

Measure X: Making the Case For The Early Years

CAMILLA RAND, FIRST 5 CONTRA COSTA

JOHN JONES, COCOKIDS

CHRISTINA REICH, EHSD COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU

DR. FRANCINE JOLTON, CCHSD

MICAELA MOTA, PARENT AND RESIDENT, PARENT VOICES

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Partnerships and Intersections

Today's presenters represent the **partnerships** needed to strengthen the early learning system for young children:





*When we support children and their families during a child's first five years of life, we make the most of the incredible **human potential** in all of us.*



In these **first five years**, children are developing the foundations by which they will learn, behave, and grow.




13% Return on Investment by improving life outcomes related to health, education, employment, and social behaviors.



There are **80,000 children** under the age 6 in Contra Costa, roughly 7% of the population. Not every child and family has access to the same level of resources that help realize this potential.

A Holistic, Systems Approach to Support Young Children

*Effective early childhood systems must align a **broad array of services** with a lens **grounded in equity** and addressing the **root causes of disparities**.*



Whole
Families,
Whole
Children

The 0-5 Landscape in Contra Costa County

Demographics of Children in Contra Costa

White	34.9%
Hispanic/Latino	34.2%
Asian American	14.4%
African American/Black	9.0%
Multiracial	6.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.5%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.3%

Too Many Contra Costa Children Live in Poverty

16.2%

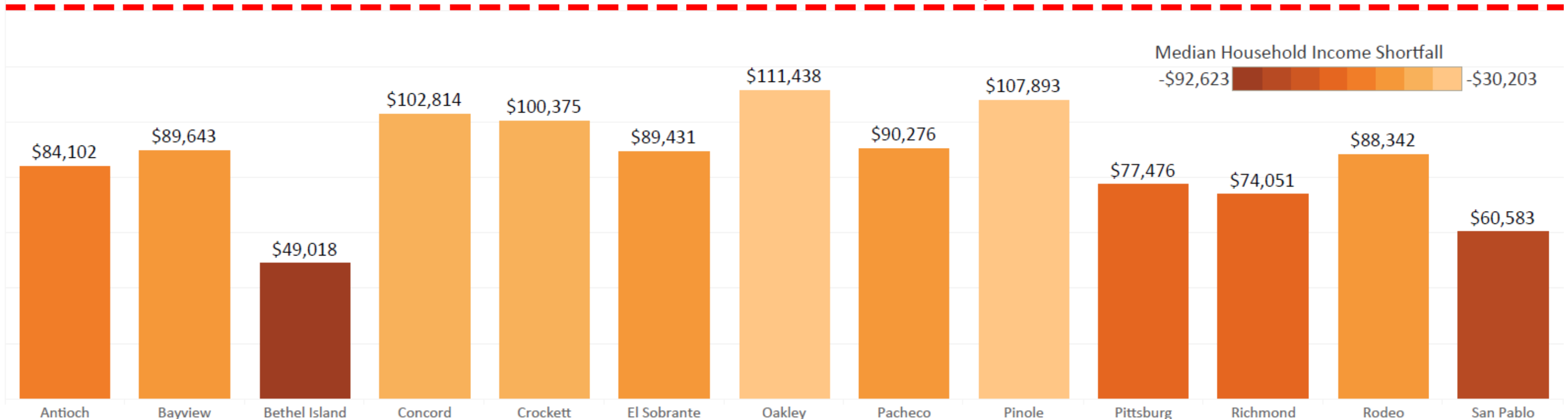
Percentage of Contra Costa families with children under 6 that live in deep poverty (annual income less than \$12,550 for a family of four).

25-49%

Percentage of families with children under 6 that live in deep poverty in 22 Contra Costa County Census Tracts.

