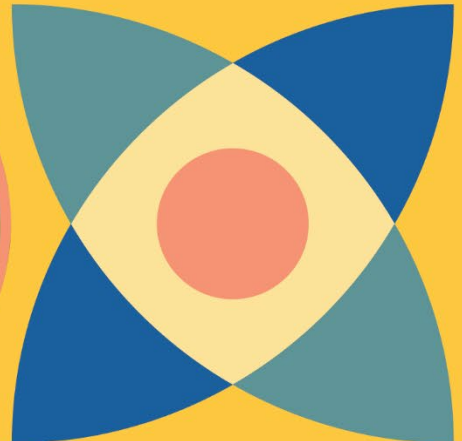


ANNUAL REPORT



Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023

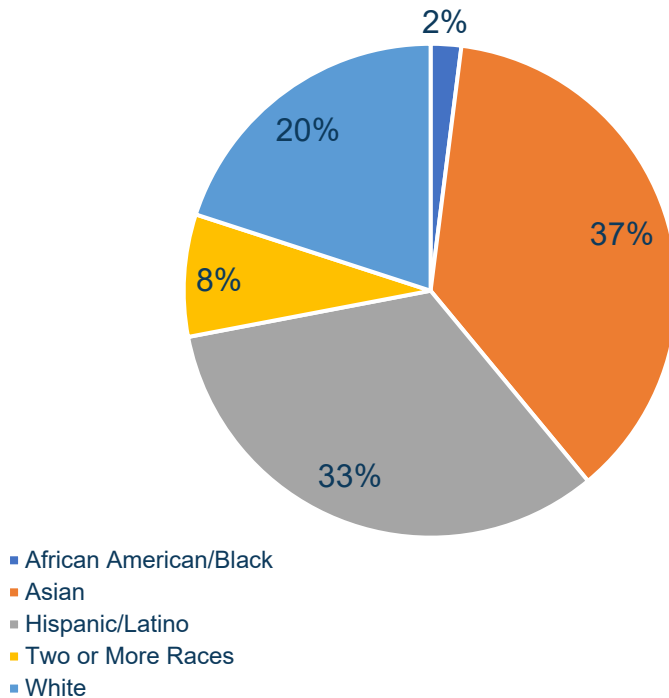
Office of Children and Families Policy
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

countyexec.sccgov.org/ocfp

Population Snapshot

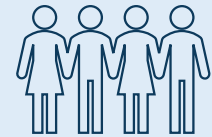
SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Race/Ethnicity of Children (Ages 0-17; 2020)¹



406,542

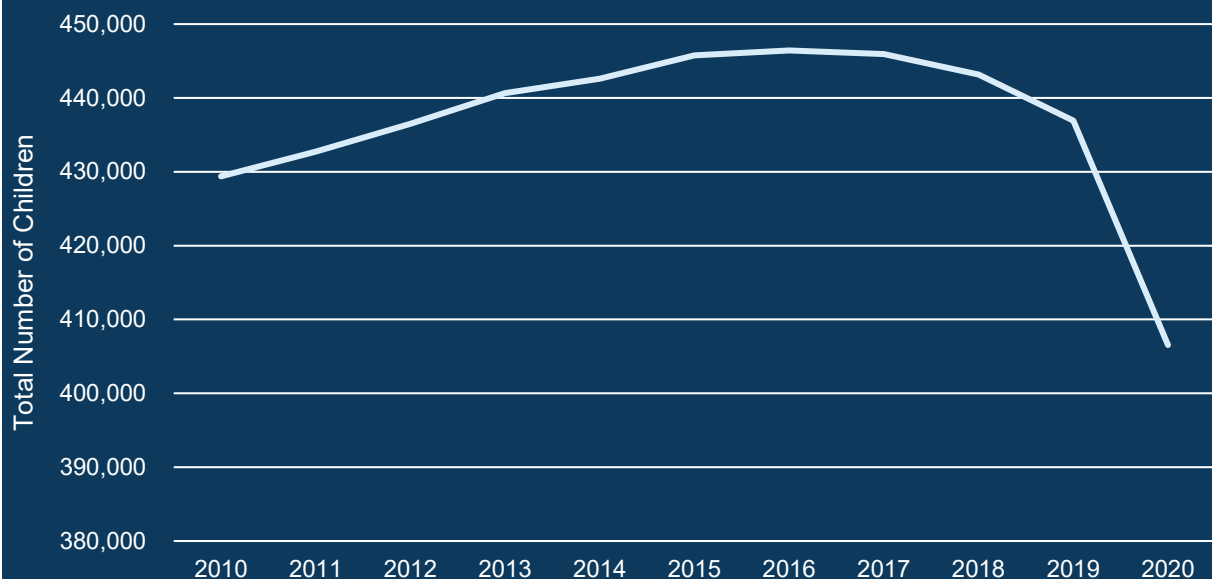
are children
ages 0-17²



161,684

are young adults
ages 18-24

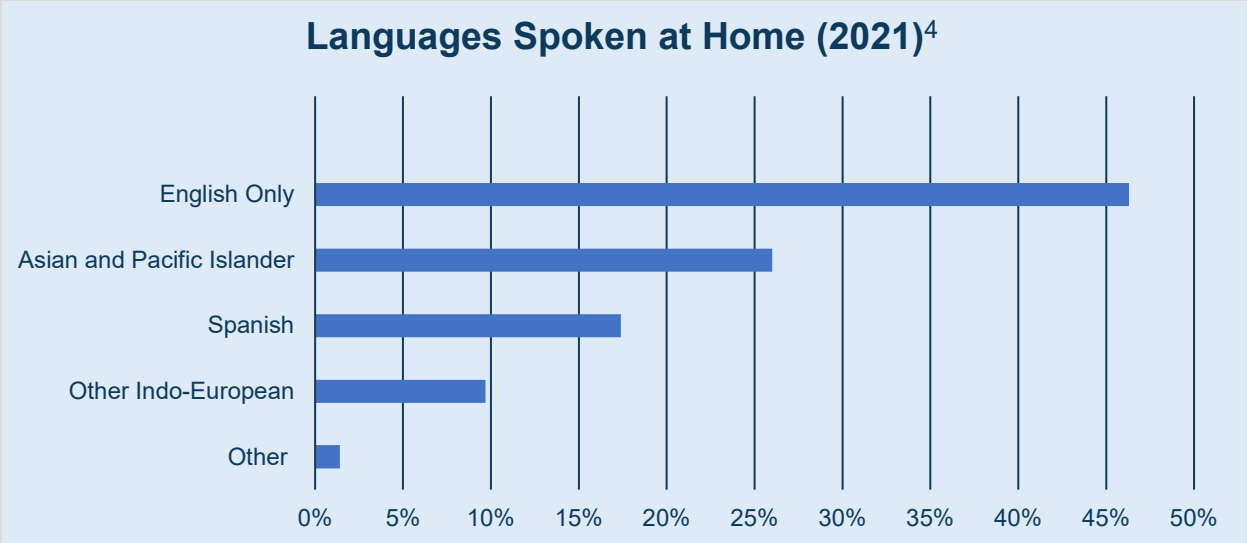
Child Population Under Age 18 from 2010 to 2020³



