

At-A-Glance:

# Contra Costa Early Childhood System Map

The Early Childhood System Map is a visual and strategic tool that illustrates the many systems and programs families with young children in our county rely on. It also highlights families' and service providers' perspectives on strengths and opportunities across these supports.

## The Purpose:



### To turn data into insights and insights into action

It's part of a broader effort by First 5 Contra Costa to build a more coordinated, responsive, and family-centered early childhood system in Contra Costa County. By analyzing what early childhood services exist and who uses them, we uncover patterns, barriers, gaps, and assets. **Those insights can help align efforts, improve access, and drive equity.**

## What Leaders Can Do with It:

### Better data, better decisions, better outcomes



#### Strengthen collaboration:

Use the map to align goals and strategies across agencies.



#### Support continuous improvement:

Track progress and adapt strategies over time.



#### Inform funding, programming, and policy:

Ground decisions in real-world family experiences and outcomes.



#### Identify leverage points

See where small changes could have big impact within or across systems.

*See what's inside—plus learn more about our work on the back.*



[bit.ly/early-childhood-system-map](https://bit.ly/early-childhood-system-map)

Let's strengthen the early childhood system together.

Connect with us to learn how your team can use the System Map to identify opportunities, align efforts, and improve outcomes for Contra Costa families.

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# What You'll Discover Inside:

## A comprehensive look at Contra Costa's early childhood system



**Community Context:** Outlines Contra Costa's demographics, geography, and economic landscape that shape need and access. Includes population, language, race/ethnicity, housing, and neighborhood-level child density to show where services are most needed.



**Strong, Supported Families:** Describes family-level economic and social determinants (income, employment, food security, housing, child care affordability) and the safety-net supports families use. Surfaces stressors affecting parents and highlights community assets.



**Quality Early Childhood Programs:** Profiles major early learning and family-serving programs (WIC, home visiting, Head Start and Early Head Start, State Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, child care subsidy, early intervention, and early childhood special education). Summarizes slots, reach, and where capacity falls short of estimated need.



**Healthy Beginnings:** Covers prenatal, birth, and infant health indicators and services (prenatal care, infant outcomes, immunizations). Highlights where health services are working well and where racial, geographic, and coverage gaps exist.



**Early Childhood Workforce:** Presents workforce size, credentials, languages, compensation, turnover risk, and professional development access. Identifies workforce strengths (commitment, bilingual capacity) and barriers (low pay, burnout, training gaps).



**Funding and Governance:** Shows how funding flows through the system and identifies the local conveners and governance roles that guide coordination.



**Program Profiles:** Contains program-level details and tables for practitioners and planners who need operational specificity to act.

## How the Tool was Developed

### Built through partnership, data, and community voice

- ✓ First 5 Contra Costa used a template designed by Start Early and worked with them to gather local program data from county agencies and community partners.
- ✓ Start Early compiled public and administrative datasets, compared data to state benchmarks, and held focus groups with families and providers to surface barriers, needs, and experiences.
- ✓ After synthesizing the data into the dashboard, we gathered the advisory group who provided input during the development to validate the final tool.

*Join us in building a stronger, more equitable early childhood system for all families in Contra Costa County.*

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## About First 5 Contra Costa

### Supporting Contra Costa's young children and their families

For over 25 years, First 5 Contra Costa has worked to support every child in reaching their full potential by focusing on their most critical years of development, prenatal to age 5. We do this through three key focus areas.

**Early Care & Education:** ensuring children have high quality early learning experiences that help them succeed in school and in life.

**Early Intervention:** making sure families have access to prevention and supports that foster the optimal development of all children.

**Strengthening Families:** helping families connect to the information, resources, and services they need to help their children thrive.



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