

Think Child Care



Children's Council of San Francisco
2009 Annual Report

Think Leadership



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Think Generosity



Children's Council Programs Were Made Possible by These Donors:

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Think Child Care



Linnea Klee, Ph.D.,
Executive Director

Children's Council
of San Francisco

In 2009, we all thought about economic recovery. Leading economists and the 2009 Federal Stimulus Bill called child care “a vital infrastructure element.”¹ Child care contributes to the economy because it allows parents to work, supports child care businesses and their employees, and educates the next generation workforce.

Parents, child care providers, administrators, planners, policymakers, funders and government officials all work together to sustain the programs that comprise the child care infrastructure.

The continuing needs are clear. In San Francisco 42% of children are in low income families eligible for child care subsidies.² There are currently 4,400 eligible children actively waiting on the subsidy waiting list, known as the Centralized Eligibility List. This is over 80% of the number of children aged 0-5 who live in poverty in San Francisco. Most of these children will never receive a subsidy.^{2,3}

Further, we know that only 49% of children whose parents are working in San Francisco can find licensed child care.⁴ The rest must rely on family

and friends to care for their children. Over 60% of requests to the Child Care Resource & Referral agencies are for infant/toddler care, which is the least likely to be available. 95% of parents need full-time child care.⁴

With the recession, we are at risk of seriously worsening this situation. Parents are finding it harder to pay for child care; low income families are losing their jobs, and their child care subsidies. Child care programs have gone out of business or are teetering on the brink.

In 2010, we at Children's Council pledge once again to help all parents and children receive the child care they need. Our mission is to help children grow, families work, and San Francisco prosper.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linnea Klee".

Linnea Klee

¹Warner, Mildred. 2009. *Child Care Multipliers: Stimulus for the States*. Cornell University, Linking Economic Development and Child Care Research Project. www.economicdevelopment.cce.cornell.edu.

²2007 *San Francisco Child Care Needs Assessment*. San Francisco Child Care Planning and Advisory Council.

³Children's Council of San Francisco, December 2009.

⁴California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. The 2009 Child Care Portfolio. San Francisco County.

Think Resources and Referrals



Helping Families Locate Licensed Child Care and Other Resources

In 2009, with your support, Children's Council:

- Assisted **1,894 families** with finding child care resources
- Provided **12,967 families** with referrals to community resources including health care, housing, and employment
- Featured **781 licensed family child care providers and child care centers** in its database
- Partnered with the San Francisco Deputy Sheriffs' Foundation to provide a holiday shopping spree for **107 low-income children** as part of the Shop with a Deputy Sheriff Program
- Educated parents, providers, and school and nonprofit employees about child care options at **12 Choosing Child Care workshops** and **11 community outreach events** at sites including the Family Summer Resource Fair, The Multicultural Childcare Consortium, Telegraph Hill Resource Fair, Preschool Preview Night, and City College of San Francisco Family Resource Fair.

In 2009, Children's Council continued to work toward accreditation by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) Quality Assurance program, a national certification program for the field. Staff attended best practices training, participated in outcome-based planning, developed agency evaluation procedures, and used NACCRRA Quality Assurance Indicators to develop Children's Council's strategic plan.

The **Resource and Referral (R&R)** services at Children's Council connect families with licensed child care providers. Staff create customized lists of available providers based on family preferences, and give families expert advice on interviewing and selecting providers. Resources and referrals are available:

- In person, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- By phone at 415.343.3300
- By email at rr@childrenscouncil.org

Think Access to Care



Providing Child Care Subsidies to Eligible Families

In 2009, with your support, Children's Council:

- Provided child care subsidies for **5,440 children**, allowing eligible parents to defray all or part of their child care costs
- Enrolled almost **2,400 children** in subsidized care programs through the San Francisco Centralized Eligibility List (SFCEL)
- Entered **3,600 new child applications** into the SFCEL system
- Streamlined the SFCEL subsidy application process by allowing families to select the neighborhoods where they would like child care, reducing the length of the application, and making it easier for child care providers to connect with subsidy-eligible families
- Disbursed subsidies for **112 children** whose providers participate in food and nutrition programs
- Facilitated on-site training for **56 licensed family child care providers** participating in food and nutrition programs
- Acted as the fiscal agent for funds disbursed to **47 Preschool for All providers**

