

# California Child Care Study

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Presentation to California Child Care Organizations

January 24, 2018



# Welcome!



# Overview of presentation

- **California Child Care Study background and purpose**
  - Carlise King, Senior Scientist, Child Trends
- **Study design**
  - Winnie Li, Research Scientist, Child Trends
- **Data collection and participation**
  - Kate Welti, Research Scientist, Child Trends
- **Resources and next steps**
  - Carlise King, Senior Scientist, Child Trends
- **Questions and discussion**
  - *State representatives available:*
    - Jeremy Heebner, CalWORKs Child Care Programs Bureau, California Department of Social Services
    - Channa Hewawickrama, Early Education and Support Division, California Department of Education

# What is the background for the California Child Care Study?

# A partnership between California state departments

- Funded by California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
- Conceived in partnership with California Department of Education (CDE)
- CDSS and CDE...
  1. Oversee the contract with Child Trends
  2. Promote of the value of the study
  3. Serve as key decision makers



# Who was consulted on the study design?

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is a workgroup composed of representatives from the following agencies:

- The CA Department of Social Services (CDSS)
- The CA Department of Education (CDE)
- The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)
- The CA Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R)
- County and Alternative Payment Provider Agencies
- Title 5 Early Education and Support Division (EESD) administered programs

# What is Child Trends?

Child Trends is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research center that improves the lives and prospects of children and youth by **conducting high-quality research** and **sharing the resulting knowledge** with practitioners and policymakers.

## We . . .

1. take a whole child approach
2. study children in the real world
3. want children to flourish
4. value objectivity and rigor
5. pursue knowledge development *and* knowledge transfer

# Who else works on the study?

## Subcontractors:

- IMPAQ International
  - Evaluation, research, data management
- Brian Fitzgerald, Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise
  - Project and program management consulting

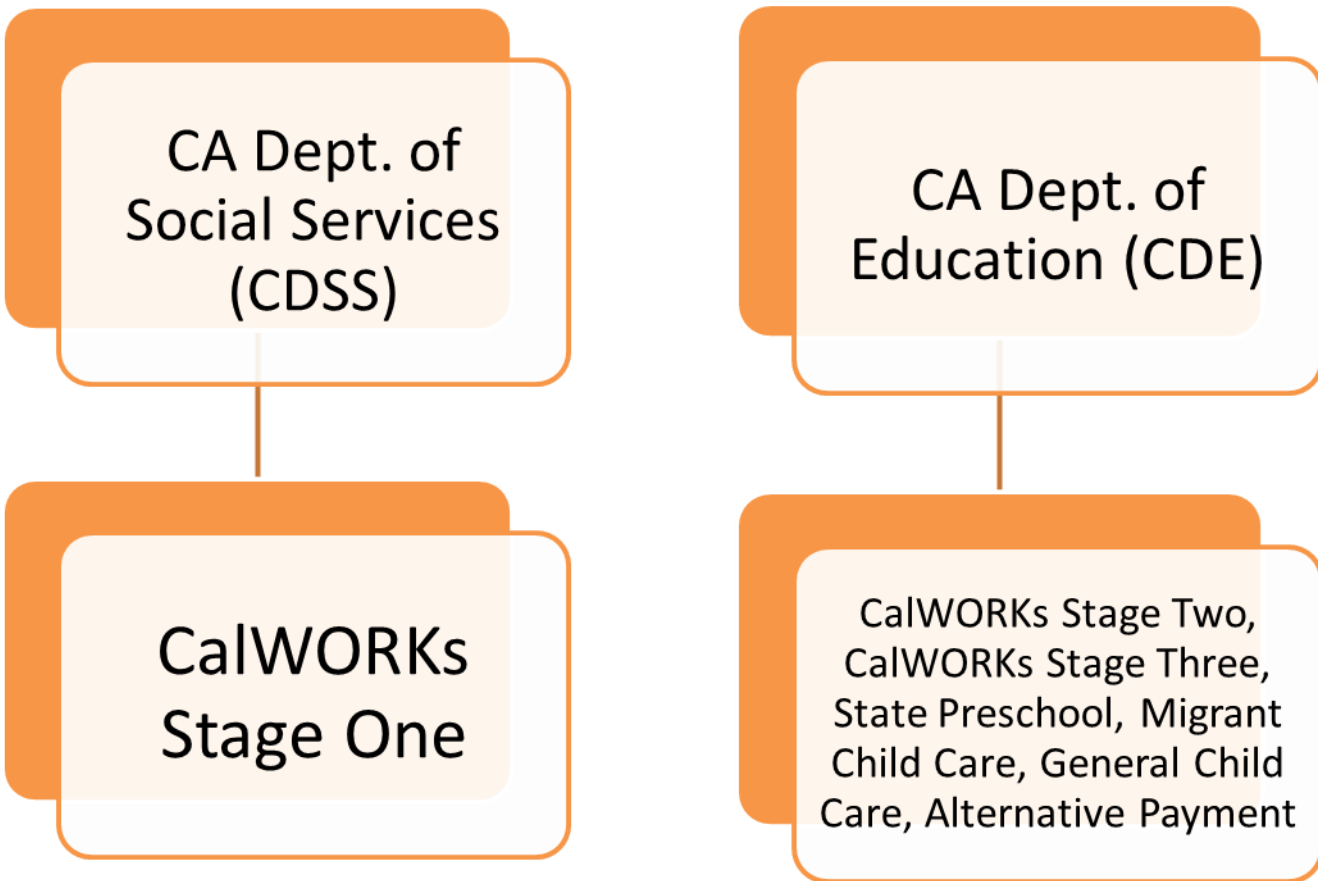


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What is the purpose of the study?