A Significant Portion of Contra Costa Families Struggle to Make Ends Meet

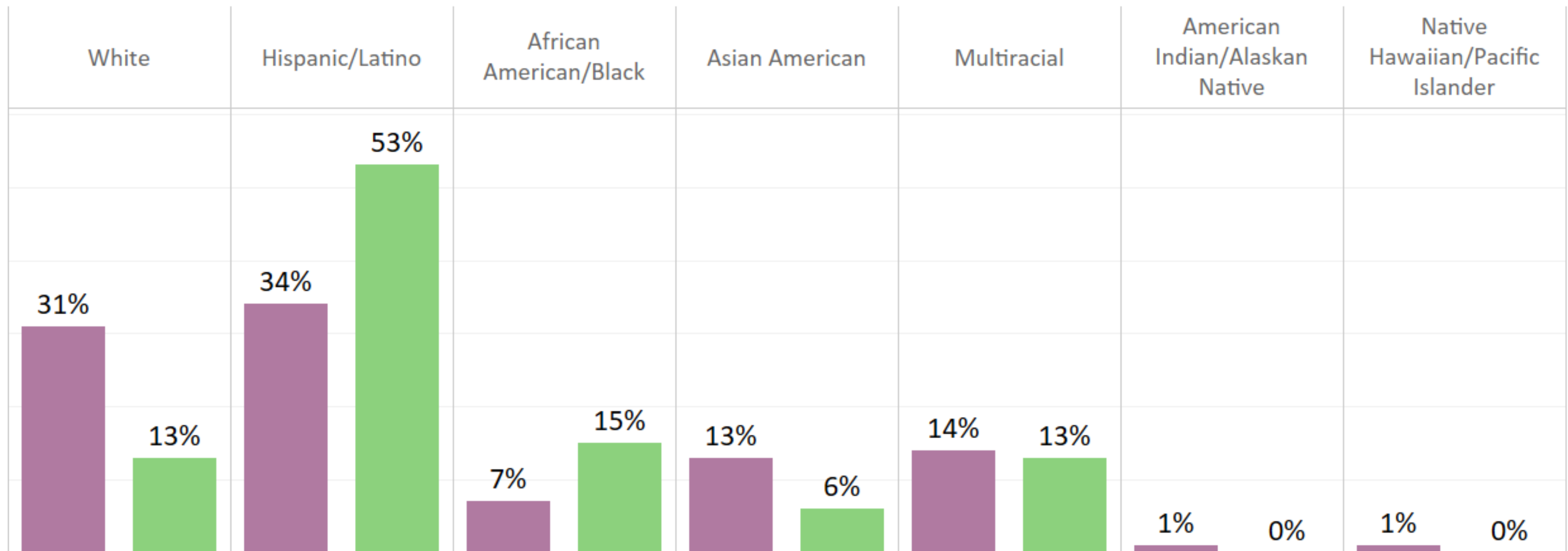
\$141,641: Household annual income needed to cover basic needs for a family of four with an infant and toddler



Source for median household incomes in Contra Costa Cities and Census Designated Places (CDP) is US Census 2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates.

The 0-5 Landscape in Contra Costa County

A Disproportionately High Percentage of Young Children of Color Are Living In Poverty in Contra Costa



Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2009-2013) Tables B17001B through I; Ethnicity and Poverty for County, Number of Individual Children Under 6 and Number in Poverty

- % of Contra Costa Children <6, by Ethnicity
- % of Contra Costa Children <6 in Poverty

