

2008

Tulare County Child Care Planning Council
Needs Assessment



TULARE COUNTY
BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS



Tulare County
Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools



Tulare County Child Care Planning Council (TCCCCPC)

- Advocates, promotes and facilitates affordable quality child care services for all children in Tulare County.
- Serves in an advisory capacity to state and local government agencies, community organizations, child care providers and families.

“A United Voice Supporting Quality Child Care Services”

Purpose of the Assessment

- Provide a snapshot of current socio-economic conditions facing children and families.
- Assess the unmet needs for child care in Tulare County by identifying the gaps in the supply of existing licensed center-based and family care programs.
- Provide key findings and recommendations.
- Fulfill the requirements of California Education Code/Section 8499.5.

Economic and Socio-Economic Conditions – Key Indicators:

- Children Living in Poverty
- Single Parent Households
- Adults with < 9th Grade Education
- Non-English Speaking Households
- Percent of Births to Mothers < 20



Children Living in Poverty

- **1 out of 3 children in Tulare County live in poverty (34%)**
- **The National average is 17%. In California, 18% of children live in poverty.**
- **For 2007, the federal poverty level is \$20,650 for a family of four.¹**
- **42,600 children live in poverty in this county.**
- **Allensworth/Alpaugh leads the County with 46%, followed closely by Badger, Pixley and Waukena (44%), Richgrove (43%), Cutler and Earlimart (42%).**
- **Three Rivers has the lowest percentage (14%) of children living in poverty.**

SOURCES: DHS County Health Status Profiles

¹EDD LABOR MARKET INFORMATION March 2008

Children Living in Poverty

Every community in Tulare County has significant numbers of children living in poverty.

<i>City</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>
Dinuba	32%	2,255
Exeter	21%	736
Farmersville	34%	1,294
Lindsay	37%	1,514
Porterville	32%	5,572
Tulare	26%	4,968
Visalia	21%	7,065
Woodlake	37%	958

Children Whose Parent(s) Work

<i>City</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>
Dinuba	53%	3,919
Exeter	58%	2,176
Farmersville	46%	1,872
Lindsay	52%	2,241
Porterville	53%	9,782
Tulare	46%	9,235
Visalia	55%	20,700
Woodlake	46%	1,254
<i>Tulare County</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>75,731</i>

Education Level of Adults

Highest Grade Completed by Adults (25 or older):

<i>City</i>	<i>< 9th Grd</i>	<i>< HS</i>	<i>HS Dipl.</i>	<i>AA/AS</i>	<i>BA/BS+</i>
Dinuba	32%	18%	38%	5%	7%
Exeter	13%	15%	49%	8%	15%
Farmersville	38%	12%	43%	4%	2%
Lindsay	38%	17%	34%	5%	7%
Porterville	24%	17%	44%	5%	10%
Tulare	20%	16%	50%	5%	9%
Visalia	11%	13%	48%	9%	18%
Woodlake	36%	14%	46%	7%	8%
<i>Tulare County</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>12%</i>

Non-English Speaking Households

<i>City</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>
Dinuba	21%	6,099
Exeter	15%	1,519
Farmersville	45%	4,622
Lindsay	48%	6,315
Porterville	20%	9,543
Tulare	19%	9,940
Visalia	17%	15,962
Woodlake	43%	3,118
<i>Tulare County</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>31,050</i>

Births to Mothers < 20

<i>City</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Dinuba	11%
Exeter	11%
Farmersville	13%
Lindsay	15%
Porterville	15%
Tulare	14%
Visalia	13%
Woodlake	15%
<i>Tulare County</i>	<i>16%</i>

Current Capacity of Licensed Child Care (Children <14)

<i>City</i>	<i>Homes</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Dinuba	466	47	622
Exeter	184	21	340
Farmersville	180	21	349
Lindsay	694	68	902
Porterville	1,430	164	2,359
Tulare	1,012	116	1,797
Visalia	2,186	273	5,037
Woodlake	88	15	273
<i>Tulare County</i>	<i>7,044</i>	<i>838</i>	<i>14,018</i>

Level of Unmet Need for Subsidized Child Care (Children <14)

<i>City</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>
Dinuba	67%	793
Exeter	77%	301
Farmersville	49%	271
Lindsay	15%	132
Porterville	23%	589
Tulare	34%	661
Visalia	16%	573
Woodlake	75%	332
<i>Tulare County</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>9,448</i>

Key Findings



- Nearly 10,000 children under the age of 14 are in need of subsidized child care in this county.
- The majority of centers and homes are located in the urban areas of Visalia, Porterville, Lindsay, Dinuba and Tulare.
- Infant care is almost non-existent. Only 1.4% of the licensed center slots are for infants.
- Child care is limited for families who have non traditional work hours such as evenings and early mornings.
- Child care for children with special needs is costly and providers are often untrained for the specialty care.

TCCCPC Recommendations

We recommend advocating for more child care availability for ALL children in need.

- Advocate for increased funding for subsidized child care.
- Advocate for additional private child care centers and after school programs.
- Seek additional funding to expand the AB 212 stipend program.
- Encourage the expansion of care for children with special needs.
- Provide opportunities to educate parents on how to look for quality child care.

Recommended Strategies

- Approach industry to demonstrate how child care benefits their bottom line.
- Create opportunities for collaboration between non-profits, school districts and city recreation departments.
- Look into local revenues – such as sales tax, developer fees – to help fund the development of additional child care centers.

Recommended Strategies

- Look at under-used public buildings as a way of developing additional child care centers.
- Hold a Child Care Summit to provide training, information and advocacy of child care issues.
- Seek funds to provide a certificate program for licensed child care providers.



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