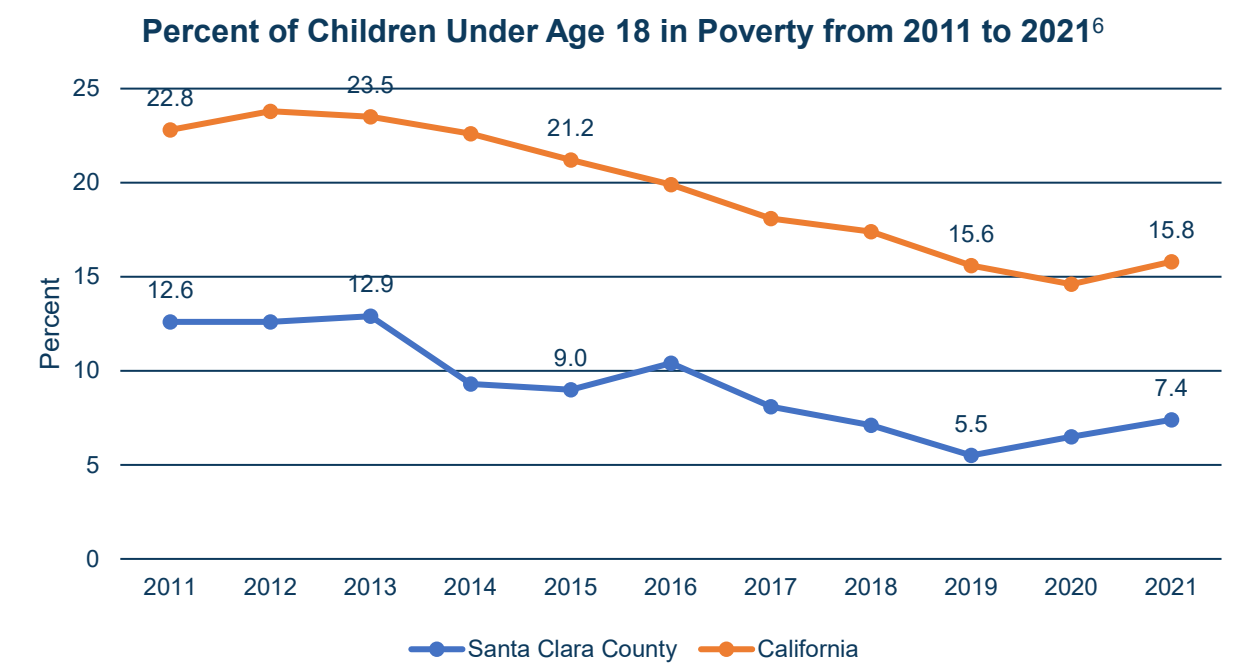
¹ U.S. Census Bureau (2020). Decennial, PL94-171. <https://data.census.gov/>

² Ibid

³ California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections; U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 Population and Housing Unit Estimates; <https://dof.ca.gov/>



20% of children enrolled in Santa Clara County schools are English Language learners. (2021)⁵



27,642
Number of students with a Disability in Santa Clara County. (2022)⁷

Students experiencing housing instability increased from **10** per thousand in 2021 to **13** per thousand in 2022.⁸

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates; <https://data.census.gov>
⁵ DataQuest California Department of Education (2021 Fall 1 Submission). 2020-21 Enrollment by English Language Acquisition Status (ELAS) and Grade. <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>
⁶ U.S. Census Bureau (2010-2021). *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates*. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saie.html>
⁷ DataQuest California Dept of Education (2022). *Annual Enrollment Data*. <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>
⁸ DataQuest California Dept of Education (2020-2022). *Annual Enrollment Data, Subgroup Filter: Homeless*. <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>

Letter from the Chief Children's Officer

We are pleased to present the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 Annual Report, which recognizes the work accomplished in the inaugural year of the County of Santa Clara Office of Children and Families Policy (OCFP). OCFP aims to amplify the most critical needs of children and families in Santa Clara County and provide data and evidence-based recommendations for sound policy, programs and system coordination. To guide our work, in October 2022 we released the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 OCFP Workplan, which was grounded in equity and the goal of ensuring the well-being of children and their families so that every child can be successful.

OCFP's main priority over the past year has been to address the major impacts of COVID-19 by implementing the Children's Roadmap to Recovery, a plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in April 2022 that intended to provide children and families in Santa Clara with the supports they need to address the trauma, stress and reduction in essential services that resulted from the pandemic.

As this Annual Report will highlight, the OCFP completed several key research, evaluation and programmatic goals to mitigate the impacts of COVID. We worked alongside internal and external County partners to provide research and evaluation to inform expanded school-based behavioral health services. The OCFP team of family navigators supported children who lost caregivers to COVID-19 and assisted families and young adults in accessing critical County benefits needed to address the economic impact of COVID-19. In partnership with the FIRST 5 Santa Clara County (FIRST 5) and Valley Health Foundation, the OCFP is on a path to create significant investments in the early childcare and education workforce and infrastructure needs, with the goal of increasing the supply of high-quality affordable childcare. With the mission of incorporating the values of diversity, equity, and belonging into all aspects of the work, OCFP is positioned to work collaboratively to ensure that its initiatives lead to equitable distribution of resources and improved outcomes for all.

Essential to our mission has been amplifying the voice of young people in the work we do, and we proudly assumed the role of staffing the County's Youth Task Force (YTF), which advises the BOS and County Administration on matters pertaining to youth and fosters cross-collaboration with other youth commissions across Santa Clara County. In May 2023, the BOS approved the updated Children's Bill of Rights, which highlights the current and most critical needs of children in Santa Clara County, with input and support from the YTF.

OCFP is committed to our mission of advancing opportunities for youth and families, and while we reflect on our accomplishments of the past year, we also look forward to FY 2023-2024 with the increased knowledge of community needs and available resources, strong relationships, and excitement as we build our policy and planning advisory capacities and implement important new initiatives that provide supports for local children and families.

Sarah Duffy

Chief Children's Officer
County of Santa Clara

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OCFP Overview

Mission: The mission of the County of Santa Clara is to plan for the needs of a dynamic community, provide quality services, and promote a healthy, safe, and prosperous community for all.

OCFP Vision: All of Santa Clara County's children have the supports needed to be safe, healthy, and successful in learning and in life.

YEAR ONE OF OCFP HIGHLIGHTS

June 2021

Board of Supervisors (BOS) approves the creation of the Office of Children and Families Policy

April 2022

BOS approves the Children's Roadmap to Recovery

May 2022

Chief Children's Officer is hired

October 2022

OCFP developed an Annual Workplan

February 2023

BOS approves \$20 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for childcare expansion

May 2023

BOS approves updated Children's Bill of Rights

June 2023

BOS allocates \$10 million for school-based wellness centers

Meet the Team

The Office of Children and Families Policy (OCFP), within the Office of the County Executive (CEO), consists of a team dedicated to ensuring that all children in Santa Clara County have the supports needed to be safe, healthy, and successful in learning and in life.



Top Row (L – R):

Isaac Gomez (he/him)
Community Outreach Specialist

Bealene Soto (she/her)
Community Outreach Specialist

Toni Brandon (she/her)
Community Outreach Specialist

Josue Oregel (he/him)
Community Outreach Specialist

Bottom Row (L - R):

Karina Alvarez (she/her)
Senior Management Analyst

Arcel V. Blume (she/her)
Director of Strategic Initiatives

Sarah Duffy (she/her)
Chief Children's Officer

Melissa Luu (she/her)
Senior Management Analyst

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 OCFP Workplan

The *Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 Annual Report* is guided by the *FY 2022-2023 OCFP Workplan* and highlights the work accomplished in the last fiscal year. The OCFP Workplan is grounded in the vision of the OCFP that all children in Santa Clara County have the supports needed to be safe, healthy, and successful in learning and in life. The Workplan is guided by three core objectives for the office:

POLICY AND ANALYSIS

Follow and advocate for local, state, and federal policies that will facilitate an equity-forward and data-driven agenda that identifies the most critical needs of children and families as well as promising practices and sustainable funding that have demonstrated measurable positive outcomes.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Cultivate and increase collaboration across County departments and with community partners to improve outcomes for children and families, using data and evidence-based strategies.

STRATEGIC ISSUES AND INITIATIVES

In partnership with County agencies and organizations, facilitate the implementation of promising new initiatives that will support and strengthen early interventions and preventative practices.

Within each objective, the OCFP workplan identifies strategies and specific project areas of work that were to be completed within the fiscal year, with associated deliverables, start and end dates, and key partners. Refer to Appendix A for the full FY2022-2023 OCFP Workplan.

