



San Mateo County COVID-19

# CHILD CARE RESPONSE TEAM



# COMMUNITY-POWERED SOLUTIONS

## Care and Supervision for School-Age Children During Distance Learning

### THE CHALLENGE

San Mateo County is experiencing an **urgent need for care and supervision for school-aged students** as schools begin the year in distance learning. Before COVID-19, **over 51,000 children ages 5-12 were in households in which all parents participated in the workforce**, with over 9,000 children lacking access to care.<sup>1</sup> As schools extend distance learning into the 2020-2021 school year, the demand for new, pandemic-driven child care spaces will balloon by the tens of thousands over the next few months. **Ensuring all school-age children have quality care and supervision when not attending in-person school requires community powered solutions** that engage cities, school districts, afterschool programs, and families.

### THE KEY PLAYERS

**Public entities**, such as cities (parks and rec centers, libraries, etc.) and school districts - which may have underutilized space or staff - are key to finding solutions. Other partners include **after-school providers** and **local philanthropic organizations** such as corporate, family, or city foundations.

### THE COST OF CARE & FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Before COVID-19, the **average tuition** for school-age programs in San Mateo County was **\$49/day**.<sup>2</sup> As these programs expand their hours to accommodate distance learning, the **cost of care could easily double**. While some working families will be able to pay out-of-pocket for care, approximately **11,000 children** ages 5-12 live in families with incomes that **qualify for state child care subsidies**.<sup>3</sup> Communities hoping to offer free or reduced-priced care and supervision may turn to the following funding sources to offset the cost of care:

- Community Development Block Grant funds
- Local private, corporate, or city foundations
- Child care vouchers for qualified families (funding is limited; apply at [www.sanmateo4cs.org](http://www.sanmateo4cs.org))

<sup>1</sup> Child Care Partnership Council, San Mateo County Child Care and Preschool Needs Assessment (2017).  
<sup>2</sup> California Department of Education, Regional Market Rates for Licensed Child Care Centers (2018).  
<sup>3</sup> ibid, Child Care Partnership Council.



### SAMPLE SOLUTIONS

Solutions require joint efforts of cities, school districts, after-school providers, and families. Bay Area communities have begun implementing solutions like the following.

In San Carlos, the school district will operate its own after-school clubhouse, as well as provide on-campus space for two licensed after-school programs. The City of San Carlos is expediting new child care planning applications and promoting the establishment of more family child care homes.

San Francisco's Department of Children, Youth and Families and the Recreation and Parks Department have joined with community organizations to offer Community Learning Hubs in every neighborhood (<https://www.dcyf.org/care>).

**For technical assistance with local solutions**, contact [covidresponse@sanmateo4cs.org](mailto:covidresponse@sanmateo4cs.org).

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