



## **Community Needs Assessment**

**March 2019**

### **Introduction:**

The Early Learning Coalition of Santa Rosa County is required by the Office of Early Learning to develop a needs assessment of local priorities based on available community data. This needs assessment includes a county-wide demographic review, a register of available child development and early learning programs, data regarding the education and social needs of children and their families, and a current list of resources used by staff, child care providers and the families served.

### **Overview:**

The purpose of the Early Learning Coalition of Santa Rosa County (Coalition) is to carry out the duties and responsibilities invested and entrusted to the Coalition pursuant to the provisions of the School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten programs. Collectively, these programs are referred to as “early learning programs.” The Coalition recognizes the primacy of parents as their children’s first teachers and the importance of children entering the education system ready to learn. The Coalition’s programs are designed for the birth-to-kindergarten population to enhance their chances for educational success by participating in quality early learning programs that can better prepare them for school and beyond.

The Coalition’s mission is to provide a seamless system of care in which children receive high quality school readiness services necessary for optimal cognitive, emotional, social and physical development, with the necessary linkage to screening and assessments, health care and support for parents.

In carrying out its mission, some of the services and programs the Coalition provides include but are not limited to:

- Child Care Resource and Referral Services (CCR&R) for all families seeking information on quality early care and other community services
- CLASS Assessments to measure how teachers interact with children, thereby helping preschool teachers foster a secure, supportive base for learning and exploration

- Developmental screenings using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire® for all children birth through five to assess a child’s development and identify children with delays or disorders in the critical early years prior to entry into school
- Eligibility assistance with School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-K applications
- Family engagement activities focusing on early literacy including book distribution, development of reading tips, participation in parenting support group meetings, and the Bucket of Books program in partnership with more than twenty local agencies
- Health screenings including height, weight, vision and hearing screenings to identify potential issues and need for follow-up, interventions and referrals
- Promotion of inclusive childcare by supporting practitioners in creating high quality early childhood environments that meet the needs of diverse learners, and operation of a Warm Line for both providers and parents, offering free support, information and referrals regarding the inclusion of children with special needs and disabilities
- Technical assistance, training, mentorship, best practice recommendations, program supports and learning materials to assist early education providers in developing and maintaining high-quality early learning programs for children and families

### **Data Collection Methodology and Sources:**

The Early Learning Coalition of Santa Rosa County has reviewed data from various sources including interviews and a county-wide survey of early learning needs and priorities. Listed below are the data sourced referenced throughout the assessment.

- 2018 VPK Estimating Conference
- American Community Survey, 2017
- Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, 2016 – “From Best Practices to Breakthrough Impacts: A Science-Based Approach to Building a More Promising Future for Young Children and Families.”
- Child Care Aware
- Data USA 2017
- Early Learning Coalition of Santa Rosa County Child Care Needs Assessment Survey 2019
- FL Department of Children and Families Cares
- Florida Kids Count- 2018 FL Child Well Being Index
- Interview with Principal of Capstone Academy on 2.26.2019
- NAC- “The Growing Demand for Early Childhood Education”- <https://www.nacarchitecture.com/naclab/demand-for-ELC.aspx>;
- National Association for the Education of Young Children, “What are the benefits of high quality?”
- Santa Rosa County District Schools Head Start/Early Head Start Community Assessment June 2017
- Santa Rosa County Interagency Agreement for Children and Families Birth Through Kindergarten, July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019, *Facilitated by Florida’s Transition Project/ TATS*
- Special Health Care Needs Resource Guide for Florida, Updated July 2018;

- U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics-2017
- U. S. Census 2017 estimates
- University of Florida Family Data Center Profile 2016;
- Wikipedia, Santa Rosa County

## Demographic Review of Santa Rosa County:

Santa Rosa County is in northwest Florida and is bordered by Alabama to the north, the Gulf of Mexico to the south, Escambia County to the west and Okaloosa County to the east. As of 2017 estimates, the population was 174,272. The county seat is Milton, which lies in the geographic center of the county. The largest communities are Navarre, Pace, and Gulf Breeze. Interstate 10 allows for easy commute for people who work outside of the county. (Wikipedia, 2017)

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 1,174 square miles of which 1,012 is land and 162 is water. Santa Rosa County can be divided into three distinct sections: North Santa Rosa, Central Santa Rosa, and South Santa Rosa.



North Santa Rosa County consists of forest and farming country. Many small communities can be found in the north end of the county, but the Town of Jay is the only incorporated area. Most development has occurred along State Road 4 which runs through the northern sections of Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties. A large oil and natural gas field around Jay produced a great deal of oil and turned many farmers into millionaires in the 1970s and 1980s, but the field has been greatly depleted and is producing little oil today. The citizens have, for the most part, returned to farming and forestry for their livelihoods. (Wikipedia, 2017)

Central Santa Rosa County is the area north of the bays and south of the extensive forests separating it from North Santa Rosa. The central section developed along "The Old Spanish Trail" that ran from St. Augustine on the Atlantic Ocean all the way to New Orleans, and points further west. Today, U.S. Highway 90 closely parallels the old trail. The City of Milton is located where the trail crossed the Blackwater River. Naval Air Station Whiting Field, located in Milton, provides for the training of Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and international student aviators. (Wikipedia, 2017)

To the east of Milton is the small community of Harold. To the west is the unincorporated community of Pace. Pace has experienced exponential growth, and has evolved from a small, rural community into a thriving suburb of Pensacola. Known for having a low crime rate, high

performing schools, and a fast-growing economy, Pace has experienced a large increase of population. From 2000 to 2010, the Pace CDP population growth percentage was 171.1%.

South Santa Rosa County comprises the area from the unincorporated areas of Holley and Navarre in the east to Midway in the center and the City of Gulf Breeze at the western end of the Fairpoint Peninsula, and along U.S. Highway 98. A section of Santa Rosa Island, containing the unincorporated community of Navarre Beach, is also part of South Santa Rosa County. Major bodies of water, including Santa Rosa Sound, Pensacola Bay and East Bay strongly influence the housing and life style of citizens in the southern part of the county. The area has small town character and the beaches support a tourism economy. Tourists are drawn to the beautiful beaches and fishing destinations. (Wikipedia, 2017)

**Santa Rosa County Educational and Social Quick Facts:**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Data</u>	<u>Source</u>
Population	174,272	Wikipedia & US Census-2017/2018 Estimates- American Community Survey <a href="https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/santarosacountyflorida">https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/santarosacountyflorida</a>
Persons under 5 years	5.7%	US Census-2017/2018 Estimates- American Community Survey <a href="https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/santarosacountyflorida">https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/santarosacountyflorida</a>
Persons with high school graduate or higher	90.7%	US Census-2017/2018 Estimates- American Community Survey <a href="https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/santarosacountyflorida">https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/santarosacountyflorida</a>
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years	11.1%	US Census-2017/2018 Estimates- American Community Survey <a href="https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/santarosacountyflorida">https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/santarosacountyflorida</a>
Median Income	\$60,652	Data USA-profile Santa Rosa, 2017 <a href="https://datausa.io/profile/geo/santa-rosa-county-fl/">https://datausa.io/profile/geo/santa-rosa-county-fl/</a>
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	Florida Kids Count- <i>The 2018 Child Well-being Index</i>
Preschool Teacher Wages Comparison National/Escambia/Santa Rosa	\$13.94 (N) \$10.95 (E) \$9.64 (SR)	US Bureau of Labor Statistics- Preschool Teachers- May 2017 <a href="https://data.bls.gov">https://data.bls.gov</a>

Persons in Poverty	10.2%	US Census-2017/2018 Estimates- American Community Survey <a href="https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/santarosacountyflorida">https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/santarosacountyflorida</a>
Children under Six in living in Poverty	5,560	Florida Kids Count- <i>The 2018 Child Well-being Index</i>
Children Under Six not attending school- 2012-2016	2,453	Florida Kids Count- <i>The 2018 Child Well-being Index</i>
At-risk (abuse or neglect) School Readiness Children	20.4%	Early Learning Coalition Database

## Program Quality

Research shows that in the first five years of life, approximately 90% of a child’s brain development is complete (Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, 2016). Fundamental areas of child development during this crucial time include development of senses, development of language/communication skills, and development of social and emotional skills; however, not all early learning environments are created equal.

Quality is defined as a degree of excellence. The need for quality early education is a priority for all families to ensure children are prepared for school and life. According to the “NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development,” low-quality care in the early years can have a long-lasting impact on a child’s learning and behavior. Specifically, the study found that obedience and academic problems among those who received low-quality care in their first 4 1/2 years of life persisted through their 15th birthdays, suggesting the potential for lifelong difficulties. (NICHD, 2010).