Policy and Analysis

Advise on the 2023 Santa Clara County Children’s Data Book and Santa Clara County Children’s Budget

In partnership with Kids in Common and the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE), OCFP provided input on the selection of data points and the narrative content for the 2023 Santa Clara County Children’s Data Book. OCFP also partnered with the Office of Budget and Analysis (OBA), and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Belonging (ODEB) to contribute to the Santa Clara County Children’s Budget. Using the results of the first ever Budget Equity Manual and Toolkit, OCFP is collaborating with ODEB to support racial and economic equity in the narrative analysis included in the upcoming Children’s Budget.

Develop clearinghouse to track State and Federal policy and legislation

OCFP collaborated with the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) team to track current State and Federal legislation, and advocate for policies that advance OCFP’s priorities, and provide letters of support for various legislative efforts. In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, at OCFP’s request or with its cooperation, the County sent letters of support on eleven bills, including:

- AB 230 (Reyes): Menstrual products: Girl Scouts Period Equity Act
- AB 262 (Holden): Children’s Camps: Regulation
- AB 289 (Holden): Mental Health Services: Youth Representation
- AB 369 (Zbur): Foster Care: Independent Living
- AB 373 (Gipson): Intersession Programs: Foster Children and Homeless Youth: Priority Access
- AB 596 (Reyes): Early Learning and Care: Rate Reform
- AB 665 (Carrillo): Minors: Consent to Mental Health Services
- SB 242 (Skinner): California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust Account Program
- SB 260 (Menjivar): CalWORKs: Supportive Services
- SB 307 (Ashby and McGuire): Middle Class Scholarship Program: Community Colleges: Current and Former Foster Youth
- SB 380 (Limón): Childcare: Rate Reform



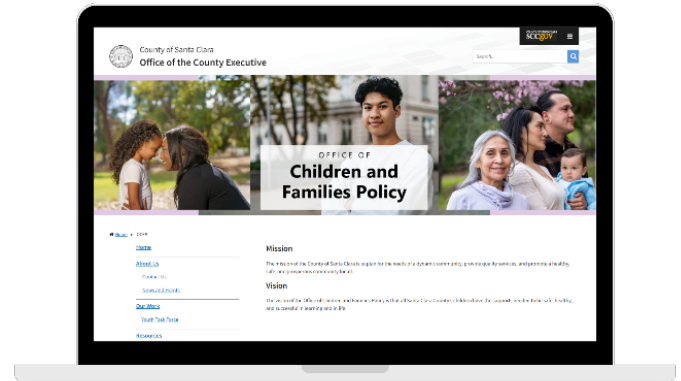
Research into key local emerging issues

OCFP collaborated with departments across the County to support relevant issues impacting the community. OCFP research included the following issues:

- Access to infant formula and messaging on safe infant feeding
- Wellness centers on school campuses
- Childcare facilities impacted by COVID-19
- Children's health screenings
- Potential for lead tainted water in childcare facilities
- Potential for child labor violations
- Basic needs of families, specifically young mothers

Collaboration and Partnerships

OCFP successfully launched its website in June 2023. The website serves as a resource for the community to be informed of the work of OCFP, data and policy resources, staff contact information, and news and events pertaining to the office.



<https://countyexec.sccgov.org/ocfp>

Participation in advisory bodies

OCFP participates in cross-agency advisory and planning bodies including but not limited to:

- Children’s Agenda Advisory Group (lead organization: Kids in Common)
- Child Death Review (lead agencies: multiple County of Santa Clara Departments)
- Dually Involved Youth Executive Steering Committee (lead agencies: Department of Family and Children’s Services (DFCS) and Probation Department)
- Education Equity Steering Committee (lead agency: SCCOE)
- Family First Prevention Services Act (lead agency: DFCS)
- Local Early Education Planning Council (lead agency: SCCOE)
- Local Single System of Care Interagency Leadership Team (lead agency: DFCS)
- One Family One Plan Steering Committee (lead agency: Behavioral Health Services Department (BHSD))
- Strong Start Coalition (lead agency: SCCOE)

Involvement in these advisory and planning bodies allows OCFP to both remain updated of critical issues for children and families in Santa Clara County, and to advocate for coordination and systems alignment.



Transition of the Youth Task Force to the OCFP

The Youth Task Force (YTF) began in 1975 as a Youth Commission, providing voice and leadership opportunities for Santa Clara County youth. In 1999 the Youth Commission was officially established as the Brown-acted YTF. The YTF has been pivotal in identifying issues that impact youth within their families, schools, and community.

In September 2022, the office of Supervisor Ellenberg, which was serving as the YTF liaison, approved a referral to move YTF staff duties to the OCFP effective January 2023. OCFP worked closely with the YTF, Board of Supervisors (BOS) offices, and the Office of the Clerk of the Board in preparation for this transition.

In Fall 2022 OCFP collaborated with the YTF commissioners to revise the task force bylaws to allow for maximum flexibility and youth participation. Proposed changes included adding collaboration with other youth bodies and OCFP, and the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion to the YTF’s Mission and Purpose.

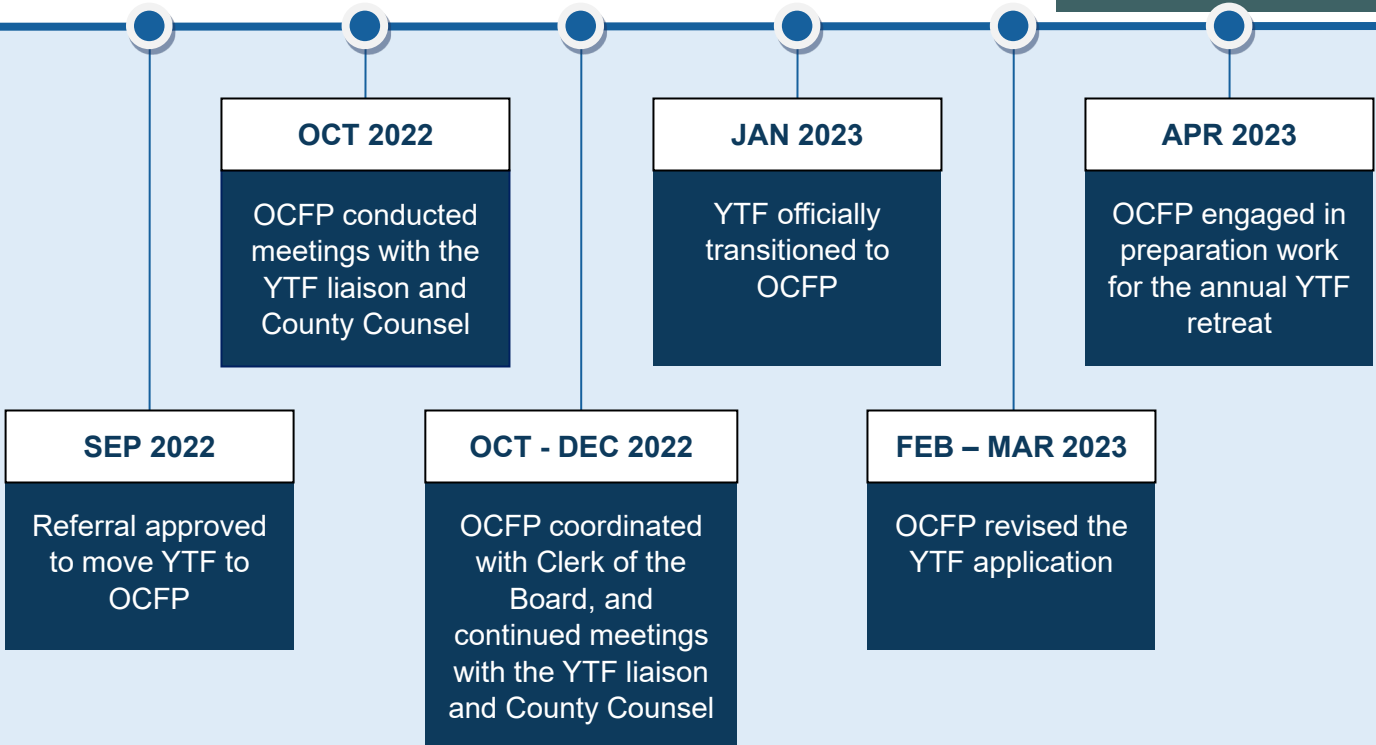
During February and March 2023, OCFP worked to update the YTF application to make it more youth-accessible. These revisions supported and empowered youth in 8th to 12th grades to complete and submit the application without parental assistance.

