



October 2018 Featured Agency of the Month Solano Family & Children's Services

CELEBRATING SOLANO FAMILY & CHILDREN'S COUNCIL'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY



Solano Family & Children's Council, Inc. was founded in 1978 by a group of Licensed Child Care Providers in Solano County. Solano County originally received \$21,575 in funding from the State (AB 3059) for Resource and Referral Services. In April 1979, SFCC was established as a 501c (3) organization. In 1981, P. Kurt Galvez (former Executive Director) was hired to write grants; he received funding for the Crisis Intervention Hotline. By the end of 1981, our total funding for Resource and Referral Program, Child Care Food Program, Subsidized Child Care Program, and Stress-Line was \$292,457. In 1983, our Child Care Food Program was our largest contract and the need for child care assistance was providing growth to our Subsidized Child Care Program. In 1991, SFCC changed our name (to the public) to Solano Family & Children's Services (SFCS) and with that change, came a new logo, which we still use today - a child on a man's shoulders carrying balloons. The agency had continual growth as the population of our county increased. In 1992, we received funding from the Federal Government through the Federal Block Grant in the amount of \$1,530,284. In 1998, we began to work with the Solano County Health & Social Services Department on the application for CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care funding. Our collaboration paid off. The County made SFCS the CalWORKs Stage 1 administrative agency for their clients' child care needs. Together with CalWORKs Stages 1, 2 and 3, our first year of CalWORKs increased our Subsidy funding to \$4,369,734.

During the State budget crisis in 2003, our funding was cut by 25% and staffing lay offs and office closures had to occur. We worked together as a team to handle this difficult situation. We maintained our core services and continued to serve the whole county from one office. We utilized our community partners to support us in our next challenge, during the elimination of CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2010. During this last Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018, SFCS' total funding was just under \$21,000,000.

After 40 years of service in Solano County, here we are today, more efficient, working with better equipment, trained staff, and offering the best service we can to our clients. We take pride in our work. SFCS's mission is to promote and advocate for the well-being of children, their families and child care providers, by offering access to a variety of child care resources.

SFCS administers the following programs:

- Resource and Referral (R&R)
In 2016, R&R grew from three staff to five, and is currently at eight. Part of this growth was due to receiving funding from First 5 Solano to administer the Help Me Grow (HMG) Program. This was a natural addition to R&R as we were contracted to train child care

providers in the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) screening tool since 2014. Staff implementing Help Me Grow, CCIP, Preventative Health, Child Care Referrals, and Provider Training, collaborate to serve the whole family and child care provider. This year we implemented the Family Navigation and Training for the Bridge Program.

- Child Care Food Program (CCFP)

In July 2017, SFCS's CCFP was awarded a \$20,000.00 Kaiser Community Benefit Grant for Grow It, Try It, Like It! Preschool Fun with Fruits and Vegetables. This project is a garden-themed nutrition education program that provides kit that introduces new fruits and vegetables to pre-school-age children. The materials are designed to help child care providers learn how to integrate good nutrition into their curriculum. Child care providers participating in the CCFP receive a one-on-one training and materials.

- Subsidized Child Care Program

We administer the following programs: California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP), CalWORKs Stages 1,2 and 3 and Workforce Development Board Child Care. Last year, we received funding from the Solano County Health and Social Services Department (SCHSSD) to administer the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program. This year, SFCS is expecting to sign another contract with SCHSSD for their Substance Abuse Child Care Program.

Visit our website at: www.solanofamily.org E-mail: info@solanofamily.org
www.facebook.com/solanofamily Follow us on Twitter at: SolanoFamilyCS

**A BIG thank you to Eloisa Mercado, Subsidized Child Care Program Director, for this submission!