

Government

- Works actively with the Council to implement the Strategic Plan
- Fosters support for the development of early care and education (EC&E) facilities
- Includes EC&E as an integral part of county/city general plans
- Removes regulatory barriers to the establishment and expansion of EC&E facilities
- Uses EC&E data as indicators of the economic and social health of the community
- Establishes local tax credits to support parents' use of EC&E services
- Provides incentives to local employers to help employees with EC&E needs
- Supports legislation that insures a worthy wage and benefits for EC&E providers
- Promotes financial support for EC&E workforce education
- Sponsors and/or supports ordinances and legislation promoting EC&E initiatives
- Encourages modification of area transit systems to accommodate family needs

Businesses

- Work actively with the Council to implement the Strategic Plan
- Take advantage of employer child care tax credits
- Establish work/life policies for employees including:
 - Cafeteria benefit plans
 - Dependant care assistance programs
 - Child care vouchers
 - Job sharing, flex time and telecommuting
 - Resource and referral service access
 - On-site child care
- Form partnerships with the early care and education (EC&E) community to:
 - Increase the availability of affordable, high quality EC&E services
 - Provide facilities for child care
 - Use EC&E data as an indicator of community and economic strength

Community-based Organizations

- Work actively with the Council to implement the Strategic Plan
- Build partnerships with the early care and education community to:
 - Share parent education opportunities
 - Share staff development opportunities
 - Collaborate in funding opportunities
- Increase access to community information and resources

EC&E and Education Communities

- Work actively with the Council to implement the Strategic Plan
- Create a greater awareness of EC&E as a viable profession
- Collaborate with institutions of higher education to provide a seamless system of EC&E workforce education and credentialing
- EC&E and Elementary Communities
 - Plan and participate in program quality improvement activities
 - Implement developmentally appropriate and research-based practices
 - Plan and hold joint trainings, workshops and other professional development activities
 - Establish articulation activities among EC&E programs, elementary school teachers and before and after-school care providers
 - Take advantage of relevant training opportunities offered throughout the community
 - Become active members of NAEYC, NAFCC or other recognized professional early childhood education organizations

The Media

- Works actively with the Council to implement the Strategic Plan
- Promotes early care and education in regular reports/articles

The Community

- Works actively with the Council to implement the Strategic Plan
- Recognizes the need for high quality EC&E
- Participates in activities that support EC&E
- Encourages government and business to keep EC&E needs at the forefront of their policy decisions
- Encourages legislators and community leaders to make policy and funding decisions that:
 - Support professional development of the EC&E workforce
 - Increase funding for EC&E services
 - Support improved EC&E program quality
 - Increase the number of EC&E subsidies
 - Increase support for providers serving children with special needs
 - Provide tax incentives for family friendly businesses
- Promotes worthy wages and benefits for EC&E providers
- Supports improved EC&E program quality
- Encourages foundations and philanthropists to support EC&E initiatives



**Santa Barbara County Child Care
Planning Council (SBCCCPC)**

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position or policy of the California Department of Education.*

A Call to Action

High Quality, Affordable Care for All Children



*This is your opportunity
to make a difference!*



What is the Council?

Instituted in 1991, the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council (the Council) plans, coordinates and advocates for high quality, affordable and accessible early care and education services for all children and families countywide.

The Council is responsible for:

- Conducting a needs assessment for child care every 5 years
- Developing a long-range, countywide plan for early care and education
- Establishing local priorities for state-funded early care and education expansion
- Facilitating efforts to coordinate services to meet local child care needs

Membership in the Council is by appointment and is open to individuals interested in fostering the availability of high quality, affordable early care and education services.

The Santa Barbara County Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2006-2015

The 2005 needs assessment of child care in Santa Barbara County identified sixteen critical findings, including the overall shortage of child care capacity and subsidized spaces, the high cost of care, the limited availability of high quality programs, the shortage of a well-educated and well-compensated workforce, and the level of services for special populations.

The Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, 2006-2015, is a working plan which addresses the critical findings and local needs. It defines two Desired Outcomes, each with three goals, and identifies stakeholders. The Strategic Plan calls to action all community members to support the goals and activities of the Strategic Plan.

■ Desired Outcomes

Desired Outcome I

Caring Communities support high quality early care and education throughout Santa Barbara County.

- **Goal 1:** The public will be informed about the importance of early care and education.
- **Goal 2:** All entities participating in the early care and education of children will be part of a coordinated, integrated countywide system.
- **Goal 3:** The community will support access to high quality, affordable early care and education for all families.

Desired Outcome II

A high quality early care and education system is available throughout Santa Barbara County.

- **Goal 1:** High quality early care and education will support the development of the whole child and strong, nurturing families.
- **Goal 2:** High quality early care and education will be staffed by a stable, well-qualified and well-compensated workforce.
- **Goal 3:** High quality early care and education programs will utilize research-based practices.

The complete plan may be found online at:
www.sbceo.org/ccpc/stratplan