
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

Bill No: SB 829 **Hearing Date:** May 9, 2018
Author: Wiener
Version: April 25, 2018
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** No
Consultant: Olgalilia Ramirez

Subject: Child care: individualized county child care subsidy plan: City and County of San Francisco.

SUMMARY

This bill makes details of the approved City and County of San Francisco individualized county child care subsidy plan and qualification requirements for subsidized child care services accessible from the City and County website.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Child Care and Development Services Act to provide child care and development services as part of a coordinated, comprehensive, and cost-effective system serving children from birth to 13 years old and their parents, and including a full range of supervision, health, and support services through full- and part-time programs. (Education Code Section (EC) § 8200 *et seq.*)
- 2) Defines "child care and development services" to mean services designed to meet a wide variety of children's and families' needs while parents and guardians are working, in training, seeking employment, incapacitated, or in need of respite. (EC § 8208)
- 3) States the intent of the Legislature that all families have access to child care and development services, through resource and referral where appropriate, and regardless of demographic background or special needs, and that families are provided the opportunity to attain financial stability through employment, while maximizing growth and development of their children, and enhancing their parenting skills through participation in child care and development programs. (EC § 8202)
- 4) Establishes several programs providing subsidized child care and development services that service low-income families who are working, seeking work, in training, or providing community service. These programs are administered by the California Department of Education and require the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to adopt rules and regulations on eligibility, enrollment, family fees, provider rates, and priority services. (EC § 8235 and 8263)
- 5) Requires the SPI to administer general child care and development programs to include, among other things as specified, age- and developmentally-appropriate activities, supervision, parenting education and involvement, and nutrition.

Further allows such programs to be designed to meet child-related needs identified by parents or guardians, as specified. (EC § 8240 and 8241)

- 6) To allow for maximum parental choice, authorizes the operation of Alternative Payment Programs (APPs) and provision of alternative payments and support services to parents and child care providers by local government agencies or non-profit organizations that contract with the California Department of Education. (EC § 8220)
- 7) Establishes rules and requirements for APPs and providers, as contracted agencies with CDE, to observe, including but not limited to accounting and auditing requirements, attendance monitoring requirements, referral requirements where applicable, and reimbursement and payment procedures. (EC § 8220 *et seq.*)
- 8) Requires the Superintendent to establish a family fee schedule for subsidized child care, as specified, contingent on income and subject to a cap. (EC § 8273)
- 9) Allows the City and County of San Francisco and San Mateo County to develop and implement an individualized county child care subsidy plan in recognition of the high-cost of living in those counties. The plan shall ensure that child care subsidies received by the city and county are used to address local needs, conditions and priorities of working families in the community. (EC § 8335 *et seq.* and § 8347 *et seq.*)
- 10) Allows, as a pilot project, the counties of Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Marin, Sonoma, Fresno, Alameda, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz, San Diego and Solano to implement an individualized county child care subsidy plan in recognition of the unique child care needs in the respective counties. (EC § 8332 *et seq.*, 8333 *et seq.*, 8334 *et seq.*, 8340 *et seq.*, 8348 *et seq.*, and 8349 *et seq.*)

ANALYSIS

This bill makes details of the approved City and County of San Francisco individualized county child care subsidy plan and qualification requirements for subsidized child care services accessible from the City and County of San Francisco website.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) **Need for the bill.** Under existing law, the City and County of San Francisco is authorized to develop and implement an individualized county child care subsidy plan. According to the author, “however neither this plan, nor the information on if one is eligible for benefits—is required to be accessible by Internet web site.” This bill requires that information be made accessible by the website.
- 2) **Existing county level child care subsidy plan.** SB 701 (Migden, Chapter 725, Statutes of 2005) established the San Francisco individualized county child care subsidy plan pilot project. The pilot was developed to address two significant issues facing subsidized child care in high-cost counties: 1) that low-income

families earning just enough to afford housing in a high-cost area may be deemed to earn too much to qualify for assistance with child care by statewide eligibility standards, and 2) that the statewide standard reimbursement rate paid to contracted child care centers and family child care homes is often not sufficient to cover program costs and overhead, particularly in high-cost areas. The county would see a portion of their child care subsidy funds go unused as low-income families failed to qualify for eligibility by uniform statewide criteria, and as provider reimbursement rates made offering subsidized care untenable for some providers.

Ten years after the establishment of the pilot, the authorization to implement and develop an individualized county child care subsidy plan was made permanent under AB 104 (Chapter 13, Statutes of 2015). Today, the authorization offers San Francisco limited flexibility to supersede state law concerning eligibility rules and adjust provider rates and family fees within the context of local evaluation and assessment and some state oversight. The new details and criteria of the plan are developed as part of a local planning process. The plans must be approved by the county's local planning council and approved by the Early Education and Support Division of the California Department of Education.

This bill provides that the approved plan and eligibility criteria for subsidized child care services for the city and county be accessible from the website.

SUPPORT

None received

OPPOSITION

None received

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