



## About CEL...

### What is subsidized child care?

Subsidized child care is assistance to low-income families to cover part or all of their child care costs, depending on their financial need.

### What is CEL?

The San Francisco Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) gives families access to many subsidized child care programs through a single application. Currently, the CEL serves several thousand families seeking subsidized child care and has over 50 participating child care programs. We are working to increase the number of contracted programs in CEL to meet the growing demand for subsidized child care in San Francisco.

### How can CEL help me?

With CEL, you can easily gain access to many subsidized child care programs through one application. CEL saves you the time of applying at each agency individually and improves your chances of obtaining subsidized child care at the locations of your choice.



### Is CEL a waiting list?

No. CEL is an *eligibility* list. An eligibility list determines which families should be served first based on factors such as income, family size and other needs, when a space becomes available. CEL is not administered on a first-come, first-served basis—the amount of time that a family has been waiting does not determine who will be served first.

### Can I find out my family's ranking on the eligibility list?

No. Child care subsidies are based on priorities determined by each subsidy program. For this reason, a family's ranking can change at any given time, depending on the needs of the families participating in CEL.

## To qualify...

### Who is eligible for CEL?

Families must be low-income *and* meet at least one of the following needs\*:

- Working
- Looking for work
- Attending school or in training
- Homeless
- Medically incapacitated
- Receiving Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Seeking part-day educational preschool

To find out if you qualify, contact any participating agency or program.

\*Needs may vary based on program requirements.

## To apply...

### How do I get a CEL application form?

Please contact any participating agency or program in CEL to get an application form. For a complete list of participating programs, please visit [www.celsf.org](http://www.celsf.org).

### What information do I need to provide?

You must provide copies of documents verifying all your income sources (including income from self-employment, federal cash income programs, and child support). Please note that you will need your child's current immunization records when you are contacted for a potential child care opening.



## To choose...

How can I get help selecting child care programs?

The CEL application lists all the participating child care programs including their locations and the age ranges they serve. For additional assistance in choosing subsidized child care programs, please contact a resource and referral counselor at (415) 276-2951 for the Children's Council of San Francisco or (415) 391-4956 for Wu Yee Children's Services.

Are there subsidized child care programs outside of CEL?

Yes. Although the number of subsidized child care programs participating in CEL is increasing, there are many non-participating programs that also provide these services. Each program outside of CEL requires a separate application process. For information on other subsidized programs in San Francisco, please contact a resource and referral agency (Children's Council of San Francisco or Wu Yee Children's Services).

Should I choose all the programs in CEL?

No. You should only choose programs that are convenient for you. By choosing all of the programs, you can actually lower your chances of receiving care. For example, if a program selects your child and you decide not to accept the opening, you may miss out on other opportunities that better meet your child care needs.

For more information about finding quality child care in San Francisco, please contact either of the following resource and referral agencies:

**Children's Council of  
San Francisco  
445 Church Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
(415) 276-2951**

**Wu Yee Children's Services  
888 Clay Street, Lower Level  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
(415) 391-4956**

[www.celsf.org](http://www.celsf.org)

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## Centralized Eligibility List

A faster, more efficient way to find subsidized child care openings in San Francisco

## Questions & Answers for Families and Child Care Providers



[www.celsf.org](http://www.celsf.org)

445 Church Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114