Parents needing early education programs outside the home should sense that the child care provider they choose will offer a safe and stimulating, loving environment in which their child will mentally and physically thrive. Regarding quality settings, the National Association for the Education of Young Children recommends parents look for:

- Settings that are safe and provide small group sizes and adult-to-child ratios encouraging the best opportunities for development;
- Caregivers or teachers who have experience and are trained in early childhood development;
- Settings that offer opportunities for meaningful parent involvement;
- Learning materials and teaching styles that are age-appropriate and respectful of children’s cultural and ethnic heritage;
- learning opportunities that promote the child’s future success in school.

(NAEYC, adapted from “What are the benefits of high quality?”)

## Child Care Availability:

Santa Rosa County is underserved for parents needing child care. There are only 18 contracted homes and centers that offer School Readiness infant care with a total capacity of 115. Currently there are 156 infants on provider waitlists with only one opening. While some of the names on the waitlists might be duplicates, capacity for infants is well under what is needed to meet the demand. There are no child care facilities contracted in the unincorporated communities of Allentown, Chumuckla, Harold, Munson, and Pace and only one School Readiness provider in the Town of Jay.

Some providers from these communities who previously contracted with the Coalition have cited increased governmental regulations in both School Readiness and VPK contracts as reasons for not renewing their contracts. Coalition staff continue to try to recruit legally operating providers not currently under contract.

## School Readiness/VPK Early Learning Programs (# of facilities)

Programs Offered:	FCCH-North of I-10	FCCH-South of I-10	Child Care Facilities-North of I-10	Child Care Facilities- South of I-10
Infant Child Care	6	2	5	6
Toddler Child Care	6	2	8	8
Twos Child Care	6	2	9	8
Threes Child Care	6	2	10	10
Fours Child Care	5	2	10	10
After School Care	2	2	12	4
VPK Program	1	0	10	17
Special Needs	0	0	1	0
Respite Child Care	0	0	0	0
Transportation Svcs. *	0	0	5	4

\*School District sites provide transportation but are not included in this chart.

Source: Provider Listing Search through CCR&R OEL Provider Portal

## Coalition Contracted Early Learning Programs

**School Readiness:** School Readiness offers qualified parents financial assistance for child care with contracted child care facilities in our local area. The Coalition currently contracts with 8 family child care homes, 31 child care facilities, and 15 public school sites.

**Voluntary Prekindergarten:** VPK is a free program for all children living in Florida who turn 4 years old on or before September 1 of the current school year. If their fourth birthday falls February 2 through September 1 in a calendar year, parents may choose to postpone enrolling their child in VPK that year and wait until the following year when their child is 5. Children may not also be participating in the Gardiner Scholarship Program. According to the 2018 VPK Estimating Conference only 59.5% of the eligible children in Santa Rosa attended VPK in 2017-18. The Coalition currently contracts with one family child care home and 27 child care facilities along with nine Santa Rosa County School locations.

### Total Children Served by School Readiness/VPK Early Learning Program Type

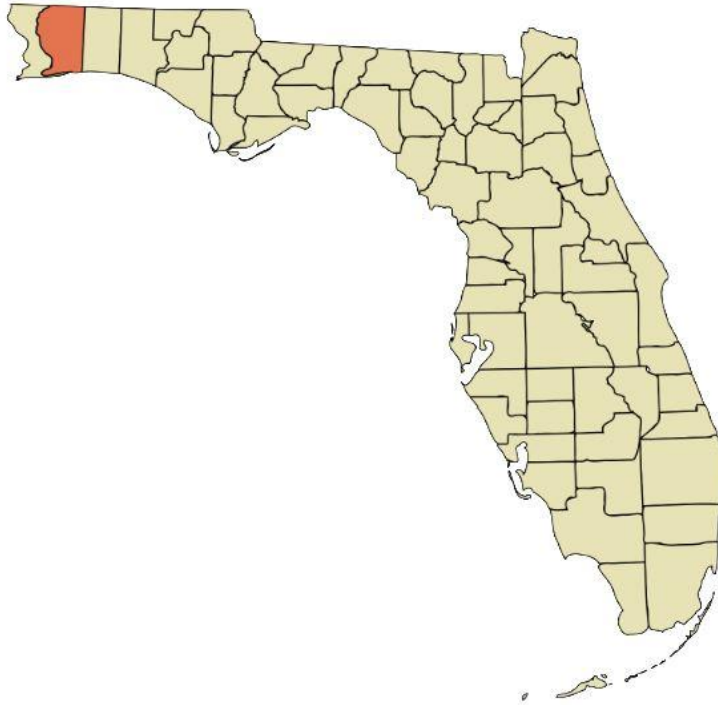
Provider Name	Total	SR	VPK
Baby Stars Kinderworld Inc	11	11	0
Beginning Our Future Learning	159	128	31
Berryhill Afterschool and Summer Camp	50	50	0
Berryhill Child Care	145	56	89
Capstone Academy	25	13	12
Capstone Milton Child Care Center	48	38	10
Carolyn Faison Family Day Care Home	16	16	0
Childcare Network Jet (FWB) #142	2	2	0
Childcare Network Navarre #151	80	36	44
Childcare Network Oriole Beach #150	80	59	21
Children's Center	2	2	0
Children's Place Preschool	68	0	68
Coastline Preschool	5	0	5
Community Life Preschool	34	0	34
Creative Genes Academy	93	93	0
Curious Apples	125	25	100
Daffraneeze Riley Large Family Child Care	38	32	6
Debra Willis Family Day Care Home	6	6	0
Deliverance Tabernacle Child Development	165	156	9

<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>VPK</b>
Duck Duck Kids	21	0	21
Glover Lane Learning Center	53	38	15
Good Shepherd Lutheran School	38	3	35
Grow with Us Learning Academy li	5	5	0
Holt Academy Inc	7	7	0
In His Arms Christian Academy	5	5	0
Kahren Family Day Care Home	8	8	0
Kids Discovery Gulf Breeze #5	116	61	55
Kids Discovery Mary Esther #2	27	27	0
Kids Discovery Milton #6	335	198	137
Kids Klub Learning Center	18	18	0
Kidz Academy North Kampus LLC	3	3	0
Klein Family Day Care Home	7	7	0
Knowledge Kollege II	11	0	11
Lighthouse Private Christian Academy Inc	20	0	20
Little Red School House	13	13	0
Little Warriors Preschool	25	1	24
Nanny's New Beginnings Childcare, LLC	57	32	25
Navarre United Methodist Preschool	75	0	75
Pace Christian Academy	4	4	0
Paradise Child Development Center Inc	51	51	0
Presley Family Day Care Home	7	7	0
Providence Early Learning Center	2	2	0
Pullum YMCA Child Care	35	14	21
Rushing Family Child Care Home	17	17	0
Seaside Child Development Center	18	18	0
Smith Large Family Child Care Home	9	9	0
SRCDS - Bagdad Elementary VPK	19	0	19
SRCDS - Berryhill Elementary VPK	22	0	22
SRCDS - Central School VPK	17	0	17



<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>VPK</b>
SRCDS - East Milton Elementary VPK	28	0	28
SRCDS - Holley Navarre Primary VPK	5	0	5
SRCDS - Jay Elementary VPK	20	0	20
SRCDS - Pea Ridge Elementary VPK	20	0	20
SRCDS - T R Jackson VPK	96	0	96
SRCDS - West Navarre Primary VPK	20	0	20
SRCS - Bagdad / North	20	20	0
SRCS - Bennett Russell / North	13	13	0
SRCS - Berryhill / North	12	12	0
SRCS - East Milton / North	10	10	0
SRCS - Gulf Breeze / South	9	9	0
SRCS - Gulf Breeze Community Preschool	25	0	25
SRCS - Holley Navarre Intermediate / South	4	4	0
SRCS - Holley Navarre Primary / South	18	18	0
SRCS - Oriole Beach / South	16	16	0
SRCS - Pea Ridge / North	10	10	0
SRCS - Rhodes / North	30	30	0
SRCS - S. S. Dixon Intermediate / North	10	10	0
SRCS - S. S. Dixon Primary / North	14	14	0
SRCS - T. R. Jackson / North	13	13	0
SRCS - West Navarre Intermediate/ South	3	3	0
SRCS - West Navarre Primary / South	9	9	0
St Ann Discovery School	30	0	30
St Paul Methodist Church Preschool	43	0	43
The Gingerbread House Child Care Center	33	27	6
The Wright Day Care Center	3	3	0
Training Wheels Academy	31	23	8
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2742</b>	<b>1515</b>	<b>1227</b>