The 0-5 Landscape in Contra Costa County



School Readiness

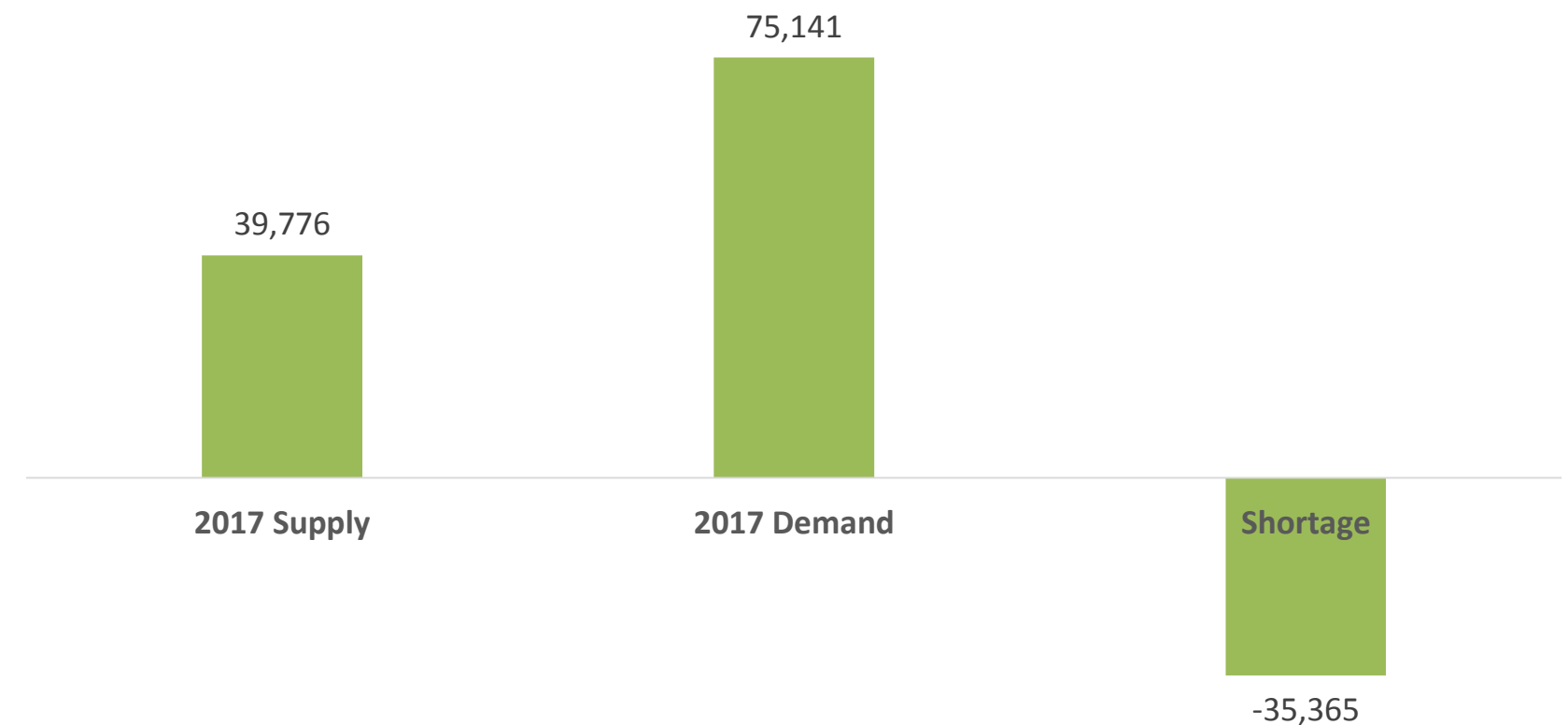


Only **44%** of Contra Costa children are fully ready for kindergarten.



Barely half (**56%**) of 3-and-4-year olds in Contra Costa children are enrolled in preschool

Child Care Slots: Supply & Demand



There are about **40,000** licensed child care spaces available to meet an estimated need of **75,000** children age 0-12, a shortfall of **35,000**.

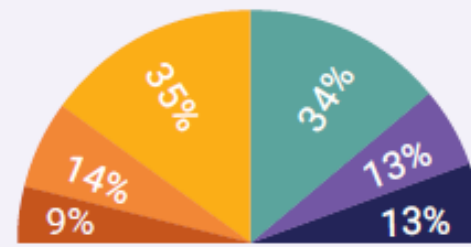
Gap: Inequities in Contra Costa

Black and brown families have had to support their children **with far less systemic and structural support** than their white counterparts, resulting in **disparities that fall along geographic, income, and racial lines.**

Demographic Overview²

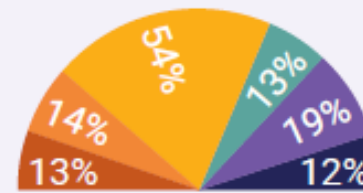
- Black
- Asian
- Latino
- White
- Other³
- 2+ Races