“...this term posed significant challenges with coming back in-person after about two years of virtual meeting among others. Despite the odds, we overcame these challenges by being diligent, dedicated, and most importantly fearless... please remember that power is in your hands to unite the youth across this county and you have the voice to advocate for them.”

- Leonard F., YTF Co-Chair 2022-2023.

“It has been one of the most significant honors and privileges in my young life to represent and serve the youth of Santa Clara County... This Commission is one of our youth’s most valuable and vital resources, and I am confident that the next appointee will carry forth the progress of improving the quality of life for the youth of Santa Clara County.”

- Mike N., YTF Commissioner 2022-2023





To ensure the YTF is composed of and reflects a representative and diverse body of youth from all areas of Santa Clara County, OCFP developed an equity approach, in collaboration with the BOS offices and YTF commissioners, to review applications submitted to the YTF for the 2023-2024 cohort.

In April 2023, OCFP began planning for the YTF's annual retreat, which is scheduled to take place in August 2023. During the retreat the incoming YTF cohort will formulate a workplan for the upcoming school year, with the goal of aligning with and promoting County strategies.

OCFP has worked to inform commissioners on any emerging priority areas, policy opportunities, and procedural changes. OCFP has also connected the YTF to both internal County departments and external community partners, as appropriate. This level of support allows the YTF to be well positioned to support the BOS with youth-focused recommendations and enhance their experience serving on a civic commission.



51 applications were received to fill in 7 vacancies for the 2023-2024 year. The majority of applications were the result of OCFP outreach.



Youth Voice in policy development and pilot initiatives

OCFP engages youth leaders in its work to ensure that policies, funding, and programming fit the needs of young people across Santa Clara County.

Highlights include:

- Working with Fresh Lifelines for Youth's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) leaders who were engaged in all steps of developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support students' return to their local schools from juvenile detention. YAC's key recommendations included strengthening student-adult school connections, meeting the needs of returning students, and training opportunities for school staff to support student engagement. Other partners include Juvenile Probation, SCCOE, school districts, and Kids in Common.
- Collecting input from YTF commissioners to inform on how to effectively implement a County grant process for school wellness centers to ensure that they are inviting, welcoming, and provide the services, activities, and supports that students need.
- Partnering with Youth Liberation Movement (YLM) leaders to coordinate feedback from the YTF on the process of updating the Children's Bill of Rights, which was formulated by youth in Santa Clara County to reflect their current priorities. The Bill of Rights will anchor the YTF 2023-2024 Workplan.

Strategic Issues and Initiatives

The Children’s Roadmap to Recovery

In April 2022 the Board of Supervisors adopted the Children’s Roadmap to Recovery, a plan to support COVID-19 recovery efforts for children in Santa Clara County, which included 1) recovery for the early learning and childcare workforce that is essential to child learning and the ability of families to return to work, 2) specific supports for children who lost a parent or primary caregiver due to COVID-19, and 3) expansion of wellness centers on school sites to promote mental health and wellness.

OCFP has been actively engaged in all three pillars of this work, and many of the Strategic Initiatives described in the following section are grounded in the Children’s Roadmap to Recovery.



Between 2012 and 2021, over **700** licensed childcare facilities have closed in Santa Clara County.⁹

Childcare Workforce Developments (FIRST 5)

The childcare workforce in Santa Clara County has long been affected by a severe and persistent shortage of early educators, which the pandemic further exacerbated. In 2022, OCFP developed contracts with FIRST 5 to implement three initiatives addressing this shortage and supporting workforce development of the early care and education field to increase families’ access to quality childcare, particularly in areas that serve low- and middle-income families and where childcare deserts exist.

⁹ Kids Data (2012-2021). *Santa Clara County, Licensed Child Care Facilities*. www.kidsdata.org

TK Teacher Equity Initiative

In California, universal access to transitional kindergarten (TK) will expand to all four-year-olds by the 2025-2026 school year. Skilled teachers are urgently needed for this expansion. OCFP worked with FIRST 5 to launch the TK Teacher Equity pilot, which supports a diverse body of local early educators interested in applying for higher-paying, benefitted, and union-protected school district jobs by removing barriers and supporting access to higher education credential pathways. FIRST 5 partners with the SCCOE, San José State University, and Pacific Oaks to identify equitable TK workforce pathways and develop a credential program that diversifies school district faculty. Informational sessions were held to determine barriers, and interest forms were generated to help understand the target population. The TK Teacher Equity program is completing the developmental phase and moving into the analysis and implementation phases of the initiative. FIRST 5 continues to engage various stakeholders to develop a scholarship application for early educators.



In March 2023, FIRST 5 held two sessions to identify barriers and provide information on the PK-3

Credential program for **35** early educators interested in pursuing a credential.

Over **115** eligible early educators were referred to SCCOE to participate in state-funded credentialing programs.

In May 2023, FIRST 5 conducted focus groups with mentors and apprentices to better understand the apprenticeship program success and recommendations.

*“My mentee is not just shadowing me, but she now ‘walks’ next to me.” – Mentor feedback from **Focus Groups***

*“I was hoping to get an education and associates teacher degree. But I received more than that, a lot of support, economic support, networking, and free materials, and an amazing mentor.” – Apprentice feedback from **Focus Groups***



Apprenticeship Initiative

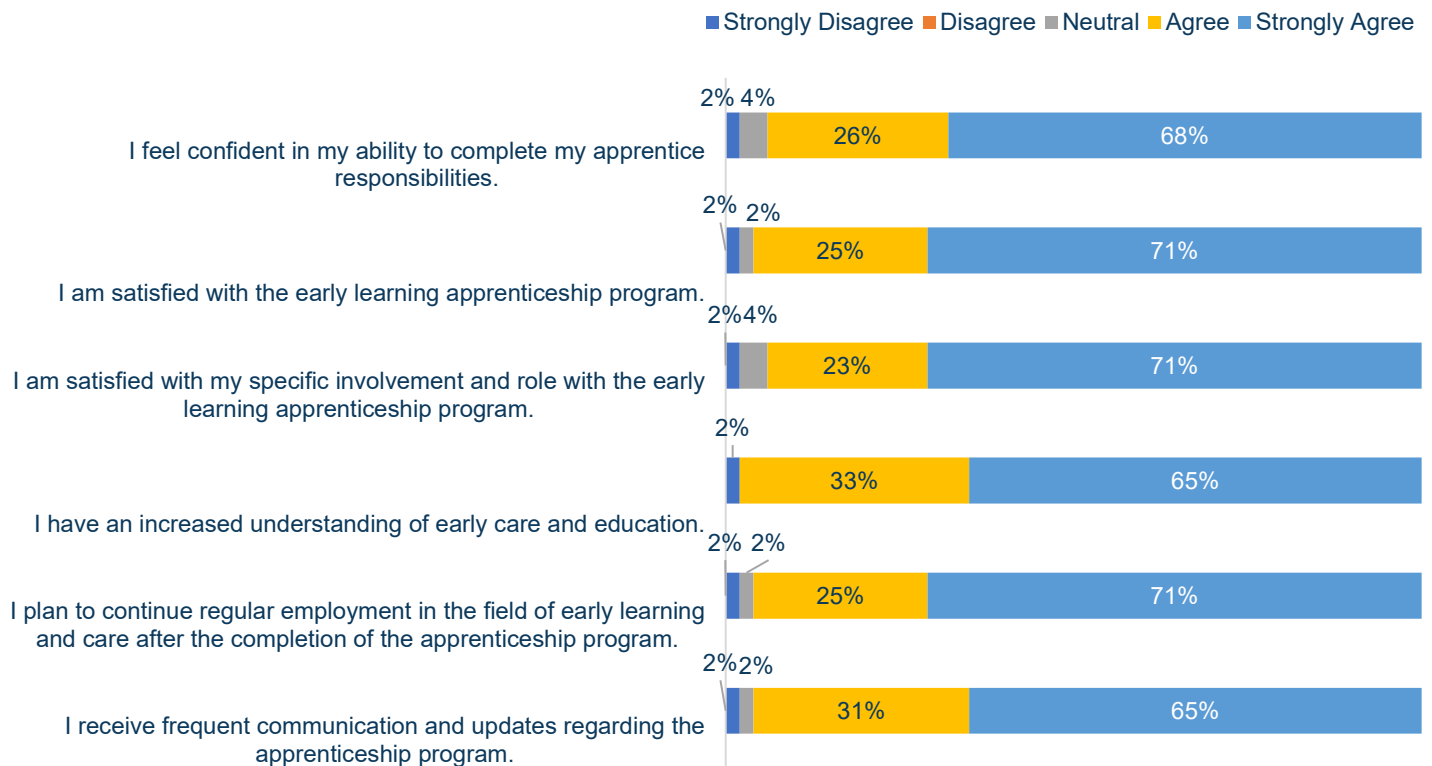
The Apprenticeship Program creates an entryway for licensed childcare teachers to enter the quality early learning and care workforce. In partnership with various agencies, including Mission and De Anza Colleges, the two-year program offers no-cost college coursework, on-the-job training with local preschool and family childcare employers, a wage increase, and an Associate Teacher permit when the apprentice completes the program.

