



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 26, 2019**

SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVE FUNDING TO HELP INCREASE CHILD CARE SPACES

Build Up for San Mateo County's Children receives Measure K funding to preserve and expand child care facilities.

Redwood City, CA – To address the critical shortage of child care and preschool spaces, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved \$50,000 in Measure K funds to support the Build Up for San Mateo County's Children Initiative to expand local childcare options. Build Up's operations are housed at 4Cs of San Mateo County, the County's nonprofit child care resource and referral agency.

"Like housing, affordable, high-quality child care and preschool facilities are in short supply in San Mateo County," said Supervisor Dave Pine who is also the Co-Chair for the Build Up Advisory Body. "Investing in the organizational and support capacity of Build Up will accelerate the creation of new child care spaces which are so desperately needed for children and families to thrive."

According to the 2017 San Mateo County Child Care and Preschool Needs Assessment, the county needs 19,724 new child care spaces for children ages 0-12. Of these, approximately 11,000 need to be subsidized for low-income working families.

Available child care is a quality of life and workforce issue for residents and employers. The child care shortage causes working parents to choose between placing their children in less-than-ideal child care arrangements or declining employment opportunities. In recent years, programs in San Mateo County have turned down \$1 million annually in State support for subsidized early learning due to lack of facilities to house child care programs.

"We are grateful to the community for its overwhelming support of Measure K which will provide needed funding for this public-private partnership. The County's prioritization of early care and education is vital to working families as it allows parents to go work while fostering early childhood learning and development," said David Fleishman, Executive Director at 4Cs of San Mateo County.

Measure K is a 20-year extension of the countywide half-cent sales tax passed by local voters in November 2016 to support essential County services and to maintain or replace critical facilities.

About Build Up

Build Up for San Mateo County's Children formed in 2018 to address a critical shortage of affordable, high-quality child care and preschool options. Build Up engages local companies to encourage them to create child care facilities for their employees, tracks local real estate projects for child care opportunities, identifies resources to build new child care and preschool facilities, and generates funding to renovate existing facilities. Build Up also works with cities and the county to improve policies for child care development and provide technical assistance to child care operators. Leadership is provided by 4Cs of San Mateo County, First 5 San Mateo County, the County of San Mateo, San Mateo County Office of Education and the Center for Early Learning at Silicon Valley Community Foundation. The initiative is a response to the *2016 Child Care and Preschool Task Force*, commissioned by First 5 San Mateo County and convened by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, that recommended multi-sector solutions to the child care shortage and identified a need for a coordinated, cross-agency approach, supported by paid staff, to work on closing the gap. For more information visit <https://www.buildupsmc.com>.

About 4Cs

4Cs of San Mateo County is a trusted resource for child care and preschool needs for parents living and working in San Mateo County. For more than 45 years, 4Cs has provided referral services for parents seeking quality child care, financial assistance for families that can't afford the full cost of child care, parenting support through workshops and educational programs, and training for child care and early education providers. 4Cs employs Build Up staff and will be the fiscal agent for the Measure K funds for Build Up.

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