



## Child Care Support to the Working Poor

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The Child Care Resource Center is a non-profit agency that serves parents looking for child care and provides child care funding so that low income working parents and parents moving off of welfare can go to work. We operate in the northern end of Los Angeles County serving the San Fernando Valley including Glendale, Burbank as well as the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valleys.

I'm not sure that I have a solution for the city that is city specific but I do want to describe a situation that inhibits parent's ability to work. Last year CCRC received around \$70 million to support Welfare to Work families but only \$8 million to support those families whose family income is less than 75% of the state median income. Since the demand for those \$8 million dollars greatly exceeds supply, there are numerous families who never receive assistance in paying for their childcare. They then have to use a large portion of their income to pay for childcare. In an effort to minimize their costs they are often forced to use childcare that is substandard.

This means that their children may not be safe or receive the type of social and cognitive stimulation that will enable them to be ready for school.

There has been some movement in the last two years to create a Universal Preschool movement. However, this movement has focused on part-day part-year programming, which minimally helps working families who need full-day full-year affordable quality programming. Ultimately, the children suffer, the families suffer, and the economy suffers.

The city could advocate for increased alternative payment dollars so that more working poor families could utilize licensed childcare. The city could also advocate with the First 5 Commission and the Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) to create more wrap around childcare so that low-income working parents could take advantage of Universal Preschool by having full day programs.