



COMMUNITY NEWS RELEASE:
Nov. 21, 2022

Funding Now Available to Expand Child Care in San Mateo

Child Care Providers Can Now Apply for Financial Assistance & Planning Support for Creating New Spaces

San Mateo, CA – A new program and \$2 million is now available to help private and nonprofit child care providers within the City of San Mateo access financial assistance and logistical support for creating new licensed child care spaces.

This week, the City launched its Child Care Facilities Fund Program, which leverages development fees to expand much-needed licensed child care spaces within the community. One of the most challenging problems families face is having access to high-quality, affordable child care and expanding access is a priority for the City Council.



Children at Little Footsteps Child Care, which was created in part with funding from the City of San Mateo.

The funding is available to both private and nonprofit providers for capital improvements that result in new, licensed child care space within the City of San Mateo. Funding will range based on proposal, may be forgivable under certain circumstances, and will be awarded on a first-come basis so interested providers are encouraged to apply soon.

The City has also created a child care startup guide to help interested providers in better understanding how to access local and state funds, licensing, developing a business plan, selecting a location, construction permitting process and more. Local advocates and coalition members of Build Up San Mateo County have been instrumental in the City's efforts to expand child care access.

“Child care is a fundamental need for local families, but there is a significant lack of available spaces in the community. This new program and fund will assist local providers in accessing financial support and help them navigate the process of creating licensed child care spaces,” said Mayor Rick Bonilla.

The City of San Mateo was the first in the county to create this type of funding program and in 2019 did a soft rollout leading to the creation of 98 new licensed child care spaces, currently including 16 for lower-income families, through nearly \$800,000 in loans to three providers. Through the funding, Little Footsteps Child Care opened a new site licensed for 42 spaces at St. Andrew’s Church.

“The funding and support the City of San Mateo provided, in collaboration with St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, helped us develop and build a wonderful preschool facility. These types of enriching and nurturing early care and education programs are much needed in the community, and seeing families enjoy our center is incredibly rewarding,” said Footsteps Child Care, Inc.’s Executive Director, Karen Haas-Foletta.

Learn more at www.cityofsanmateo.org/childcarefacilitiesfund.

###