



ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT

2023-24

Sutter County Children and Families Commission (SCCFC)

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Headline Findings 2023-24

Sutter County Children and Families Commission (SCCFC) is committed to improving the health, development, and well-being of young children and their families in Sutter County. Through strategic investments and strong community partnerships, SCCFC works to ensure that all children are healthy, nurtured, and ready to succeed.

This section provides an overview of SCCFC's reach in FY 2023-24, highlighting the challenges facing children and families, and the Commission's response across four key goal areas: *Improved Family Functioning, Improved Child Development, Healthy Children and Families, and Improved Systems of Care.*

SCCFC works to ensure that all Sutter County children ages 0-5 are healthy, nurtured, and ready to succeed.

FY 2023-24 at a Glance

15,243

Children Ages
0-5 Served

17,618

Caregivers
Supported

687

Providers
Engaged

28

Programs and
Initiatives



THE CHALLENGE

- **Childhood poverty** remains a pressing challenge in Sutter County, with Hispanic children experiencing the most significant increase in poverty.
- **Housing insecurity** is a significant concern, with over one in three families struggling to afford stable housing.
- **Child maltreatment allegations** have risen across all young age groups, with infants at most risk. However, substantiated child maltreatment cases reached a six-year low in 2023.
- **Preschool enrollment** has remained steady but lags behind the statewide rate.
- **Reading proficiency** has declined since 2020-21, with low-income students continuing to lag behind their peers.
- **Prenatal care access** has steadily declined, falling below national targets.

Sutter County Families are navigating growing challenges, from economic hardship to limited early learning opportunities. SCCFC is working to close these gaps.

SCCFC'S RESPONSE

1 **Goal: Improved Family Functioning**

SCCFC equips parents with tools and resources to support their child's development, strengthens social connections, and provides targeted support for children with behavioral challenges and special needs.

2 **Goal: Improved Child Development**

SCCFC fosters early learning by empowering parents, expanding access to early childhood education, and supporting school readiness.

3 **Goal: Healthy Children and Families**

SCCFC promotes health and safety by supporting maternal mental health, increasing early screenings, and ensuring children have access to preventative healthcare and safe environments.

4 **Goal: Improved Systems of Care**

SCCFC strengthens early childhood systems by expanding outreach and collaborations, connecting families to services, and advocating for policies to support families.

GOAL 1: IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

	Addressing Challenging Behaviors Through Home Visiting and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Development Behavioral Specialist (CDBS) provided home visiting, case management, parenting education, professional development, and school-based services to support children with challenging behaviors. Twenty-one families graduated from home visiting, and parents in Positive Discipline classes achieved 97% mastery of techniques.
	Support for Children with Special Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family SOUP helped 102 families navigate resources, with 66% of parents in case management showing improvements in their ability to support their child's learning, access health care, apply parenting strategies, and prioritize self-care.
	Support for Refugee Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Newcomer Program supported 123 individuals from 36 refugee families by helping them meet basic needs, access healthcare, and navigate early childhood services.
	Supplies for New Parents and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCCFC provided New Parent Kits and family supplies to over 1,600 families, ensuring they had tools and resources to support their child's early development.
	Expanding Early Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, one-third of Sutter County's children (ages 0-5) received 28,171 bilingual books to promote parent-child interactions and early literacy.
	Strengthening Parent Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ParentPowered sent 258,062 bilingual, trauma-informed text messages to families of 3,606 children. The messages helped parents build knowledge, social connections and resilience, with 95% of parents reporting the messages supported their children's growth and learning.
	Interactive Community Exhibits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the Swan Festival, 115 children and 66 caregivers explored hands-on activities and learned about toxic stress. The Lisa Project provided an immersive child abuse awareness experience for 165 Sutter residents.
	Advancing Maternal Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Blue Shift maternal mental health conference engaged 60 providers in learning how to identify and support mothers experiencing perinatal anxiety and depression. Providers reported the conference was impactful and highly relevant to their work with families.

GOAL 2: IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

	Preparing Children for School Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playzeum's Families Learning in Play (FLIP) Program supported 165 parents and 158 children through school readiness and play-based classes. Nearly all parents gained new skills, and families spent significantly more time each week doing early learning activities at home that promote school readiness.
	Play-Based Learning for Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay and Play engaged 138 caregivers and 271 children (duplicated) in weekly sessions featuring play-based learning, story time and sensory experiences.
	Strengthening Parenting Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Way Born Learning Academy empowered 47 parents with strategies to support their child's learning and development. Parents showed a 56% boost in parenting knowledge, and continued engaging their children in learning activities multiple times a week, even a month after completing the program.
	Enhancing Early Childhood Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keys to Quality supported 46 early childhood educators with training, stipends, and quality improvement resources. Participants completed 610 training hours, earned 133 higher education units, and improved child care quality at seven sites. Most providers reported professional growth and positive impacts on children.

GOAL 3: HEALTHY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

	Early Screenings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help Me Grow (HMG) Sutter conducted 1,391 developmental screenings for 928 children, with 95% of parents reporting the screenings benefitted their children. Half of the children screened met developmental milestones. Families needing additional support received 257 referrals to resources and interventions.
	Strengthening Perinatal Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CalINSPIRE Provider Outreach and Education aimed to raise perinatal mental health awareness and strengthen screenings and referrals by engaging 197 providers in 37 technical assistance and training sessions, and networking with 85 providers across eight clinics.
	Supporting Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents as Teachers (PAT) provided home visiting services to 22 parents, offering education and resources to promote optimal early development, learning, and health.
	Safer Sleep for Babies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Public Health Safe Sleep Program provided 971 families with education and resources to create safer sleep environments for their babies. Families received cribs, books, and in-person education to support safe sleep practices and reduce the risk of SIDS.
	Water Safety for Young Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Sutter Recreation Area Swim Safety Program engaged 71 children and 64 parents in swimming classes. Nearly all children gained confidence and improved their water safety skills through the program.
	Building Mindfulness Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mindful Youth Adventure (MYA) helped 78 children and 122 parents strengthen social connections and emotional regulation. Parents also saw improvements in their knowledge of mindfulness with 92% of parents planning to apply what they learned.
	Life Jacket Giveaways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCCFC promoted water safety by distributing 248 life jackets through giveaways and loaner stations.
	Car Seat Distribution and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCCFC provided over 2,500 parents with car seat safety education, free car seats, and installation support. Families received 467 car seats, and 60 providers completed child passenger safety training.
	Promoting Oral Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCCFC Oral Health Services provided 266 children with free dental exams and fluoride treatments at community events, promoting early oral health habits. In addition, 347 kindergarten oral health assessments were completed across 18 schools.

GOAL 4: IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

	Community Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCCFC engaged thousands of individuals through 30 community events and bilingual social media outreach. Over 1,600 children and 1,500 parents participated in events focused on family engagement, literacy, health and resilience, while online outreach reached over 300,000 people.
	Expanding Trauma-Informed Support for Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCCFC continued to expand Handle with Care, an initiative that helps children exposed to trauma by ensuring real-time communication between first responders and schools. This year, SCCFC completed a pilot at Luther Elementary, expanded to the Live Oak school district, and supported on-going provider training.
	Linkages to Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FindHelp, an online referral system, connected more families to resources than ever before with a 60% increase in users and an 87% rise in referrals. Over 2,200 users accessed the platform, conducting 3,100+ searches for essential services like housing, food, and child care.
	Building Sustainable Family Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Home Visiting Systems Coordination grant helped build a sustainable system of family support by increasing home visiting capacity and developmental screenings, engaging parents, securing new funding, and prioritizing equity.
	Mini Grants and Sponsorships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCCFC awarded over \$50,000 in mini grants and sponsorships to support early childhood education providers and community programs, benefitting child care centers, family homes, and local initiatives.
	Presentations, Advocacy and Proclamations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCCFC raised awareness and strengthened support for families through advocacy, state and federal presentations, and proclamations recognizing key milestones like SCCFC's 25th anniversary, maternal mental health, and early childhood initiatives.
	Strengthening Early Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Community Schools Initiative strengthened partnerships, expanded early learning supports, and advanced school readiness efforts through screenings, trainings, and a countywide Kindergarten Readiness Assessment plan.

Introduction



The Sutter County Children and Families Commission (SCCFC) was established in 1999, along with 57 other First 5 County Commissions throughout California, and was funded by Proposition 10. This voter-approved initiative created infrastructure and funding streams from tobacco tax dollars to support improved health, family functioning, and child development for families with children prenatal to five years old. Since 90% of a child's brain is developed by age five, the purpose of SCCFC is to invest in the future of the young children and their families that live in Sutter County. For further information, visit our website at <https://sutterkids.org>.

VISION, MISSION, AND PRINCIPLES

The work of the SCCFC is guided by its Vision, Mission, and Strategic Principles, presented below. SCCFC's vision statement describes the desired outcomes and conditions for young children in Sutter County. Its mission statement describes the way in which SCCFC will work toward this vision.

The following SCCFC's principles describe the ways in which SCCFC commits to implementing its work:

- Programs and services should be designed to benefit all Sutter County children ages 0-5 and their families.
- The proposed programs and services should avoid duplicating existing community efforts.
- All services should provide for the maximum amount of integration possible between existing programs and newly-established community services.
- All services should focus on delivery at the earliest possible point of intervention.
- All services should have a significant impact on the lives of children and families served.
- All services will be rigorously evaluated to measure the outcomes of the services that Sutter County children and families receive.

Vision

All children in Sutter County will have optimal health, be nurtured, and prepared to succeed.

Mission

In partnership with the community, Sutter County Children and Families Commission coordinates services that support families to ensure that each child enters school healthy and ready to learn.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Strategic Framework on the following page illustrates the strategies selected for the 2020-2025 strategic plan and their contribution to the SCCFC's desired results and goals.

Strategic Framework 2020-25

Strategies

- Child Development Behavioral Specialist
- Family SOUP
- Newcomer Program
- Kit for New Parents/ Supplies
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- ParentPowered
- Interactive Community Exhibits
- Blue Shift Conference

- Families Learning in Play (FLIP)
- Stay and Play
- United Way Born Learning Academy
- Child Care Planning Council: Keys to Quality Program

- Help Me Grow
- CallInspire Provider Outreach and Education
- AmeriCorps Parents as Teachers
- Public Health Safe Sleep Program
- South Sutter Swim
- Mindful Youth Adventure
- Life Jacket Loaner and Giveaway Program
- The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Child Passenger Safety Program
- SCCFC Oral Health Services

- Community outreach
- Handle with Care
- FindHelp Resource and referral platform
- Home Visiting Systems Coordination grant
- Sponsorships/mini grants
- Presentations, advocacy, and proclamations
- Community Schools Initiative

Direct Outcomes

- Parents have access to knowledge and resources to meet their child's health and developmental needs
- Families' social networks of support and sense of community are strengthened
- Families of children with behavioral and other special needs are supported

- Parents have access to knowledge and resources to meet their child's health and developmental needs
- Parents facilitate their child's learning and readiness for school
- Families' social networks of support and sense of community are strengthened
- Children have access to high quality early care and education
- Children enter school with the skills and resources needed to be ready to learn

- Babies are born healthy and mothers are provided perinatal/breastfeeding support
- Parents have the knowledge and resources to meet their child's health and developmental needs
- Children's health and developmental needs are identified and addressed with early intervention
- Children's oral health needs are identified and addressed
- Children and families have access to safe, healthy recreational activities
- Children are kept safe and injury-free

- Families have the information and support they need to access the early childhood system of care
- Early childhood systems are strengthened, integrated, and sustained
- Early childhood resources, services, and supports are sustained with legislation and policy

Goals

Improved Family Functioning

Improved Child Development

Healthy Children and Families

Improved Systems of Care

Profile of Children and Families

TOTAL POPULATION SERVED

FIGURE 1. NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY SCCFC PROGRAM

SCCFC Program	Program Area	Children	Caregivers	Providers
FAMILY FUNCTIONING PROGRAMS				
Child Development Behavioral Specialist	Behavioral Specialist / Parent Education	38	102	68
Family SOUP*	Special Needs Therapy	174	182	8
Newcomer Program	Intensive Immigrant Family Support	48	75	
Kit for New Parents	Family Literacy and Book Programs	1,447	1,447	--
Books and Supplies	General Health Education and Promotion	175	--	--
ParentPowered [Ready4K]	Family Literacy and Book Programs	3,606	3,606	--
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library	Family Literacy and Book Programs	2,997	2,997	--
Interactive Community Exhibits	Family Literacy and Book Programs	115	231	--
Blue Shift Project Mental Health Conference	Provider Outreach and Education	--	6	60
CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS				
Playzeum FLIP School Readiness*	School Readiness Classes	158	165	--
United Way — Born Learning Academy	Early Learning Program	54	47	--
Stay and Play (IMPACT)	Quality Early Learning Support	271	138	55
Keys to Quality (Child Care Planning Council)	Quality Early Learning Support	--	--	46
HEALTHY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PROGRAMS				
Help Me Grow*	Developmental Screenings /Referrals	3,276	2,778	--
CallNSPIRE Provider Outreach and Education	Provider Outreach and Education	--	--	197
Sutter County Public Health Safe Sleep Program*	Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting	58	971	--
AmeriCorps Parents as Teachers	Home Visiting and Education	20	22	
South Sutter Recreation Area Swim Safety	Summer Swim Lessons	71	64	--
Mindful Youth Adventures*	General Health Education & Promotion	78	122	--
Sea Tow Foundation Life Jackets Program*	General Health Education & Promotion	248	248	--
OTS Car Passenger Safety Program*	General Health Education & Promotion	467	2,726	79
SCCFC Oral Health Services*	Oral Health Education and Treatment	266	255	--
SCCFC Community Events*	General Health Education & Promotion	1,696	1,456	174
Total		15,243¹	17,618²	687

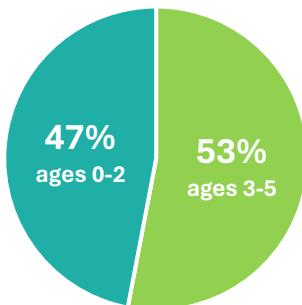
Source: SCCFC Quarterly Progress Reports and Persimmonny Workshop Logs 2023-24.

¹ Note: * denotes duplicated counts.² Note: * denotes duplicated counts, most often for participants attending workshops, events, and other community activities held in a format inhibiting providers' ability to supply unduplicated counts.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPATING FAMILIES

Child Age

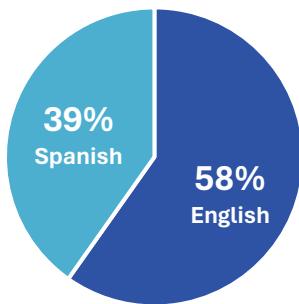
Slightly more than half (53%) of children were ages 3-5, while 47% are infants and toddlers (0-2).



Most SCCFC families were Hispanic or White, with nearly 40% speaking Spanish at home.

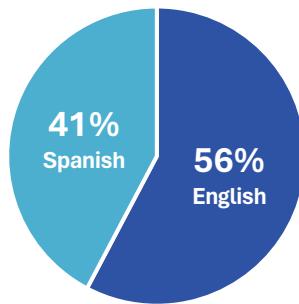
Child Language

Most children spoke English (58%) or Spanish (39%), with a small percentage (3%) preferring other languages.