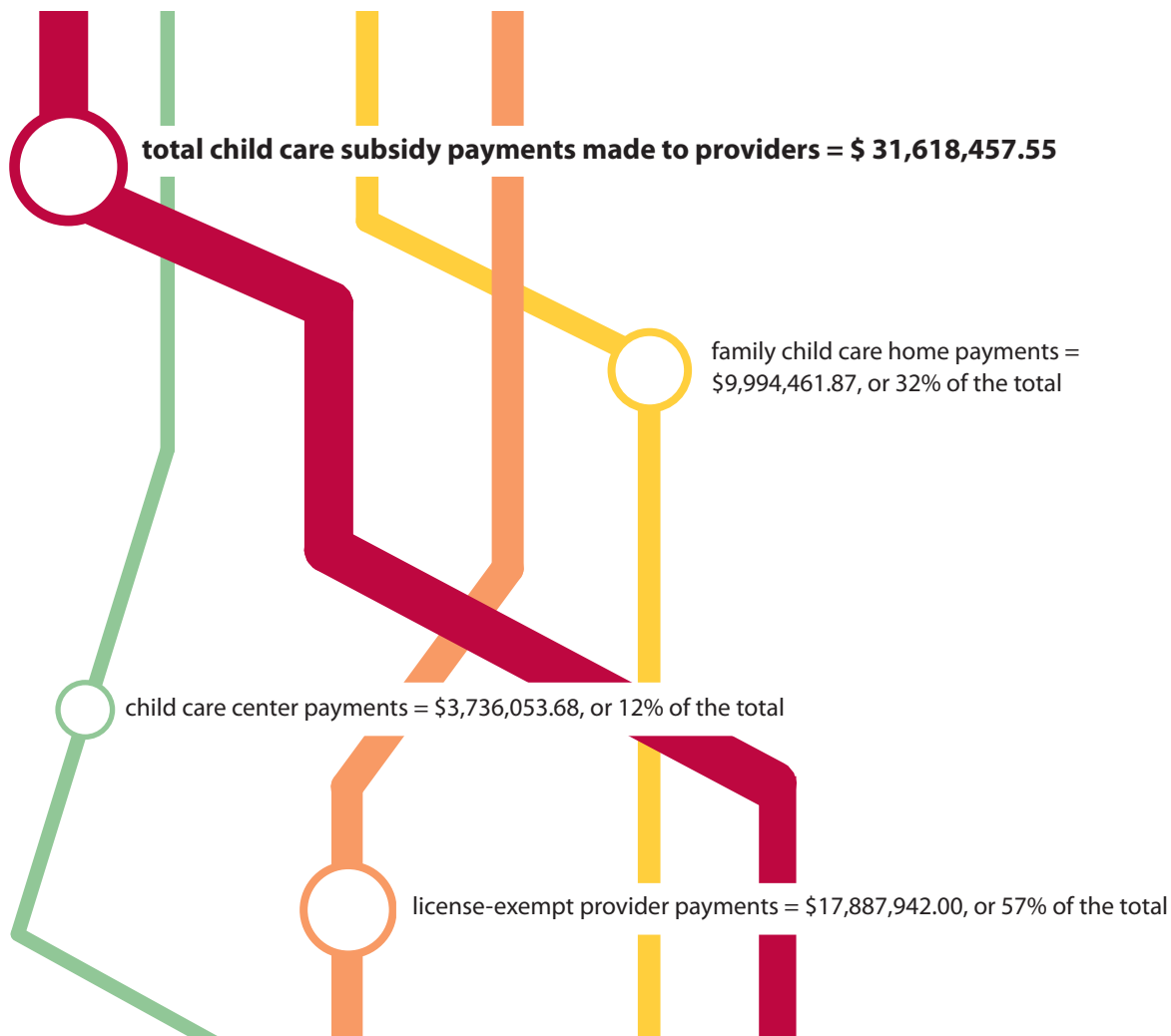
The **Child Care Subsidy** services at Children's Council provide child care funds to low-income parents, allowing them to transition off welfare by working, attending job training, going to school, or attending to special family needs. Subsidies are an important step in helping families to achieve self-sufficiency and long-term stability.

