

"THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER WE CAN AFFORD TO INVEST IN EVERY CHILD; IT IS WHETHER WE CAN AFFORD NOT TO."

— MARION WRIGHT EDELMAN



MARIN CITY 0-5 Early Childhood Education and Care

| NEEDS ASSESSMENT |

PURPOSE

To provide data and background information in support of Marin City stakeholders that have identified a need for early childhood education and care resources and services for children aged 0-5 and their families in Marin City.

GOAL

Increase the access to high quality comprehensive early childhood opportunities that meet the needs for early learning, health and family support for all children 0-5 and their families in Marin City.

BACKGROUND

Marin City is a small, unincorporated community north of the San Francisco Bay, nestled between the cities of Sausalito to the south and Mill Valley to the north, Highway 101 to the east and the hills of Golden Gate National Recreation Area to the west. The entire area is 1.2 miles across.

Marin City was established in World War II, to house 6,000 of the 20,000 workers who migrated from all over the U.S. to build war ships at Marinship in Sausalito. By the mid-1940's, Marin City had a population of 6,500 and was the second biggest community in terms of population in Marin County. After the war ended, many of the African American shipyard laborers who had migrated from the Southern U.S. became permanent residents of Marin City either by choice or due to racial discrimination laws limiting housing opportunities in other parts of Marin County.¹

According to the latest census data, Marin City now has a population of approximately 3,000.ⁱⁱ Children aged 0-4* comprise about seven percent (or ~200) of residents.ⁱⁱⁱ The percentage of children under five years old in Marin City is a higher proportion than the County at large (5.4%).^{iv}

- ➔ **Marin City has the highest proportion of single-mother led households in Marin County at 15%. (has 13% and Marin County has 8%).^v**
- ➔ **Marin City has the lowest family median income in the County at \$38,984. (The county's median income for the same period was \$136,857.)^{vi}**
- ➔ **The percentage of children who qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch at Bayside/Martin Luther King, Jr. School in Marin city is 72%. The percentage who qualify countywide is 29%.^{vii}**

GOLDEN GATE VILLAGE

There are over 200 children aged 0-5 living in Marin City.
53 live at Golden Gate Village.

Marin City's 300-unit Golden Gate Village is **the only family public housing complex in Marin County**. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It was established to provide safe and decent housing for eligible low-income families, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

According to Marin Housing Authority, the following are Golden Gate Village demographics as of September 2018:

► **680 family members reside**

- 259 of those are minors
- 53 are 0-5
- 79% are female-headed households
- 58% are African-American or black
- 21% are Latino
- 19% receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF)
- Average income for a family at Golden Gate Village (average of 2.3 members) is \$20,438
- 51% of households have earned income^{viii}

MARIN CITY CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

In 2017 and 2018, a workgroup of stakeholders investigated the number of Marin City children receiving care by provider. The table below includes the number of children served, by provider type.^{ix}

Table 1
Number of Children Served, Age 0-5, by Provider

Provider	# of Children Enrolled	
	2017	2018
Marin Child Care Council (MC3) Center-based Vouchers for children receiving care outside of Marin City	16	11
Marin Horizon Partnership School (Marin Horizon School & Community Action Marin)	12	24
Community Action Marin Head Start in Marin City	7	9
Community Action Marin Learning Center	12	12
Sausalito/Marin City School District Transitional Kindergarten	8	8
MC3 Vouchers for Children Being Cared for by Family Member	5	1
MC3 Licensed Family Child Care Home Vouchers for children receiving care in Marin City	8	15
MC3 Licensed Family Child Care Home Vouchers for children receiving care outside Marin City	7	13
TOTAL*	75	93

*First Five Marin supports a summer bridge program that served 21 children in 2017 and 25 in 2018. These numbers are not included in the table above because it is not a year-round program.

The data in the table above suggests that **less than half of young children in Marin City** are receiving subsidized early childhood education or care outside of the home.