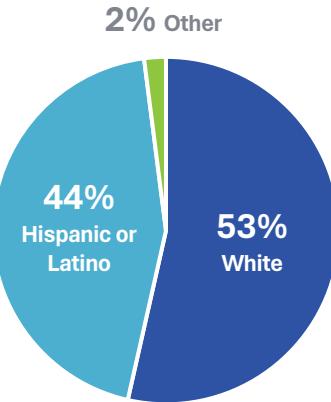
Caregiver Language

Most caregivers spoke English (56%) or Spanish (41%), with a small percentage (3%) preferring other languages.



Family Ethnicity

53% of families identified as White, and 44% identified as Hispanic or Latino. The rest identified as Asian (1%), Multiracial (1%), Black (<1%), Native American or Alaska Native (<1%), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (<1%), and other (<1%).



Source: SCCFC Quarterly Progress Reports and workshop logs 2023-24.

Note: Data available for 2,074 children. Percentage of Native American, Black, Pacific Islander, and other ethnicities are not shown due to very small values of 1% or less.

Goal 1: Improved Family Functioning

Programs

- Child Development Behavioral Specialist
- Family SOUP (Special Needs Support)
- Newcomer Program (New Immigrant Family Support)
- Kit for New Parents and Essential Supplies
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- ParentPowered Text Messaging App (formerly Ready4K)
- Interactive Community Exhibits
- Blue Shift Maternal Mental Health Conference

Outcomes

- Families' social networks of support and sense of community are strengthened.
- Families of children with behavioral and other special needs are supported.
- Parents have access to knowledge and resources to meet their child's health and developmental needs.



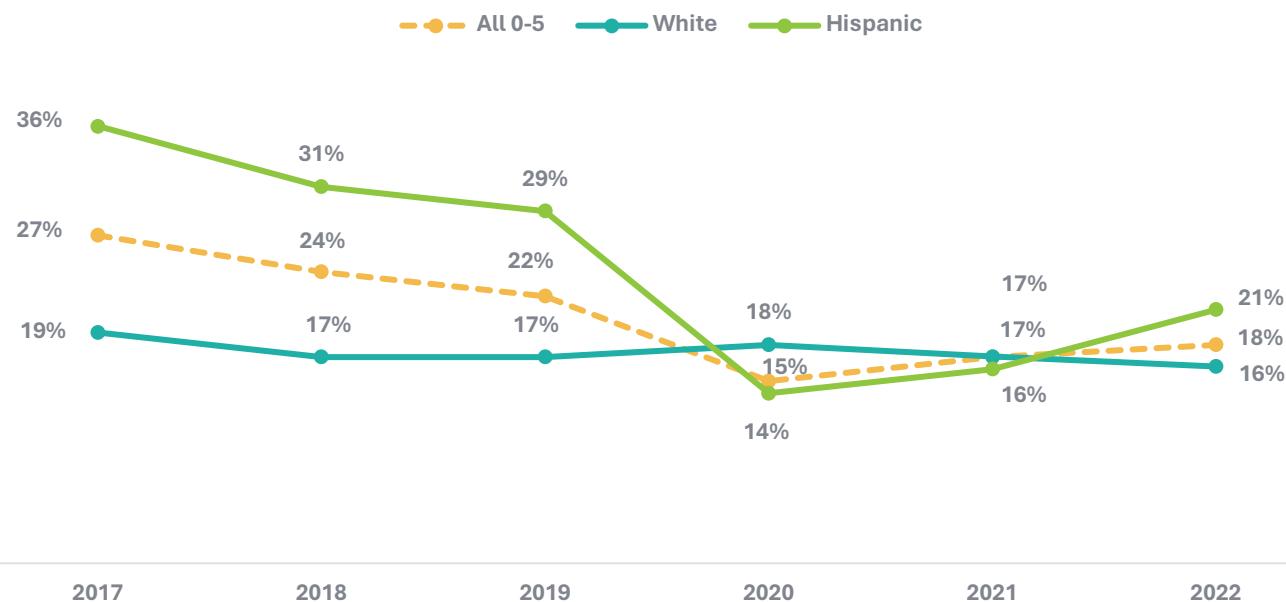
COMMUNITY-WIDE TRENDS

Childhood Poverty

- As of 2022, 18% of Sutter County children under five years of age lived below the Federal Poverty level (\$30,900 for a family of two adults and two children, according to Census Data Poverty Thresholds, 2023). This marks a 1% increase from the previous year.
- Hispanic children experienced the highest increase, with poverty rates rising from 16% in 2021 to 21% in 2022 (see Figure 2).
- The childhood poverty rate (18%) in Sutter County was slightly higher than the state average of 16%.³

Childhood poverty in Sutter County remained a pressing challenge, with Hispanic children experiencing the most significant increase.

FIGURE 2. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN 0-5 LIVING IN POVERTY IN SUTTER COUNTY



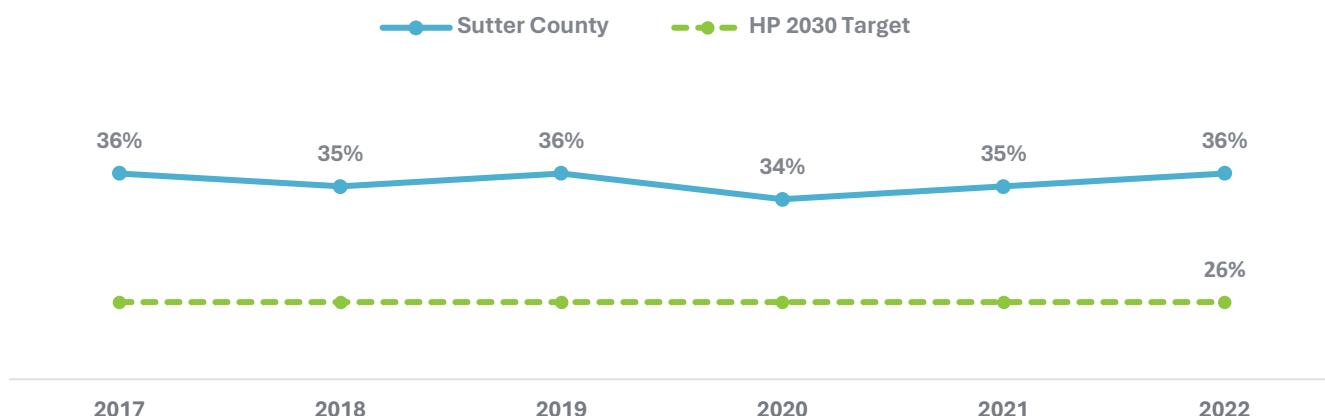
Source: US Census, American Community Survey, five-year estimates.

³ US Census Bureau. American Community Survey (ACS), Tables B17020. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age. 2022. Five-year estimates.

Housing Insecurity

- In 2022, housing insecurity remained a persistent challenge: 36% of Sutter families were housing insecure. This rate was significantly higher than the 26% Healthy People 2030 objective (See Figure 3).⁴
- Over the past five years, between 34% and 36% of families have spent more than 30% of their monthly income on housing, surpassing the threshold for affordability.

FIGURE 3. PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS PAYING MORE THAN 30% FOR HOUSING IN SUTTER COUNTY



Source: US Census, American Community Survey, five-year estimates.

⁴ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030.

Child Maltreatment Allegations

- In 2023, child abuse allegations continued to rise across all age groups, with the highest increase among infants under age one (from 100.9 to 112.8 per 1,000 children).
- For children 0-5 years, child abuse allegations rates increased from 50.7 in 2022 to 57.4 per 1,000 in 2023.
- Sutter County's rate exceeded the state average of 46 per 1,000 children.⁵

Child maltreatment allegations in Sutter County rose across all young age groups, with infants at most risk.

FIGURE 4. INCIDENCE OF CHILD MALTREATMENT ALLEGATIONS IN SUTTER COUNTY (PER 1,000 CHILDREN)



Source: California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWI). Child Maltreatment Allegation Rates Dashboard. Years: 2018-2023.

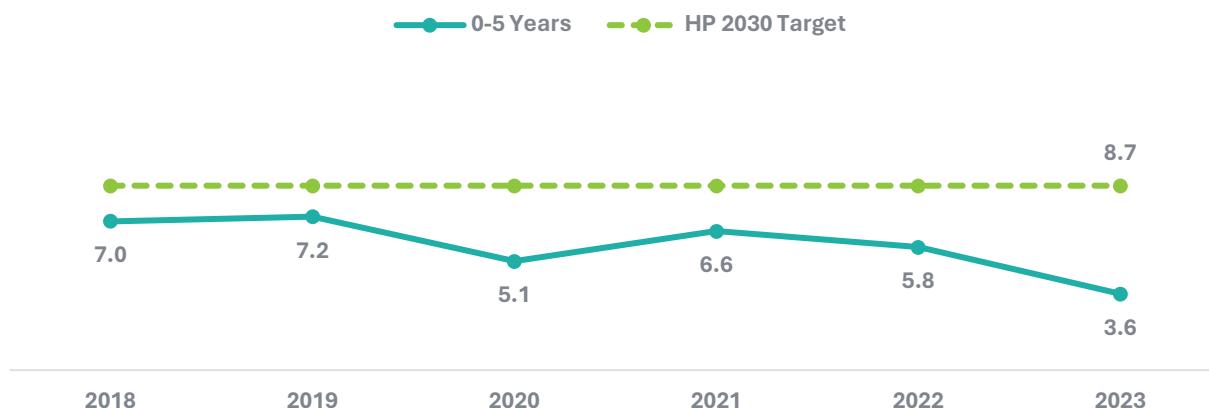
⁵ California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWI). Child Maltreatment Allegation Rates Dashboard. Years: 2019-2023.

Child Maltreatment Substantiations

- In 2023, the rate of substantiated child maltreatment cases dropped to its lowest level in six years.
- The rate of maltreatment substantiations decreased from 5.8 per 1,000 children in 2022 to 3.6 per 1,000 in 2023, marking a significant decline. This rate is well below the Healthy People 2030 Objective of 8.7 per 1,000 children.⁶
- The 2023 rate was lower than 2020 when pandemic-related school and service closures likely reduced mandated reporting.

Substantiated child maltreatment cases in Sutter County reached a six-year low in 2023.

FIGURE 5. INCIDENCE OF SUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS IN SUTTER COUNTY (PER 1,000 CHILDREN)



Source: California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWI). Child Maltreatment Substantiation Rates Dashboard. Years: 2018-2023.

⁶U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030.

IMPACT OF SCCFC PROGRAMS

CHILD DEVELOPMENT BEHAVIORAL SPECIALIST



The Child Development Behavioral Specialist (CDBS) program provided brief intensive home visiting for families of children with challenging behaviors. CDBS also offered parenting education, school-based support, and professional development to improve family functioning and early childhood outcomes.

Home Visiting and Intensive Case Management

- 21 families with 28 children received 64 in-home visits
- Families received 106 referrals to:
 - SCCFC parenting education classes
 - Early education resources (e.g., Dolly Parton's Imagination Library)
 - Special needs services (e.g., Family SOUP)
 - Screenings (i.e., HMG)
 - Early learning (e.g., Head Start, transitional kindergarten and preschool enrollment)
 - Basic needs assistance

21 families participated in the CDBS home-visiting program – gaining access to essential services and parenting tools to support their child's development.



"I enjoyed the videos that offered real life perspectives into the young child's mind."

Program Offerings

- Evidence-Based Parenting Tools and knowledge to manage challenging child behaviors and support healthy development, available for all community members.
- Case Management including referrals to parenting programs, early learning services, and community resources.
- Assessments with the Behavior Checklist and the Temperament and Atypical Behavior Scale (TABS) to measure progress and guide an individualized support plan.

Program Offerings

- **Positive Discipline Series:** Parents learn age-appropriate expectations, emotion regulation strategies, how to avoid power struggles, and how to use positive reinforcement instead of punishment.
- **Nurturing Early Learning Program (NELP) and Sutter Teens Excelling in Parenthood (STEP):** Parents explore the impact of temperament on child behavior, techniques to build stronger parent-child attachments, and strategies to support their child's learning and emotional growth through responsive caregiving.

Parents in Positive Discipline classes achieved 97% mastery of techniques, gaining skills to foster healthier family dynamics and reduce the risk of maltreatment.



Parenting Education

- 64 parents attended 65 parenting classes, including:
 - 3 Positive Discipline Series (21 total classes, 28 participants);
 - 6 Nurturing Early Learning Program (NELP) series for child welfare involved families (36 total classes, 23 participants);
 - 1 Sutter Teens Excelling in Parenthood (STEP) series (6 total classes, 3 participants); and
 - 2 Teaching Toileting workshops (10 total participants).
- Parents in Positive Discipline classes answered 97% of quiz questions correctly, demonstrating strong knowledge gains.

“The most helpful thing I learned is that you have to get yourself together and manage your own emotions before discipline.”

“I like the advice and information I was able to learn in this program. I liked learning about temperament specifically because it is nice to be able to know how your child will be as a person.”



CDBS Parenting Education Success Story

“I learned SO much while attending the NELP classes at the Playzeum! A few things I learned was how to identify toxic stress in mine and my children's life and also what positive stress is and how to apply it in my children's life to help them grow. I also learned the different growth and development stages my children will go through, as well as what positive discipline looks like and the different temperaments that children have and which one my children might fall under. Not to mention, you can NEVER spoil a baby!! ❤️

Throughout this 6-week course I was able to gain a ton of knowledge as well as a ton of resources that I didn't even know existed! The other thing I was able to really get out of this program was confidence that I have been doing well as a parent, but I also now feel very confident in knowing now what my role as a parent is, what my strong suits are as a parent, where I might be lacking as a parent, and how to go about improving in those areas! Jennifer is an AMAZING teacher as well! She definitely makes it easy to understand and learn! I would recommend this to 10 out of 10 parents! I think every single parent could really benefit from these classes with Jennifer!”

Professional Development

CDBS strengthened early childhood support by delivering professional development workshops and conferences, while also participating in specialized training and collaborative meetings. The following opportunities helped expand knowledge and improve practices:

- Five CDBS-led workshops for 40 SCSOS Providers
- One CDBS-hosted conference for 20 ECE Providers
- 22 professional development trainings attended by CDBS staff on topics such as substance use disorders, parenting traumatized children, and promoting infant mental health
- 166 collaborative meetings attended by CDBS staff, including the co-facilitated Bi-County Early Access Services, public policy, child welfare, child planning council, steering committees, and other professional engagements

"It was a nice refresher about where students are developmentally. [It was great to share] own experience and the wide variety of knowledge."

School-Based Support

Through the SBHIP Grant, CDBS provided school-based support to improve student well-being and classroom environments. Services focused on both direct student support and teacher strategies to enhance learning and classroom management.

- Ten children and their caregivers received support.
- Eight school providers participated in services.
- A total of 59 school support services were provided (e.g., observations, service coordination, information sharing, and consultations).