The **San Francisco Centralized Eligibility List (SFCEL)** helps to connect qualified families to subsidized child care by filling out a single application. Completed applications are entered into an online database that prioritizes families according to need. Participating providers with available slots use this database to select families whose need for child care subsidies is the greatest. SFCEL is instrumental in ensuring that families receive timely, fair, and equal access to child care.

The **Family Child Care (FCC)** program provides subsidies, professional assessments, and training for licensed family child care providers participating in the Child Care Food Program.

Children's Council is a fiscal agent for **Preschool for All**, an initiative providing free half-day preschool for all four-year-olds in San Francisco upon request, regardless of income. Preschool for All funds pay for child care subsidies, training and coaching to support classroom development, and enhanced curricula in the arts, sciences, and other programs.

Think Investment in Families



■ child care centers = licensed child care facilities

■ family child care homes = licensed child care programs in the provider's residence

■ license-exempt providers = home-based providers who care for the children of only one family, usually related to the provider

Think Support for Families



Providing Access to Child Care for Families in Crisis or Transition

In 2009, with your support, Children's Council provided child care payment assistance and intensive supports for:

- **75 families** in the homeless and domestic violence shelter systems
- **4,480 children** from **2,867 families** who have been placed in the care of a guardian or foster parent, or who are at risk for such a placement



The **Accessible Child Care Expedited for the Shelter System (ACCESS)** program helps families living in homeless or domestic violence shelters obtain child care. Access to child care allows parents in the shelter system to secure housing, job training, employment, health services, and other resources needed for a stable family life.

The **Family and Children's Services (FCS)** program assists families whose children have been placed in the care of a guardian or foster parent, or whose children are at risk for such a placement. For clients in this program, child care is an essential ingredient in rebuilding their lives and keeping their families intact.

Think Positive Impact



A Positive Impact on Self-Sufficiency

Two parents discuss how subsidies from Children's Council have helped their families:

"Thanks to support from Children's Council, I was able to graduate from college last year and now I'm enrolled in a Master's degree program." - Marilyn*

"Children's Council is a blessing for parents with goals. Without Children's Council, I wouldn't have affordable child care and would not be able to go to work and attend school." - Kevin*

A Positive Impact on Providers' Career Paths

Children's Council helped Ms. Turner turn her dream into a career in child care:

"Provider Support Services helped me get connected with training and support, and they helped me become licensed. It has been my dream to become a child care provider. I couldn't have done it without Children's Council!"

A Positive Impact on Families of Children with Special Needs

Maria*, a single mother of Juan*, a 14-year old nonverbal child with autism, worked with the Child Care Inclusion Challenge Project (CCICP) when a challenging situation arose:

"I got a new job and my schedule changed. I had a hard time finding afterschool care for my son that would fit my new schedule and my son's needs. CCICP helped me find new afterschool services and transportation, allowing me to go to work and support us both. The new afterschool program broadened Juan's horizons. His world has opened up and now he's connected to new resources."

A Positive Impact on Providers Working with Children with Special Needs

Carina*, a child care provider, attended a Spanish-language Program for Infant Toddler Care training at Children's Council, where she became more confident about serving children of all abilities:

"I was scared to come to the PITC class before I came; the topic of special needs was scary for me. But now I see that I don't have to be a specialist in special needs in order to help children. Children's Council is there to support child care providers. Instead of telling a parent, 'But...I can't help,' now I say, 'How can I help?'"

A Positive Impact on Providers Working with Child Care Subsidies

Chris*, a provider who cares for children receiving child care subsidies, says:

"The Subsidy program has always been very helpful when we as providers have questions to ask. Overall, I really appreciate the work Children's Council does for our community. I thank them for their support of the children in my program."

