

# Child Care is Infrastructure and the Foundation of Economic Power & Well-Being



## ALL FIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CHILD CARE PROVIDER IN BELLE HAVEN

“The hoops that a low income family has to jump through in order to apply, justify, and then access early care and education are demeaning, disrespectful and unnecessarily time consuming. **NOT having child care affects everyone, especially the children. The financial and societal benefits (of programs like universal child care or paid leave) would be enormous.** The world would be a better place. Additionally, we need more anti-discrimination support such as doing away with qualifying paperwork for families applying for child care assistance. Paid family leave and/or paid sick leave would be great as long as it is funded fully so employers don't bear the brunt. Swap money for paperwork. **More money for early care and education teachers, LESS paperwork for families.**”



**MORE FUNDING. LESS HURDLES. MORE ACCESS. BETTER WORLD.**



## FAMILY CONNECTIONS NONPROFIT SERVING FAMILIES

“The impacts of child care challenges on families include financial, such as lost income, housing instability as well as anxiety/stress, conflict with partners, etc. Low income families struggle to access basic needs like diapers, food, hygiene products, clothing). People cannot afford to live in the area, but they also can't afford to go to work because most child care and early learning programs are so costly that they are unable to afford the care. It's a really challenging situation that perpetuates itself. **Policies that support families like universal child care and family leave would reduce stress, anxiety and depression.** We need to fund early childhood programs more fully because the need is unending and far-reaching. It's concerning to anticipate the future outcomes of this crisis, but it is clear that **unless we invest in families with young children, we are setting our communities up for failure.** We are also missing out on huge portions of the population with a voice that needs to be heard/uplifted and contribute directly to this conversation.”

**MORE CHILD CARE AND PAID LEAVE. LESS STRESS. STRONGER FAMILIES.**

**Local partners supporting children, families & the workforce are unanimous: CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE & A VITAL SAFETY NET**



## IZZI (HEAD START) PROVIDER SERVING LOW INCOME FAMILIES

**"Child care and housing are the number one needs of families.** Living in a high cost county causes a lot of stress on women with young children. We have also seen many moms who had to curtail their professional goals due to child care constraints. There is a lack of affordable and subsidized child care, especially for Infants and Toddlers. **In addition to policies like universal child care, we should also consider extended leave.** There are benefits to women that have young infants who would not be forced to return to work so quickly and have that time for family bonding. **When families experience child care related challenges, it affects the entire family** including the child and their development."

**MORE BENEFITS. LOWER COSTS.  
GREATER PROGRESS FOR WOMEN.**

## SKYLINE CHILD DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN SAN BRUNO

**"Everyone is stressed about child care.** It adds additional tension between the heads of the household and requires significant coordination with extended family and friends. Without affordable and consistent child care, women often have to choose jobs that align with hours of operation and/or locations for ease of commute, access and time in managing family obligations. Universal free child care would have the biggest impact on families - regardless of employment status, all families could utilize child care based on their individual needs/wants and families would not have to consider the cost of childcare as part of their household budget. Invest in the folks who make child care for families possible - maintain or improve teacher requirements and pay them ample wages to remain in San Mateo County. Child care is early education! **Invest in our children and invest in the folks who care for our children."**



**MORE INVESTMENT IN EARLY  
CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE.  
EVEN MORE THRIVING FAMILIES.**



## THE Z-BRIDGE LOCAL EQUITY & INCLUSION FIRM

**"Caregiving challenges have a big impact on women with children,** often when they are still young (in their 20's and 30's) and starting their careers. **These impacts are felt most severely in low income communities. The underrepresented. Single parents, particularly mothers.** Child care in America is expensive, too expensive for many. It is often a decision that the family has to make whether they work to pay daycare (if they earn enough to pay for daycare) or if it is better to not work to not pay daycare. On a personal experience, I worked for several months, where my full time job-salary didn't even cover the cost of two young children in child care. It changed when my oldest moved to the next age-group (less expensive). Regardless we decided it was worth it to invest in my career. It is a difficult decision that not many people can afford. **The time women take to raise their children is punished exponentially.** When women want to come back to work it is hard to explain the gap, the lack of continued promotion and growth in the career. Policies like universal child care and paid leave are crucial. **Women could continue working, therefore making money, therefore have more power and decision making.** Our leaders need to know that these investments and efforts to promote gender inclusion BENEFIT ALL."

**MORE OPTIONS. LESS  
CHALLENGES. GREATER  
EMPOWERMENT FOR  
WOMEN.**

## FAMILY CHILDCARE ORGANIZATION (SMC) SUPPORT & RESOURCES FOR LOCAL FCC'S

"Family childcare (FCC) in San Mateo County plays a crucial role in providing stability, comfort, and a sense of family for women and families. **FCC provides 46% of the infant/toddler care spaces in the county and offers 'whole' family care, often caring for multiple aged siblings and providing crucial family support, especially for parents who work non-traditional hours.** They are also called upon in times of crisis such as Covid-19; many providers continued to keep their doors open to serve families when other childcare programs were closed. FCC providers operate their businesses from their homes, making the business of FCC unique and challenging at the same time. Investing in policies like housing or rate reform is essential to support FCC providers. Ensuring that FCC providers can sustainably operate their businesses from their homes not only benefits the providers themselves but also supports their families and communities. **It allows these women to continue providing essential care for children, supporting families, and contributing to the local economy."**



**MORE SUPPORT FOR FCCs.  
STRONGER FAMILIES AND  
LOCAL ECONOMIES.**