OCFP participates in monthly meetings with FIRST 5 and the program employers to assess accomplishments and any challenges encountered. As the apprentices finalize coursework for the first year, FIRST 5 has been preparing for both the second year of the program, and the program extension. With the support of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, FIRST 5 will add a second group of apprentices to complete an Associate Teacher Permit, as well as a third group of apprentices to complete a Teacher Permit.



As of June 2023, there are a total of **49** apprentices (21 in the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), and **28** Family Childcare Home (FCCH) providers).

Apprentice Satisfaction and Confidence in Apprenticeship Program (N=48)¹⁰



¹⁰ FIRST 5 Santa Clara County (FY 2022/2023). *FIRST 5 Santa Clara County Apprenticeship Year 1 Survey Responses.*

Shared Services Alliance Initiative

A Shared Services Alliance provides support for family childcare home providers to retain their workforce by sharing costs for small business supports and promoting quality early learning environments. With input from OCFP, FIRST 5 recruited family care providers to create a design team exploring shared business needs. FIRST 5 is in the development and preparation phase of the initiative, holding design team meetings to develop the Shared Services Alliance framework, brainstorming, and planning for a conference, and lifting and integrating the voices of providers in the community.



32 family care providers were selected to participate in the Design Team.



Over **350** responses were received for the Family Child Care Business Support survey released in April 2023.



Priorities to be supported include: childcare management software system and a substitute and assistant teacher pool.



In March 2023, FIRST 5 held empathy interviews with family childcare providers to gain a deeper understanding of their experiences, needs, and priorities to be successful business owners:

- Access to Business Supports: *“More training for new business owners; information on paperwork, understanding regulations, how to charge clients, what materials are needed to run a childcare, and financial training.”*
- Improve Staffing Supports: *“I have one full-time teacher and am trying to hire another part-time teacher. But I don’t know how long she is going to be there...”*
- Access to Professional Development: *“Child development education for providers so they can be competitive with other programs and support children with special needs.”*
- Enhance System of Supports: *“Getting systems partners on the same page.”*

Additional Feedback:

- *“Provide workshops, trainings, and resources for someone like me who is about to open a daycare.”*
- *“A gradecer lo que estan hacienda siento que ya no estamos solos /as gracias por existir una alianza de servicios compartidos y una red de cuidado infantil” (Translation: “To appreciate what they are doing. I feel that we are no longer alone thanks to the existence of a shared services alliance and a childcare network.”)*

Assessing the feasibility of Childcare in County of Santa Clara facilities

Since October 2022, OCFP has been collaborating with the Facilities and Fleet (FAF) Department to provide updates on the potential for childcare on County facilities, including reporting to the BOS and Children, Seniors, and Families Committee (CSFC) on the feasibility of childcare at specific County facilities. In addition, OCFP worked with the Technology Services and Solutions Department (TSSD) to create a multilayer Geographic Information System (GIS) childcare map that includes data on existing childcare facilities, County-owned and -leased facilities, supportive housing sites, and demographics at the census-tract level (i.e., race/ethnicity, home language, and population density). This map will inform considerations for future County investments in childcare on County sites and in the surrounding communities.

Childcare Infrastructure Grant Program

On February 28, 2023, the BOS approved \$15 million in Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for a childcare infrastructure grant program with the goal of expanding families' access to quality childcare. Grant funds will result in added classroom spaces, enhanced facilities, and successful hiring of childcare staff across Santa Clara County. OCFP is partnering with Valley Health Foundation to administer the grant program using an equity-grounded outreach and grant disbursement approach. Childcare infrastructure grants will support childcare center- and family-based provider businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to address childcare disruptions and enrollment gaps by reopening or increasing the total number of affordable infant, toddler, and other childcare need spaces available to families.

OCFP's equity approach was developed in partnership with the ODEB, FIRST 5, Valley Health Foundation, and other stakeholders. The equity approach aims to ensure that grant dollars first go to those communities most impacted by COVID-19 and experiencing intractable socio-economic challenges. OCFP's partnerships will ensure that notification of grant funding is countywide and reaches childcare providers serving families with the highest needs and who are least likely to access quality childcare.

Equity criteria for grant selection will prioritize providers that serve families with childcare subsidies, whose children have disabilities, that have limited access to childcare in their communities, and who work non-traditional hours. Guided by lessons learned from other childcare facilities grant programs, OCFP will assign trained navigators to provide technical assistance to small business providers needing support in completing a grant application. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is scheduled for release in September 2023.

Grief Counseling Support Related to Loss of Parent or Caregiver due to COVID-19

In Summer 2022, the County launched a program to address the recovery needs of children, youth, and young adults who will face life-long challenges due to the loss of a parent or caregiver to COVID-19. OCFP contracted with the Bill Wilson Center's Centre for Living with Dying for counseling services for children, youth, and young adults. Three areas of work marked this effort: 1) comprehensive outreach that included partnerships with BHSD, SCCOE, 211.org, and the Bill Wilson Center. 2) grief counseling through the Centre for Living with Dying leveraged by a DFCS agreement with the Bill Wilson Center; and 3) navigation support offered to all families and young people referred for grief counseling support to access other needed supports, such as housing, education, childcare, and transportation.



FY 2022-2023

29 children, youth, and young adults were referred for grief counseling support

18 children and young adults accepted the services

Of all referrals, **9** families accepted navigation support and received **19** service connections.

Expansion of Medi-Cal Billing: Technical Assistance Support for School Districts

In partnership with OCFP, BHSD managed an agreement with SCCOE for technical assistance, training, and consulting services to support expansion of Medi-Cal billing by Santa Clara County school districts. In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, SCCOE provided learning, training, and technical assistance support to Santa Clara County school districts, including charter schools, that covered the following topics:

- Building a foundational understanding of California's healthcare system.
- Understanding the different billing programs schools may use and leverage.
- Learning how to assess billing potential for their school districts or charter school.
- Understanding best practices for school-based billing implementation
- A training overview on the current state of school health, students' needs, and gaps in student mental health services.

Development of an operational plan for school-based wellness centers

In May 2023, BHSD and OCFP presented the results of a multi-component wellness center study to the BOS. The study encompassed five key components: 1) wellness center survey, 2) related assessment data, 3) best practices and approaches in other counties, 4) stakeholder input, and 5) identification of potential funding sources. The study provided guidance and detailed an operational plan, to help advise the expansion of school-based behavioral health wellness centers across Santa Clara County.