* Names have been changed

Think Child Development



Creating Supportive Networks for Children with Disabilities and Challenging Behaviors

In 2009, with your support, Children's Council:

- Conducted child mental health consultations for **600 families** served by licensed child care providers
- Provided a supportive social, educational, and academic milieu for **9 students** with severe mental and emotional health needs in a therapeutic preschool
- Made **91 visits** to **47 child care sites**, educating providers about working with children who have special needs or challenging behaviors, and making specific accommodations for children with disabilities
- Gave technical assistance to **93 family- and center-based child care providers**, who received expert advice on including children with disabilities and challenging behaviors in their classrooms
- Assisted **184 families of children with disabilities** in locating resources and support



The **Child Care Inclusion Challenge Project (CCICP)** works to educate families and providers about inclusive child care settings, which allow children of all abilities to be cared for in the same learning environment. CCICP is a collaborative project between Children's Council of San Francisco and Support for Families of Children With Disabilities.

The clinicians in the **Mental Health Consultation** program work with parents and child care providers to improve children's social and emotional health. Consultations are offered to teachers and providers to support program quality. In addition, consultations are provided for children who display challenging behaviors, and who have been affected by violence, crime, high unemployment, and other risk factors in their neighborhoods. Access to mental health services is critical in ensuring that children from birth through age five attain emotional well-being for optimal development.

The **Visitacion Valley Therapeutic Preschool**, San Francisco's only full-day therapeutic preschool, serves children who have experienced trauma or loss. The therapeutic preschool's low child-teacher ratio ensures that children receive individualized attention. In addition, the preschool's clinical resources and focus on social-emotional development allow children to process their experiences in a safe space.

Think Nutrition



Giving Children, Families, and Providers the Resources to Lead Healthier Lives

In 2009, with your support, Children's Council:

- Distributed food to **3,289 children, adults, and seniors** from **910 low-income households** during its summer food pantry
- Reimbursed **290 providers** for nutritious meals served to the **2,635 children** in their care
- Educated nearly **400 children, parents, and providers** about nutritious foods, exercise, and other facets of a healthy lifestyle at Nutrition Night events in May and November

In 2009, Children's Council's innovative nutrition initiatives were highlighted in:

- The Mission Loc@l Blog, www.missionlocal.org
- Salud Today, a Latino health and nutrition Web site sponsored by The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, www.saludtoday.org

Children's Council is a sponsor agency of the **Child Care Food Program**, a federally funded nutrition program that reimburses providers for feeding nutritious meals to the children in their care. Consistent access to healthy recipes and nutritious food helps providers keep their costs down while ensuring the healthy growth and development of the children in their programs. The **Family Child Care (FCC)** program at Children's Council provides subsidies, professional assessments, and training for licensed family child care providers participating in the Child Care Food Program.

The **Health and Nutrition** team provides training and assistance to providers participating in the Child Care Food Program, and works to educate providers, children, and families on healthy lifestyle choices.

Think Provider Support



Training the Next Generation of Early Childhood Education Professionals

In 2009, with your support, Children's Council:

- Conducted **113 workshops** and other educational opportunities for **1,452 child care providers**, in English, Spanish, and Cantonese
- Certified **102 providers** in CPR and First Aid and **53 providers** in Preventive Health and Safety
- Disbursed start-up and professional development scholarships to **65 providers**
- Assisted **1,081 providers** with technical assistance, including home visits, consultations, resources, referrals, and other forms of support
- Helped **23 new family child care businesses** open their doors
- Debuted its expanded and redesigned Lending Library, making the newest toys, books, and other educational materials available to **112 providers**
- Facilitated **572 hours** of language and literacy coaching for child care providers, linked to courses at City College of San Francisco
- Provided over **90 hours** of professional development training and roundtables for language and literacy coaches and mentors
- Offered **48 hours** of English Learners, Language and Literacy in the Early Years (ELLLEY) training and coaching to Pre-K classrooms
- Provided **595 hours** of Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC) training and technical assistance

In 2009, Children's Council was formally recognized for its innovations in provider support by:

- The Hispanic Family Child Care Providers Group of San Francisco
- The California Child Care Resource and Referral Network



The **Provider Support Services** team provides resources and support for current and prospective licensed child care providers, as well as license-exempt providers. Provider Support Services offers providers a diverse array of courses in health, safety, business, marketing, child development, art, physical fitness, and more. In addition, the team provides one-on-one consultations for providers seeking licensure or assistance in starting their own businesses, with an emphasis on assisting providers in underserved neighborhoods.

