

July 2018

STRONG START

IN THIS ISSUE



Strong Start already has a website, Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn accounts - why a newsletter?

This quarterly round-up of activities, opportunities, and events is a resource for Strong Start members and friends who don't want to check in every day. It's also easily forwarded so if you know of anyone who might be interested in our efforts to support the county's young children and families - please send it on to them.

In our sixth issue, we'll provide early care and education highlights from the 2018-19 California State Budget, recap our advocacy day in Sacramento and show data from the 2018 KIDS COUNT Data Book from the Annie E. Casey Foundation on how the state's children are being served relative to other states. We'll review the Santa Clara County Office of Education's (SCCOE) Early Learning Facilities study and show how SCCOE and FIRST 5 Santa Clara County are working together with Potter the Otter to provide kindergarten readiness information for 25,000 children and families across our community. While there is no Strong Start coalition meeting in July, you can learn about upcoming ECE events in the county by checking the [events calendar](#) on the Strong Start web site.

If you think someone you know would, or should, be interested in this newsletter, please forward it to them. Santa Clara County's youngest children need their adults to be their advocates and the better informed we all are, the better advocates we can be. Thanks for reading and for everything you do for the children and families of Santa Clara County.

Governor Brown signs his final State Budget with no surprises and mixed outcomes for early care and education

The State legislature passed the Budget bills on largely party-line votes and passed them to the Governor's desk for signature by June 15, and the Governor signed the bills without using his line-item veto, concluding a drama free Budget season.

The Budget contains mixed outcomes for the early care and education field. The good news is that it contains more than 13,000 new Alternative Payment program slots that provide vouchers to parents to pay for childcare and preschool. It also includes almost 3,000 new full-day state preschool slots that result from the 2016 California State Preschool Program expansion commitment. The Budget increases the adjustment factor, or multiplier, that increases the amount of money programs receive for serving infants and toddlers, includes funds for competitive grants to provide home visitation to first-time mothers participating in the CalWORKS program, more than \$150 million dollars in one time funds to help providers support children with special needs, and \$100 million in facilities grants to school districts to support full-day kindergarten.



Overall the State Budget continues to make incremental changes to California's overly complicated and chronically under-resourced early care and education programs. Over 80% of income-eligible infants and toddlers, and more than half of income-eligible preschoolers are not served by the state due to a lack of funding. Governor Brown's final budget will make little impact on that unmet need.

The 144 page summary of the enacted Budget can be found [here](#).

Strong Start advocacy day in Sacramento

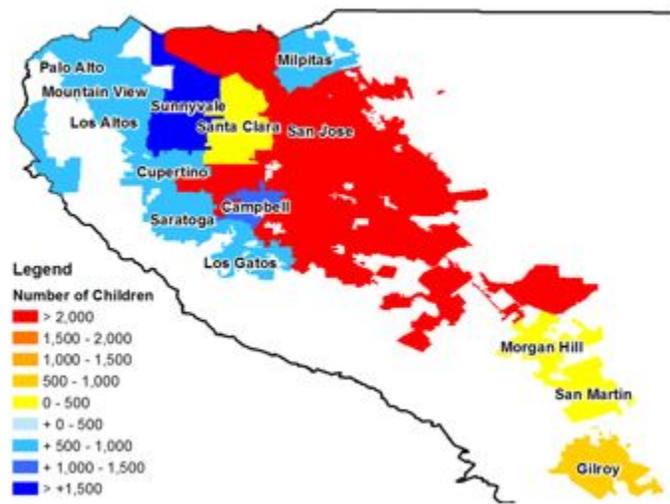
A dozen members of Strong Start had the chance to meet and discuss early care and education budget and legislative issues with legislators and senior staff at our Sacramento advocacy day in May. We presented our budget agenda - including a call for increasing the number of preschool and child care slots, reforming the child care facilities revolving loan fund and improving facilities' licensing, restoring funding for local early education planning councils, and our support of the Governor's proposed inclusive early education expansion program. We also had the opportunity to discuss proposed legislation of interest to the coalition - including AB 605 (a 0-5 license option), AB 2292 (increased adjustment factors for serving infants and toddlers) and AB 2626 (statewide implementation of regulatory flexibility consistent with existing pilot programs). Subsequently many of these proposals made their way into the state budget - the inclusive early education program, increased adjustment factors - or have continued through the legislative process.

Many thanks to Assemblymembers Kalra, Caballero, Berman, Senator Wieckowski and their staffs and to the senior members of the Governor's staff and the California Department of Education for taking the time to meet with us. The final event of the day was a formal recognition of our efforts on the floor of the Senate by Senator Jim Beall - a great honor that we very much appreciated.



