

California Child Care Study

Information for Local Agencies

May 2018

What is the California Child Care Study?

The purpose of the study is to learn more about subsidized child care, meaning child care paid for in part by the state, and the families who use it. Information from the study can inform future policies. It can also be used to improve child care subsidy services.

The study is being conducted by Child Trends and its partners, IMPAQ International and Brian Fitzgerald RPE-DVBE. The study is for the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the California Department of Education (CDE).

Who chose the study questions?

An advisory group provided input about the study. This group included people from CDSS and CDE, and others from the child care community.

Who will be in the study?

Our team will contact a sample of agencies that manage subsidized child care programs. We will reach out to these agencies to ask them to join the study. Our team will also directly contact a random sample of child care providers. Finally, we will select a sample of families served by the sampled providers to collect information about them.

What will agencies be asked to do?

Our team will ask agencies for information on child care providers and families in the subsidized child care programs they manage. We will not ask agencies to collect new data. We will ask them to gather information from the data they already have. Our team will provide agencies with instructions to send the data in paper and electronic formats. We will provide help to agency staff as needed. This help will be available online, and over the phone, through a video conference, or through email. In a small number of cases, we will provide in-person help at the agency.

What kind of information will be collected from agencies?

Agencies will be asked for characteristics of participating families, providers, and agencies. Information about families will include, for example, their payments to providers, the type of care they use, the number of hours of care they use on a regular basis (for example, full-time, part-time, seasonal), and their demographics. Information about providers will include reimbursement rates and demographics. Information about agencies will include the number of Notices of Action issued, and their reasons for doing so.

What will happen to the information that is collected?

All information gathered will be kept strictly confidential. It will be used for research purposes only. Child Trends will combine the local agency-, provider-, and family-level data into one set of information that summarizes the characteristics of subsidized child care programs, children, and families. CDSS and CDE will use this to guide future policy decisions about subsidized child care programs. None of this final information will be able to be traced to a specific program or family.

When will the research take place?

Data collection with agencies will start in spring 2018 and will be done by fall 2018.

How can my agency participate?

Participation is voluntary, but is encouraged by CDSS and CDE. Not all agencies will participate. If your agency is selected, a member of the study research team will contact you to tell you more about the study and to answer any questions you may have.

Based on need, local agencies may be able to receive financial assistance to support their data collection activities.

What if I have questions?

We're happy to answer them! Please contact the study team at CCCS@childtrends.org or 1-833-823-9249. You can find additional information about this study on our website <https://www.childtrends.org/project/california-child-care-study/>.