THE COST OF CHILDCARE

According to the 2018 report; The California Children's Report Card, the average annual cost of child care for an infant in a licensed center is more than a year of UC tuition.^{xvii}

Table 2
Child Care and Preschool Costs in Marin County, 2018

Age Range	Child Care Center	Family Child Care Home
Infant 0-2 years	\$24,456 or \$2,038/mo	\$17,280 or \$1,440/mo
Preschool 3-5 years	\$18,636 or \$1,553/mo	\$16,812 or \$1,401/mo

For a family of four (two working parents, and infant and a preschooler), **child care costs \$29,724 per year.**
The median income for families in Marin City is \$38,984 per year.^{xii}

THE NEED

Data shows that Marin City low-income/low-wage families struggle with the high cost of living. **Parents often have to weigh the cost of quality child care against other critical family needs.**

The lack of affordable, quality child care limits a parent's ability to work or participate in training or educational opportunities, and jeopardizes the safety, well-being and developmental outcomes of children during their most critical years of development (0-5).

Marin City families need better access to quality early childhood education and care programs for their children from birth on.

In December of 2017, a group of leaders supporting early childhood education and care in Marin came together to discuss the needs of children 0-5 years and their families residing in Marin City. It was revealed that early childhood education and care programs for children aged 0-5 in Marin City have been decreasing in the past six years. Examples include:

- No current center-based programs serving infants
- Iniece Bailey Infant Toddler Center closed
- Early Head Start program relocated out of Marin City
- Marin Learning Center losing facilities in June of 2019
- Comprehensive year-round School Readiness program discontinued^{xiii}

ELIGIBILITY

During the December 2017 meeting, a theme regarding barriers to care: **program eligibility**. Meeting attendees highlighted the need for eligibility criteria that fits more families and the eligibility gap that keeps some low-income families from being able to qualify for early childcare programs.

The eligibility process to access and retain child care subsidies can be challenging for parents. The various child care programs have different eligibility requirements often making the process confusing and burdensome for families.

The child care “cliff effect,” as it’s called, is a serious problem for low-income working families. Families may pay a copay that would increase as their incomes go up, and at a certain point the subsidy falls away completely.

A parent getting a \$0.50 per hour raise could mean she could lose \$1,500 to \$2,000 worth of child-care subsidies monthly. Often parents may turn down raises or cut their hours due to the faulty eligibility income guidelines for subsidized childcare.

There are a lot of administrative and paperwork hurdles that make it difficult for families to get enrolled in child care assistance. Parents may be required to be working in order to qualify, which creates a Catch-22: They need a job to qualify for affordable child care, but need child care to be able to search for and interview for jobs.

COMMUNITY SURVEY FINDINGS

In 2018 a door-to-door survey was conducted in Marin City. A total of 71 surveys were completed by families with children 0-5 years. Approximately 30% of respondents with children aged 0-5 had their child enrolled in a formal child care program.

Table 3
Total number of children aged 0-5=88

Ages (in years)	(n)
0-1	20
1-2	11
2-3	12
3-4	19
4-5	17
5	8
Did not state age	1
Total	88

Table 2
Childcare Site Serving Children of Families Surveyed^{xiv}

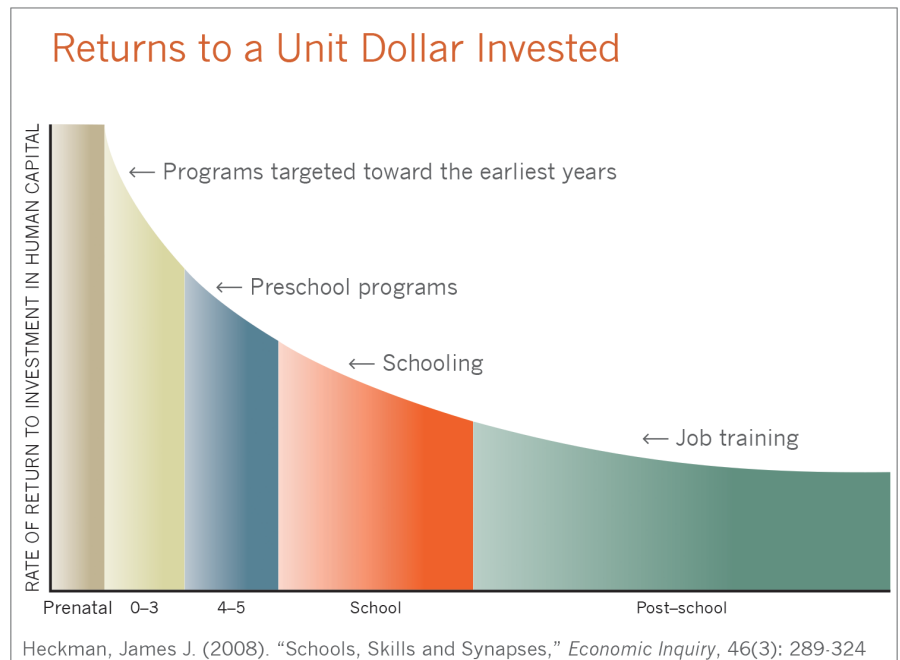
Bayside MLK	1
Head Start (CAM)	7
Marin Horizon Community School	4
Marin Learning Center (CAM)	6
Manzanita Child Development Center (CAM)	1
Robin's Nest	2
Wiggins Family Daycare	1
Total	22

