	Unique (USPS)	92164	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

San Diego County ZIP Code Funding Priorities Data Set				Number of Children		I/T	Number of Children		PK/TK	Number of Children		S/A
City Class	City	ZIP Class	ZIP	Eligible	Served	Priorities	Eligible	Served	Priorities	Eligible	Served	Priorities
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92165	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92166	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92168	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92169	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	12	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92170	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92171	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92172	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban	San Ysidro	General	92173	599	195	1	399	540	3	1732	2926	3
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92174	0	12	0	0	10	0	0	3	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92175	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92176	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92177	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Other	Coronado	P.O. Box	92178	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	Unique (SDSU)	92182	0	0	3	0	1	3	0	0	3
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92191	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92192	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92193	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92195	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92196	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	San Diego	P.O. Box	92198	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

When infants and toddlers are priority one, action should be too.



CONSIDERATIONS FOR AGE GROUPING AND DATA REFINEMENT

Council members have raised important considerations regarding current age group categories used in the ZIP Code Funding Priority Report, particularly for children aged three and four. Members noted that three-year-olds and four-year-olds often experience the early learning and care system differently, with varying levels of access to TK, CSPP, and other publicly funded programs.

With the expansion of TK, members have expressed that grouping three- and four-year-olds together does not fully capture differences in access, eligibility, and program participation across these ages. Additionally, members have raised questions regarding how ELOP and other before/after school program data should be categorized, including whether TK-associated participation should be reflected within the preschool age group or remain within the broader school-age grouping.

The Local Child Care and Development Planning Council (LPC) of San Diego County is committed to ensuring that all children and families have access to early learning and care options that meet their diverse needs. To support this goal, the LPC will continue to explore how age groupings and data structures may be refined to better represent need across the mixed-delivery system.

The LPC also recognizes the importance of having access to more detailed and disaggregated data to inform funding priorities and planning decisions. Over the coming years, the LPC will work with state partners to request additional data and guidance that would allow for a more nuanced understanding of county-level needs, particularly across the preschool and TK age range.

This ongoing effort reflects the LPC's commitment to data-informed decision-making, equity, and continuous improvement in identifying and addressing unmet need across San Diego County.



COUNTYWIDE SUMMARY OUTCOMES

Countywide data show a substantial gap between the number of children who meet eligibility criteria for publicly funded early learning and care programs and those currently served, with the greatest unmet need among infants and toddlers.

Among infants and toddlers, an estimated 45,976 children meet eligibility criteria. Of these, about 8,149 are served, leaving 37,827 underserved. Approximately 82% of eligible infants and toddlers are not receiving publicly funded care.

For preschool-age children, the gap is largely closed. An estimated 30,649 three- and four-year-olds meet eligibility criteria, while approximately 37,996 are served through publicly funded programs. Counts of children served exceed ACS-based estimates due to differences in eligibility thresholds and the inclusion of multiple publicly funded systems such as TK.



While these findings reflect significant expansion in preschool access, TK and other school-based programs do not meet the needs of all families. Many families require full-day, full-year, and non-traditional hour care that extends beyond the part-day, school-year structure typical of TK. These gaps highlight the continued importance of a mixed-delivery system that includes community-based and family child care options capable of meeting diverse family needs.

For the school-age category of five- to twelve-year-olds, total counts of children served also exceed ACS-based estimates of eligible children. This reflects the inclusion of before- and after-school participation in publicly funded programs, including ASES, 21CCLC, and ELOP which were not previously incorporated into priority calculations. As a result, unmet need for this age group is more accurately reflected through ZIP code-level priority patterns rather than countywide totals.

Across age groups, Alternative Payment Programs and CalWORKs Stages 2 and 3 serve a substantial share of eligible children, particularly among infants and toddlers, while CSPP and TK account for much of the preschool-age coverage.

Overall, publicly funded programs serve tens of thousands of eligible children across San Diego County. However, a significant number of eligible infants and toddlers remain without access, reinforcing the need for targeted investment and continued support for a mixed-delivery system that meets the needs of all families.