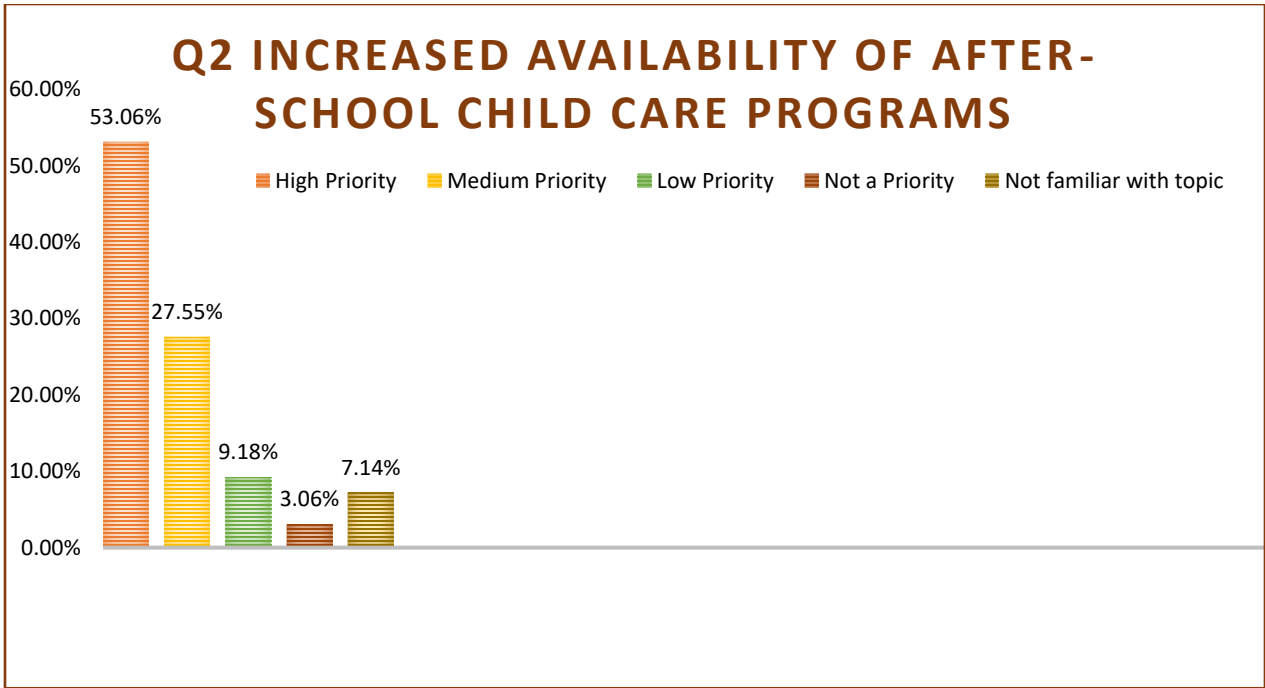
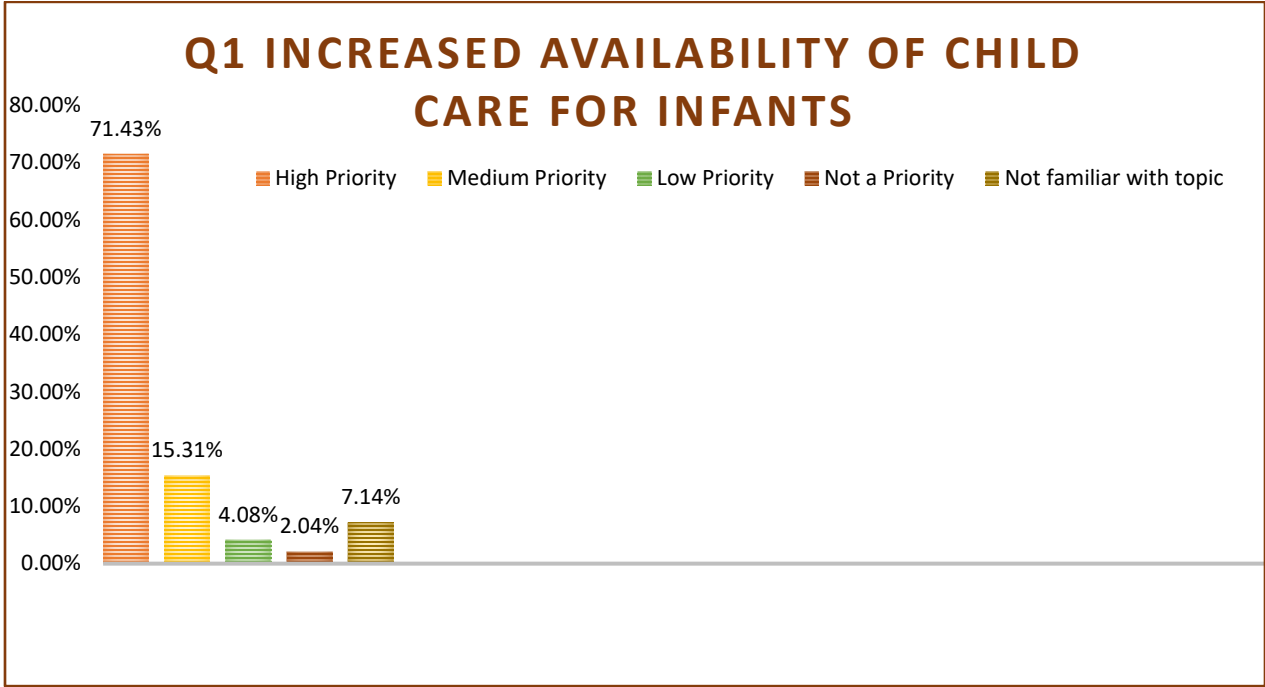
Source: Consolidated Database as of June 2018.

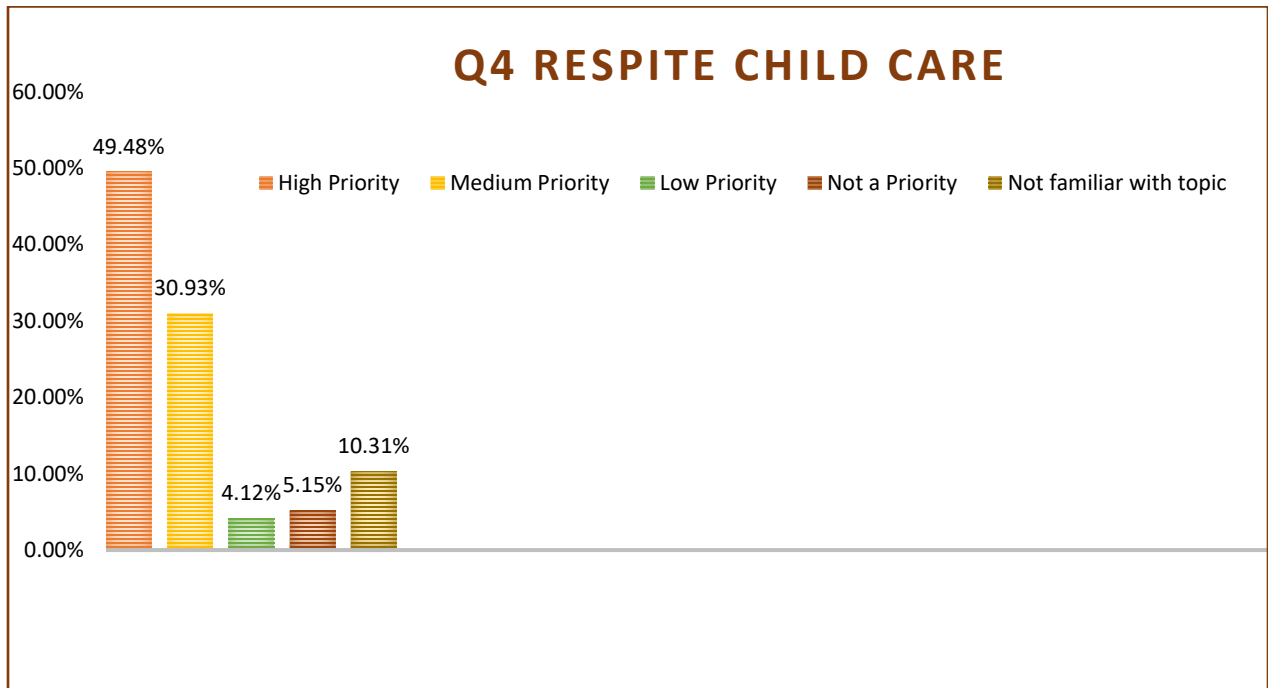
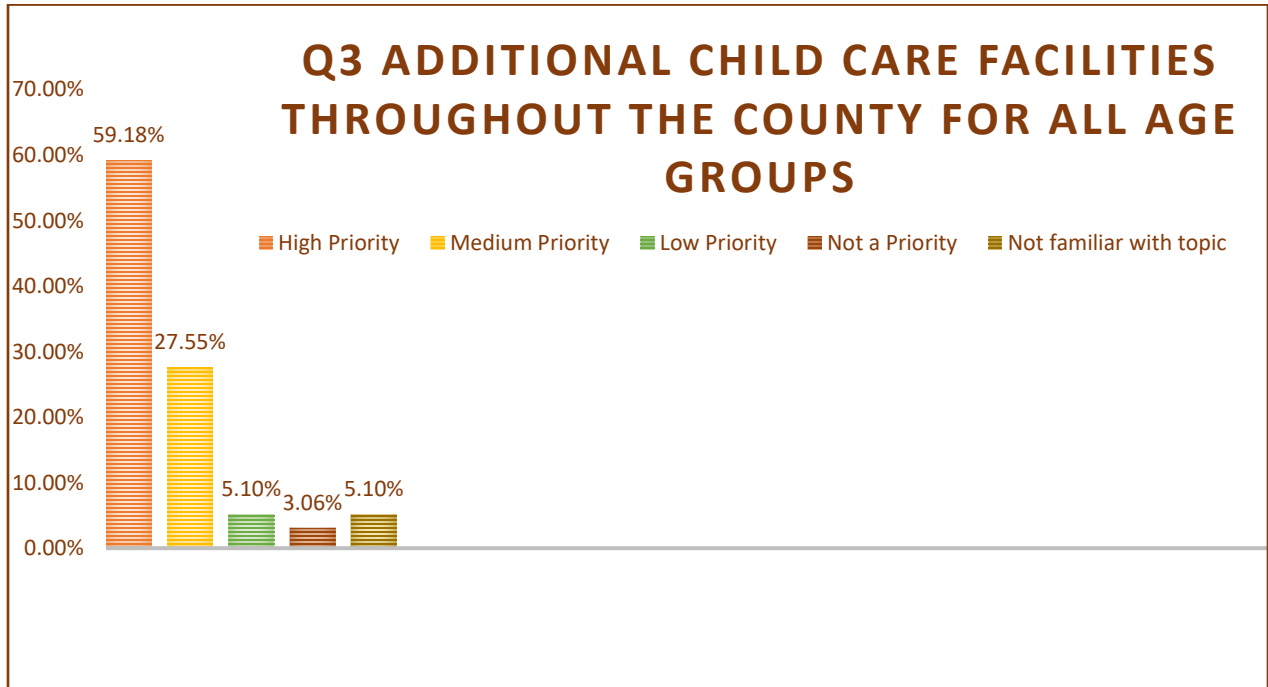