Program Offerings

- **Student Support:**
 - Case management through home visits
 - School observations
 - Participation in Student Support Team (SST) meetings
 - Behavioral consultations
- **Teacher and Classroom Support:**
 - Classroom behavior management strategies
 - Improving classroom environments
 - Observations and consultations

FAMILY SOUP – SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT



SCCFC partnered with Family SOUP to support families of children with special needs and/or disabled caregivers. Family SOUP helps families navigate services, access educational and healthcare support, and build connections within their community.

Individual Family Services

- 1,441 service contacts (phone, video, email, mail, in-person) were made with 102 families.
- 73 families received non-case-managed navigation services, and 29 families received intensive case management.
 - Case-managed families accounted for 37% of service contacts and 65% of services provided, receiving an average of 59 services per family.
- 151 gas cards (\$25 each, totaling \$3,775) were distributed to help families attend out-of-town medical appointments and therapeutic assessments.



“It is so awesome for my two children to be around people who accept them for themselves.”

Program Offerings

- Individual Family Services:
 - **Case Management and Navigation:** Connects families to essential services and support.
 - **IEP Support and Advocacy:** Assists parents in navigating special education.
 - **Home Care and Well-Being:** Provides guidance on learning, routines and behavior management.
 - **Caregiver Support:** Helps parents connect to other parents.
- Community Outreach and Professional Collaborations
- Parent-Child and Community Programs:
 - Playgroups
 - Parent Support Groups
 - Workshops and Presentations

Community Outreach and Professional Collaboration

- **Community Outreach:** To expand its reach and connect with more families, Family SOUP conducted outreach at a variety of events such as:
 - Sutter County Library Stay and Play
 - Sutter County Infant Program Easter Egg Hunt
 - United Way Community Fair
 - Playzeum Night at the North Pole Sensory Friendly Session
- **Professional Collaboration:** Family SOUP also took part in multidisciplinary professional meetings such as:
 - Bi-County Early Access
 - Tri-County Steering Committee
 - Sutter County Medi-Cal Collaborative
 - Child Care Planning Council meetings

Parent-Child and Community Programs

- Family SOUP facilitated 28 parent-child activities and workshops reaching 80 families, including:
 - **19 playgroups and outdoor activities**, including Sensory Parent-Child Playgroups, Lego Club, and Mornings in the Garden; families received themed activity kits, such as pouches filled with Legos and sensory kits with chalk and balls;
 - **5 parent support groups**, including Scrapbooking Support Groups; and
 - **Four educational workshops** on special needs services, presented by Disability Rights of California.

“Everything was great! Thank you for the opportunity to socialize and participate with other kids.”



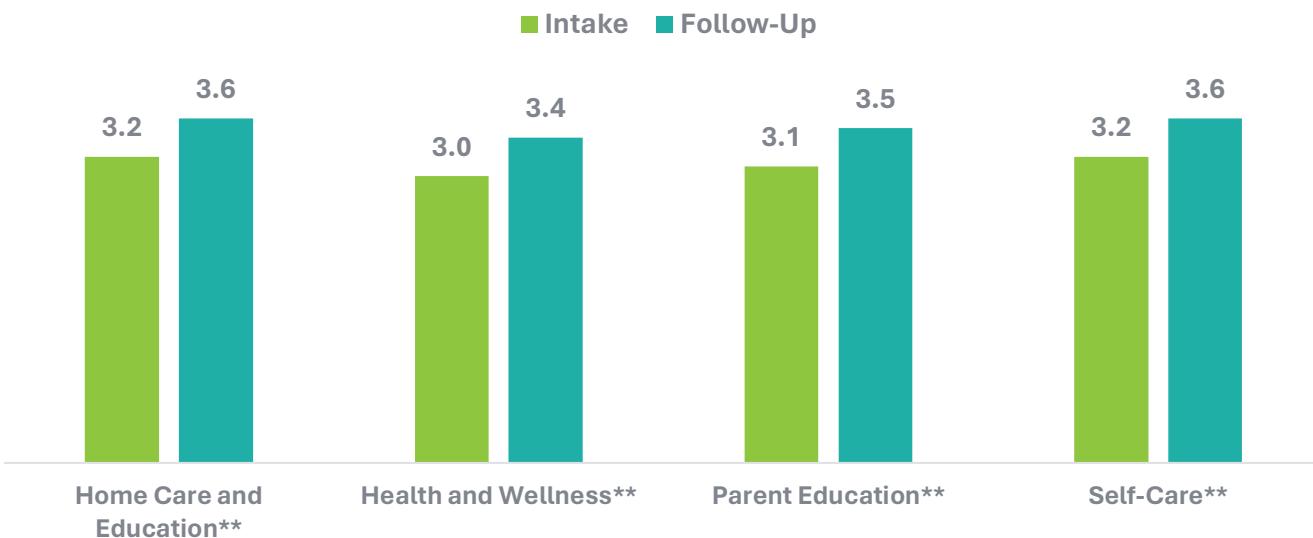
Families participating in Lego Club and Sensory Parent-Child Playgroups.

Family SOUP Impact

- 58% of case-managed families completed two case plan goals, and 39% completed all three goals – demonstrating progress toward self-sufficiency.
- 21 non-case-managed families and eight case-managed families graduated from the program.
- 66% of families receiving case management services showed significant improvements across multiple areas of family functioning, as assessed by staff at intake and follow-up. As shown in the figure below, parents made meaningful progress in:
 - **Home Care and Education:** Parents' ability to support their child's learning and education at home;
 - **Health and Wellness:** Parents' ability to access healthcare, insurance, and community resources;
 - **Parent Education:** Parents' knowledge of parenting skills; and
 - **Self-Care:** Parents' ability to access support when needed.

Parents receiving case management services showed meaningful improvements in their ability to support their child's learning, access healthcare, apply parenting strategies, and prioritize self-care.

FIGURE 6. FAMILY FUNCTIONING IMPROVEMENTS: INTAKE VS. FOLLOW-UP



Source: Family SOUP Staff Client-Assessment. FY 2023-24. N = 28 Matched pairs. Statistically significant at * $p < 0.05$ or ** $p < 0.01$ based on non-parametric test. Numbers represent average responses on a six-point scale (5=Thriving, 4=Very Good, 3=Good, 2=Minimally Adequate, 1=Inadequate, 0=In Crisis). A total of 16 items.



Family SOUP Success Story

A family was referred to Family SOUP in March 2024 by Alta California Regional Center (ACRC) Early Intervention Service Coordinator; they were having problems with the transition from Early Start into Special Education Services. The parents felt overwhelmed and needed support and guidance. Their Child was placed in Foster Care at 14 months with his Biological Aunt, who adopted him after his second birthday. The Child is nonverbal and has a Level 3 diagnosis of Autism through UCD MIND Institute.

The child turned three in February. There was a miscommunication between ACRC and the Preschool Intervention Program (PIP), which is why the Child was not evaluated before turning three. The Child was scheduled for two assessments to be completed in April. The initial IEP was scheduled for the end of May. [This meant the] student would not be starting school or any other services until the next school year, [at which point] he would be three and a half years old. The Child's mother shared "she felt something was off, and this is not what is supposed to happen, shouldn't have this all been completed before my child turned three?"

To support her concerns, Family SOUP provided the family with Family SOUP's workbook *Turning Three Years Old, Transition from Early Start into Special Education Services*. This booklet is designed to help guide families through the transition process, which includes terms that may be used, timelines, and the difference between early Intervention Services and Special Ed. Preschool Programs.

Family SOUP offered to contact the PIP Team, hoping the IEP could be held sooner. Family SOUP reached out to PIP and shared parents' concerns, with the goal of the child receiving services before the end of the 23/24 school year. The Parent contacted Family Soup a few days later and shared that the IEP was rescheduled for early May. Family SOUP was invited by [the] family to attend IEP and was available to join them.

Family SOUP attended the IEP with the family, [and] the Child qualified for services: eligibility was achieved for Autism and Speech and Language impairment Secondary. The IEP team determined that the best placement for the student was a Special Day Class through Yuba City Unified School District, a new class that had just started in April. The Student's start date was May 13, 2024. It is a pleasure and joy for Family SOUP to work with this family and we look forward to supporting the family for many years to come.

THE NEWCOMER PROGRAM

SCCFC continued its two-year grant initiative to support newly arrived refugee families through care coordination and referrals. The program connected families to essential services, including basic needs, early childhood support, healthcare, and employment resources to help them integrate and build stability in their new communities.

Program Reach

- Two bilingual case managers assisted 123 individuals across 36 families, including 48 children ages 0-5, and three pregnant mothers by providing 125 referrals.
 - Most families (97%) were from Afghanistan, with some families from Turkey.



Program Impact

- Basic Needs and Family Supports:** The program linked 123 individuals to basic needs assistance, including referrals to WIC and A Women's Friends for nutrition education, and prenatal and breastfeeding support. Families in need of household goods were referred to St. Vincent de Paul for assistance.
- Developmental and Educational Services:** 28 families received developmental navigation services, including referrals to Help Me Grow for early childhood screening, and connections to Alta Regional, Family SOUP, and school counselors for additional support and help integrating into the school system.

The Newcomer Program supported 123 individuals from 36 refugee families by helping them meet basic needs, access healthcare, and navigate early childhood services.

- Health Care and Well-Being:** 15 families received health care assistance, including referrals to medical and dental services, and assistance enrolling in Medi-Cal.
- Other Assistance:** 25 families accessed other services, including employment support, financial literacy, car seats, and strollers.

KIT FOR NEW PARENTS AND SUPPLIES FOR FAMILIES

SCCFC provided resources to new and expectant parents through the Kits for New Parents program. The kits, available in multiple languages, offer valuable guidance on child development and parenting. Families also received books and activity buckets to support their child's learning and well-being.

Program Reach

- 1,447 First 5 Kits for New Parents were distributed at schools, hospitals, clinics, Family Resource Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, home visitation programs, and community events.
- 1,052 in English, 395 in Spanish
- 175 families received resources and supplies including:
- 150 Summer Fun Buckets
- 25 books distributed through the “Meet the Author” event



150 Summer Fun buckets filled with toys and activities were distributed to families.



1,447 families received a First 5 Kit for New Parents, filled with resources to help families navigate their child's early years.

SCCFC provided new parenting kits and family supplies to over 1,600 families, ensuring they had the tools to support their child's early development.



An author interacts with children at the Meet the Author event, where 25 families enjoyed a story and free book to take home.

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Through a collaboration between SCCFC, Friends of the Sutter County Library and the Dolly Parton Foundation, The Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) provided free, monthly books to children under five. Research has shown that DPIL, a nationwide early literacy program:

- Enhances home literacy environments, encouraging families to read together.
- Fosters children's positive attitudes toward reading.
- Strengthens early literacy skills.

By delivering 28,171 free books to families, DPIL helped 2,977 young children in Sutter County build strong reading habits and early literacy skills.

Program Reach

- 2,977 children (38% of all Sutter County children ages 0-5) received books through the program – a 15% increase from last year.
- 28,171 books were distributed – a 21% increase from the previous year – ensuring more families had access to consistent, high-quality reading materials.
- 2,036 books were mailed to 222 families in rural communities, helping bridge literacy gaps in underserved areas.



PARENTPOWERED TEXT MESSAGING PROGRAM



ParentPowered (formerly Ready4K) is an evidence-based, trauma-informed text messaging program. Families receive three weekly messages with fun facts and tips on how to promote their child's development and resiliency by building on existing family routines.

Program Reach

- Families of 3,606 children ages 0-12 received 258,062 ParentPowered text messages.
- 541 parents accessed 47 community resources through the ParentPowered Community Support Stream message.

Parents highly valued Parent-Powered, with nearly all families saying that it improved learning and helped them feel supported.

Program Impact

- According to the ParentPowered yearly survey (n = 520), 95% of parents said the program helped their children learn and grow.
- 100% said the messages helped them make learning a part of their child's everyday routines.
- 97% said the program helped them support their children during challenging moments.
- 92% said the messages helped them deal with stress.
- 93% said the program helped them feel supported.
- 96% said the Community Support Stream helped them feel that support is available.



Program Offerings

- **Tailored Text Messages** based on each child's age and stage of development to ensure relevance and effectiveness.
- **Three Weekly Messages** providing fun facts and tips on: language and literacy; math and science; problem-solving and executive functioning; and positive self-development and independence.
- **Community Support Stream Messages** connecting families to resources such as health care, food access, and housing support.

“[I appreciated] the text about how all mothers felt stressed sometimes with the kids and how we just keep doing the simple things is what matters!”

INTERACTIVE COMMUNITY EXHIBITS

Swan Festival's Kid's Zone and Toxic Stress Takedown

The annual Swan Festival, hosted by the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust, featured family-friendly activities alongside educational exhibits. Children enjoyed hands-on learning experiences and crafts at the Swan Festival Kid's Zone located at the Sutter County Museum, which engaged 66 caregivers and 115 children.

The event also provided an excellent opportunity to educate families about toxic stress through First 5 California's Toxic Stress Takedown Interactive Exhibit. The Toxic Stress Takedown booth featured interactive opportunities for children to relieve stress (e.g., games, a coloring zone), and information and practical tips for caregivers to combat toxic stress.

115 children and 66 caregivers explored hands-on activities and learned about toxic stress at the Swan Festival.



Families learn about toxic stress at the First 5 California Toxic Stress Takedown exhibit.



Children explore hands-on activities and crafts at the Swan Festival's Kid Zone.

The Lisa Project



In partnership with the Sutter County Domestic Violence/Child Abuse Prevention Council, SCCFC sponsored The Lisa Project to raise awareness about child abuse. The Lisa Project is an interactive, multi-sensory experience that allows visitors to hear, see and feel child abuse from a child's perspective. A total of 165 people viewed the exhibit.

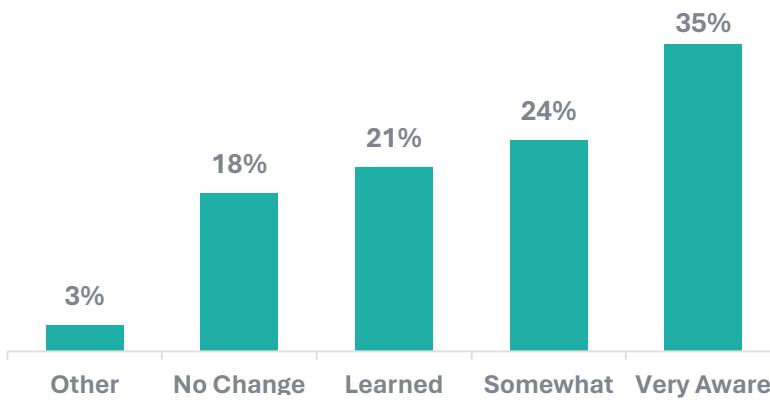
- **Increased awareness:** The exhibit successfully raised awareness about child abuse. As seen in the figure, nearly 60% of viewers reported increased awareness, with 21% learning something new from the experience.
- **Increased interest in child abuse prevention:** The exhibit also sparked interest in learning more about child abuse prevention:
 - 46% of viewers were interested in receiving a newsletter;
 - 40% were interested in volunteer opportunities;
 - 7% wanted more information on how to become a foster or adoptive parent; and
 - 7% were interested in receiving all types of information.