# Why is this study needed? Funding and management of child care in California is complicated.



# California Child Care Subsidy Data

- Neither CDE nor CDSS oversee the collection and management of ALL child care subsidy data for the state of California.
- Some data are collected by local agencies or child care providers and are not shared with either CDE or CDSS.
- Comprehensive, up-to-date, information regarding families and children receiving child care subsidies is lacking.

# What is the purpose of this study?

- 1) Use administrative, survey, and interview data to document agency, provider, and family characteristics.
- 2) Generate dataset and final report for use by the Departments of Social Services and Education to inform policy and program decision-making.

*It will be the role of the California state departments to conduct interpretive analyses of the final dataset.*

What is the design of the study?

# Study Design Steps

- Develop a representative **sample** of families, providers, and children participating in CDE- and CDSS-funded child care programs
- Document characteristics of providers and families using **administrative data** collected by local child care agencies
- Conduct a **survey** with a representative sample of providers and families to fill in the gaps, generating a complete dataset

# What are the CDSS- and CDE-funded child care programs?

Child Trends will collect data for families, children, and providers participating in the subsidy program through the following state contracts:

- CalWORKs Stage One Child Care
- CalWORKs Stage Two Child Care
- CalWORKs Stage Three Child Care
- General Child Care and Development Programs
- Alternative Payment Programs (APPs)
- Migrant Child Care and Development Program & Migrant Alternative Payment Program
- California State Preschool Program (CSPP)

# What is a “representative sample”?





# What is a “representative sample”?

25 Geographic Clusters



14-16 randomly-selected, subsidized providers per cluster  
(380 providers)



Up to 3 randomly-selected families served per subsidized provider  
(1,140 families)



Child served by subsidized provider  
(1,140 children)

# Study process and timeline

1. Pilot testing of surveys: 2017
2. Develop survey sample: early 2018
3. Collect administrative data: early 2018
4. Communication and recruitment activities: early/mid-2018
5. Field provider survey: early 2018 – fall 2018
6. Field family interview: spring 2018 – fall 2018
7. Generate final data set: Jan-Mar 2019

What will study participants do?

# Three primary groups of research participants & their activities

- Agencies
  - Provide administrative data
- Providers
  - Participate in a 30-minute web or phone survey
- Families
  - Participate in a 30-minute phone interview



All participation is voluntary

# Agency Data Collection

- Once we have selected providers and their associated agencies, we will collect administrative data.
- Data elements will include:
  - Family characteristics
  - Payments to providers
  - Family fees and copayments
  - Notice of Action (NOA) issued by agencies administering subsidies

# Provider Online Survey

- Participants
  - Center-based, home-based, and license-exempt providers are eligible
- Timeline
  - Fielding starts early 2018, concludes fall 2018
- Data collection method
  - Website or phone
  - English, Spanish, other languages
- Incentives
  - \$40 gift card
- Contact organization
  - Conducted by IMPAQ International

# What types of questions are in the provider survey?

- Primary areas of interest include:
  - Provider demographics (e.g., age, race/ethnicity, education level)
  - Use of developmental screening tools
  - Support for children with unique needs (e.g., those with an IEP)
  - Staff education levels
  - Staff training

# Family Interview

- Participants
  - Up to 3 families from each participating provider
- Timeline
  - Fielding starts spring 2018, concludes fall 2018
- Data collection method
  - Phone
  - English, Spanish, other languages
- Incentives
  - \$25 gift card
- Contact organization
  - Conducted by Brian Fitzgerald



# What types of questions are in the family interview?

## Primary areas of interest include:

- Payments made for child care
- Parent demographics (e.g., age, education, race/ethnicity, primary language)
- Family income & other need criteria
- Duration of subsidy receipt
- Utilization of care
- Family's experience of subsidy system(s)

# Assurances

- All data are de-identified
  - Data matched according to ID numbers
- Child Trends, IMPAQ, and Brian Fitzgerald take data security very seriously
  - MOU with CDE & CDSS
  - Data security training
  - Secure server
- Participation is voluntary
  - Providers and families consent to participate

# Resources & Next Steps

# Resources

If a provider or family approaches you with questions about the study, there are a number of helpful resources you can refer them to. Your knowledge and support are appreciated!

- Our project webpage:  
[www.childtrends.org/project/california-child-care-study/](http://www.childtrends.org/project/california-child-care-study/)
- Email: [CCCS@childtrends.org](mailto:CCCS@childtrends.org)
- Fact Sheets (multiple versions)
- Phone line: 1-833-823-9249
- Webinars

# Next Steps

- Sample development is happening now
- Data collection with agencies/provider starts early 2018
- Data collection with families starts in spring 2018

Questions?

Thank you!