



1 North San Antonio Road  
Los Altos, California 94022-3087

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 9, 2024

**TO:** Los Altos City Council

**FROM:** Mayor Jonathan Weinberg and Councilmember Neysa Fligor

**SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #8  
APPROVE THE FORMATION OF A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CITY  
COUNCIL FOR A POTENTIAL CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM**

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**Purpose:** Mayor Weinberg and Councilmember Fligor seek support to form a Council ad-hoc Subcommittee to explore the feasibility of Los Altos creating a City-sponsored childcare program. On May 28, 2024, the Council adopted a Resolution in Support of Childcare for All. Among other things, the Resolution recognized that:

- (1) investing in affordable childcare provides vital infrastructure to working parents and supports early childhood development,
- (2) affordable childcare allows families to remain in a geographic area, creates a stronger economy, improves business productivity and consumer spending, decreases poverty and leads to safer communities and provides revenues for cities, and
- (3) cities have a direct interest in building strong local economies, supporting and benefiting from local small businesses, attracting and retaining families and employers.

Additionally, the City Council supports building more affordable housing in Los Altos, and the city has a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (“RHNA”) requirement for the Sixth Cycle of 501 very low-income units and 288 low-income units. Affordable childcare goes hand in hand with building more affordable homes as it is imperative that new and existing residents have a local affordable option for their children. This would also alleviate the need for some families to drive far distances from their Los Altos homes to find affordable childcare. A Child-care subsidy program would support the Council's priorities of Housing, Business Communities, and Environmental Sustainability.

**Scope:** The Subcommittee will review different City-sponsored childcare programs and work with staff to identify the types of elements that could possibly work for Los Altos. This includes

reviewing the current City programs, and the contracts for these different programs. In the event that a City-sponsored childcare program is feasible, then some of the questions the Subcommittee would explore include:

1. Should the program only apply to a daycare/preschool programs or should it extend to other City programs, for example, summer camps?
2. What would a reasonable annual budget be for this program?
3. Should it only apply to Los Altos residents and City employees?

As with any Subcommittee, the Subcommittee members will learn as they explore these different options and will adjust their work accordingly, provided that it still aligns with Council's direction and priorities.

**Subcommittee Term:** The Subcommittee expects to make a recommendation to Council by October 31, 2024, and that the Subcommittee can be disbanded by November 30, 2024.

**Example(s):** There are many cities that have a childcare subsidy program. Attached are copies of Childcare Subsidy Programs in the Cities of Palo Alto and Mountain View. Mayor Weinberg and Councilmember Fligor are not proposing that Los Altos uses these same models. Notably, the Mountain View program resulted from a Mountain View-Los Altos Child-Care Task Force from two decades ago.

**Recommended Action(s):** Approve the formation of a Los Altos Childcare Subsidy Program Subcommittee consisting of Mayor Weinberg and Councilmember Fligor to explore establishing a Los Altos childcare subsidy program and direct the Subcommittee to bring forward a proposal by October 31, 2024.

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LEARNING LINKS - MOUNTAIN VIEW

## Tuition Subsidies

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### Lower Tuition for Eligible Families

Subsidy applications are reviewed throughout the year and awarded based on providing proof of residency in the city of Mountain View, proof of income, and additional documentation listed on the application. Please click on the link for the Subsidy application and more details.

For returning families wishing to reapply for the Subsidy program for the next school year, a new application and supporting documents must be resubmitted annually. The due date for reapplying families is July 1st. If a reapplying family continues to qualify for the program, eligibility and availability will be shared by July 31st, and the newly awarded subsidy will begin on September 1st.

For questions, please email [enroll@learninglinkspreschool.org](mailto:enroll@learninglinkspreschool.org).

### How much can you save in tuition?

	<b>\$300/Mo</b> (4C's Level)	<b>Save 80%</b> off tuition	<b>Save 60%</b> off tuition	<b>Save 40%</b> off tuition	<b>Save 20%</b> off tuition
Family Size	If your gross monthly income is:				
2	\$5,343	\$6,411	\$7,480	\$8,549	\$9,617
3	\$5,802	\$6,962	\$8,123	\$9,283	\$10,443
4	\$6,719	\$8,063	\$9,406	\$10,750	\$12,094
5	\$7,794	\$9,353	\$10,912	\$12,740	\$14,029
6	\$8,869	\$10,643	\$12,417	\$14,190	\$15,964
7	\$9,070	\$10,884	\$12,698	\$14,512	\$16,326
8	\$9,272	\$11,126	\$12,981	\$14,835	\$16,690

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## Financial Aid

In keeping with our mission, PACCC seeks opportunities to develop funding resources and outreach for low-income families in the local community.

To the extent possible, subsidized childcare services are provided through funding from the City of Palo Alto and State of California. The generosity of donors and funders provide additional funds to PACCC's Financial Assistance Programs.

Questions about the financial aid program can be emailed to [fpp@paccc.org](mailto:fpp@paccc.org).

## How to Apply

1. Review the funding criteria and income guidelines to see if you are eligible for services through the City of Palo Alto or California State Department of Education.
2. [Login to the Family Portal](#), or [create a new account](#), to complete the enrollment application.
3. PACCC's Subsidy Specialist will reach out to you with information and confirm your eligibility after reviewing your enrollment application. If financial aid is currently unavailable, you will be placed on the waitlist.

## Funding Programs

### CITY OF PALO ALTO Funding Criteria

- Parent/Guardian must be a resident of Palo Alto, or
- Parent/Guardian must be an employee of the City or Palo Alto, or
- Child must attend Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) through the Voluntary Transfer Program (VTP). To apply for VTP, call San Mateo County Office of Education at (650) 802-5314.
- **In addition, parent/guardian must:**
- Fall within the City of Palo Alto Income Guidelines, and
- Be employed, or
- Be a student in an accredited program, or
- Be unable to care for the child due to disability (incapacitated)

#### 2023-2024 Income Guidelines

Contact PACCC's Subsidy Specialist at [fpp@paccc.org](mailto:fpp@paccc.org) if your family size is 7 or more.

Family Size	1 or 2	3	4	5	6
Maximum Monthly Gross Family Income	\$7,856	\$8,838	\$9,820	\$10,606	\$11,391

### CALIFORNIA STATE Funding Criteria

#### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- Parent/Guardian must reside in California.
- **In addition, parent/guardian must:**
- Fall within the California State Department of Education Income Guidelines, and
- Be employed, or
- Seeking employment (for infant-toddler and preschool programs only), or
- Identify as homeless or have a referral from CPS, or
- Be a student in an accredited program, or
- Be unable to care for the child due to disability (incapacitated)

#### 2023-2024 Income Guidelines

Contact PACCC's Subsidy Specialist at [fpp@paccc.org](mailto:fpp@paccc.org) if your family size is 7 or more.

Family Size	1 or 2	3	4	5	6
Maximum Monthly Gross Family Income	\$6,128	\$6,931	\$8,025	\$9,309	\$10,593

## PACCC SCHOLARSHIP


If you fall just above the maximum monthly income to be eligible for funding through the City of Palo Alto or California State Department of Education, are experiencing income loss, or are a teenage parent, contact PACCC's Subsidy Specialist at [fpp@paccc.org](mailto:fpp@paccc.org) to see if you qualify for a PACCC Scholarship.

## PAUSD EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) will identify students who are eligible for ELO-P and assist with registration. For information about this program, contact Herb Espiritu at [hespirtu@pausd.org](mailto:hespirtu@pausd.org).

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