The Lisa Project brought child abuse awareness and engagement to 165 Sutter County residents.

“The frequency of child abuse stood out to me. I had not known it happened to so many.”

“The ‘rooms’ make it very personal and vivid. It’s like you are actually there.”

FIGURE 7. IMPACT OF THE LISA PROJECT EXHIBIT ON CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS



Source: The Lisa Project Exhibit Exit Survey Data. N = 34.



SCCFC staff and partners stand in front of The Lisa Project exhibit, collaborating to raise awareness about child abuse prevention.

BLUE SHIFT PROJECT MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE



The Blue Shift Initiative, a collaborative effort between SCCFC; Sutter County Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Program; and Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health, works to improve screening, diagnosis, and treatment of Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD). Over seven years, it has expanded into a bi-county partnership with 34 agencies supporting maternal mental health.



Conference Reach

- Sixty professionals convened at the second annual Blue Shift Maternal Mental Health Conference to explore strategies for identifying and supporting mothers with perinatal anxiety and depression.

"I appreciated the specific information on the role of brain chemistry and hormones and their impact on behavior."

Commissioners kicking off the annual Blue Dot Campaign.

Conference Offerings

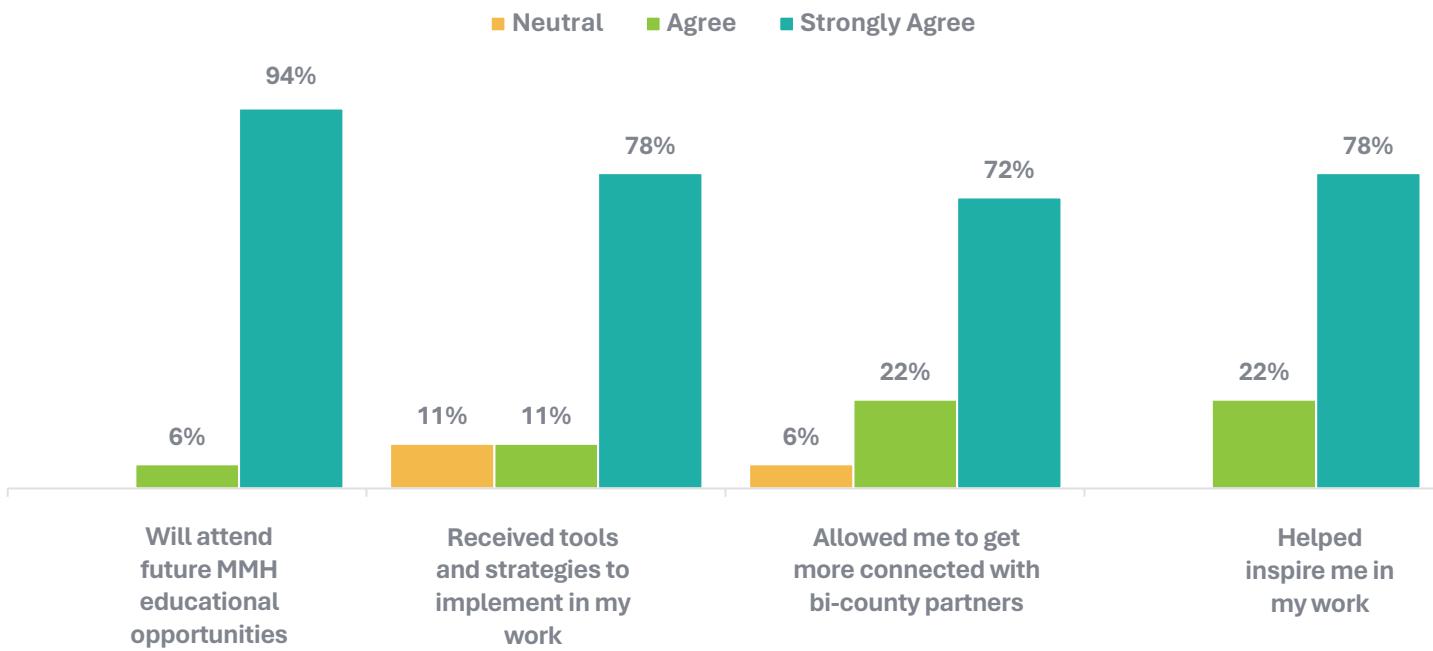
- **Keynote Presentation** on “What Parents Really Need.”
- **Expert Sessions** on neurobiological changes in parenthood, MMH disorders, and protective factors in the postpartum period.
- **Panel Discussion** focused on lived experiences, including a father’s experience with the postpartum period.
- **Cross-Collaborative** workshop with strategies and new tools.
- **Networking** between providers from healthcare, behavioral health, early education, and community services.

Conference Impact

- Providers rated the conference activities as highly relevant for their work, with the keynote (100%), panel discussion (89%), and cross-collaborative workshop (94%) receiving strong engagement.
- As shown in the figure below, providers found the conference very valuable, with nearly all attendees planning to participate in future MMH trainings. Most participants reported gaining practical tools, strengthening cross-county connections, and feeling inspired in their work.

Participants found the conference impactful and highly relevant to their work with families.

FIGURE 8. PROVIDER FEEDBACK ON MMH CONFERENCE IMPACT



Source: Maternal Mental Health Conference Post Survey. 2023-24. N = 19. Note: “Disagree” and “Strongly Disagree” categories are not shown due to no responses.

Goal 2: Improved Child Development

Programs

- Families Learning in Play (FLIP)
- Stay and Play
- United Way Born Learning Academy
- Child Care Planning Council: Keys to Quality Program

Outcomes

- Parents have access to knowledge and resources to meet their child's health and developmental needs
- Parents facilitate their child's learning and readiness for school
- Families' social networks of support and sense of community are strengthened
- Children have access to high quality early care and education
- Children enter school with the skills and resources needed to be ready



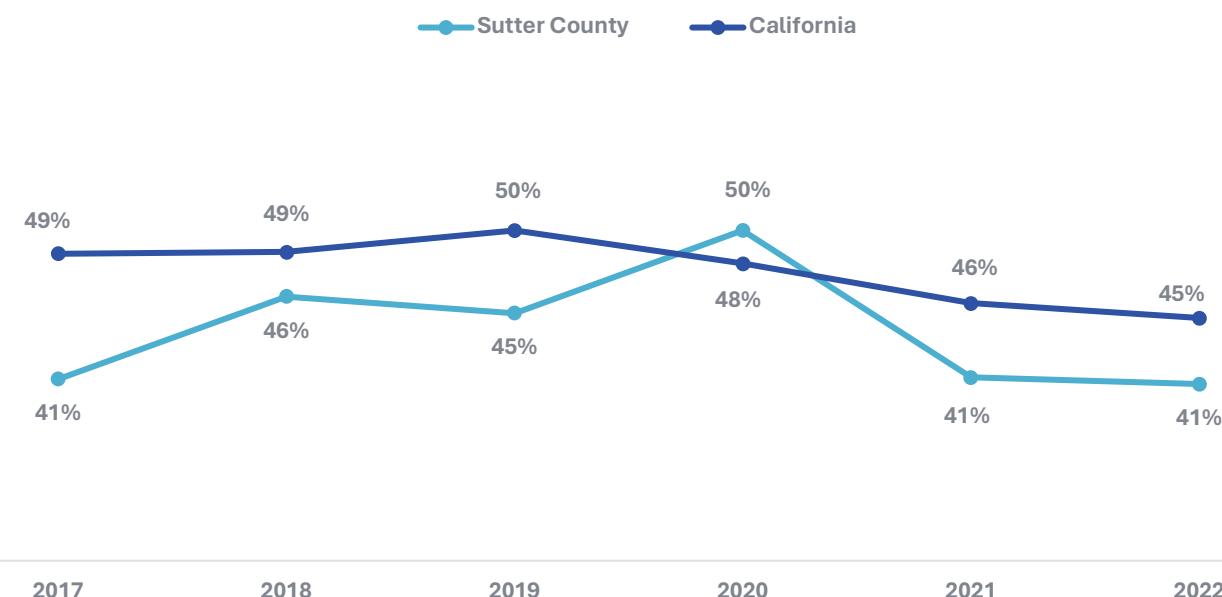
COMMUNITY-WIDE TRENDS

Preschool and Nursery School Enrollment

- While overall preschool enrollment in Sutter County has remained relatively stable, there have been some year-to-year fluctuations.
- Preschool enrollment dropped nearly 10%, from 50% in 2020 to 41% in 2021, and has remained at 41% in 2022 (see Figure 9).
- The current countywide preschool enrollment rate of 41% is lower than the statewide rate of 45%.
- Nursery school attendance among three –year olds in Sutter County is comparable to the state average of 5%.⁷

Preschool enrollment in Sutter County remained steady but lags behind the statewide rate.

FIGURE 9. PERCENTAGE OF 3-4 YEAR OLDS IN PRESCHOOL IN SUTTER COUNTY



Source: US Census, American Community Survey, five-year estimates.

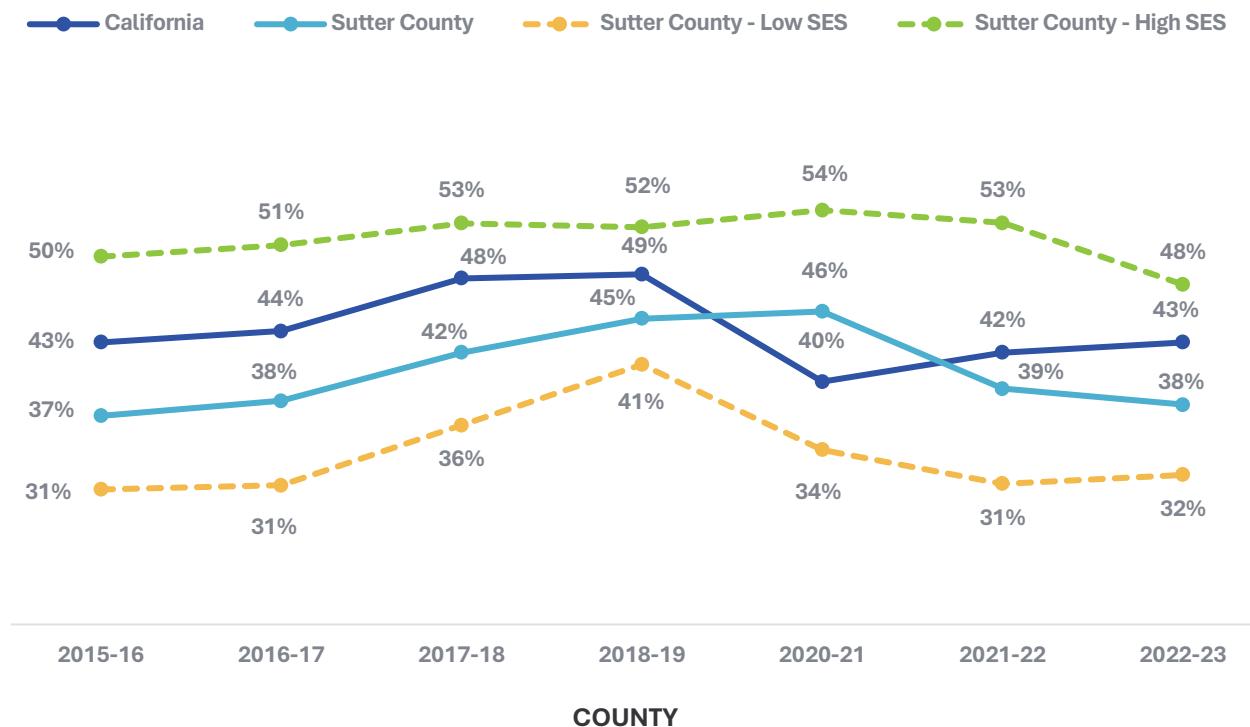
⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. Table S1401. School Enrollment. Sutter County. 3-to-4-year-olds enrolled in school and population three years and over enrolled in nursery school, preschool. Year 2022, five-year estimates.

Reading Proficiency

- Over the past five years, the percentage of children meeting or exceeding English Language Arts (ELA) standards has fluctuated between 38% and 46%.
- In 2023, 38% of Sutter County third graders met or exceeded ELA standards, a significant drop from 46% in 2020-21.
- Sutter County's current rate of 38% is below the statewide rate of 43%.
- A large gap in reading proficiency persists: In 2022-23, 48% of children from income-secure households met ELA standards compared to only 32% of children from low-income households.

Reading proficiency in Sutter County has declined since 2020-21, with low-income students continuing to lag behind their peers.

FIGURE 10. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN MEETING OR EXCEEDING 3RD GRADE ELA STANDARDS IN SUTTER



Source: California Dept of Education. CAASP English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics Dashboard, by Socioeconomic Status. DataQuest. Note: estimates for 2019/20 were not available due to the suspension of testing during the 2020 pandemic.

IMPACT OF SCCFC PROGRAMS

FAMILIES LEARNING IN PLAY (FLIP)



Playzeum's FLIP program provides interactive, play-based, early learning experiences for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their caregivers. The program engages parents in their child's early learning, while fostering school readiness, social-emotional growth, and parent-child relationships.

Program Reach

- 158 children and 165 caregivers participated in FLIP classes.
- 144 classes were offered across three programs: RIE® Parent-Infant/Toddler, School Readiness, and Creative Arts.



“Playzeum is the best and has been a lifeline for us since moving here!”

Program Offerings

- **RIE® Parent-Infant/Toddler Guidance:** Supported infants/toddlers in a nurturing, cognitively stimulating environment, encouraging attention, self-awareness, and exploration.
- **School Readiness Classes (ages 2-5):** Provided hands-on learning experiences to build early literacy, math, and science skills.
- **Creative Arts Classes (ages 0-5):** Encouraged children to build social connections, as well as create and explore visual arts, storytelling, music, movement, and dramatic play.
- **Open Play Hours:** Provided families the opportunity to play and explore in a safe and engaging space during FLIP. Playzeum's open play hours, offered three days a week, six hours a day.
- **Educational Materials and Exhibits:** Playzeum's Program Specialist maintained an enriching library and exhibits, accessible to all FLIP participants.

Program Impact

FLIP helped families and children form strong social networks.

- According to a survey completed by parents after FLIP (n = 101-118), 91% of children met new friends in class.
- 76% of parents planned playdates outside of FLIP.
- 91% of parents developed social connections with other parents.

