



June 2019 Featured Agency of the Month Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County



Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County (4Cs Sonoma) is celebrating its 47th Anniversary this year. Founded as a Community Based Organization in 1972 by child care advocates and providers, 4Cs offers a variety of services to children, families, providers, and community partners in Sonoma County.

4Cs administers multiple subsidized early care and education contracts including CAPP, CalWORKS Stage 2 & 3 and our local Workforce Investment Opportunity Act Child Care program. We currently serve 1238 children in our Alternative Payment Program. Additionally, 4Cs Sonoma operates 12 California State Preschool Program sites once which includes a CCTR toddler component. These programs serve over 544 children. 4Cs has a very robust Resource and Referral Department, which includes Quality Counts coaching, Parent Voices and a Parent Leadership Academy, Health and Safety, Bridge Program and a very popular CCIP program that just trained 22 prospective providers and has 19 on a waiting list for the next training round! 4Cs also administers the CACFP program for family child care homes in Marin, Napa, and Sonoma counties, as well as the food program for the 12 state preschools that we run.

Since the October 2017 wildfires, which leveled 5% of Santa Rosa's housing inventory--along with eleven licensed family child care homes, two preschools and three afterschool programs. 4Cs has remained in constant contact with these programs and has provided over \$180,000 in support funds to these providers as they find temporary locations and work to rebuild their businesses. Our county has been going through a lot of healing and the difficult changes that go along with rebuilding a community. What was a housing and child care constraint before is now a full-blown housing/child care crisis (particularly for infants/toddlers). Housing prices have increased dramatically, and as we all know, as go housing prices, so go child care prices.

4Cs has been at the table, making sure that child care and early learning is always included in any rebuilding and community planning conversations. The Santa Rosa Metro Chamber of Commerce and 4Cs are working with local businesses to guide them in establishing employer-supported child care. 4Cs is also working with both the County of Sonoma and the City of Santa Rosa to remove barriers and ease restrictions on any type of child care facilities. Furthermore, First 5 Sonoma has funded a project where 4Cs works with the Low Income Investment Fund to encourage low income housing developments to include child care facilities.

Informational panels are being planned for our community on both employer-supported child care and co-locating child care with low-income housing. Please feel free to contact Lara Magnusdottir at lmagnusdottir@sonoma4cs.org if you would like more information.

** A special thank you to Lara Magnusdottir, Public Policy Director, for the submission!**