



**FACT SHEET  
CHILD CARE SNAPSHOT:  
SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT  
CHARACTERISTIC STUDY**

April 2014



**Background**

The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Child Care Program provides subsidized child care services for current and former recipients who are engaged in welfare-to-work activities. It is a three-stage system—Stage One is administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and Stages Two and Three by the California Department of Education (CDE).

The CDE also administers other child care and development programs that are state funded to provide services to children. These programs include the General Child Care and Development Programs, the California State Preschool program, Alternative Payment Programs (APP), Migrant Child Care and Development Programs and the Severely Handicapped Program.

In 2009, Assembly Bill (AB) X4 1 required the CDE to contract to collect data portraying the characteristics of the subsidized child care population in California. The CDE contracted with the University of California (UC) Davis to conduct the Characteristics Study. The UC Davis conducted case studies in Shasta, Ventura, and Sacramento counties for the CDE child care programs and Shasta and Ventura for the CDSS Stage One child care programs.

In order to build upon the Child Care Characteristics study, the CDSS and the CDE are leading an effort that will encompass elements from the prior study portraying the characteristics of the state’s subsidized child care population for statewide application. Additionally, the subsidized child care study will lead to a better understanding of the statewide subsidized child care landscape.

The CDSS and the CDE meet monthly with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The TAG members are experts within the child care community that inform the development of the RFP and promote the value of the study. The TAG members are from the California Alternative Payment Program Association, California Child Care Coordinators Association, California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, California Child Development Administrators Association, California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, Child Care Law Center, County Welfare Directors Association and Northern Directors Group of California.

**Objectives**

- The purpose of the Subsidized Child Care Characteristics Study is to generate data from the state’s subsidized child care programs regarding the characteristics of providers of these services and children and families receiving these services. The data collected will inform decision makers on how to improve child care services for needy families.
- The CDSS will award a contract on a competitive basis to study the characteristics of families, children, and providers of subsidized child care.
- The study will be a fact finding data collection effort. The final report will include the data and summaries of the data obtained through the study.
- The study will not include recommendations or analysis in the final report. The data obtained through the study may be used by agencies or individuals to conduct their own analyses.

**Proposed Timeline**

Release the Request for Proposal (RFP) – 7/28/14  
Finalize Contract – 2/27/15  
Begin Study – 3/2/15  
Final Report – 4/3/17

**Funding**

Approximately \$2 million of existing funds from the CDSS’ research budget will fund the Study over the next two years.

**Status**

The CDSS and the CDE are leading the TAG in drafting the Scope of Work for the RFP. The anticipated release of the RFP is July 2014.