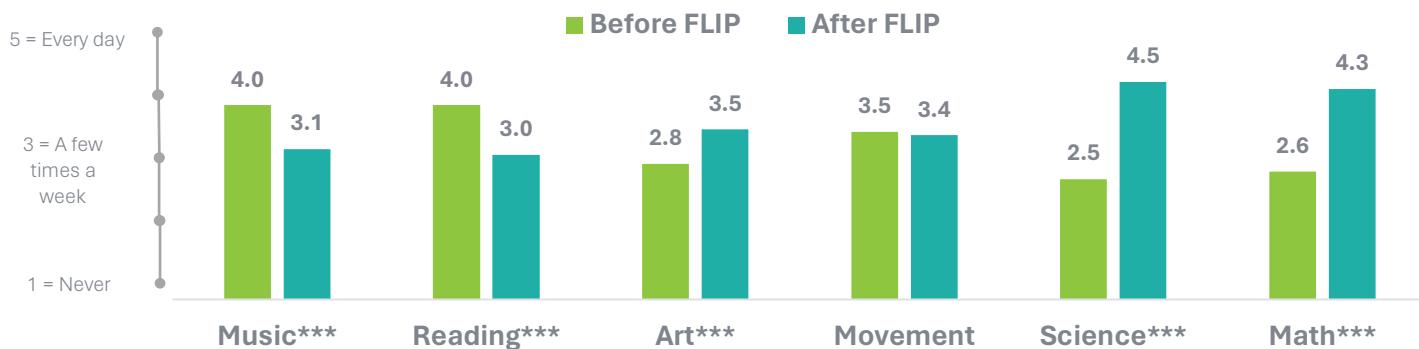


Most parents said they learned a lot about child development in FLIP and gained new parenting skills and strategies.

- 99% of parents learned how children adjust to other children.
- 97% learned how to adjust expectations and use selective attention.
- 96% felt more confident as parents.
- 96% learned when and how to intervene in their child's behavior.
- 93% gained insights into how their child interacts with others.
- 88% learned how to use the "sports casting" technique to guide behavior.
- 84% learned home extension activities.

After participating in FLIP, parents and children spent more time each week doing early learning activities that promote school readiness – particularly art, science, and math activities and games.

FIGURE 11. INCREASE IN PARENT-CHILD-LEARNING ACTIVITIES AFTER FLIP PARTICIPATION



Source: FLIP Enrollment and Post Surveys. FY 2023-24. N (Pre) = 99; N (Post) = 77; N (Matched Pairs) = 56.
Note: differences are significant at *p<.05, **p< .01, ***p< .001.

The FLIP program received highly positive feedback from families:

- 95% of parents said the class met their expectations.
- 99% planned to attend future FLIP classes.
- 99% would recommend the classes to other families.

“We love FLIP classes and the Playzeum staff is amazing! At Playzeum, we feel community and have fun together with other families. Thank you for the opportunities!”



STAY AND PLAY

Stay and Play, funded through the First 5 California IMPACT grant, provided families with 20 weekly, in-person sessions at the Sutter County Library. Sessions included fun and enriching sensory activities, story time, snacks, and monthly guest speakers who shared child development insights and local resources. The program aimed to strengthen early learning for children and support informal caregivers (referred to as Family, Friends, and Neighbors or FFNs). This year, additional funding enabled the addition of a satellite site in Sutter, increasing the frequency of Stay and Play sessions.



Children at Stay and Play observe a tiny frog in celebration of National Pet Day.

Program Reach

- 138 caregivers, 55 FFN providers and 271 children (duplicate) engaged in Stay and Play.
- 20 weekly in-person sessions, attended by an average of 20-30 children and seven caregivers per session.

Stay and Play provided 138 caregivers, 55 FFN providers, and 271 children with engaging learning experiences, hands-on activities, and valuable community connections.

Children listen to story time during a Stay in Play session at the Sutter County Library.



UNITED WAY BORN LEARNING ACADEMY



The United Way Born Learning Academy is a six-week parent education series to help families turn everyday activities into early learning opportunities. The workshops, made possible by SCCFC and the Yuba City Unified School District, equipped parents with tools, resources and strategies to prepare their children for a successful start to life through early education.

Program Reach

- 47 parents participated in the six-week Born Learning Academy workshops, averaging 29-37 parents per session.
- Families received 138 educational games and 320 books in English and Spanish.
- Families who completed at least four sessions received a \$50 Walmart gift card.

The Born Learning Academy empowered parents with strategies to support their child's early development at home.



Program Offerings

Parent Learning and Skill Development

Through workshops parents learned how to:

- Support early literacy by making reading, singing, and play part of daily routines.
- Strengthen parent-child relationships to promote social-emotional development.
- Understand child development, including brain development, emotional regulation, and developmental milestones.
- Create structure and routines to support learning at home and on the go.

Resources and Support

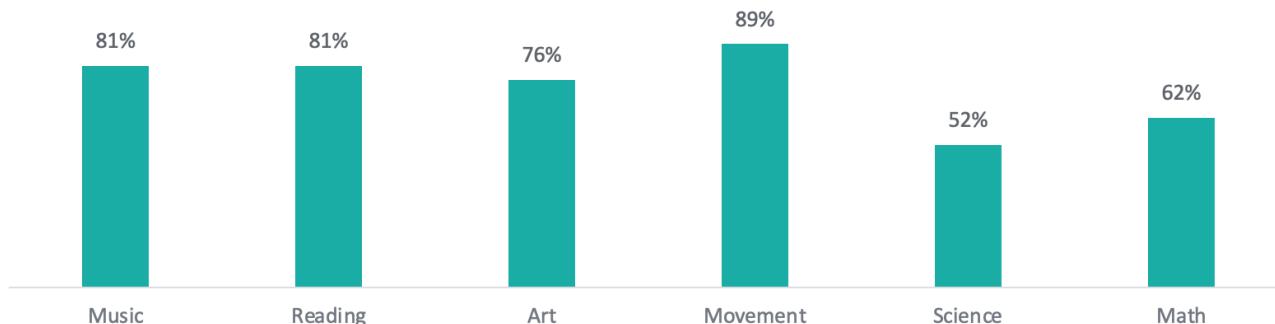
- Free child care and low-cost meals during sessions.
- Educational games.
- Bilingual books.

Program Impact

- **Parents applied what they learned:** One month after completing the program, most parents consistently engaged their children in learning activities, with over 80% incorporating music, reading, and movement into their daily routines at least three times per week (see Figure 12).
- **Parents strengthened interactions with their children,** with 95% of parents saying the program changed how they interact with their child, and 100% reporting they gave their child full attention during interactions.
- **Parenting knowledge increased** by 56%, as 75% of parents reported knowing “a lot” or “quite a bit” after completing the class (compared to 48% before).
- **Parents valued the program** with 100% saying they would recommend it to other parents.

One month after completing the Born Learning Academy, parents continued to engage their children in learning activities multiple times a week.

FIGURE 12. PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS ENGAGING CHILDREN IN ACTIVITIES AT LEAST THREE TIMES A WEEK AFTER THE PROGRAM



Source: United Way Born Learning One-Month Follow-Up Survey. FY 2023-24. N = 21.

“Before sometimes my child did not listen to me, but now I can see he changed because I am applying the knowledge I learned here.”

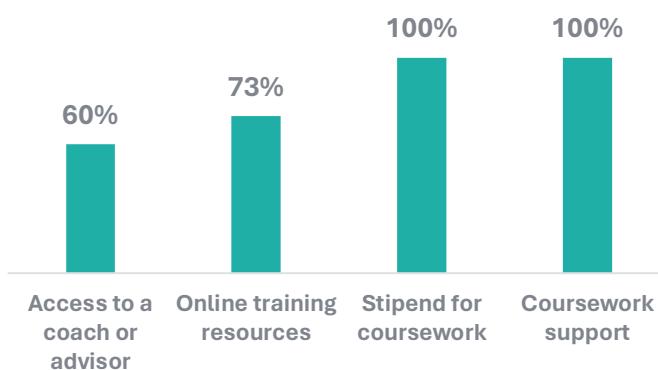
CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL: KEYS TO QUALITY PROGRAM

The Keys to Quality program, led by the Child Care Planning Council (CCPC) of Yuba and Sutter, supports early childhood educators. The program, which is part of the California Quality Counts Child Care Improvement Initiative, provides professional development, educational stipends, and quality improvement resources for childhood educators in Sutter and Yuba Counties.

Program Reach

- 46 early educators from 45 sites participated.
- 610 hours of professional development training were completed.
- 133 higher education units earned toward ECE and Child Development degrees, or child development permits.
- 50% of providers met or exceeded the required 21 hours of annual professional development.

FIGURE 13. WHAT PARTICIPANTS FOUND MOST USEFUL



Source: Keys to Quality Stipend Program Survey. FY 2023-24.
N = 10 – 40 depending on item.



Program Offerings

- **Professional Development and Training:** The program offered ongoing virtual and in-person training opportunities on topics such as: trauma-responsive caregiving, dual language learners, equity and inclusion, and family engagement.
- **Educational Stipends:** Provided financial support for participants completing AA/BA coursework in ECE or professional development pathway training.
- **Quality Improvement Support:** Assisted child care providers with site visits, coaching and quality assessments to enhance early learning environments.

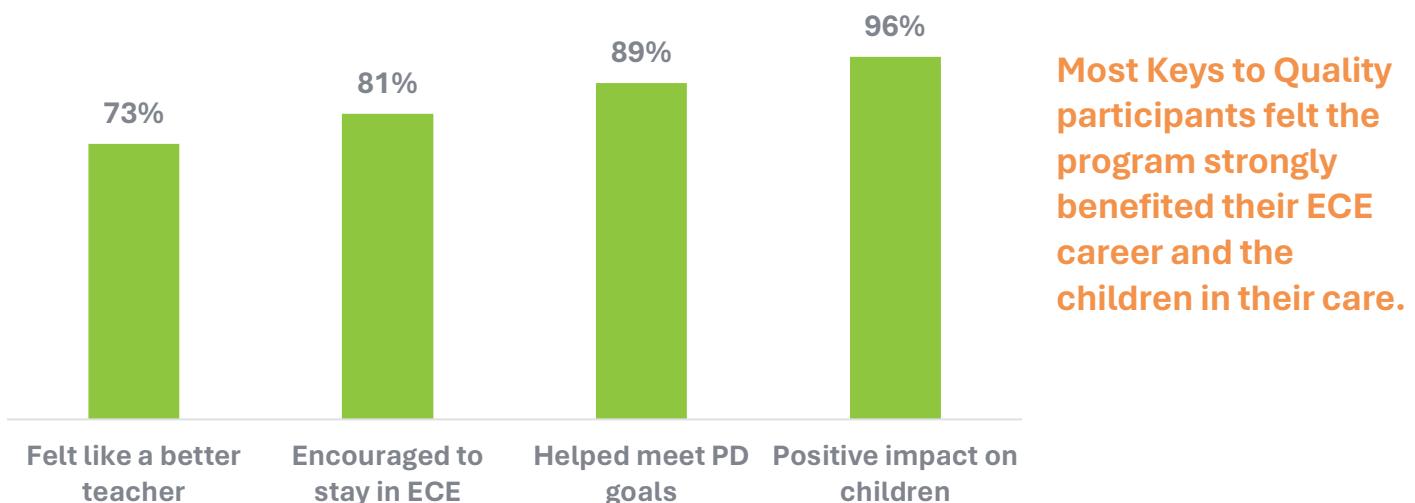
Participants appreciated the program's training, resources, and support for advancing their careers and improving child care quality.

Program Impact

- Seven sites increased their quality rating.
- Nine providers applied for or renewed a permit.
- Nine providers completed all program requirements.
- As shown in the figure below, participants reported strong benefits for both their own growth and the children in their care.



FIGURE 14. PROGRAM BENEFITS REPORTED BY PARTICIPANTS



Source: Keys to Quality Stipend Program Survey. FY 2023-24. N = 10 - 40.

Most Keys to Quality participants felt the program strongly benefited their ECE career and the children in their care.

“Excelente trabajo con las personas que hacen posible tener clases en Español. EN: [Excellent work with the people who make it possible to have classes in Spanish].”

“This program was very helpful and informative. I loved it all and learned so much.”

Goal 3: Healthy Children and Families

Programs

- Help Me Grow
- CallInspire Provider Outreach and Education
- AmeriCorps Parents as Teachers
- Public Health Safe Sleep Program
- South Sutter Swim
- Mindful Youth Adventure
- Life Jacket Loaner and Giveaway Program
- The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Child Passenger Safety Program
- SCCFC Oral Health Services

Outcomes

- Babies are born healthy and mothers are provided perinatal/breastfeeding support
- Parents have the knowledge and resources to meet their child's health and developmental needs
- Children's health and developmental needs are identified and addressed with early intervention
- Children's oral health needs are identified and addressed
- Children and families have access to safe, healthy recreational activities
- Children are kept safe and injury-free



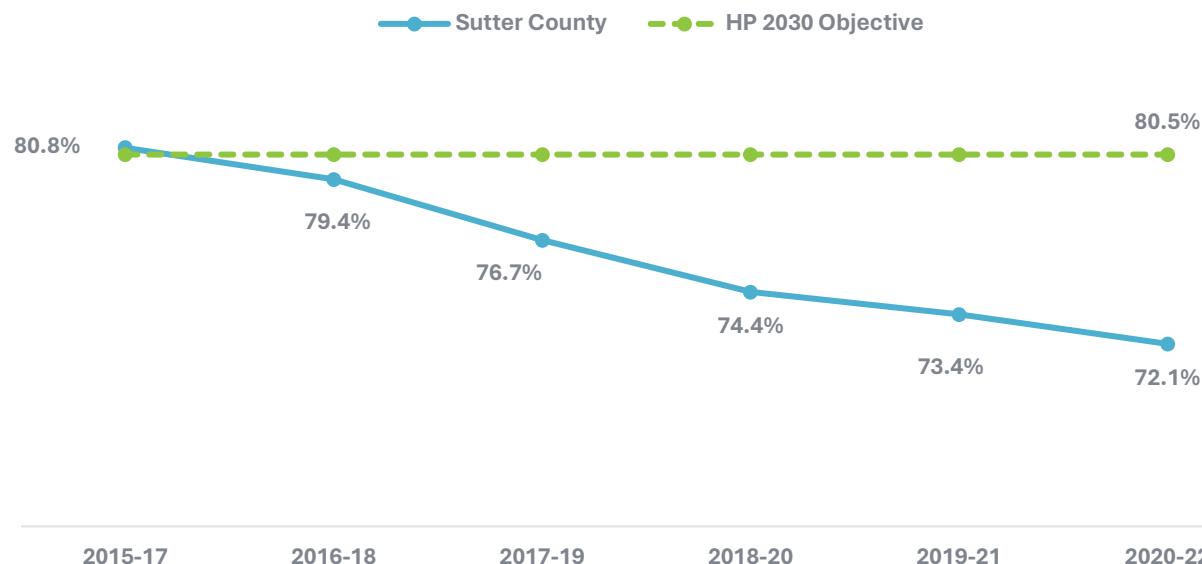
COMMUNITY-WIDE TRENDS

Prenatal Care

- The proportion of mothers receiving adequate prenatal care in Sutter County has consistently dropped to 72.1% (2020-2022) down from 80.8% (2015-2017).
- The current rate is 8% lower than the Healthy People 2030 Objective of 80.5% (see Figure 15).

Prenatal care access in Sutter County has steadily declined, falling below national targets and highlighting a growing gap in maternal health services.