Highlights of the Santa Clara County Early Learning Facilities Study

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) recently completed its Early Learning Facilities Study (ELFS) to assess the need for early care and education (ECE) facilities in the county and to estimate the cost of meeting that need. The study found that the number of licensed child care centers and family child care homes in the county is decreasing, while the population of young children continues to increase. While some cities have sufficient licensed preschool spaces to meet the demand (see map above), overall the county needs to build facilities to serve an additional 3,740 children to meet demand. This need is concentrated in San Jose, Morgan Hill and Gilroy.



The study also estimates the cost of providing these facilities - based on a mix of new construction, renovation and portable buildings. The estimated cost comes to \$117 million dollars. By way of comparison, Mountain View - Los Altos High School District was authorized to issue \$295 million in bonds in the June 5, 2018 election. The report concludes by recommending

- ongoing advocacy for quality ECE and early learning facility development;
- the implementation of a county-wide early learning facilities development plan
- provision of facilities training and technical assistance for ECE providers; and
- creation of a local grant fund for early learning facilities development.

Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT ranks California 36th for child well-being

45 ECONOMIC WELL-BEING
Rank

	UNITED STATES	CALIFORNIA
CHILDREN IN POVERTY US: 14,116,000 CA: 1,785,000	22% <small>2010</small>	22% <small>2010</small>
	19% <small>2016</small>	20% <small>2016</small>
	BETTER	BETTER
CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS LACK SECURE EMPLOYMENT US: 20,692,000 CA: 2,792,000	33% <small>2010</small>	36% <small>2010</small>
	28% <small>2016</small>	31% <small>2016</small>
	BETTER	BETTER
CHILDREN LIVING IN A HOUSEHOLD WITH A HIGH HOUSING COST BURDEN US: 23,556,000 CA: 4,002,000	41% <small>2010</small>	54% <small>2010</small>
	32% <small>2016</small>	44% <small>2016</small>
	BETTER	BETTER
TEENS NOT IN SCHOOL AND NOT WORKING US: 1,176,000 CA: 134,000	9% <small>2010</small>	8% <small>2010</small>
	7% <small>2016</small>	6% <small>2016</small>
	BETTER	BETTER

36 EDUCATION
Rank

	UNITED STATES	CALIFORNIA
YOUNG CHILDREN (AGES 3 AND 4) NOT IN SCHOOL US: 4,256,000 CA: 532,000	52% <small>2009-11</small>	51% <small>2009-11</small>
	52% <small>2014-16</small>	52% <small>2014-16</small>
	SAME	WORSE
FOURTH-GRADERS NOT PROFICIENT IN READING US: N.A. CA: N.A.	68% <small>2009</small>	76% <small>2009</small>
	65% <small>2017</small>	69% <small>2017</small>
	BETTER	BETTER
EIGHTH-GRADERS NOT PROFICIENT IN MATH US: N.A. CA: N.A.	67% <small>2009</small>	77% <small>2009</small>
	67% <small>2017</small>	71% <small>2017</small>
	SAME	BETTER
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NOT GRADUATING ON TIME US: N.A. CA: N.A.	21% <small>2010-11</small>	24% <small>2010-11</small>
	16% <small>2015-16</small>	17% <small>2015-16</small>
	BETTER	BETTER

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2018 Kids Count data book has just been released and continues to paint a concerning picture for California's children - beginning with the foreword. In the run-up to the 2020 Census, the

report lays out the challenges for the census that result in significant undercounts of young children, particularly low-income children of color, and what the effects are for programs designed to serve them and their families. By their count, more than 750,000 Californian children under 5 live in "hard to count" census tracts, putting at risk their share of more than \$800 billion in Federal spending that is directed based on census data.

The state level data for California is also a cause for concern. They rank California 36th overall: 45th for economic well-being, 36th for education, 41st for family and community and – the lone bright spot – 9th for health. The state's percentage of children ages three and four not in school has remained at just over 50% for the last decade at approximately 500,000. One in eight American preschool aged children without preschool lives in California. The full report is available at [here](#) while the data sheet for California is available [here](#).

Potter the Otter Gets Ready for Kindergarten



Through a collaboration with FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, SCCOE has printed and begun distributing "Potter the Otter Gets Ready For Kindergarten." The 25,000 copies - one for every four year old in the county - will be distributed to organizations like the San Jose Library, the Santa Clara County Library District, FIRST 5's family resource centers /alley Medical Foundation and preschool programs that are part of the QUALITY MATTERS quality rating and improvement system.

The book, in Potter's unique style and written in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, introduces children and parents to a range of activities and steps along the path to being kindergarten ready. Our partners will provide these free books to families as part of Strong Start's public education campaign on the importance of high quality early care, health and education. Additional copies can be purchased from FIRST 5 Santa Clara County and a full preview of the book is available [here](#).

<http://www.strongstartsantaclara.org>

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