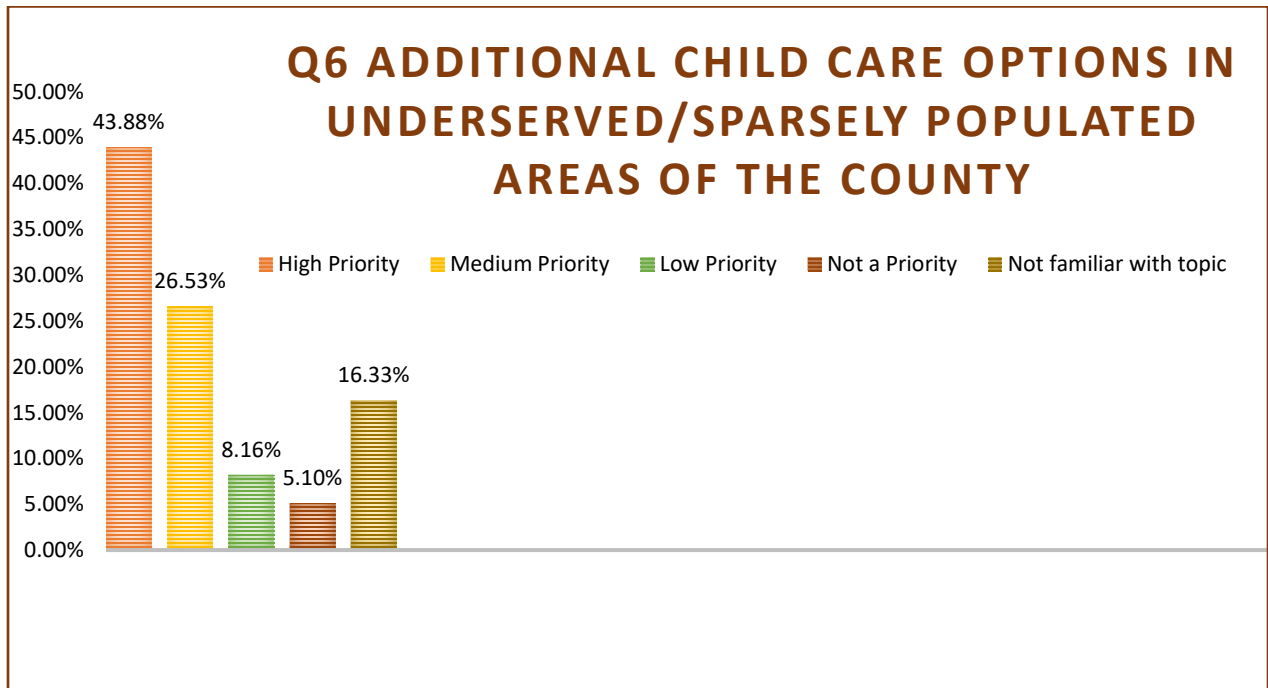
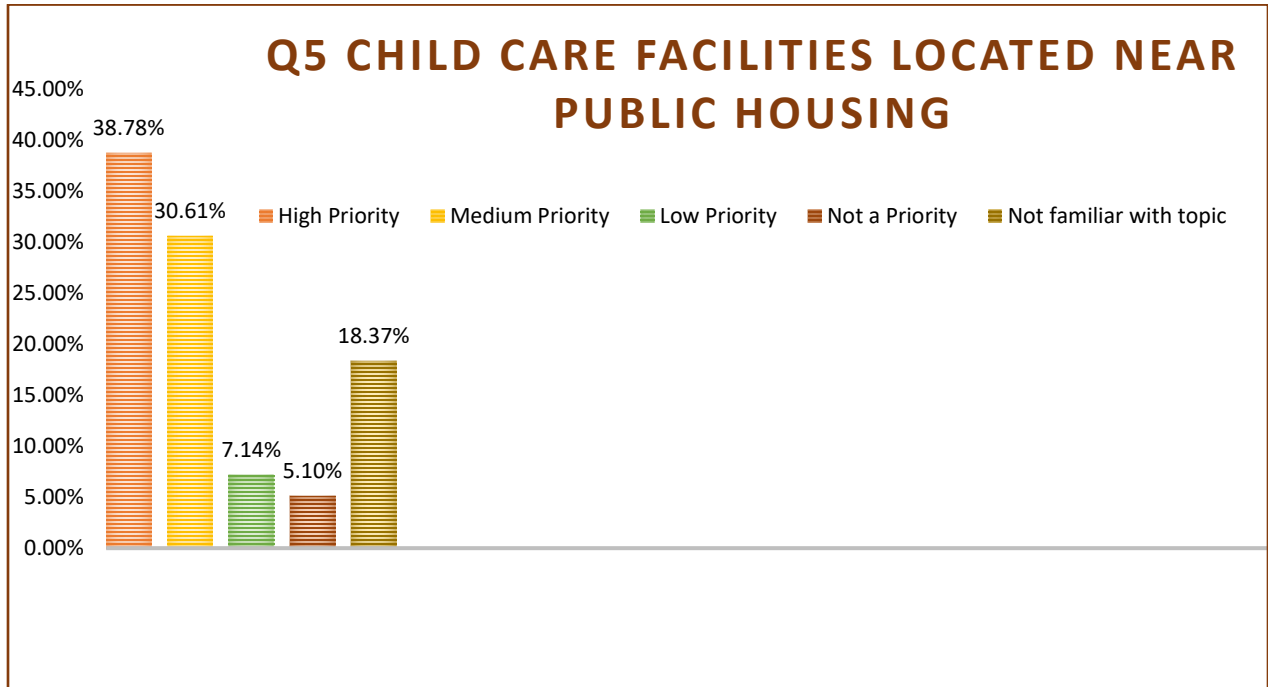
## **2019 Santa Rosa County Early Learning Coalition Early Education Needs Assessment Survey Results**