FIGURE 15. PERCENTAGE OF MOTHERS WHO RECEIVED ADEQUATE OR ADEQUATE PLUS PRENATAL CARE



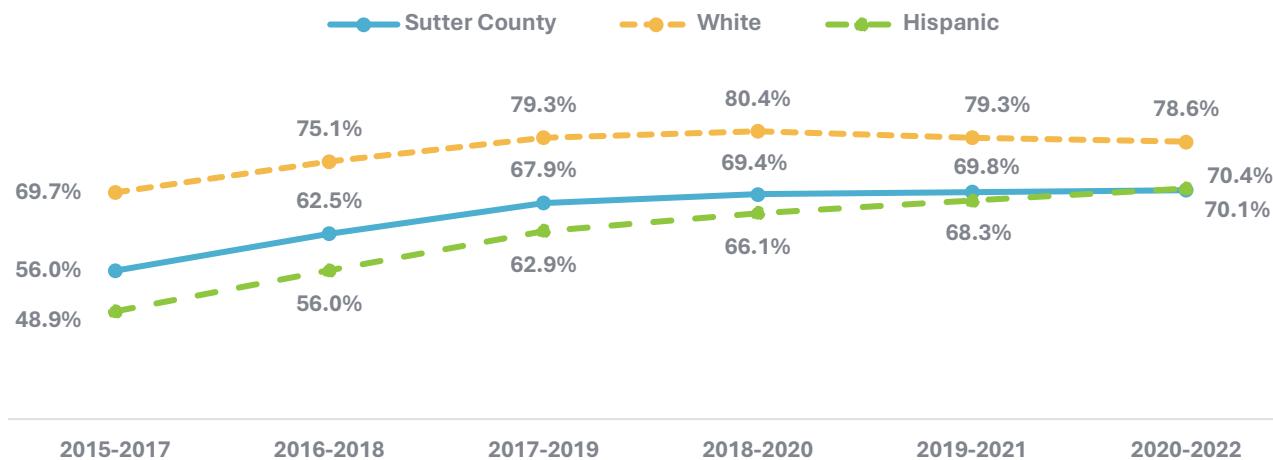
Source: Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division, three-year averages for years 2015-2022. Note: Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index categorizes “Adequate” as prenatal care begun by fourth month with 80%-109% of recommended visits received. “Adequate Plus” is defined as prenatal care begun by the fourth month of pregnancy and 110% or more of recommended visits received.

Breastfeeding Rates

- Exclusive breastfeeding rates in Sutter County have steadily increased over the past five years, aligning closely with statewide trends.
- In 2020-22, seven out of 10 Sutter County mothers (70.1%) breastfed their babies in the hospital, comparable to the statewide rate of 68.8%.
- Exclusive breastfeeding among Hispanic mothers increased by 2% over the past year, while the rate for White mothers remained relatively unchanged (see Figure 16).
- A breastfeeding gap persists with 70.4% of Hispanic mothers exclusively breastfeeding, compared to 78.6% of White mothers.

Exclusive breastfeeding rates in Sutter County continued to rise, though disparities persisted between White and Hispanic mothers.

FIGURE 16. RATES FOR IN-HOSPITAL EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING IN SUTTER COUNTY



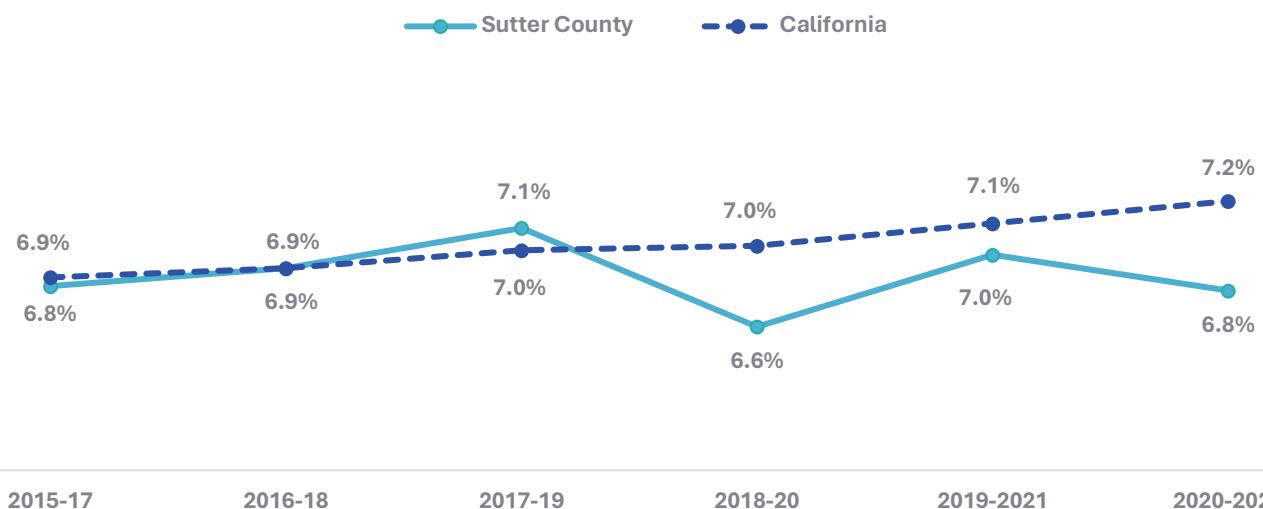
Source: California Department of Public Health. In-Hospital Breastfeeding Initiation Data. Years 2015-2022. KidsData.org. In-Hospital Breastfeeding of Newborns Data Dashboard. Data for American Indian or Alaska Native, Pacific Islander or Hawaiian Native, and other races or ethnicities are not included due to very small estimates.

Low Birth Weight

- The prevalence of low birth weight in Sutter County decreased from 7.0% (2019-21) to 6.8% (2020-22), remaining below the state rate.
- The statewide rate remained steady, around 7% over the past five years. Historically Sutter County's rates have been slightly below the statewide average (see Figure 17).

Low birth weight rates in Sutter County declined slightly but remained below statewide trends.

FIGURE 7. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN BORN WITH LOW BIRTH WEIGHT



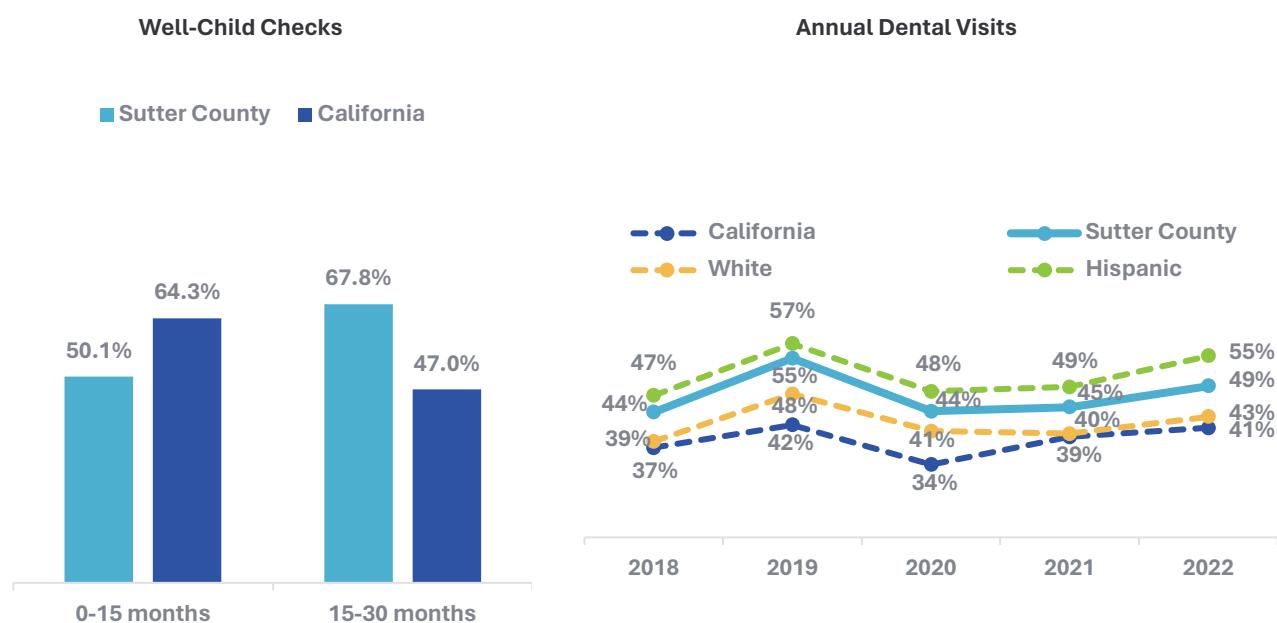
Source: California Dept. of Public Health, County Health Status Profiles. Low Birth Weight, three-year averages. Years 2017-2022.

Preventive Health Services Utilization

- **Infant well-child visits** (0-15 months): 50.1% of Sutter County infants had all recommended well-child visits, below the statewide average of 64.3%.
- **Toddler well-child visits** (15-30 months): 67.8% of Sutter toddlers received well-child checks, exceeding the state average of 47%.
- **Preventive dental care** (ages 0-5): 49% of young children received preventive dental services, similar to last year and above the statewide rate of 41%.
- Hispanic children had 12% higher rates of annual dental visits compared to White children.

Sutter County exceeded state averages in well-child visits for toddlers and preventive dental care, but infant well-child visit rates fell below state averages.

FIGURE 8. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ON MEDI-CAL WITH RECOMMENDED WELL-CHILD CHECKS AND ANNUAL DENTAL VISITS



Source (well-checks): California Department of Public Health, Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plan Performance Measure Comparison. Years 2021-2023. Source (dental visits): California Health and Human Services (CHHS) - Dental Utilization Measures and Sealant Data by County and Age. Calendar Years 2018-2022.

IMPACT OF SCCFC PROGRAMS

HELP ME GROW

Help Me Grow (HMG) is a national model that provides screening, early intervention and case management services to connect families with young children to developmental resources and support.



Program Reach

- 1,500 families attended 23 community outreach events and 12 on-site developmental and dental screening events.
- 928 children received 1,391 developmental screenings including:
 - 920 developmental ASQ-3 screenings
 - 471 social-emotional ASQ-SE screenings
- 90% of screenings were conducted in English, with the remainder in Spanish and Punjabi.
- 179 backpacks filled with early learning supplies and New Parent Kits were distributed at HMG events.

HMG screened over 900 children in Sutter County, playing a key role in identifying and supporting children's developmental needs.

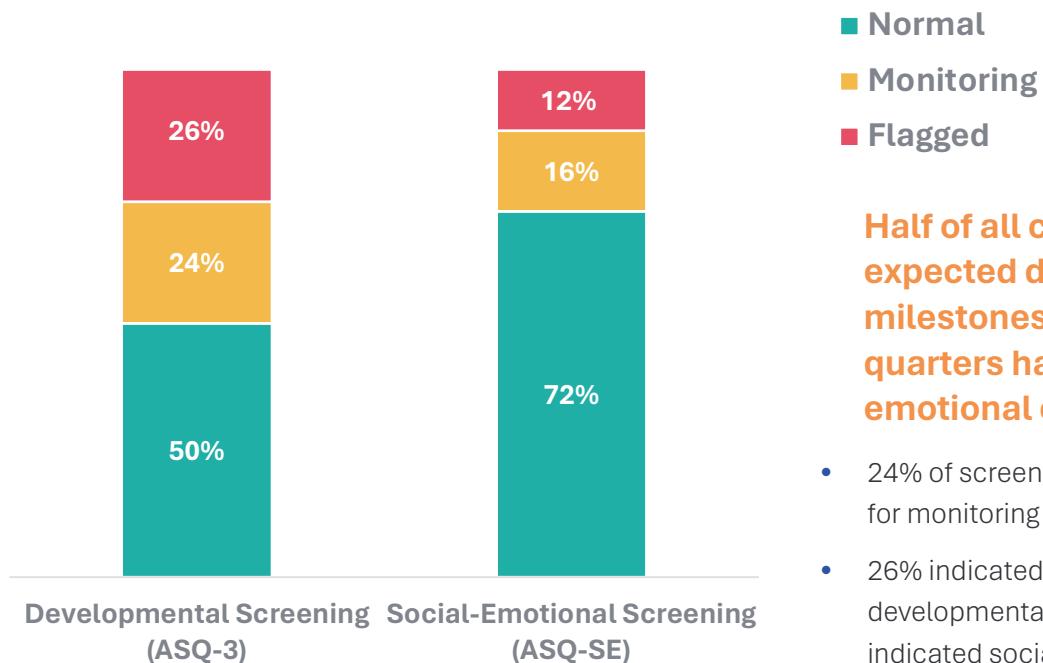


Children ages 2-5 who completed a screening received a free backpack filled with early learning supplies.

A young girl and her mother participate in an HMG screening event – one of 12 events hosted this year to support early development.

Developmental Screening Results

Figure 19. Percentage of Children with Developmental Concerns on the ASQ



Developmental Screening Social-Emotional Screening (ASQ-3) (ASQ-SE)

Source: FY 2023-24 ASQ-3 Online Aggregate Results, by Category. N (ASQ-3) = 920; N (ASQ-SE) = 471.

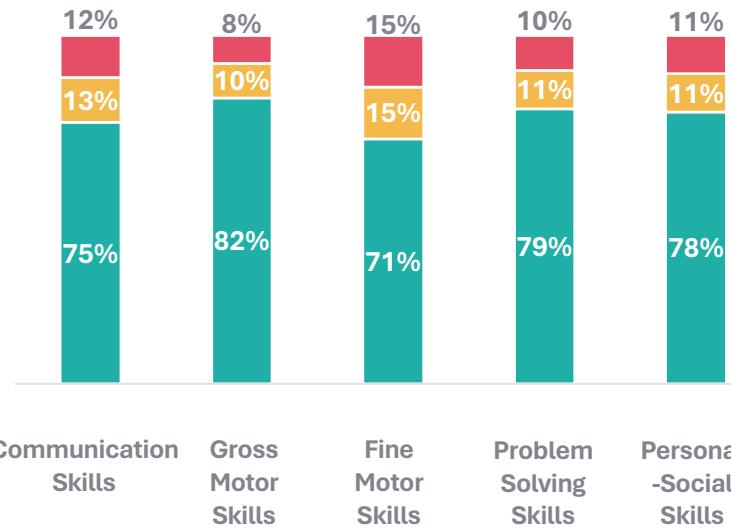
Half of all children met the expected developmental milestones and nearly three-quarters had no social-emotional concerns.

- 24% of screenings flagged a need for monitoring and follow-up.
- 26% indicated potential developmental delays, and 10% indicated social-emotional difficulties, warranting referrals to early intervention.

Fine motor skills and communication delays were the most common concern.

- Fine motor skills had the highest concerns, with 15% of children needing monitoring, and 15% flagged for delays.
- Communication delays were the next highest area of concern, with 13% needing monitoring and 12% flagged.
- Personal-social, problem solving, and gross motor skills showed lower levels of concerns, but still notable levels of need for monitoring and intervention.