The **Linking for Quality** program equips child care providers with the tools to enhance the language and literacy development of the children in their care. Providers attend credit-bearing classes in literacy development at City College of San Francisco, and work with English-, Spanish-, and Chinese-speaking coaches to explore coursework concepts and develop literacy action plans for their child care settings.

Think Provider Resources



Helping Providers to Build Capacity

In 2009, with your support, Children's Council:

- Disbursed **\$1,111,132.30** in wage augmentations and other fiscal supports to **181 family child care providers**
- Disbursed **\$3,817,918.26** in wage augmentations and other fiscal support to **30 child care centers**
- Provided grants to **193 family child care homes** caring for infants and toddlers, which in turn served **1,395 children** over the course of a year
- Provided grants to **28 child care centers** caring for infants and toddlers, which in turn served **793 children** over the course of a year

In 2009, Children's Council was formally recognized for its innovations in support for infant and toddler care by:

- The Hispanic Family Child Care Providers Group of San Francisco



The **WAGES Plus and WAGES Plus Family Child Care** programs augment and stabilize the wages of child care workers, with the goal of moving them closer to a living wage. In San Francisco, the average hourly wages for child care workers are less than average hourly wages for telemarketers, dog walkers, and garbage collectors. WAGES Plus and WAGES Plus Family Child Care help to ensure that the child care field attracts and retains a cadre of professionals dedicated to creating high-quality programs for children.

The **Infant Toddler Sustaining Grants** program provides funding for licensed child care centers and family child care homes that serve infants and toddlers. In a city where demand for infant and toddler care far exceeds the supply, the program's financial incentives encourage providers to build infant and toddler care capacity.

Think Public Awareness



Educating our Community about Child Care and Other Issues Affecting Families

In 2009, with your support, Children's Council:

- Conducted **14 presentations** for **515 attendees**, including staff, child care providers, parents, and community partners, on topics including city and state budget issues, legislation, elections, and social media
- Held **36 meetings** with members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Mayor Gavin Newsom's office, representatives of the California State Legislature, and members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, in order to ensure that child care issues remain at the forefront of lawmakers' priorities
- Distributed **60,000 coffee sleeves, 3,000 postcards, 2,500 bookmarks, and 600 buttons** in public awareness campaigns to highlight the importance of child care in a revitalized economy
- Collected over **450 accessories** in a donation drive for Dress for Success, a nonprofit that provides disadvantaged women with professional attire and career development services
- Featured thought-provoking interviews with Nancy Pelosi's Chief of Staff Terri McCullough, Jean Ross from the California Budget Project, California State Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, and Parent Leader Lourdes Alarcon from Parent Voices, in **raise**, its quarterly public awareness publication
- Continued its innovative coverage of child care issues using social media outlets including **YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter**
- Launched **ThinkChildCare.org**, a Web site dedicated to child care policy issues

In 2009, the San Francisco chapter of Parent Voices:

- Conducted outreach to **3,000 families** with young children to educate them about child care choices and other services
- Led **600 parents in 7 action groups** to fight budget cuts targeting low-income children, families, and other vulnerable populations