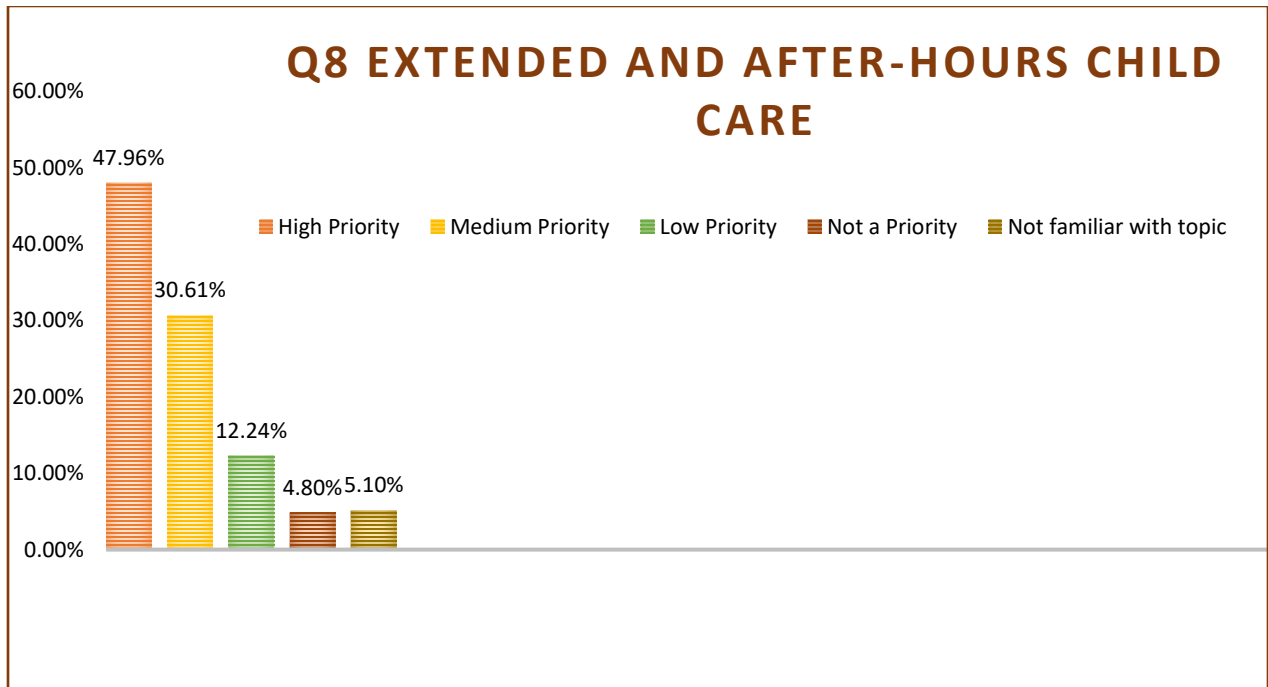
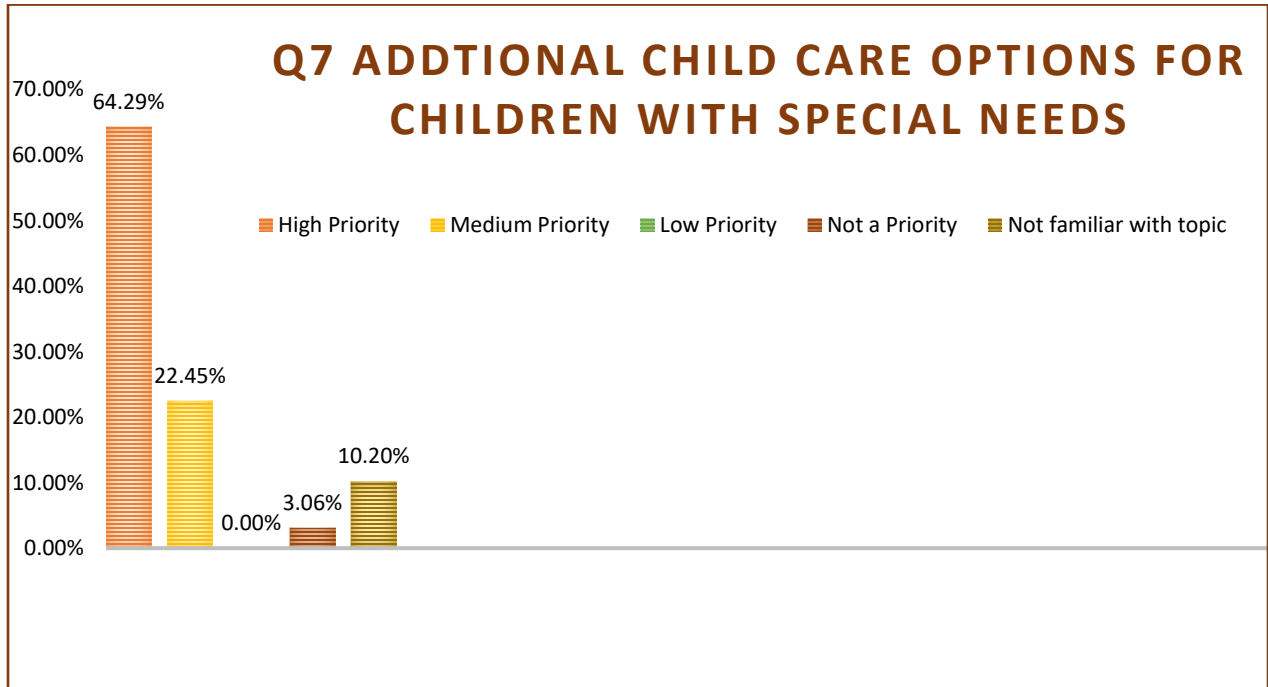
A survey of 16 questions with 98 respondents was completed in 2019. Surveys were available to respondents via email, weblink, and paper. Fourteen questions were related to specific early education topics while Question 15 offered respondents the option of listing their top priority but was not required. Question 16 requested information describing the respondent's role in the community and answers in this section allowed for multiple selections. Upon reviewing Question 16, we were able to determine that surveys were completed by parents/guardians, child care directors, health care providers, community partners, private sector business owners, pastors, elected officials, and college students. A copy of the Santa Rosa Early Education Needs Assessment Survey 2019 document is included as Appendix A. Responses to Questions 15 and 16 are included as Appendix B.

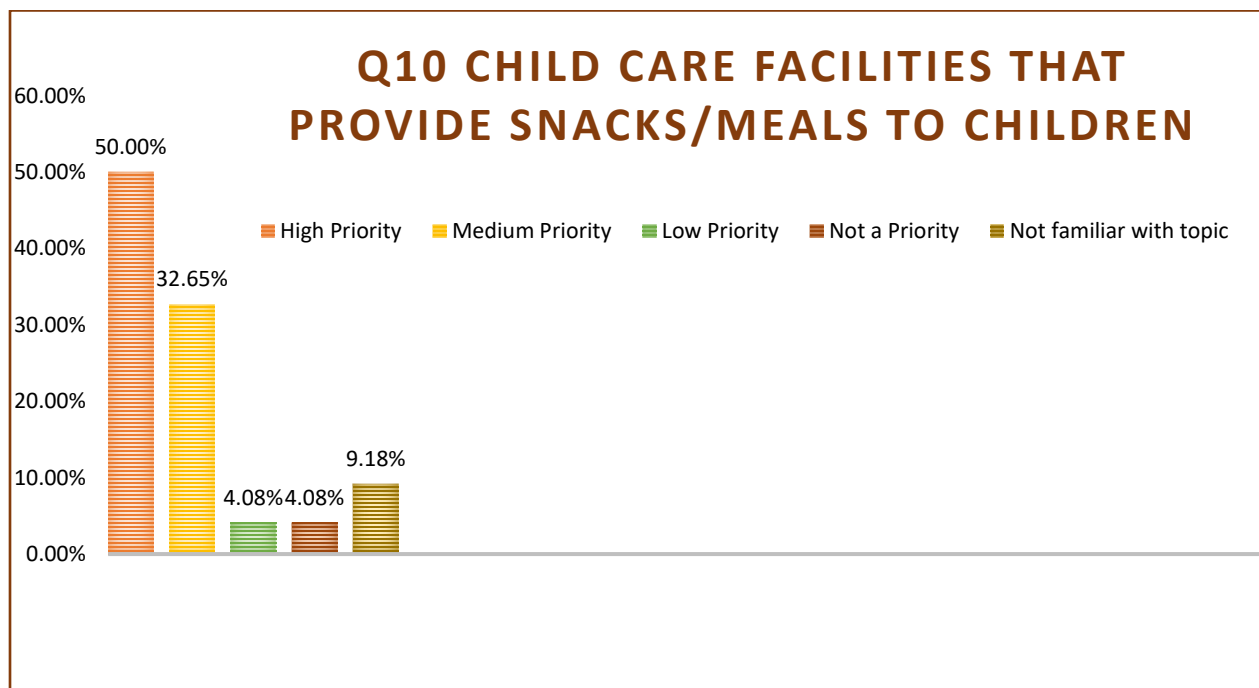
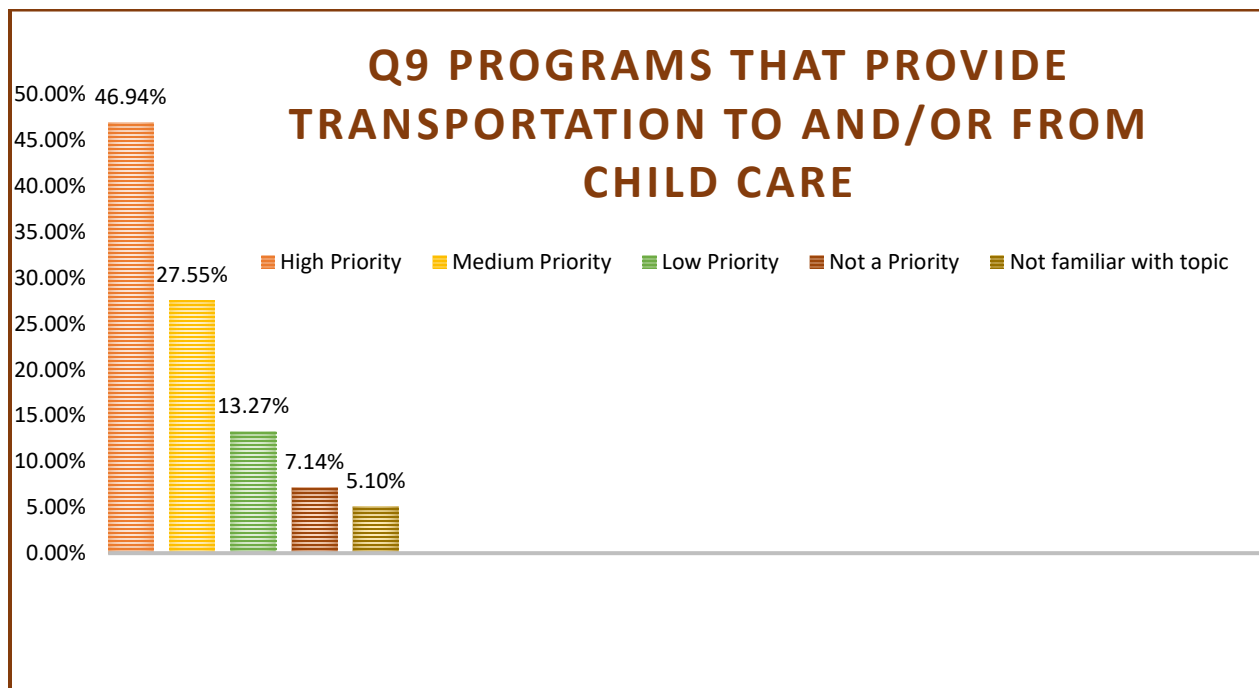
The column charts below represent the actual responses to 14 questions specifically related to early education topics. Each topic listed below resulted in 2/3 of respondents selecting all areas surveyed as either a medium or high priority concern for Santa Rosa County.