Figure 20. Percentage of Children with Developmental Concerns on the ASQ-SE



Program Impact

- **Information Access:** At HMG events, families had access to screening and information booths covering key child development topics. Based on a HMG parent survey (n=117), the five most useful information areas were:
 - Speech and language
 - Positive discipline
 - Oral health
 - Language and cognitive skills
 - Fine and gross motor skills
- 95% of parents found the screenings helpful, and 77% found them very helpful.
- 98% of parents said the information from HMG screening events made them a better parent.
- 88% of parents reported that HMG staff answered all or most of their questions about child development.



Parents explore screening and information booths at an HMG event.

Parents found HMG screenings helpful, and said the information provided at the HMG screening events made them a better parent.

A young girl receives a screening at HMG's monthly health and developmental screening event.

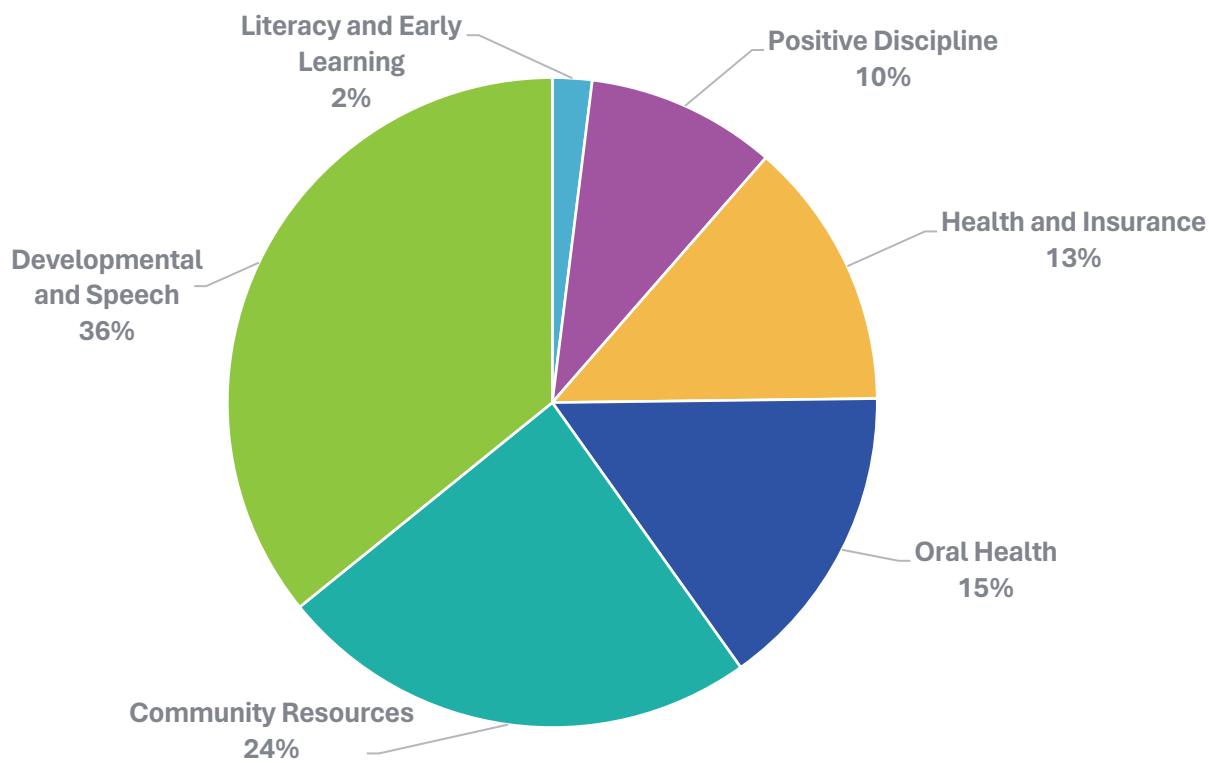


Program Impact

- **Case Management and Referrals:** Families who needed additional support beyond screenings were connected to case management services, where bilingual coordinators helped them navigate resources and access specialized services.
 - 240 families received case management, including 243 assessments and 257 referrals.
 - As shown in the figure below, the most common referral needs were for developmental and speech support (36%), community resources (24%), and oral health services (15%).
 - Between 62% and 100% of referrals resulted in families accessing services.

The top needs among families were child development and speech supports, along with access to community resources.

FIGURE 21. TOP REFERRAL NEEDS FOR FAMILIES IN FY 2023-24



Source: ECM Persimmon Database. Case Management Reports. FY 2023-24. N (families referred) = 142; N (referrals) = 257; N (Referrals Accessed) = 202.

CALINSPIRE PROVIDER OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

SCCFC staff, supported by the CallINSPIRE grant and in partnership with Public Health, worked to strengthen maternal mental health awareness, provider education, and screening and referral rates in clinical settings. Staff conducted trainings, presentations, and technical assistance (TA) meetings to expand a network of providers knowledge about Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD).

Program Reach

- 197 providers received education and support including:
- 27 TA sessions, supporting 44 providers; and
 - 10 trainings and presentations, attended by 80 providers.
- SCCFC staff networked with 85 providers across 8 clinics.
 - 239 contacts (e.g., meetings, trainings, events, information sharing sessions) were made.

CalINSPIRE Goals

- **Build a Network** of medical, family, and perinatal clinics to increase collaboration.
- **Improve Maternal Mental Health Awareness.**
- **Increase Screening and Referral Rates** for children, families, and perinatal patients in clinical settings.
- **Expand Provider Education** on Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD).

Providers attend a provider appreciation event. Ten CallInspire trainings reached 80 providers this year.



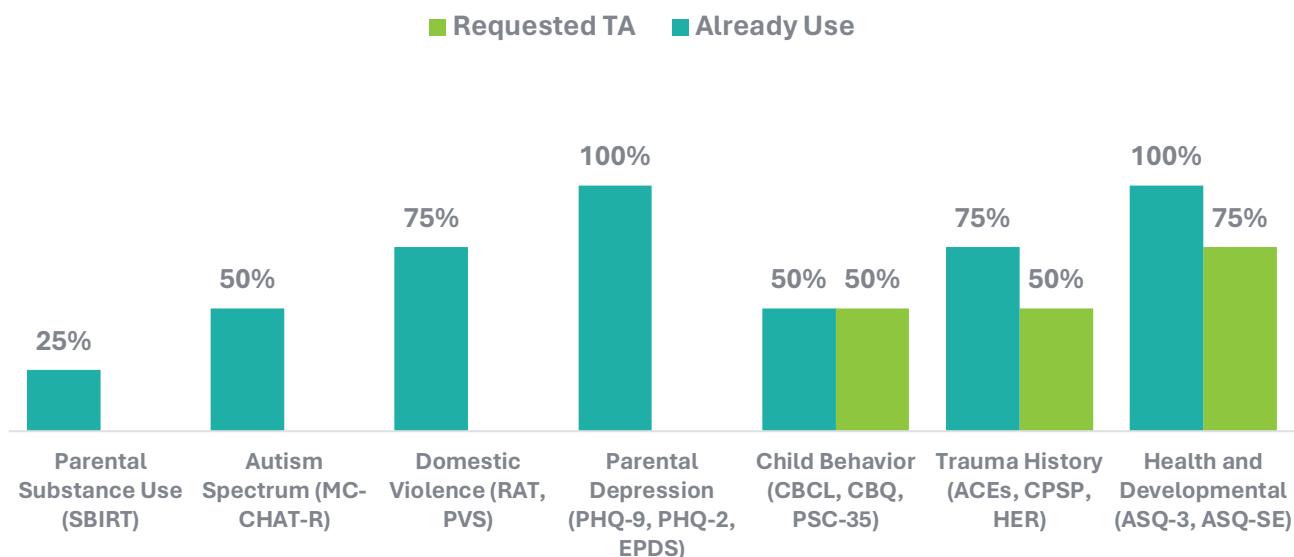
Provider Screening Practices and Training Needs

- Screening Use Among Providers
 - As shown in the figure below, all providers already screened for parental depression and developmental milestones.
 - Most screened for trauma history and domestic violence, while fewer assessed child behavior, autism, and parental substance use.
- Training and Technical Assistance Needs
 - The greatest need for training was in developmental milestone screenings (ASQ-3, ASQ-SE).
 - Many providers also requested training in trauma history and child behavior screenings.

Providers actively screened for parental depression and developmental milestones, but needed additional support in developmental screenings, trauma assessments, and child behavior screenings.

- Referral Needs
 - 60% of providers requested support with improving referral processes. Providers wanted support in improving referrals for mental health, public health, and family support services.

FIGURE 22. CURRENT SCREENING PRACTICES AND TRAINING REQUESTS AMONG PROVIDERS



Source: Partner Survey. FY 2023-24. N = 5 providers (only 4 responded to most questions).

AMERICORPS PARENTS AS TEACHERS HOME VISITING

Parents as Teachers Home Visiting Program (PAT) is an evidence-based, home visiting model designed to foster optimal early development, learning, and health by supporting and engaging caregivers.



Program Reach

- 22 parents and 20 children received home visits.
- 11 parents received home visiting education, with 27% completing over 12 hours.

Program Impact

- Families received health education, food security support, and 23 referrals for essential resources:
 - 39% of referrals were for basic needs (i.e., food) 30% were for cribs and diapers, 22% were for other necessities and/or financial support, and 9% were for clothing.

Program Offerings

- **Home Visits:** Home visitors collaborate with families to set goals, enhance parenting knowledge and strengthen resilience.
- **Group Connections:** Opportunities for parents to engage with other parents and learn together.
- **Child Screenings:** Screenings to track developmental progress and identify needs early.
- **Resource Network:** Connections to community resources.



PAT provided home visiting services to 22 parents, offering education and resources to promote optimal early development, learning and health.

PUBLIC HEALTH SAFE SLEEP PROGRAM

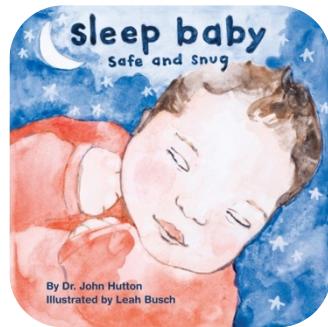


Sutter County Public Health's Safe Sleep Program provided educational materials, supplies, and direct outreach in order to increase new parents' awareness of safe sleep practices and reduce sudden infant death syndrome rates.

Program Reach

- 971 new parents received safe sleep educational materials and supplies at 13 health fairs, community events, and the Adventist Health Birthing Center Rideout Rounds.
- To promote the use of infant cribs:
 - The program distributed flyers advertising SCCFC's free crib program.
 - 28 families received a free Pack and Play crib and a gift bag containing materials on safe sleep, maternal mental health, and breastfeeding.
- To raise awareness, the following educational materials were distributed:
 - 202 families received in-person safe sleep education.
 - 250 families received a *Sleep Baby Safe and Snug* book.
 - 448 families received a safe sleep resource folder.
 - 76 additional books were distributed at events.

Through outreach, education, and resources, the Safe Sleep Program helped 971 families create safer sleep environments for their babies.



28 families received free Pack and Play cribs and 250 families received the "Sleep Baby Safe and Snug" book to support safe sleep practices and reduce the risk of SIDS.

SOUTH SUTTER SWIM

To promote water safety and parent-child physical fitness, SCCFC continued to sponsor the South Sutter Learn to Swim program, offering free water safety education and swim lessons at the South Sutter Recreation Association pool.

Program Reach

- 71 children and 64 parents participated in swim lessons, averaging 6-7 children per class.
- 97% of parents and 99% of children completed the two-week course.
- Whenever possible, children continued to the next session for further skill development.



A parent and child build water confidence in a Parent and Tot class.



Young swimmers in the Tiny Tot class.

Program Impact

- 95% of parents reported their child's water confidence and skills improved.
- 100% of parents were satisfied with the teacher/lifeguard-to-student ratio.
- 97% of parents were very likely to enroll again next summer.

Program Offerings

- **Parent and Tot** (ages 0-3): Helps infants and toddlers build water confidence through safe water activities, floating, and submersion with parent participation.
- **Tiny Tot I and II** (ages 3-5): Focuses on floating, kicking, and rhythmic breathing with parent participation, preparing children for independent swimming.
- **Level 1 and 2** (ages 5+): Strengthens swimming and water safety skills for older children.

Nearly all children gained confidence and improved their water safety skills through South Sutter Swim's water programs.

MINDFUL YOUTH ADVENTURES

The Mindful Youth Adventures (MYA) program engages parents and young children in mindfulness practices to build resilience, foster positive social connections, and develop children's social-emotional competence, including emotion recognition and regulation.

Program Reach

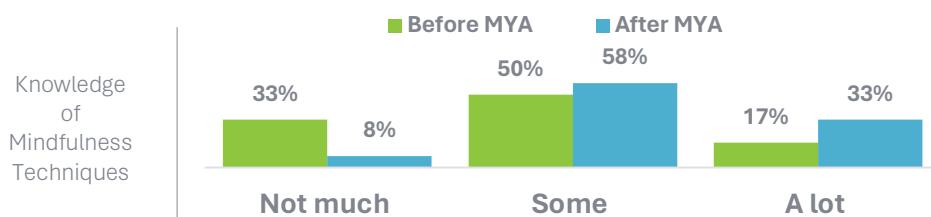
- 78 children and 122 parents participated in *Mindful Mentor and Me* groups and activities at the Sutter County Library.

MYA helped families developed mindfulness skills that improved social connections and emotional regulation.

Program Impact

- 73% of parents reported improvements in their child's social connections; 55% said their child was better at using breathing techniques to manage stress; and 46% observed growth in their child's ability to recognize emotions.
- As seen in the figure below, parents themselves reported an increased understanding of mindfulness techniques.
- Nearly all parents (92%) planned to apply what they learned and 100% would recommend the class to others.

FIGURE 23. INCREASE IN PARENTAL KNOWLEDGE OF MINDFULNESS



Source: Mindful Youth Adventure Post-Event Feedback Survey. FY 2023-24. N = 12.



Families participating in MYA at the Sutter County Library

Program Offerings

- Engaging Activities:** Child-friendly activities (e.g., yoga, dance, story time, crafts, field trips) help families practice mindfulness in engaging ways.
- Building Emotional Skills:** Children learn to manage emotions, express feelings and listen to others.
- Stress Management:** Children practice breathing techniques and mindful movement to cope with stress and improve focus.
- Parent Learning:** Parents gain tools to support their child's emotional development and strengthen their own mindfulness practices.

"The class was accessible for all ages to learn yoga. The songs were fun, but everything also had a purpose."

LIFE JACKET LOANER AND GIVEAWAY PROGRAM

To promote water safety and injury prevention, SCCFC continued to partner with the non-profit Sea Tow Foundation and the Sheriff's Department to distribute 248 life jackets through giveaway events and loaner stations.

Program Reach

- 178 life jackets were given away at the SplashSafe Children's Life Jacket Giveaway event hosted in partnership with the Sheriff's Department. The event was in high demand with all 30-50 lb life jackets claimed within 12 minutes.
- 70 life jackets were stocked at four loaner stations in partnership with the Sutter County Sheriff's Department Boat Patrol, Sutter County Deputy Sheriff's Association, and Yuba City.
- SCCFC participated in the Sea Tow contest, creating a video demonstrating proper child life jacket use.