Contra Costa 260,950 kids



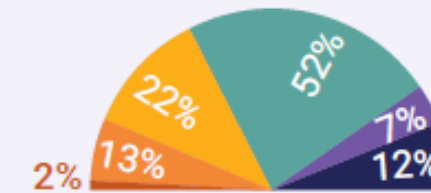
West

54,938 kids
Hercules, San Pablo,
Richmond



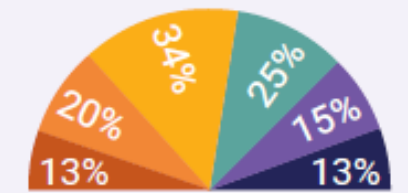
Central

108,819 kids
Concord, San Ramon,
Walnut Creek



East

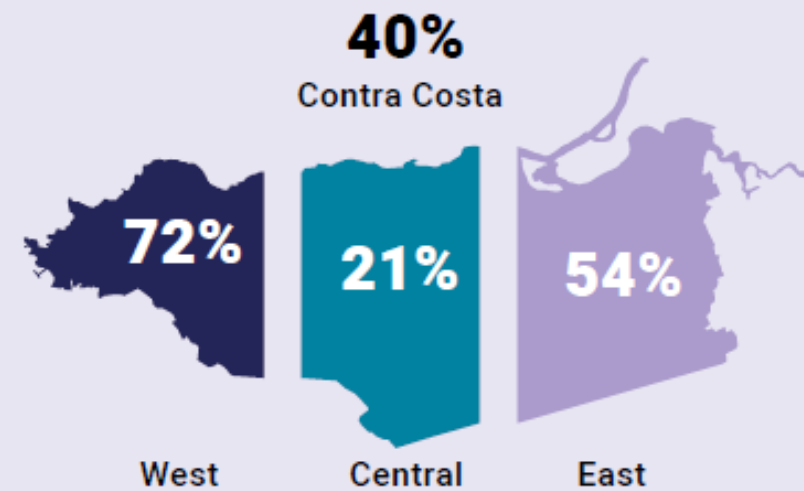
96,431 kids
Pittsburg, Antioch,
Brentwood



Child poverty varies widely across the county.⁴

Low-income students

Students who are eligible for free & reduced-price meals, with family annual income under \$46,500.⁵



Without additional supports, poverty can limit kids' opportunities.⁶

Childhood poverty is linked to:

-  worse academic outcomes
-  food insecurity
-  toxic stress

Gap: Shortage of Child Care Slots

*Pre-pandemic shortage: 12,625 child care slots for children ages 0-5.
Since the start of the pandemic: a loss of at least 1,126 more slots.
17,900 children ages 0-5 years who are eligible for subsidized child care
cannot access it due to low supply.*

WAITLIST SNAPSHOT:



Age 0-5 Children Waitlisted for
Childcare in Community
Services, the largest childcare
provider in the County



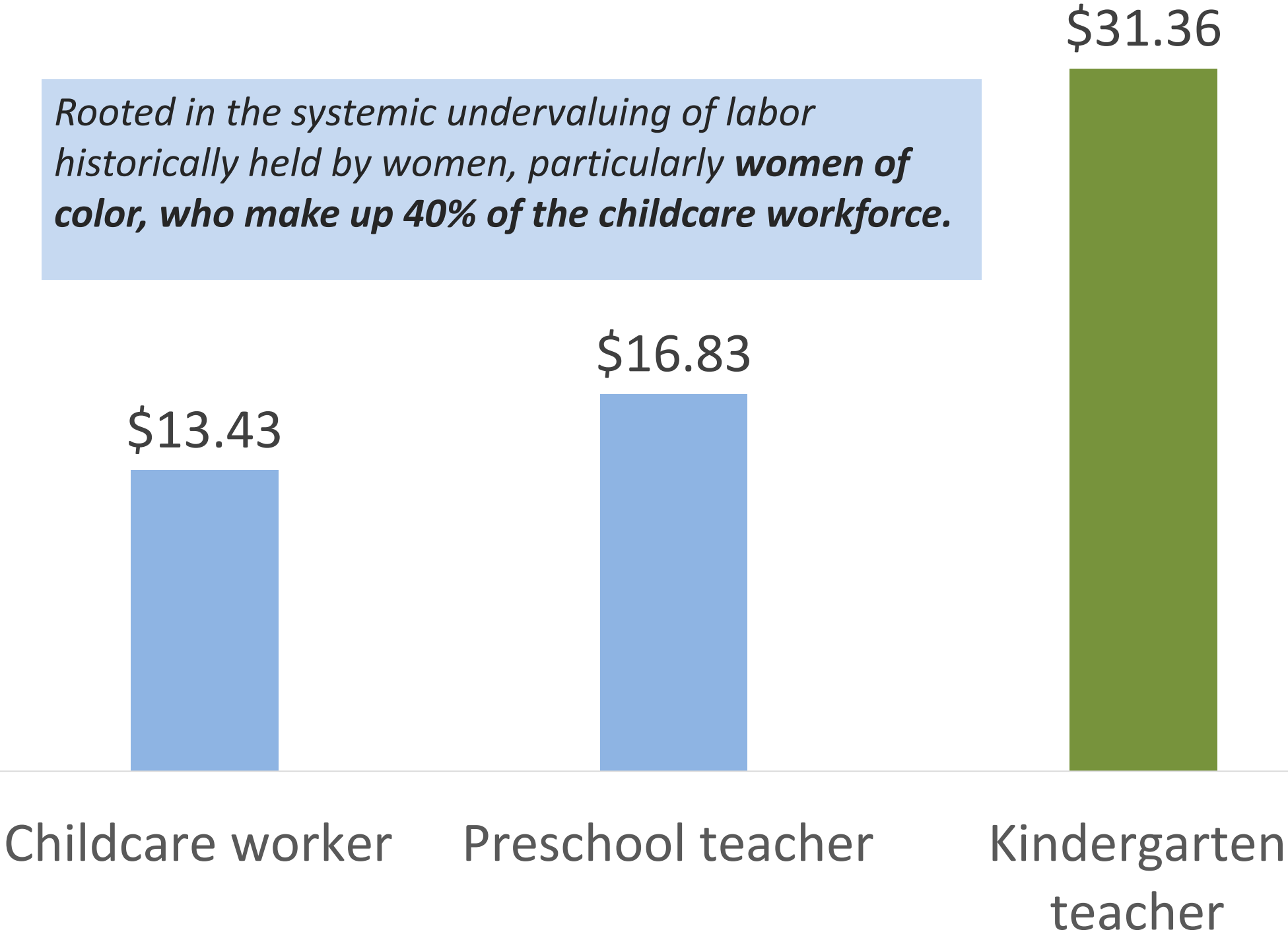
Age 0-5 Children Waitlisted for
Childcare in CocoKids, the
resource and referral agency
for the County