As a result of the study findings and recommendations, the County allocated \$10 million in ARPA and Mental Health Services Act funding to be used by BHSD to administer a grant program to begin in early Fiscal Year 2023-2024 that will allow school districts in Santa Clara County to apply for funding to expand existing or establish new school-based wellness centers on their campuses.

Elements of the operational plan for school-based wellness centers

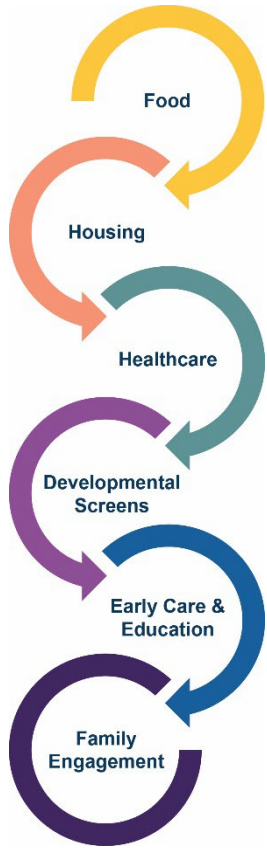




Family Navigation Pilots

Universal Access Pilot

The Universal Access Pilot (UAP) was established in 2018 as a partnership approach to facilitate families' access to community prevention supports. Using an equity approach, the UAP was implemented in the communities served by Alum Rock Union (ARUSD) and Franklin McKinley (FMSD) school districts and created a collaborative service network that included FIRST 5, SCCOE, Behavioral Health Service Department-School Linked Services (SLS), and other partners. Service coordination was guided by a "pathways to success" model to ensure that all families with children from prenatal to 3rd grade experienced access. Navigation was included to connect families to six social determinants that included food, housing, healthcare, developmental screens, childcare, and family engagement. On August 16, 2022, the BOS approved one final year of funding for partners to finalize sustainability strategies for key components of the pilot. Following are summaries of the school districts' sustainability planning success and challenges:



Alum Rock Union School District

ARUSD built out a system of support for children and families in alignment with their “Quality for All” Strategic Plan. County navigators assisted in meeting the needs of harder to reach families. To sustain navigation and service delivery support to families, ARUSD made changes in their educational structure by assigning SLS staff to four district Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and hiring nine additional school counselors.

A cooperative preschool and a FIRST 5 FRC at Painter Elementary School were established to meet the needs of “gap families.”¹¹ While ARUSD continues to explore options to sustain the preschool, their commitment to early education resulted in establishing the César Chávez Early Learning Center to meet the 0-5 childcare needs of parents. FIRST 5 will continue to fund family supports through the Painter FRC for the 2023-2024 school year.

Franklin McKinley School District

FMSD focused efforts on expanding social and emotional resources for its students and families. UAP funds were used to add three additional school social workers. To sustain their commitment to students’ well-being, FMSD added additional school social workers for on-site support at all schools. FMSD is committed to funding school social workers for the 2023-2024 school year and is pursuing other funding opportunities to continue serving the socio-emotional needs of students. Families and students may access or be referred to supports through the FRCs, school wellness centers, and the district’s centralized service delivery model.

UAP Satisfaction with Navigation Support

92%

Satisfaction Survey

“They have respect for people. [Navigator] was really nice to us.

“Para mí, todo está perfecto. Tienen personas con una gran calidad humana, capaz de sentir compasión por éstos tiempos difíciles que estamos pasando..gracias!!”

(Translation: “For me, everything was perfect. The people had a lot of humanity they felt compassion for the difficult times we were going through. Thank you!!”)

“Tôi rất mong muốn chương trình uap tiếp tục hỗ trợ cho tôi và gia đình tôi. Tôi thấy chương trình này rất cần thiết cho cộng đồng nói chung và cho người Việt nói riêng”

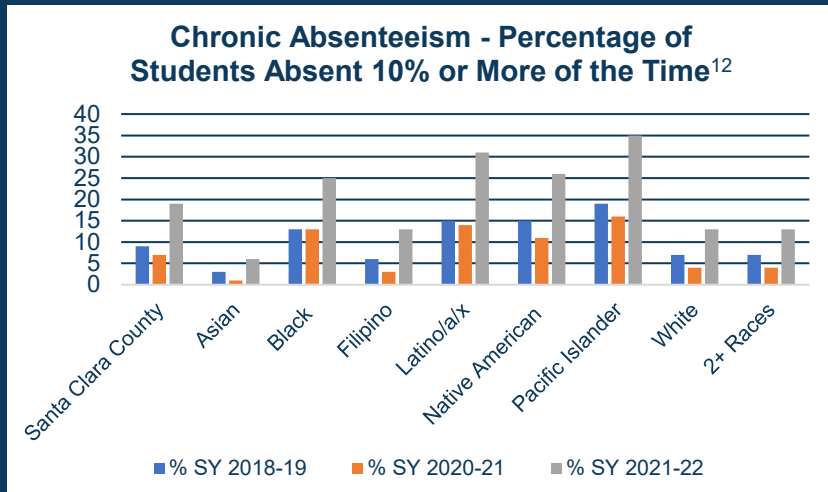
(Translation: “I hope to continue receiving the UAP program which currently supports me and my family. I appreciate this program, it is essential to the community in general as well as to our Vietnamese people.”)



In FY 22-23, County navigators assisted **98** families to **183** service connections.

¹¹ “Gap families” is a term used for families that earn just above the eligibility cut-off for subsidized preschool.

The Santa Clara County recognizes the importance of initiatives that support the success of children and families in learning. With the COVID-19 pandemic, students' attendance was impacted for numerous reasons including COVID exposure, being medically fragile, or because of wellness and mental health issues.



Note: As a result of statewide school closures that occurred in Feb/Mar 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CDE has determined that the 2019-20 absentee data are not reliable for that year and the data are unavailable for public release.

Family Navigation Support for CARE Court

OCFP partnered with the Office of the District Attorney (DA) to test family navigation for families referred to the Court for Achieving Re-engagement with Education (“CARE Court,” previously known as Truancy Court). Family navigation sought to eliminate and reduce the number of bureaucratic barriers preventing families from gaining full access to and utilization of critical resources to support their student’s re-engagement in school.

The CARE Court navigator conducted a post-hearing meeting with each parent to review the results of the hearing, offer assistance in meeting court requirements, and confirm the next court date. The navigator also carried a small ongoing navigation caseload of families identified by the deputy district attorney or the judge needing extra support.



In FY22/23, **97** unique families participated in CARE Court. An average of **52** families attended court hearings each month.

31 families (including 38 students) received navigation support.



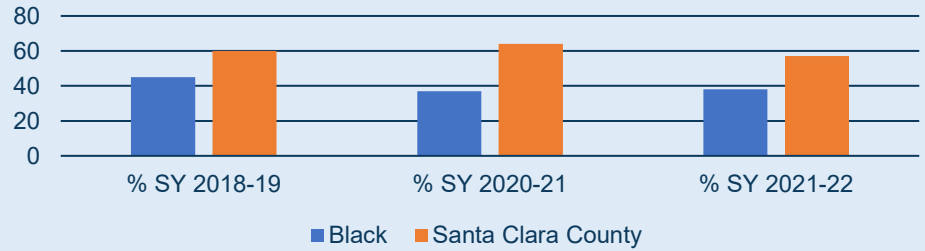
On average, families were referred to **9** services, and successfully connected to **8**.

Services included: student support (53%), parental support (23%), and food insecurity (9%).

