

Burbank Child Care Recommendations



BACKGROUND

In 2019, the Burbank YMCA convened the Burbank Infant Group to respond to community feedback about a lack of licensed infant care in Burbank. The Burbank YMCA and Child Care Resource Center partnered to study available data which revealed that Burbank has considerably more children than licensed child care spaces. In 2022, CCRC received grant funding to conduct a Burbank child care needs assessment in partnership with the Burbank YMCA. The needs assessment confirmed what we knew about licensed child care spaces but revealed much more.

The Burbank Child Care Needs Assessment included demographic data, child care program data, and parent surveys. Some key findings in the needs assessment highlight areas to better serve single mothers, families eligible for financial assistance, and ways that the City can better coordinate programs and services.

Municipalities have sought a wide range of remedies to the stubborn policy issue of the cost and accessibility of child care for working families. The dynamics of Burbank – a job rich city, with rapid development on the horizon – makes it a unique opportunity for local leaders to ensure that the future of the city works for parents of young children. We have reviewed policy solutions from other cities and states, to recommend potential policy and budget solutions to the child care crisis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ADVISORY COUNCIL

An advisory council convening of child care providers, Resource & Referral agencies, and community-based organizations within the field can provide advice to the City in the decision-making process. The advisory council would be led by a city appointed child care coordinator (see below). The advisory council should include members who are not only experts in the field but also reside or work in Burbank. The advisory council would meet based on need and at the discretion of the coordinator. Advisory council meetings should also allow public testimonials in order to gain the most current information regarding child care concerns in the city.

CHILD CARE COORDINATOR

The City of Los Angeles was a national leader when they established a Child Care Coordinator position in 1987.ⁱ Other cities such as, Boston, Washington, Dallas, Sacramento, and San Francisco in the past also hired child-care coordinators.ⁱⁱ In this position, the coordinator would act as a liaison and work with existing child care infrastructures and agencies, including Resource & Referral agencies, community-based programs, city departments and lead the advisory council. In addition, the coordinator would identify state, federal and philanthropic funding opportunities as well as implement policies and assist the city developers, and child care providers in creating new facilities. The coordinator position would reside in the Parks & Recreation department and would provide child-care friendly community plans and seek to address the current need for additional child care slots for Burbank families.



ⁱ <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1987-03-01-me-7099-story.html>

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

FACILITIES

The City could follow examples of other cities to either require or incentivize developers to plan for child care facilities. There are several examples of policies that cities have enacted to provide for the creation of more licensed child care spaces.ⁱⁱⁱ



FUNDING

One common feedback from parents was regarding the cost of child care. The City could provide child care stipends or set aside grant opportunities, especially to single family households who are most in need of affordable child care. In addition, the City should also consider generating revenue or setting aside revenue to provide loans or grants to child care programs or subsidies to families.

LINKS TO ARTICLE & REPORT

Link to Article:

Child care shortage greatly affecting Burbank families, study finds

Link to Report:

Meeting the Needs of Burbank Families: A Child Care Needs Assessment

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED458932>

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