70% of parents surveyed indicated their child was not enrolled in child care despite their interest in having their child in a childcare program. Of those who were interested in care, 96% preferred full-time care. **Eighty-two percent of families responding to the survey said that having their child in care would make it easier for them to seek employment or educational opportunities.**^{xv}

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Chart 1

According to James Heckman, a Nobel laureate in economics, “The highest rate of return in early childhood development comes from investing as early as possible, from birth through age five, in disadvantaged families. Starting at age three or four is too little too late, as it fails to recognize that skills beget skills in a complementary and dynamic way. Efforts should focus on the first years for the greatest efficiency and effectiveness. The best investment is in quality early childhood development from birth to five for disadvantaged children and their families.”^{xvi}



Early childhood education is an efficient and effective investment for economic and workforce development. The earlier the investment, the greater the return on investment.

THE OPPORTUNITY



Implementation of a permanent 0-5 early childhood education and care center in Marin City would address the needs of all children aged 0-5 and their families.

In July of 2015, a vision and plan for community life in Marin City was developed. The Marin City Center for Community Life would support families, give children a strong start, improve learning, and enrich overall community outcomes. The plan would have been overseen by the Marin City Community Services District, and include a permanent early childhood center with a seamless network of services.

A Marin City resident and former nonprofit leader was asked what the greatest need in Marin City was. “An important service that needs to be funded is for preschool students and their families, so the kids coming into kindergarten are better prepared for learning. Parents can be such a help if they really understand how much learning happens from one to four.”^{xvii}

**Limitations: Census data includes total population statistics for children under the age of five. Numbers vary by source and data provided are estimations.*

- i Marin City. An MCF Blueprint. 2017
- ii <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/marin-city-ca/>
- iii <http://censusviewer.com/city/CA/Marin%20City>
- iv <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/marincounty-california/PST045217>
- v American Community Survey 2013-17
- vi American Community Survey 2013-17
- vii <https://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/Cbeds4.asp?FreeLunch=on&cSelect=Bayside%5EMartin%5ELuthe--Sausalito%5EMarin--2165474-6024889&cChoice=SchProf1&cYear=2017-18&cLevel=School&cTopic=Profile&myTimeFrame=S&submit1=Submit>
- viii Marin Housing Authority of Marin, Demographics Summary, September 13, 2018
- ix American Community Survey 2009-13

- x Marin Child Care Council, received via email October 22, 2018
- xi First 5 Marin Annual Report 2015-16
- xii American Community Survey 2013-17
- xiii Marin Community Foundation Notes from Marin City Early Childhood (0-5) Education and Care Meeting
- xiv Horizon Community School's Marin City Early Childhood Survey Results, 2018
- xv Horizon Community School's Marin City Early Childhood Survey Results, 2018
- xvi <https://heckmanequation.org/resource/invest-in-early-childhood-development-reduce-deficits-strengthen-the-economy/>
- xvii https://www.childrennow.org/files/9015/1975/3343/RC18_FINALOnlineSPR.compressed.pdf

- xviii Marin City. An MCF Blueprint. 2017