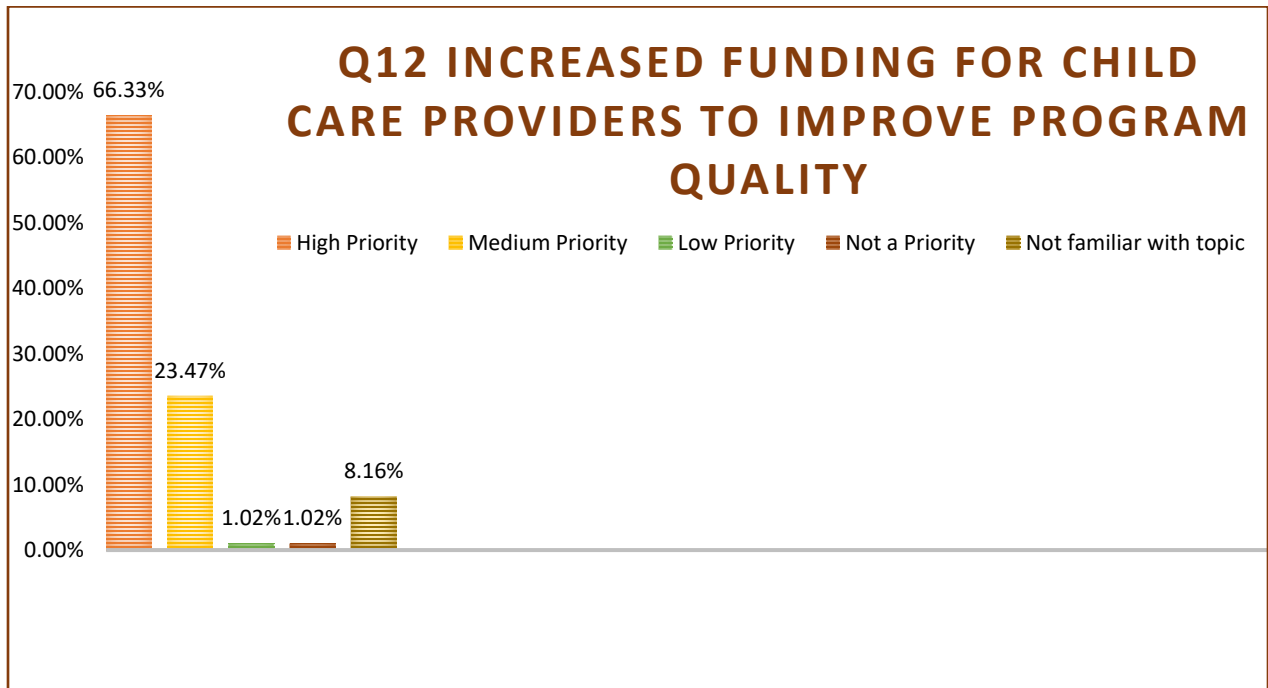
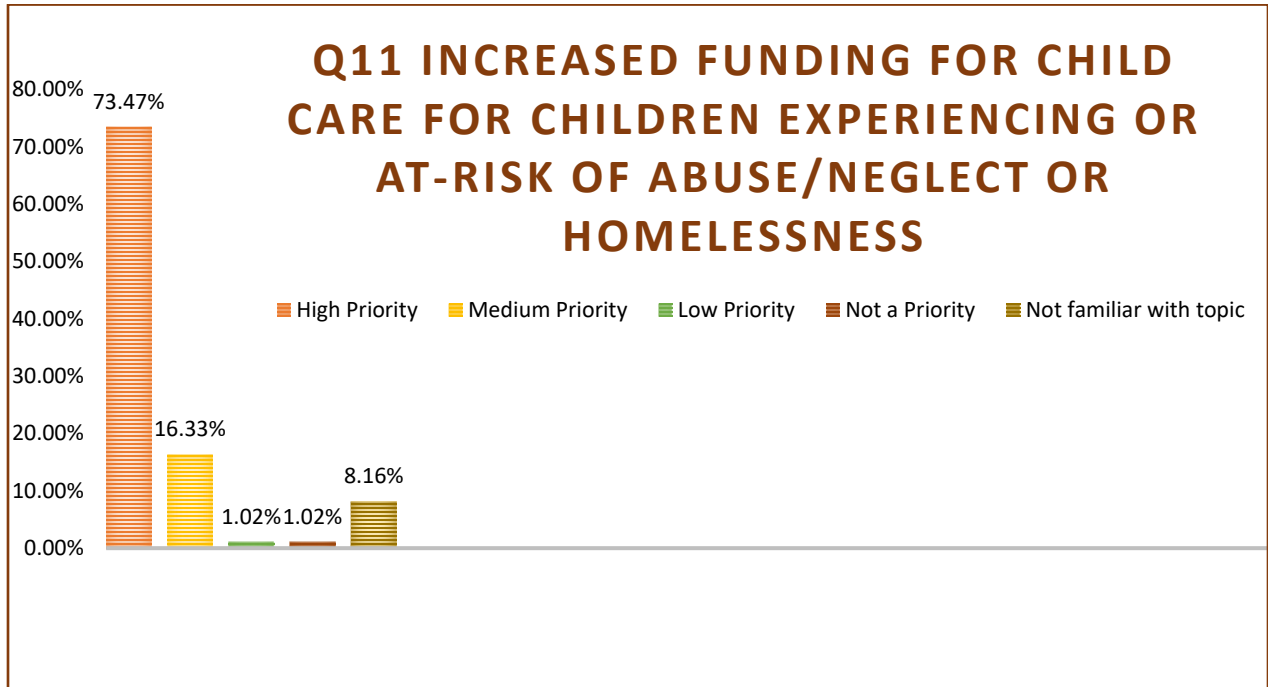