Gap: Wage Disparity

Median hourly wage in California

*Rooted in the systemic undervaluing of labor historically held by women, particularly **women of color**, who make up 40% of the childcare workforce.*



Gap: Affordability

*Many families have reached the subsidized “cliff” preventing them from placing their child in one of the **7,800** subsidized child care spaces in the county.*

\$84,822

Household income for a family of 4 to qualify for a State-subsidized preschool or infant/ toddler program in California

\$26,500

Household income for a family of 4 to qualify for a federal Head Start or Early Head Start

\$141,641

Needed for a family of four to cover their basic needs in Contra Costa County



A Return on Investment



**\$1 spent on child care
generates \$0.68 in
additional spending.**

The spending results in a multiplier effect that increases economic output, jobs, and tax revenue throughout the entire economy.

*In 2012, **\$300 million** were spent annually on child care in Contra Costa County which generated an additional **\$203 million** in economic activity.*

Gap: Lack of Supply of Services and Supports

Families need affordable, stable, safe homes, adequate household resources, healthy neighborhoods, and access to quality opportunities, education, and services

1 out of every 2

Renter households in Contra Costa County who pay **more than 30%** of their income to housing. These households are more likely to be Black or Latinx due to a legacy of discriminatory housing policies and practices.

12,100 children

are estimated to be at risk of eviction when state pandemic projections expire in the Bay Area

1 in every 5 children

in California live in households with limited or uncertain access to adequate food—and **17% of the children in Contra Costa County** live in food insecure homes.



Gap: Unmet Need for Child Mental Health and Disability Services



DEMAND

7,900 to
10,900
children

in need of early childhood mental health intervention for mental illnesses meeting medical necessity criteria