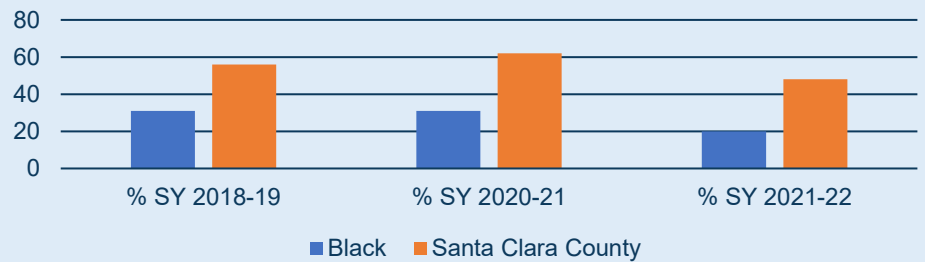
¹² DataQuest California Department of Education (2018-2022). *Absenteeism Data*. <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>

Overall, third graders meeting English Language arts standards and eighth graders meeting math standards has decreased over the last year. Fewer black students are also meeting the English and math standards compared to Santa Clara County students. To help narrow this learning gap, Santa Clara County continues funding organizations that provide tutoring support to students of African Ancestry.

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Third Grade English Standard¹³



Percentage Students Meeting or Exceeding Eighth Grade Math Standard



Afro-centric tutoring and educational supports

African Ancestry youth face disproportionate systemic barriers and lack access to enriching academic support resources, which may jeopardize their emotional well-being, school engagement, and academic success. To address these issues, the BOS approved funding for programs promoting and delivering culturally and linguistically appropriate academic services to improve the overall academic success and well-being of African Ancestry students. Specific services include tutoring in reading, math, and pro-social and enrichment activities. The OCFP oversees the contracts with local organizations providing these services.



In FY22/23, a total of **294** students were served.

40 students had either a 504 plan or an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

90% of students who completed an exit survey indicated that their homework performance in reading and math had improved and that they felt the program staff genuinely cared about them.

¹³ California Department of Education (2018 – 2022). *California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress*. www.cde.ca.gov

Youth transitioning from detention to schools

In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) directed County Administration to report on options for working with school districts to build on an MOU between the County and SCCOE to support the successful transition of youth receiving education in juvenile detention facilities to local school districts, and to include youth participation and feedback in the MOU development. Subsequently, OCFP and County Counsel (CCO) met with the YAC and presented an initial plan for engaging school districts in an MOU to formalize support to students returning to local schools.

Elements of the MOU include: an identified liaison at each school to support returning students, commitment to keep student information confidential, support for families before and after a student returns to school, and a commitment to explore data sharing to monitor the academic wellbeing of students. The National Center for Youth Law and Juvenile Court-Aligned Action Network, among other community partners, supported YAC in developing the policy statements. The BOS adopted these recommendations in January 2023.

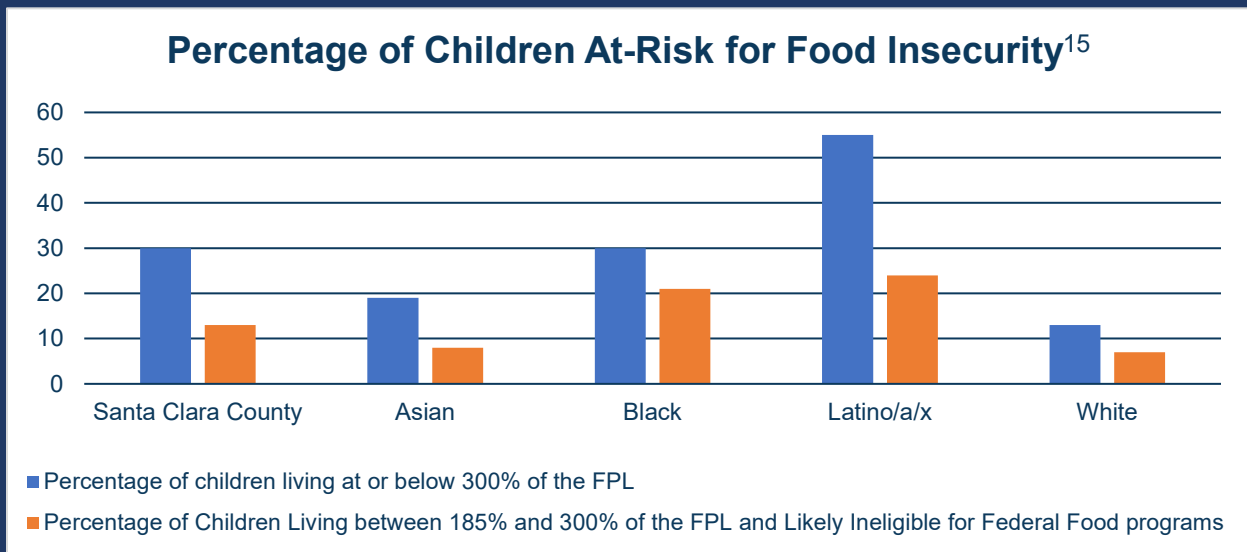


Citations to juveniles decreased from **2,246** in 2020 to **1,480** in 2021.

Admissions to Juvenile Hall decreased from **560** in 2020 to **383** in 2021.¹⁴

Guaranteed Basic Income Pilots

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, partnerships, community convenings, and lessons from local research the County has identified the need for piloting guaranteed basic income to address systemic barriers to viable self-sufficiency for high need population and address issues such as children at risk for food insecurity.



¹⁴ Research and Development Unit, Santa Clara County Probation Department (2021-2022). *Annual Juvenile Justice Arrest and Probation Data*.

¹⁵ U.S. Census (2021). American Community Survey, 5-year estimates. <https://data.census.gov/>

Guaranteed Basic Income for Former Foster Youth

OCFP partnered with County Administration to develop navigation support for transition-aged former foster youth to achieve financial independence and well-being. Lessons from an initial cohort found that guaranteed basic income alone was not sufficient to ensure young people developed fundamental skills and leveraged available resources that lead to self-sufficiency. Accordingly, the County developed a charter to delineate the role of the navigator with specific goals, such as building trust with young people and providing the service and resource supports necessary to strengthen participants' ability to attain stable housing, employment and meet basic needs. The second cohort is scheduled to begin in August 2023 and will continue to include a navigator supporting this work.

Guaranteed Basic Income for Young Mothers

In February 2023, the BOS approved recommendations from a report developed by the Young Women's Freedom Center, *When Young Moms Thrive: Reimagining Child Care, Community, and Young Motherhood*. One of the report's recommendations was for the County to research, develop, and implement a guaranteed basic income pilot that would allow young mothers and trans-parents to access the childcare of their choice. OCFP is a thought partner with other County offices to inform an evaluation model for this basic income pilot for young mothers, as well as other similar and emerging pilots to ensure that all County-funded basic income pilots apply a similar approach to service delivery and evaluation. Through these partnerships, OCFP is well positioned to advise at the policy level on sustainable funding opportunities for guaranteed basic income for high need populations.



Thank You

OCFP is grateful to all of our community, city, county, state, and federal partners that have supported and collaborated towards our vision of all of Santa Clara County's children have the supports needed to be safe, healthy, and successful in learning and in life.

OCFP looks forward to building and remaining steadfast in our commitment to creating a just and equitable community for all children and families in Santa Clara County. Alongside this Annual Report, the OCFP is also releasing our *FY 2022-2024 OCFP Workplan*, which identifies our priorities and projects for the upcoming year.

Appendix

POLICY AND ANALYSIS

Objective: Follow and advocate for local, state, and federal policies that will facilitate an equity-forward and data-driven agenda that identifies the most critical needs of children and families and identifies promising practices and sustainable funding that have demonstrated measurable positive outcomes.