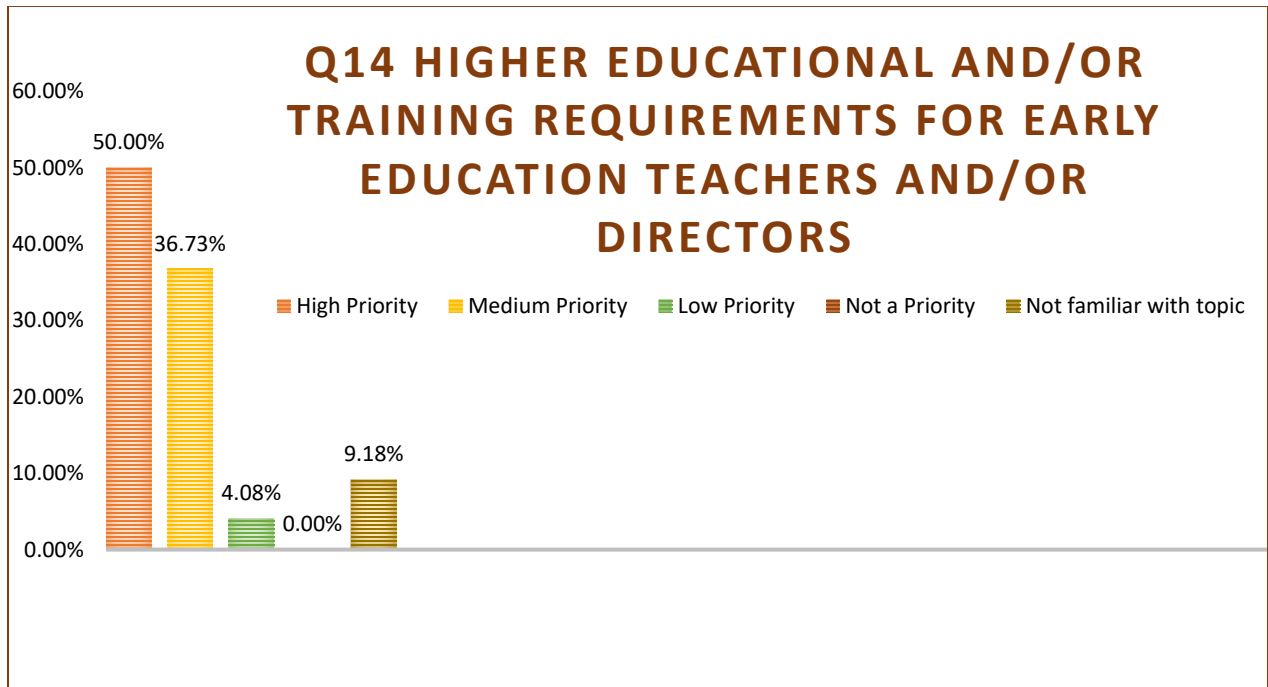
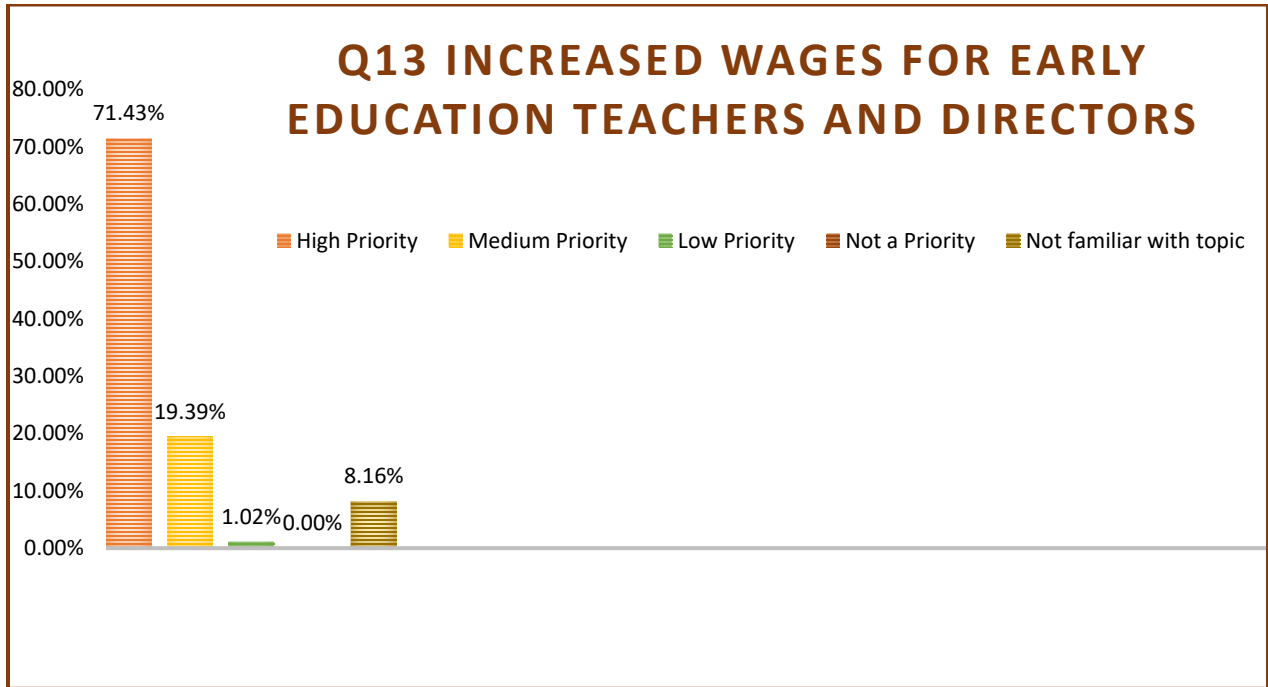












## **Key Priorities and Findings of the Needs Assessment Survey:**

The Early Learning Coalition of Santa Rosa has a continued need for School Readiness services and other related services and programs. The needs assessment demonstrates an overall deficit of available child care homes and facilities to meet the needs of the families in our area. In the comments section, many respondents commented on the need for more facilities in Santa Rosa County. This has been an ongoing issue--clients are coming off the wait list and are approved for School Readiness financial assistance but cannot locate facilities and homes with openings for their children.

There are specific deficits in the availability of infant child care, afterschool and/or extended hours child care, child care in underserved or sparsely populated areas of the county and child care for children with special needs. While the Coalition is currently contracted with homes and centers that provide some or all of these services, the need greatly outweighs what is available. These services are offered at specific centers, homes and areas of the county, without widespread availability. This has created a huge gap in services where all children do not have equal access to the programs so desperately needed in our county.

Transportation to and from child care facilities is another major issue for parents, and while some centers provide this service, most do not. Tri-County Community Action Agency does offer transportation in Santa Rosa County but is extremely limited and not offered to children without the presence of an adult on board. Most adult/child transportation would be to and from medical facilities. In actuality there is no public transportation to and from child care facilities in Santa Rosa County.

The Survey shows a need for overall program quality improvement and increased wages for teachers and directors. Graphs also show priorities for higher educational standards and training for teachers and directors, along with the need for respite child care services, which is not currently available but has not been specifically requested by families in our area.

According to survey respondents, the highest priority indicated is the need for increased child care funding for children who are at-risk of abuse/neglect or are experiencing homelessness. The Coalition currently expends approximately 20% of School Readiness funding for its at-risk population and never places younger at-risk children on the waitlist. Although the Coalition currently does not have a waitlist, in the past due to funding constraints, children falling into older at-risk categories have been placed on the waitlist for School Readiness financial assistance.

Based on the Needs Assessment findings, at this time the Coalition is not requesting a revision to its Eligibility Priorities. The Coalition Board believes the eligibility priorities currently in place are satisfactory and at the time the survey was completed, the Coalition had no waitlist. The Board may choose to revisit the priorities should they feel the eligibility priorities are not sufficient to meet the child care assistance requests of clients we serve.

In summary, the greatest unmet need in early education in Santa Rosa County clearly is the issue of capacity--simply not having enough slots for children of all ages. Coalition staff continue to

reach out to providers currently not under contract and new providers in the county and offer the option of providing school readiness services to these families in need.