SUPPLY

500
children

currently supported by present Medi-Cal contracts for mental health programs

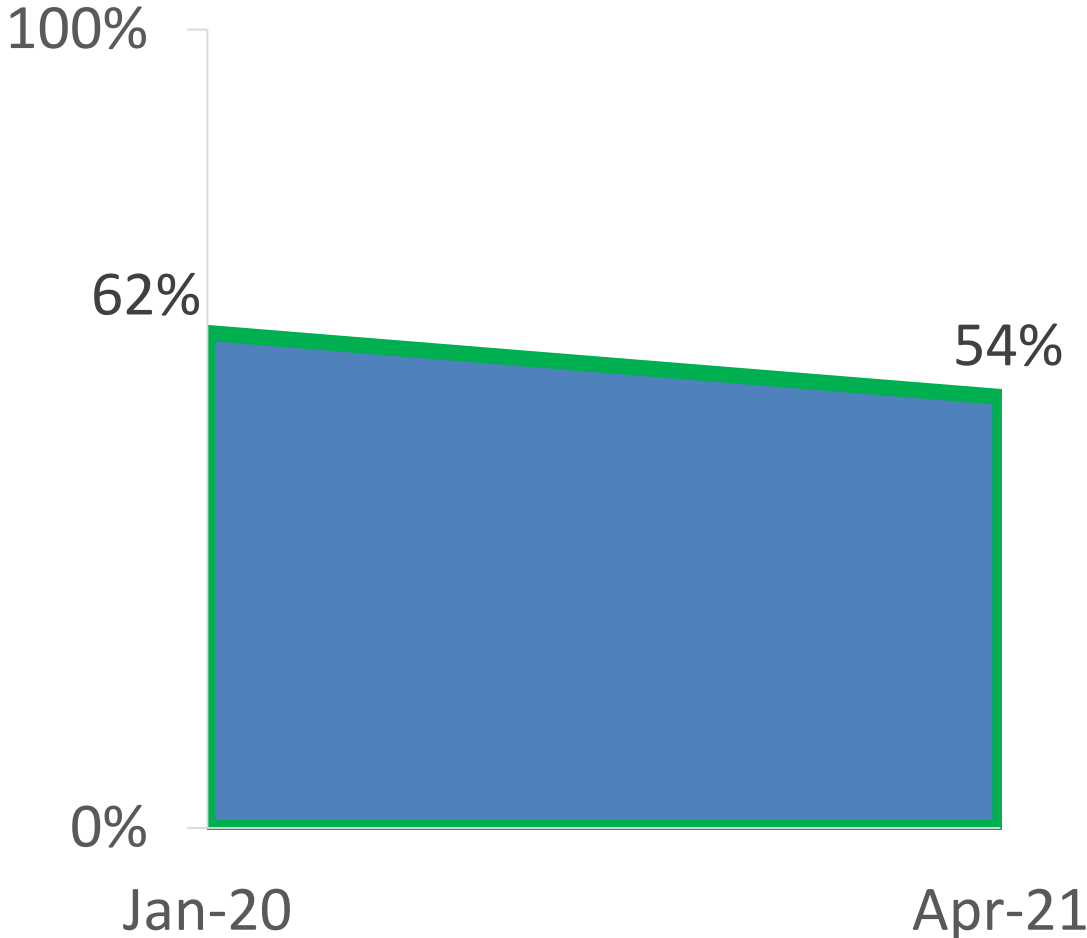
Mental health intervention and prevention services for young children now prevents future needs in adolescence and adulthood.

Gap: Unmet Need for Child Mental Health and Disability Services



*High cost of living means families miss out on subsidized programs, creating an unmet need with incredibly high stakes, as brain development research shows the **critical role of early intervention** in these cases.*

Developmental screening rates for children 0-11 seen by CCHS, Jan '20 & April '21



3,154
Infants & Toddlers
with a diagnosed disability in Contra Costa County.

Transformational Ideas: Children and Families

Proposed estimated allocation: \$10.5 M

- **Immediate support to families in need** to support the urgent gaps hard-working families face in meeting their basic needs.
- **Funding for childcare slots (36%)** bringing the field up to pre-pandemic numbers will help soften the current childcare crisis
- **Funding for early childhood mental health services (12%)** is needed to improve children's social-emotional development as a preventive strategy, and to begin to help treat and overcome the effects of traumatic stress
- **Supporting children with disabilities (15%)** through consultation and guidance to providers on strategies to modify their setting to be inclusive of all children



Transformational Ideas: Service Providers

Proposed estimated allocation: \$5.9M



- **Network supports to connect providers with each other (2%)** and ensure families get properly referred and connected to services
- **Funding family partners and resource navigator roles (3%)** to help navigate this complicated systems and barriers that often emerge in the referral and linkage process due to a lack of resource navigation.
- **Early care and education supports for providers (30%)** through incentives for retention, to attract new providers, and help the county recover from this crisis.

Transformational Ideas: Integrated Systems

Proposed estimated allocation: \$200K

- **Dedicated resources for a countywide, cross-sector leadership body for children (Children's Leadership Council)** to promote an integrated and coordinated system of care
- **Invest in a countywide annual Children's Well-being Index (2%)** to identify essential data points and indicators related to child, youth, and family wellbeing



Transformational Ideas: Summary of Proposed Allocations

Category	Allocation
Children and Families	\$10,575,000
Service Providers	\$5,950,000
Integrated Systems	\$200,000
Total	\$16,725,000

Profile of Success

A coordinated system of support ensures that **all children in Contra Costa County** benefit from:

- **High-quality early learning opportunities**
- **Secure housing and nutrition**
- **Inclusive resources to support their development**

No matter where they live, the color of their skin, or their families' income.



Thank You