Countywide Data Summary Outcomes	I/T	PK/TK	S/A
Number of children living in households earning under 85% SMI (ACS)	45,976	30,649	124,578
Number of children in General Child Care (CCTR)	1,227	312	294
Number of children in California State Preschool Program (CSPP)	3	6,698	-
Number of children in Family Child Care Home Ed Networks (CFCC)	213	79	152
Number of children in Migrant Child Care, center-based (CMIG)	11	23	-
Number of children in Transitional Kindergarten (TK)	-	16,363	-
Number of children in CalWORKs Stage 2 program	2,016	1,726	5,415
Number of children in CalWORKs Stage 3 programs	534	558	3,376
Number of children in Alternative Payment Programs (CAPP)	4,145	4,138	7,577
Number of Children in ASES and 21CCLC	-	-	19,467
Number of Children in ELOP	-	8,099	113,541
TOTAL Publicly Funded Children Served	8,149	37,996	149,822
Number of Eligible Children NOT Served	37,827	-	-
Percentage of Eligible Children NOT Served	82%	0%	0%

Countywide Prekindergarten/Transitional Kindergarten (PK/TK) and school-age data are not presented as simple unmet need because total counts of children served exceed ACS-based estimates of eligible children. These differences reflect variations in eligibility thresholds, program structures, and the inclusion of expanded learning participation for school-age populations.

As a result, unmet need for these age groups is best understood through ZIP code-level priority patterns.



DATA LIMITATIONS

Different eligibility thresholds across programs

Eligibility estimates are based on the 85 percent SMI threshold used for CDSS-administered programs. Some CDE-administered programs use a 100 percent SMI threshold, so the number of children who may qualify for services could be higher than the estimates used in this report.

Point-in-time service data

Subsidized space counts reflect children served during the month of October only. This snapshot may not represent enrollment changes throughout the year.

Privacy suppression and estimated values

Counts of 10 or fewer individuals are suppressed. When this occurs, estimates are used to distribute spaces across ZIP codes, programs, and age groups.

ZIP code boundaries and family choice

ZIP code eligibility data does not always reflect where children receive services. Families may enroll outside their home ZIP code.

Mixed-delivery system complexity

The report includes major state-subsidized programs but does not capture all care options, such as private-pay programs, license-exempt care, federally funded programs (Head Start, Military, Tribal), or locally funded services.

Methodology differences between urban and rural areas

Different calculation methods are used for urban and rural populated ZIP codes, which may limit direct comparisons.

School-age limitations

School-age data incorporate ASES, 21CCLC, and ELOP participation using a combination of CDE-recommended and locally developed methodologies to align cumulative and LEA-level data with ZIP code-level analysis. While these methods improve representation of publicly funded capacity, differences in reporting structures and assumptions used for geographic allocation should be considered when interpreting results.

These factors should be considered alongside local knowledge and additional data sources when using this report.



SOURCES

U.S. Census Bureau

American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates (2011–2023). www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/data-via-ftp.html

Data Commons

Processed ACS ZIP code population data.

https://datacommons.org/ranking/Count_Person/CensusZipCodeTabulationArea/geoid/06073

CDSS Management Bulletin 15-04

Guidance for calculating LPC ZIP code priorities, including methodologies and thresholds by county population size. <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/child-care-and-development/quality-improvement-initiatives/local-child-care-and-development-planning-councils/management-bulletin-15-04>

California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

Eligible child estimates by ZIP code and age group; subsidized utilization data for CDSS-administered programs.

California Department of Education (CDE)

Publicly funded enrollment and attendance data used in this report, including Transitional Kindergarten (TK), the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), and information used to estimate participation in ASES, 21CCLC, and ELOP.



CONTACT

Website: <https://www.sdcoe.net/LPC>

Email: LPC@sdcoe.net



LOCAL CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COUNCIL OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

sdcoe.net/LPC
LPC@sdcoe.net