



San Mateo Countywide Child Care Blueprint

Children's Collective

COVID-19 Crisis Response

The Children's Collective convened during early COVID-19 to support children, families, and care providers in San Mateo County.

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Ongoing Collaboration

They found great value in working together and built stronger partnerships.

Expanding Impact

As they gained momentum, the Collective looked for new ways to collaborate.

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Blueprint Development

In 2024, the group realized a comprehensive, data-based plan was crucial. This plan would help organize child care services, use existing resources better, and consider long term needs.

Children's Collective Partners



Government Partners

- Supervisor Corzo office
- Supervisor Speier office
- Supervisor Mueller office
- County Executive office
- City of Redwood City
- Mayor, San Carlos
- The Big Lift
- F5SMC



Community Organizations

- Build Up SMC
- 4Cs
- Footsteps Child Care
- Ability Path
- Izzi Early Education
- Peninsula Family Service
- Y of SF
- SMC Family Child Care Organization
- Community Equity Collaborative
- Puente
- Renaissance Center
- Upward Scholars
- Unitedly



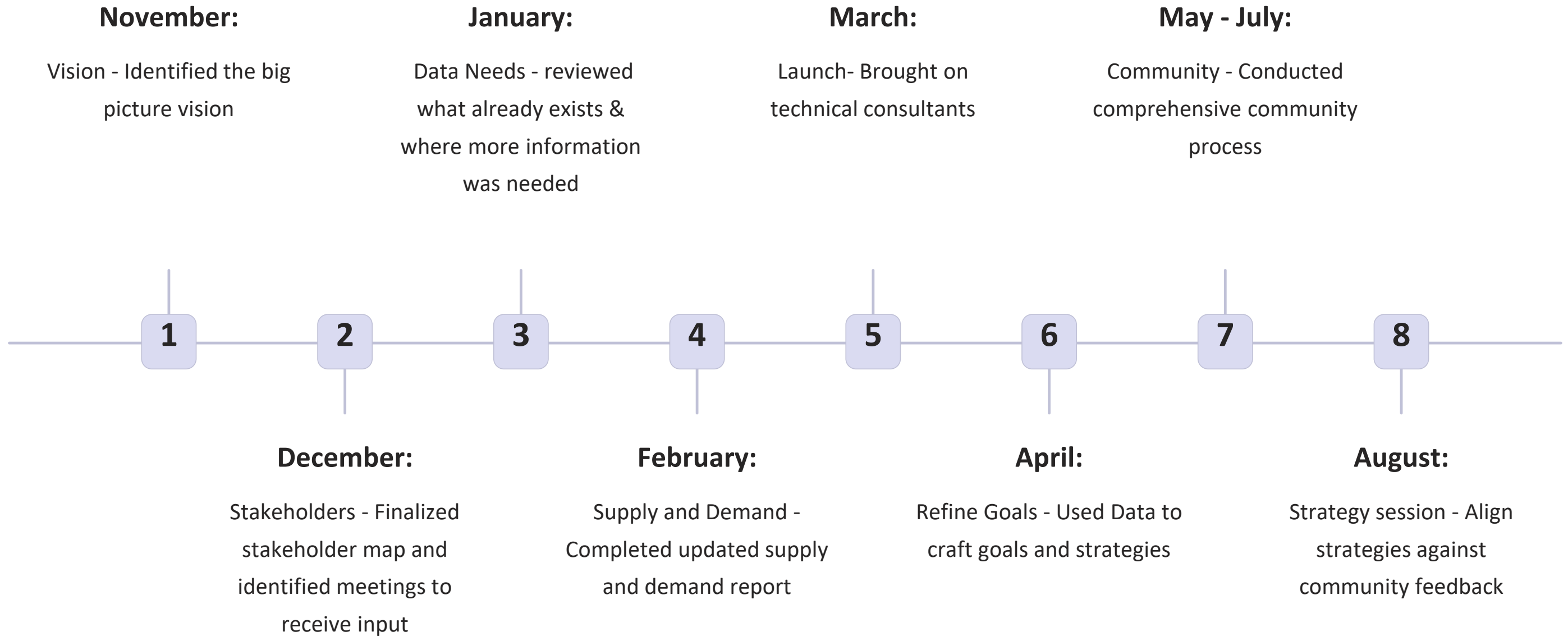
Education, Business & Foundation Partners

- SSF school board member - Amanda Anthony
- San Carlos school board member - Sarah Kinahan
- Ravenswood Early Learning
- SMCCD
- SMCOE
- SVCF
- San Mateo Labor Council
- San Mateo Chamber of Commerce
- Foster City Chamber of Commerce

Funding & In Kind Support



The Blueprint Journey



Building The Blueprint: Inputs

Our comprehensive approach combines rigorous data analysis with community input to create measurable impact.



Data Driven

Using comprehensive research and metrics to identify needs and gaps in child care services across San Mateo County.