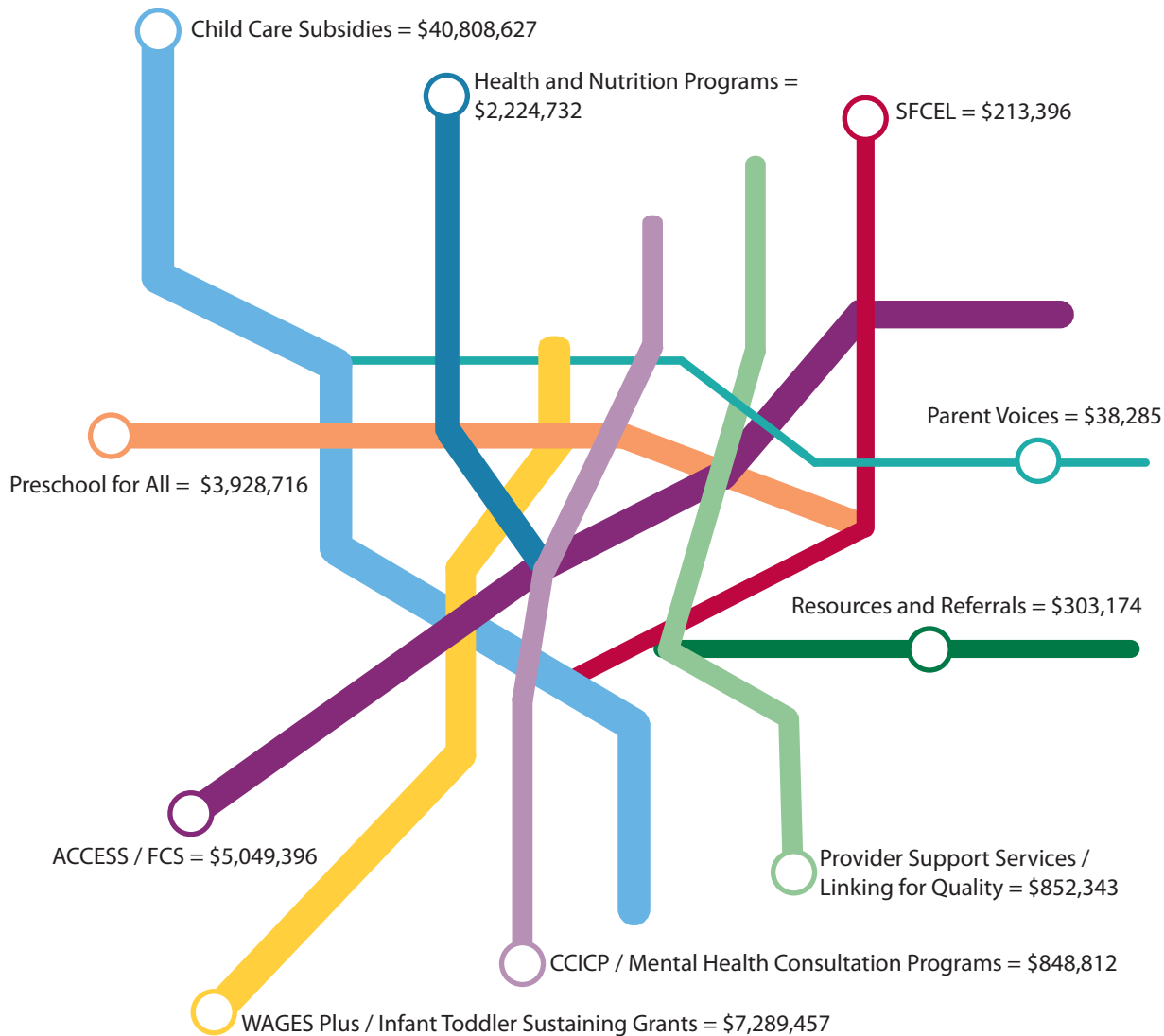
The **Public Policy and Communications** team works with families, providers, nonprofit organizations, legislators, and other stakeholders to raise awareness of child care and other issues affecting families. The team's education efforts include orchestrating postcard campaigns, developing social media campaigns, visiting lawmakers, conducting data analysis, and providing testimony at public hearings.

Parent Voices is a parent-led organization that works to ensure that the parent/guardian perspective is a key component of policy and program development. Through leadership development, capacity building, and public education campaigns, Parent Voices works to increase funding, improve quality, and provide better access to child care.

Think Fiscal Responsibility

Revenue for fiscal year 2009 = \$61,619,314

Expenditures by program:



Expenditures for all programs = \$61,556,937

"The Annual Audit of Children's Council of San Francisco's financial statements was performed by Harrington Group. In the opinion of the auditors, our financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009, have been fairly stated in all material respects and conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. A complete copy of the audit and income tax returns are available for public inspection on our Web site." - John Uselman, Director of Finance.



"Without child care subsidies, I would not be able to work. Children's Council services are very helpful for low-income families getting back on their feet. Children's Council has been very valuable for my daughter and me, and we appreciate their dedication." - Lisa*, parent



Children's Council of San Francisco

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