## Resources for Families and Providers

- **211 Services:** A 24-hour call center connecting individuals and families in need to the appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies for assistance. Provides referrals to food, housing, employment, healthcare and more.
- **90Works:** Case management services designed to help families overcome homelessness, poverty and family violence by becoming self-sufficient. Programs are geared to promote safety, stability and support in order to move families from being in crisis and vulnerable. Each program has specific eligibility requirements. 855-909-6757
- **Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD):** Serves individuals by providing and coordinating supports and services based upon individual need. Limited to Florida residents with confirmed diagnosis of Autism, Cerebral Palsy (CP), Down Syndrome, Intellectual Disabilities, Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, Prader-Willi Syndrome and/or Spina Bifida. 850-922-9831
- **ARC of the Emerald Coast:** ARC provides services that can begin at birth with early intervention and may continue throughout an individual's life with programs such as day and vocational programs, community-based employment services, personal care, respite, community inclusion, supported living, residential group homes and retirement services. 850-623-9320.
- **Baptist Health Care Speech and Hearing:** Serves people with speaking difficulties. Certified speech pathologists treat a wide range of disorders for people of all ages—from newborns to adults. 850-434-4957
- **Bloom Spark:** Provides Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy to children, adolescents, and teens diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other related disabilities. In-Home ABA services available in Santa Rosa. 850.290.2356 info@bloomspark.com www.bloomspark.com
- **Capstone Adaptive Learning & Therapy Centers:** Serving the Escambia and Santa Rosa counties as an affiliate of United Cerebral Palsy of NW Florida. Capstone Milton Child Care Center 850.983.5315; Capstone Academy 850.626.3091; www.capstonelearning.org
- **CareerSource Escarosa:** Supports the workforce needs of Santa Rosa County. 850-983-5325
- **Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD):** Provides individuals with Autism or related disabilities, their families, and professionals who work with them with free consultation, resources, and educational support to build knowledge, infrastructure, sustainability, and capacity within the community. 850-324-6245
- **Children's Home Society:** A community-based, voluntary home visiting program for pregnant mothers or mothers of a child less than three months of age, designed to promote positive parent/child interaction and healthy childhood growth and development, thereby preventing child abuse and neglect. Services may be available for up to five years. 850-266-2700
- **Children's Medical Services:** A federal and state funded program through the Florida Department of Health serving financially eligible children birth to 21 with special healthcare needs. CMS provides care coordination for children with long-term chronic medical conditions. 850-484-5040, Ext. 1272
- **Department of Children and Families:** State agency mandated by Florida Statute 409 to provide social and economic services.
  - Child Care Licensing: accountable for the statewide licensure of Florida's child care facilities, specialized child care facilities for the care of mildly ill children, large family child care homes

and licensure or registration of family day care homes to ensure a healthy and safe environment for the children in child care settings and to improve the quality of their care through regulation and consultation. 850-483-6728

- Child Protective Investigations (CPI): All reported allegations of abuse, neglect and/or abandonment are investigated by Child Protective Investigations. 850-483-6672
  - Automated Community Connection to Economic Self-Sufficiency (ACCESS): The Department of Children and Family Services Program that provides Food Stamps, Medicaid and financial assistance to eligible families. Eligibility for ACCESS- Families and individuals whose income and assets are within established State and Federal Guidelines. <http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/>
  - The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)-DCF receives referrals regarding children under the age of five who are involved in verified cases of child abuse or neglect to early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA
- **Division of Blind Services:** Children & Families Program (CFP), under the State of Florida Department of Education, facilitates the participation of children who are blind or visually impaired within the family, community, and educational settings. Assists people of all ages. 850-484-5122.
  - **Early Head Start** (See Santa Rosa County School District)
  - **Early Steps:** Includes Early Steps Early Intervention Services, a family focused, multi-disciplinary, community-based program, pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It provides a comprehensive system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers in Santa Rosa County with a developmental delay or an established condition, and their families. Services are provided in the child's natural environment. 850-416-7348
  - **East Hill Academy:** A private non-profit organization providing educational services to children with Autism and other related disorders. Provides services for children in Grades 1 to 12; [learn@easthillacademy.com](mailto:learn@easthillacademy.com)
  - **Families First Network:** Child protection division of Lakeview Center, Inc., under contract with the Department of Children & Families as the Circuit 1 Lead Agency for Community Based Care. Services and include in-home protective supervision, out of home care (relative/non-relative and foster care), adoptions, case management, court facilitation, foster home licensing, and a variety of child/family supports to include safety management through members of the sub-provider Network. 850-983-5520
  - **Family Resource Program:** A local agency assisting Santa Rosa County families with food and clothing. 850-626-2054
  - **FavorHouse of Northwest Florida:** The local domestic violence center serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Shelters and crisis lines are staffed 24 hours a day, year-round. Victims, their families and those who are assisting them may call for help at any time. 850-626-5600
  - **Florida Department of Health in Santa Rosa County:** 850-983-5200
    - **Healthy Start Care Coordination Unit:** Primary objective of addressing the prenatal and infant care needs of all pregnant women and infants up to age 3 who are at greater risk for poor outcomes in their pregnancy or during the first years of life. (direct services contracted by Healthy Start Coalition of Santa Rosa County, Inc. 850-626-6751)
    - **Women Infants and Children (WIC):** The Federal Supplemental Nutrition Program provides vouchers for free food to use at local grocery stores as well as nutrition and breastfeeding counseling for Women, Infants and Children under 5 years old.

- **Immunizations:** All child and adolescent immunizations in accordance with the Bureau of Immunizations Schedule and the Florida School Guidelines are available to eligible children ages 0-18 free of charge.
- **Dental:** All eligible children including those in Head Start have access to emergency care, cleanings, fluoride treatment, sealants, restorative (fillings), extractions and x-rays.
- **Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Emerald Coast (FDLRS)/Child Find:** Provides support services to district Exceptional Student Education (ESE) programs in four function areas: FDLRS/Child Find, Human Resource Development, Instructional Technology and Parent Services. FDLRS/Child Find assists in the location, identification, and evaluation of all children and youth birth through 21 years of age, with emphasis on children 3-5 years of age who have, or are at risk of, developing special or unique educational needs. FDLRS/Child Find will provide free developmental, speech, language, hearing and vision screenings to determine if a need exists for further evaluation. 850-469-5423
- **Florida Inclusion Network:** Collaborates with districts and schools to provide customized services and supports, ensuring all students with disabilities have equal educational, social, and future opportunities. [www.FloridaInclusionNetwork.com](http://www.FloridaInclusionNetwork.com)
- **Florida Kid Care:** Florida children from birth through the end of age 18 are eligible for insurance coverage. Applications are free and accepted year-round. Based on the age of the child, household size, and family income, each child is matched with the best option of the four Florida KidCare programs – Medicaid, MediKids, Florida Healthy Kids, or the Children’s Medical Services Managed Care Plan. <https://floridakidcare.org/> or 888-540-5437.
- **Florida’s Transition Project/TATS:** A system for Infants, Young Children and their Families assisting local communities to develop, improve or sustain a seamless system of transition among the agencies providing services to young children with disabilities, birth to six years of age, and their families. 850-345-9342
- **Hawkins Recreational Park:** Florida residents with disabilities and their families can enjoy Hawkins Recreational Park year-round and at no charge. 5550 Bubba Lane, Milton, FL 850-595-8351
- **Head Start** (See Santa Rosa County School District)
- **Healthy Families Santa Rosa and Walton:** Healthy Families is a nationally accredited home visiting program for expectant parents and parents of newborns experiencing stressful life situations. The program improves childhood outcomes and increases family self-sufficiency by empowering parents through education and community support. 850-983-5486
- **Interfaith Ministries:** Offers a variety of assistance to Santa Rosa residents including medical services through the Good Samaritan Clinic and Interfaith Ministries Thrift Shop, as well as financial assistance to eligible families.
- **Opening Doors Northwest Florida:** The local homeless Coalition coordinates service providers and promotes awareness of the needs of the homeless while providing resources to those in or at-risk of homelessness. 850-439-3009 x 110
- **Pensacola State College:** Offers A.A. and A.S. degrees in Early Childhood Education along with a variety of other tracks 850-484-2137
- **Santa Rosa Counseling Center:** A private practice focused on providing compassionate mental health care to children, adolescents, adults, and their families. 850-626-7779
- **Santa Rosa County School District:** The Local Education Agency (LEA) providing public education for young children birth to 5 years of ages in addition to elementary and secondary education. Pre-K programs office: T.R. Jackson Pre-K Center, 850-983-5720
  - **Exceptional Student Education Prekindergarten Program:** Provides students with special needs, ages 3 through 6 years, with educationally based services in all areas of development

to prepare them for kindergarten.

- **Early Head Start/Head Start:** The Early Head Start Program provides comprehensive, continuous, and early child development and family support services for children age 2 whose birthday falls on or before September 1 of the program year. The Head Start Program provides comprehensive, continuous, and early child development and family support services for children age 3 through age 4, whose birthday falls on or before September 1 of the program year.
- **Santa Rosa Bridges, Inc:** Offers Getting Ahead classes based on the *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World* book with a 16-session curriculum that helps individuals in poverty build their resources for a more prosperous life for themselves, their families, and their communities.  
<https://www.facebook.com/SRCBridges>
- **Santa Rosa Kid's House:** Provides multi-disciplined services for treatment and prevention of child abuse in an environment that puts the needs of the child first. 850-623-1112
- **Special Olympics Florida:** Provides year-round sports training and competition to children and adults 8 years of age and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities. 850-291-6234
- **Spectrum House Autism Center:** Provides comprehensive behavioral and educational services to individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other related disabilities.  
[www.spectrumhouse.org](http://www.spectrumhouse.org)
- **Tri-County Community Council:** A Community Action Agency administering the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program and services through Community Development Block Grant funding including self-sufficiency, transportation, education, supportive services, youth development, emergency assistance, and a food pantry.