Community Voice

Incorporating feedback and insights from families, providers, and stakeholders to develop solutions that address real needs.



Measurable Impact

Creating effective, equitable childcare solutions that measurably improve outcomes for all children and families in our community.

Data Driven



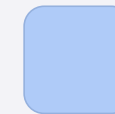
Updated Supply & Demand

Assessment of childcare availability versus community needs across San Mateo County.



Fiscal Mapping

Tracking financial resources and funding streams for childcare services in the county.



Cost Modeling

Financial modeling on potential solutions



FCC Landscape

Evaluation of Family Child Care homes in the county's childcare ecosystem.



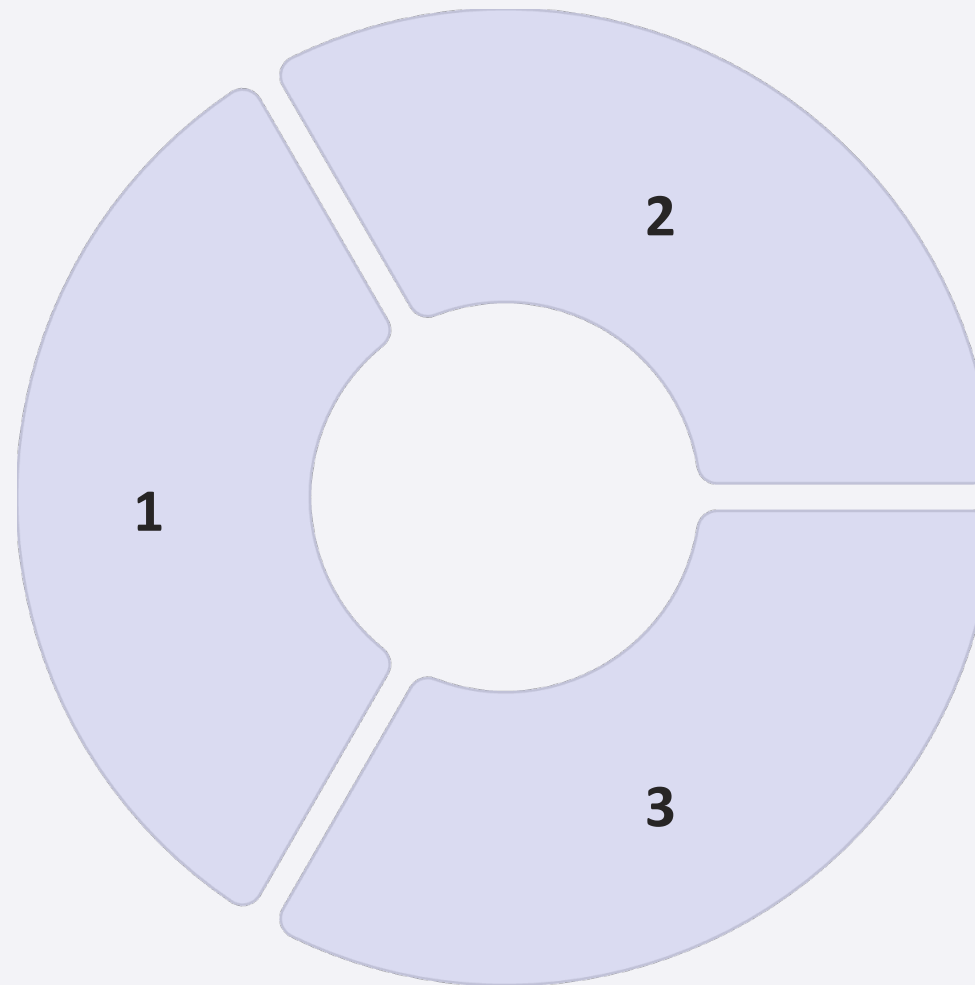
Coastside Analysis

Study of childcare needs in San Mateo County's coastal communities.

Community Input

Completed Listening Sessions

- ECE students & teachers
- Companies with more than 25 employees
- CCPC Committees
- Chamber of Commerce CEO's
- Chamber San Mateo County Board
- State preschool directors
- Nonprofit and private preschools
- Pediatricians - SMC Medicaid clinics



Family Engagement

- Parent focus groups with families that have been under represented in previous initiatives
- Spanish speaking families on the coast
- Cantonese & Mandarin speaking families
- Middle income families

Stakeholder Interviews

- More than 40 local stakeholders
- Regional counterparts from:
 - Blueprint development & implementation: Marin, San Diego
 - Comparable counties: Alameda, San Francisco, and Santa Clara

Community Feedback



Financial Strain on Families

The extreme financial burden of childcare forces families to make significant tradeoffs, impacting their relationships and financial stability.



Need for Centralized Support

There's a strong desire for a single, comprehensive portal to find childcare and subsidy support, ideally with in-person navigation assistance.



Limited Care Options

It's challenging to find childcare for younger children and for those needing care during non-traditional hours outside of standard workdays.



