

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 15, 2018

TO: Family and Human Services Committee
Supervisor Candace Andersen, District II, Chair
Supervisor John Gioia, District I, Vice Chair

Contra Costa County Office of Education
Karen Sakata, Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools
Lynn Mackey, Deputy Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Susan K. Jeong, LPC Coordinator/Manager, Educational Services

SUBJECT: Review and Approve the Contra Costa County Individualized Child Care Subsidy Pilot
Contra Costa County Local Planning and Advisory Council for Early Care and Education (LPC)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

APPROVE the Contra Costa County Individualized Child Care Subsidy Pilot Plan
RECOMMEND approval of the Plan to the full County Board of Supervisors, for submission to the California Department of Education

REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION:

On March 28, 2017, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors adopted a SUPPORT position for AB 435.

In October 2017, Governor Brown approved AB 435, authorizing an individualized child care subsidy plan for the County of Contra Costa. Authored by Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, the legislation allows Contra Costa County to develop and implement a plan through January 1, 2023. Modeled on similar bills, especially AB 833 for Alameda County, the legislation removes some of the regulatory constraints in providing subsidized child care through Title 5 contracts with the California Department of Education (CDE). Under AB 435, the individualized child care plan is designed to “ensure that child care subsidies received by the County of Contra Costa are used to address local needs, conditions, and priorities of working families in the community.”

AB 435 provides the county only limited flexibility in designing its subsidy rules. There are four fundamental limitations on the pilot:

- No family who would have been eligible under state rules can either become ineligible or be asked to pay higher family fees;
- Provider participation is entirely voluntary;
- The number of child days of enrollment across participating providers must increase overall from the base year; and
- There are no additional resources for the pilot – only unearned and unallocated funds from existing contracts and funding streams.

This plan lays out the County's goals for its subsidized child care system. It contains three main parts: Chapter 2 reviews local economic and child care market conditions in Contra Costa County and the challenges to be addressed by the pilot. Chapter 3 summarizes the County's goals for the pilot and describes the components of the local plan to be implemented to meet these goals within the constraints of AB435. Chapter 4 offers a list of outcome measures to evaluate the success of the plan.

Additionally, there is no net county cost associated with the recommended action. The Board's approval of this Pilot Subsidy Plan will allow the LPC to access CDE childcare subsidy funds that would have been unearned in years past.