Strategy	Identification and summary of Countywide needs of and services for children and families
Project	Review of County agency strategic planning documents to identify priority issues and promote general alignment with key County strategic documents
Developmental Age	All Ages
Milestones/Deliverables	Create a regularly updated catalog of local strategic planning efforts and reports relevant to children and families in Santa Clara County
Duration	Ongoing
Partners/Participants	County agencies and community partners
Project	Inventory of Countywide community engagement efforts that involve children and families
Developmental Age	All Ages
Milestones/Deliverables	Create a regularly updated catalog of local strategic planning efforts and reports relevant to children and families in Santa Clara County
Duration	Ongoing
Partners/Participants	County agencies and community partners

Project	Advise on the Santa Clara County Children’s Data Book and Children’s Budget with future goal of using both resources to identify gaps and redundancies in funding for children’s services
Developmental Age	All Ages
Milestones/Deliverables	Contributions to the published Santa Clara County Children’s Data Book and Santa Clara County Children’s Budget
Duration	January 2023 – June 2023
Partners/Participants	CEO, Kids in Common, OBA
Strategy	Monitor, identify and support children and family legislation, funding, and policy issues relevant to Santa Clara County
Project	Develop clearinghouse that tracks current local, state, and federal legislation, funding and policy related to children and families to inform the County’s potential support
Developmental Age	All Ages
Milestones/Deliverables	Create a regularly updated clearinghouse that tracks local, state, and federal legislation and policy
Duration	Ongoing
Partners/Participants	Intergovernmental Relations Team, CEO
Strategy	Participate in local, state, and national collaborations to identify and support legislation, funding and policy that would benefit children, youth, and families in Santa Clara County
Project	Participate in relevant meetings and workgroups related to state, local and national legislation, funding, and policy related to children and families
Developmental Age	All Ages

Milestones/Deliverables	Provide updates of participation and successful partnerships
Duration	Ongoing
Partners/Participants	Local and state children and family policy organizations

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Objective: Cultivate and increase collaboration across County departments and with community partners to improve outcomes for children and families, using data and evidence-based strategies.

Strategy	<u>Information Source</u> - Serve as central source for information on County priorities and new initiatives for children and families
Project	OCFP website and communications plan
Developmental Age	All Ages
Milestones/Deliverables	Launch of OCFP website in CY2023, Finalize OCFP Communication Plan in Spring 2023
Duration	November 2022 – June 2023
Partners/Participants	DESJ and CEO Communications Teams
Project	Participation at relevant community events (tabling, panelists, etc.)
Developmental Age	All Ages
Milestones/Deliverables	Develop and collect relevant materials for community outreach
Duration	November 2022 – June 2023
Partners/Participants	County departments and community partners

Strategy	<u>Partnerships</u> - Participate in collaborations across County departments and with community partners to understand needs and address programmatic and policy priorities
Projects	Participation on County and other regional advisory bodies with goal of advancing children and family wellbeing
Developmental Age	All Ages
Milestones/Deliverables	Report on participation and engagement activities in Annual Report
Duration	Ongoing
Partners/Participants	County departments and community partners
Project	Transition Cross-Agency Services Team (CAST) to OCFP
Developmental Age	All Ages
Milestones/Deliverables	Establish a plan for the transition of CAST work to the OCFP
Duration	November 2022 – June 2023
Partners/Participants	County departments and community partners
Strategy	<u>Youth Voice</u> – Promote and facilitate youth voice in County decision-making
Project	Transition Youth Task Force to the OCFP
Developmental Age	All Ages
Milestones/Deliverables	Transition Planning Report to CFSC in December 2022 Develop Workplan for Young Adult Task Force in Spring 2023
Duration	Ongoing
Partners/Participants	Young Adults Serving on Task Force, BOS, Clerk of the Board

STRATEGIC ISSUES AND INITIATIVES

Objective: In partnership with County agencies and organizations, facilitate analysis, planning and pilot implementation of promising new initiatives that will support and strengthen early interventions and preventative practices.

Strategy	Plan, implement and evaluate pilot services that support expanding access to quality early care and education
Project	Childcare Workforce Development: TK Teacher Equity Pilot
Developmental Age	0 to 5
Milestones/Deliverables	Progress reports to CSFC in December 2022, June 2023, December 2023, June 2024
Duration	July 2022 – June 2024
Partners/Participants	FIRST 5
Project	Childcare Workforce Development: Apprenticeship Pilot focused on bringing diverse individuals into the early learning and care field
Developmental Age	0 to 5
Milestones/Deliverables	Progress reports to CSFC in December 2022, June 2023, December 2023, June 2024
Duration	July 2022 – June 2024
Partners/Participants	FIRST 5
Project	Childcare Workforce Development: Shared Services Alliance
Developmental Age	0 to 5
Milestones/Deliverables	Progress reports to CSFC in December 2022, June 2023
Duration	July 2022 – June 2024

Partners/Participants	FIRST 5
Project	Research options and costs associated with adding 0-5 childcare to County facilities
Developmental Age	0 to 5
Milestones/Deliverables	Report to CSFC in October 2022
Duration	August 2022 – October 2022
Partners/Participants	FAF, OWP, SCCOE
Project	Support for young mothers: assessment and planning to inform recommendations for implementation
Developmental Age	0 to April 2023
Milestones/Deliverables	Report to CSFC in October 2022
Duration	TBD – April 2023
Partners/Participants	FIRST 5, OWP, SCCOE, SSA, School Districts
Strategy	Plan, implement and evaluate pilot services that support expanding access to quality mental health and wellbeing services for children, youth, and families
Project	Monitor and provide guidance associated with contract for grief Counseling for Children who have lost a caregiver to COVID-19
Developmental Age	0 to 24
Milestones/Deliverables	Off agenda report in October 2022; Report to the CSFC in January 2023
Duration	July 2022 – June 2023
Partners/Participants	BHSD

Project	Monitor and provide guidance associated with contract between BHSD and SCCOE for training to Local Education Agencies to bill Medi-Cal for mental health services
Developmental Age	5 to 18
Milestones/Deliverables	Provide report to the CSFC in January 2023
Duration	July 2022 – June 2023
Partners/Participants	BHSD, SCCOE
Project	Review of Wellness Center models at Santa Clara County Schools to inform operational plan for expansion of services
Developmental Age	5 to 18
Milestones/Deliverables	Update at CSFC in December 2022, operational plan report at CSFC in Spring 2023
Duration	September 2022 – March 2023
Partners/Participants	BHSD, SCCOE
Strategy	Plan, implement and evaluate pilot services that promote academic achievements and reduce truancy for students in Santa Clara County
Project	Universal Access Pilot (UAP) provides funding for early supports to children and families to keep students positively engaged in school and families engaged in their students' learning
Developmental Age	5 to 11
Milestones/Deliverables	Sunset UAP pilot and release report detailing transition planning and initiative findings in April 2023 CSFC
Duration	FY 2018/2019 – June 2023

Partners/Participants	ARUSD, FIRST 5, FMSD, SCCOE
Project	Develop scope of work and monitor contract for Afro-centric tutoring and educational supports
Developmental Age	5 to 18
Milestones/Deliverables	Annual summary of participation and services submitted from contractors to OCFP in June 2023
Duration	July 2021 – June 2023
Partners/Participants	Bible Way Christian Center, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Maranatha Outreach Center, Ujima Adult and Family Services
Project	Pilot with the District Attorney's Office on Student Truancy (CARE Court) to test family navigation support as part of team with a Deputy DA and BHSD social worker
Developmental Age	5 to 18
Milestones/Deliverables	Annual summary of participation and services submitted from contractors to OCFP in June 2023
Duration	July 2021 – June 2023
Partners/Participants	DA's Office
Strategy	Plan, implement and evaluate pilot support for youth at risk, engaged and formerly in the foster care and juvenile justice systems
Project	Identify needs and supports for youth transitioning from detention to schools
Developmental Age	11 to 18
Milestones/Deliverables	Report to the Board of Supervisors in December 2022
Duration	August 2022 – December 2022
Partners/Participants	County Counsel, Probation, SCCOE, School Districts

Project	Basic Income Pilot provides outreach and service navigation support to young adults with either former foster care experience or were experiencing homelessness at the time of high school graduation
Developmental Age	18 to 24
Milestones/Deliverables	Evaluation of navigation component by Jul 2023 for first six-month period (January to June 2023)
Duration	July 2022 – approximately February 2025
Partners/Participants	CEO



Office of Children and Families Policy

All of Santa Clara County's children have the support needed to be safe, healthy, and successful in learning and in life.

countyexec.sccgov.org/ocfp

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