Impact on Workforce

The lack of available childcare is frequently cited as a primary reason for employee absenteeism, affecting productivity and work-life balance.

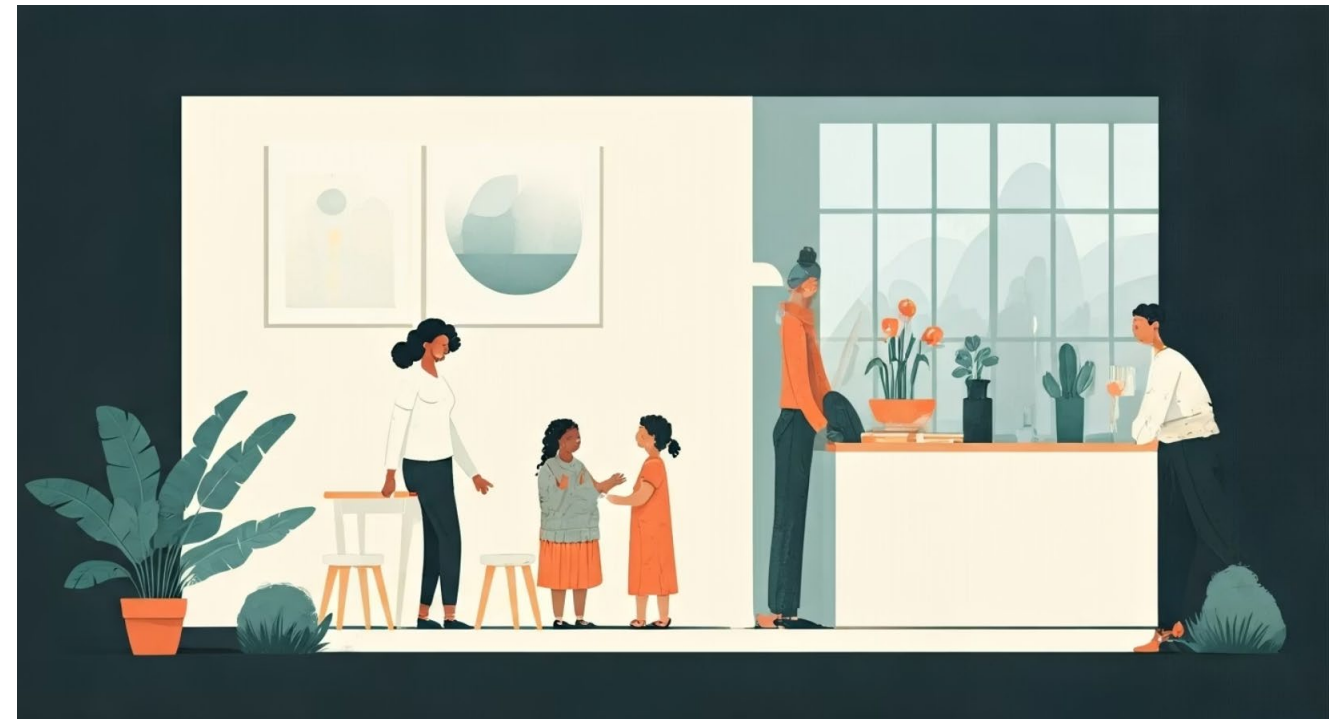
Countywide Child Care Blueprint

Our Vision for High-Quality Childcare

Every child in San Mateo County, from birth to age 12, has equitable access to high-quality care, supported by a well-compensated, diverse workforce in safe, climate-resilient environments.

Commitment to Public Good and Investment

Rooted in a commitment to childcare as a public good, this blueprint calls for collective action and bold investment to build a thriving, inclusive system for all.



Blueprint Goals



Goal 1: Affordable & Accessible

Ensure high-quality care is affordable, easy to find, and supports all families and children.



Goal 2: Workforce Development

Develop a highly-trained, well-supported childcare workforce that is valued as professionals and paid competitive wages.



Goal 3: Quality Facilities

Maintain and renovate safe, high-quality, and sustainable childcare facilities that meet community needs.



Goal 4: Sustainable System

Develop a well-funded and coordinated childcare ecosystem through collaboration, service alignment, and additional funding.

Strategy Examples



Strategy 1.1: Enhance Affordability

Improve subsidy uptake, Expand **subsidy programs**, **coordinate advocacy efforts** to make child care more affordable for all families.



Strategy 1.2: Improve Access

Strengthen outreach, **simplify enrollment processes**, and **build on user-friendly navigation systems** to improve access for all families.



Strategy 1.3: Expand Capacity

Strategically **expand child care capacity**, **prioritizing underserved populations such as infant/toddler care**, **school-age programs**, and communities with the greatest demonstrated need.



Next Steps

- Sept 8th - Fiscal mapping & cost modeling presentation
- Sept to October 31 - Implementation workgroups
- November - Community Forum
- December to January 2026 - Launch year one

Together, we can build a stronger future for every child and family.