

Fact Sheet
Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL)
Connecting Families to Subsidized Child Care and Development Programs

Subsidized child development programs make it possible for parents to participate in the work force and continue their education and/or training. Young children who have the opportunity to participate in high quality child development programs tend to arrive at school with the skills needed to succeed in school and life.¹

In Los Angeles County, approximately 96,000 children receive such services and an additional 19,700 children are income eligible, but waiting for a space to become available for them.

The Problem

Historically, child development programs serving low-income families maintained their own lists of families waiting for services. Families desperately seeking subsidized services so they could work added their names to multiple program waiting lists in the hope that they would eventually be contacted to enroll their children. Accordingly, it was impossible to accurately determine the need for the child development services due to duplicative listings of families and families eligible for and needing services, but not on any list.

The Solution

In 2005, the Education Code authorized and provided funding for a Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) in each county. The CELs in each county consolidated the waiting lists maintained by their local CDE-contracted child development programs into one registry list of low-income, eligible families. Policies and procedures were established that included requiring the CDE-contracted programs to draw from their local CEL to enroll families as space and funding became available. While the CDE developed overall program guidelines, individual counties were allowed to design, maintain and administer their CEL.

In Los Angeles County, the LACEL serves multiple purposes, including:

- Providing a one-stop, one time registry for families waiting to access a subsidized child development program and being connected to a program as funds and space become available.
- Conducting ongoing training and technical assistance to CDE-contracted program staff to facilitate timely enrollments of eligible families.
- Participating in outreach activities to families (and the organizations that serve them) to inform them of the LACEL, including how to register as their best opportunity for connecting to a subsidized program as funding and space becomes available.
- Counseling families on the array of child care and development programs to help parents make informed choices; preparing them for enrollment; and updating their information on the LACEL.

Local Results

- In 2009-10, 11,633 families with 9,608 children were enrolled in child development programs from the LACEL.
- As of June 11, 2010, 12,855 of families with 19,719 children are registered on the LACEL.

Families Waiting for Services by Age of Children and Need for Full-day or Part-Day				Families Enrolled by Age of Children in Full-day or Part-Day		
	Infants/Toddlers	Preschoolers	School Age	Infants/Toddlers	Preschoolers	School Age
Number of Children						
▪ Full-day	6,998	3,840	2,218	1,284	1,127	1,878
▪ Part-day	1,464	2,167	1,903	992	2,970	1,357
▪ Not indicated	344	83	702			
<i>Total</i>	<i>8,806</i>	<i>6,090</i>	<i>4,823</i>	<i>2,276</i>	<i>4,097</i>	<i>3,235</i>

For more information on the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL),
please contact the Office of Child Care at 213/974-1664
or visit our Web site at www.childcare.lacounty.gov.

¹ Examples include *The High Scope Perry Preschool Study through Age 40* by Lawrence Schwienhart, www.highscope.org, *The Children of the Cost Quality and Outcome Study Go to School*, Carolee Howes, et al, and *Success in Early Intervention: The Chicago Child-Parent Centers*, Arthur Reynolds.