SCCFC helped ensure water safety for hundreds of young children through life jacket giveaways and education.



Life jackets stocked at one of four loaner stations.



Families received free life jackets, custom fittings, and water safety education at the Splash Safe event.

THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY (OTS) CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY PROGRAM

To promote child passenger safety and injury prevention, SCCFC partnered with the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) to provide families with car seat education, no-cost car seats, and installation assistance.

Car Seat Distribution and Installation Support

- 467 families received car seats and/or installation including:
- 398 new car seats, with 68 funded directly by SCCFC
- 69 pre-owned car seats inspected and installed as needed



Child Passenger Safety Education

- 206 families received car seat safety education through group and individual appointments.
- 2,520 families participated in 26 traffic safety events, including:
- 21 community traffic safety events
- 5 car seat check-up events

Over 2,500 parents received car seat safety education, no-cost car seats, and installation support through SCCFC's OTS-funded program.

Provider and Law Enforcement Training

- 60 providers completed child passenger safety training, with two providers earning NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Technician re-certifications.
- Patrol officers participated in roll call trainings at the Yuba City Police Department on car seat laws and vehicle codes; correct installation techniques; and identifying improper far seat use in the field.



Families received free car seats and expert installation advice at SCCFC-sponsored events.

SCCFC ORAL HEALTH SERVICES

SCCFC promoted oral health awareness and preventative care by providing dental exams, fluoride treatments, and educational resources to families at outreach events and schools.

Program Reach and Impact

- 266 children received dental exams and fluoride treatments at 13 HMG health screening events, including 12 HMG outreach events and one oral health drive-through event. Children got an oral health kit with a toothbrush and other goodies.
- 255 parents accessed oral health education and received informational materials at the events.
- 347 kindergarten oral health assessments were completed across 18 schools.

266 children received free dental exams and fluoride treatments at community events, promoting early oral health habits.



Children received free dental exams at SCCFC's drive-through oral health event, and other community events.

Goal 4: Improved Systems of Care

Programs

- Community outreach
- Handle with Care
- FindHelp Resource and referral platform
- Home Visiting Systems Coordination grant
- Sponsorships and mini grants for ECE providers
- Presentations, advocacy, and proclamations
- Community Schools Initiative

Outcomes

- Families have the information and support they need to access the early childhood system of care
- Early childhood systems are strengthened, integrated, and sustained
- Early childhood resources, services, and supports are sustained with legislation and policy



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SCCFC expanded its community outreach through nearly 30 events and bilingual social media campaigns, strengthening local partnerships and connecting families to vital resources. Events focused on family engagement, early literacy, health, resilience, and professional development, while online outreach increased awareness of SCCFC programs and services.

SCCFC's in-person and social media outreach engaged thousands of families, increasing awareness of services and fostering connections within the community.

Outreach Events

- 1,696 children, 1,456 parents, and 174 providers participated in 30 SCCFC-sponsored events, including:⁹
 - **Six Family and Community Involvement activities** (e.g., National Night Out and Trunk or Treat).
 - **Nine Health and Development fairs** (e.g., Binational Health Fair, and Hispanic Forum Overdose Awareness ,and Narcan Training).
 - **Six Early Literacy and Learning activities** (e.g., Library End of Summer Party and YCUSD Resource Fair).
 - **Three Family Resiliency Events** (e.g., YCUSD Free Summer Meals Kick-Off and Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Day).
 - **Four Professional Development and Support activities** (e.g., The Whole Child ECE Conference and Provider Appreciation Evening).

Social Media

- SCCFC's social media outreach reached over 300,000 people with:
 - 5,400 Facebook page visits (+10% from last year) and 285 Instagram page visits (+26% from last year).



Children gather at the SCCFC outreach table during Sonfest at Sam Brannan Park in Yuba City.



SCCFC connected with families and distributed backpacks at YCUSD Back to School Resource Fair.

⁹ Note: not counting Exhibits, Car Seat, Water Safety, or Dental Health events presented elsewhere.

HANDLE WITH CARE



Handle with Care strengthened community partnerships to ensure children exposed to trauma received the support they needed at school and beyond.

To reduce the effects of toxic stress in children exposed to trauma, SCCFC continues to play a key role in Handle with Care, a collaborative crisis response initiative linking law enforcement, schools, and mental health providers. The program facilitates real-time police-school communication to ensure continuity of care for children experiencing traumatic events.

Building on efforts from previous years, SCCFC helped establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with nine key agencies, including law enforcement, behavioral health, and child abuse prevention organizations. In addition, SCCFC developed the FOCUS app in partnership with the Sutter County Superintendent's Office and the Stanislaus County Office of Education. The FOCUS app serves as the primary communication tool for first responders and educators.

New Achievements

- Successful pilot completion at Luther Elementary School, with 16 unique incidents reported
- Expansion to Live Oak Unified School District in fall 2024
- SCCFC continues to act as a liaison between the Board of Supervisors and the County Office of Education, to support ongoing training for providers and ensure effective implementation of the FOCUS app.

This year, SCCFC expanded Handle with Care by completing a pilot, expanding to Live Oak school district, and supporting ongoing provider training.



FINDHELP RESOURCE AND REFERRAL PLATFORM



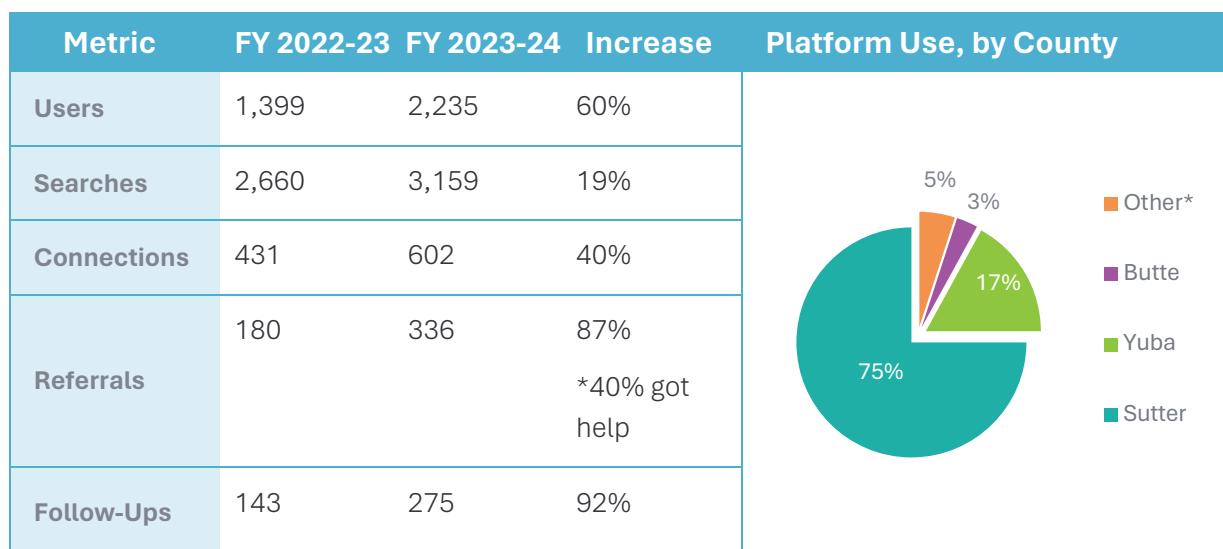
SCCFC and the Network of Care launched FindHelp in Sutter County, an online resource and referral platform to connect community members to vital services. This online system features a bidirectional screening, a referral portal, and an internal SCCFC site for analytics and staff training. This year SCCFC continued to educate local providers about FindHelp, holding provider and community training workshops. These efforts were successful and the FindHelp platform saw a significant increase in use during FY 2023-24.

Program Reach

- 2,235 users accessed the platform – a 60% increase from the previous year.
- 3,159 searches were conducted for: material assistance (37%), housing (19%), food (14%), child care (10%), health (10%), work/education (5%), and transportation, legal, and other services (5%).
- Referrals increased by 87%, and follow-ups grew by 92%, reflecting greater engagement with the system.
- SCCFC expanded provider training and community awareness efforts, contributing to growth in use. Three-quarters of users were from Sutter County, with the remainder from Yuba and nearby counties.

FindHelp connected more families to resources than ever before, with an 87% increase in referrals and greater engagement across Sutter County.

FIGURE 24. FINDHELP PLATFORM USAGE AND GROWTH: FY 2022-24



Source: Sutter County FindHelp. FY 2023-24. Note: *Other Counties include: Sacramento, Santa Barbara, Orange, Yolo, Los Angeles, Placer, Out of County.

HOME VISITING SYSTEMS COORDINATION GRANT

The Home Visiting Systems Coordination grant was initiated by First 5 California to help counties create a sustainable, unified system of family supports through home visiting (HV) services, while maximizing funding to serve more families. The achievements made possible by the collaborative include:

Home Visiting Expansion:

- SCCFC expanded its home visiting capacity by adding a full-time staff member.

The Home Visiting Systems Coordination grant helped build a sustainable system of family support by increasing home visiting capacity and developmental screenings, engaging parents, securing new funding, and prioritizing equity.

Improved Developmental Screening:

- Pediatric referral strategies significantly increased the number of children receiving early screenings.

Strengthened Parent Engagement:

- Multiple community convenings, RAPID surveys, and local partnerships ensured parents had a voice in program development.



New Funding Secured:

- CYBHI, CalFresh Outreach, and other grants helped expand services and ensure financial sustainability.

Equity and Inclusion Progress:

- SCCFC actively worked with state and local partners to reduce disparities in child and family services.

SPONSORSHIPS AND MINI GRANTS FOR ECE PROVIDERS

Mini Grants for ECE Providers

SCCFC awarded \$25,000 in mini grants to support ECE providers, benefitting both center-based agencies and family child care homes.

- Five center-based agencies and nine family child care homes received grants.
 - Some of the grantees included: Live Oak Development Center, Yuba City Unified School District, Child Development Programs, and Creative Kids Preschool.

Community Sponsorships

To support community initiatives, SCCFC further awarded \$26,520 in sponsorships to 15 local organizations, enhancing family-focused events and programs. Supported initiatives included:

- Family SOUP: Bistro in the Buttes event
- Casa de Esperanza: Where Hope grows Project
- Playzeum: Touch a Truck
- YC Education Foundation: Have a Heart Run
- TriCounties Breastfeeding Alliance: Yuba Sutter Breastfeeds.

SCCFC awarded over \$50,000 in sponsorships and grants to strengthen community programs and early learning.

Community members participate in the SCCFC-sponsored Have a Heart Run.



PRESENTATIONS, ADVOCACY, AND PROCLAMATIONS

SCCFC played a key role in advocacy efforts this year, working to strengthen systems-level support for children and families. Staff gave presentations at the state and federal level, participated in local and statewide initiatives, and marked key milestones through proclamations.

Presentations and Advocacy

- **First 5 California Summit:** Dr. Michele Blake presented on systems change to First 5 leaders.
- **SeaTow National Conference:** SCCFC highlighted the importance of life jackets in water safety and Dr. Michele Blake served as a panelist.

SCCFC raised awareness and strengthened support for families through advocacy, proclamations and presentations at the state and federal levels.

Proclamations and Milestones

- **25th Anniversary:** Celebrated SCCFC's 25 years of service with a Yuba City Commendation.
- **Week of the Young Child:** SCCFC supported six parent-child events such as Art in the Community and Child Abuse Prevention Day.
- **Maternal Mental Health Proclamations**



SCCFC joins the Sutter County Board of Supervisors in presenting the Maternal Mental Health Proclamation, recognizing May 2024 as Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month.



Children engage in art activities at SCCFC's Week of the Young Child: Art in the Community event.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE (CCSPP/CDE GRANT)



This year the Community Schools Initiative, supported by the CCSPP/CDE grant, focused on establishing a strong foundation to reduce achievement gaps and improve readiness for school and life. Key activities included:

Partner Engagement:

- Engaged 35 key partners, surpassing targets, through nine UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup meetings;
- Facilitated the integration of funding and programs to support children and families;

Collaboration:

- Held regular community meetings to foster a shared vision and alignment across school systems; and
- Developed a comprehensive implementation plan with strong partner participation

Needs Assessment:

- Planned a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment for fall 2024 to address the health and behavioral needs of children ages 0-5.

Screenings and Supports:

- Conducted six health screenings for 75 children, embedding care coordination into education systems

Trainings and Resources:

- Trained early education staff on developmental screenings and the FindHelp platform for resource access

The Community Schools Initiative strengthened partnerships, expanded early learning supports, and laid the groundwork for improving school readiness across Sutter County.



Programmatic Challenges and Successes

Based on the narratives of the First 5 Sutter programs quarterly reports, some of the factors that continued to affect program implementation and effective reach and engagement of families this year included: rising costs, facility challenges, and staffing limitations. At the same time, because of the program staff's continued dedication to families and belief in the program objectives, all programs completed or exceeded the stated programmatic goals and service targets.

CHALLENGES

1. Resource constraints and rising costs presented challenges for SCCFC grantee programs in FY 2023-24.

Many programs faced financial and operational pressures due to increasing costs and limited resources. For example, Family SOUP restructured its office space to reduce overhead costs, consolidating into a smaller suite. In addition, Family SOUP adopted a hybrid work model to maximize efficiency while still continuing to support families. South Sutter Swim experienced capacity issues with growing class sizes but lacked the funding to hire additional instructors. Mindful Youth Adventures (MYA) also experienced resource challenges. The program, which operates within the Sutter County Library, was affected by county budget cuts. Due to funding constraints, the library's main branch was closed on Mondays, limiting available MYA class time. MYA and the library's Children's Activities Director collaborated to develop creative modifications for MYA class scheduling in order to ensure continued program offerings.

2. Balancing in-person and virtual programs required ongoing adjustments to meet the needs of families.

Programs such as Family SOUP recognized that families vary in their preference for in-person versus virtual programs. Surveys revealed an equal split in the number of families preferring virtual access due to transportation, time, health barriers, and the number of families wanting in-person opportunities. In response, Family SOUP offered a hybrid approach, expanding in-person programs while continuing to offer virtual options.

3. Some programs experienced challenges collecting data.

MYA encountered difficulties collecting survey responses due to technical issues and challenges engaging participants. Survey links and QR codes were often broken, and participants frequently forgot to complete the surveys. To address this, MYA plans to keep the survey link active for the entirety of the program, bring a Chromebook for in-class survey completion, and set structured deadlines for collection of survey responses.

4. Facility limitations and maintenance issues created challenges for some programs.

Several SCCFC grantee programs experienced challenges with suitable space for their programming. For example, Family SOUP struggled to secure an indoor venue for their Sensory Play Group during the colder months. To overcome this barrier, Family SOUP relied on community partnerships with the Sutter County Museum and 530 Party Rock for the donation of space and play equipment. United Way Born Learning (UWBL) noted the classroom used for their sessions was too small for the large groups they served, although staff were still able to accommodate participants. In addition, South Sutter Swim highlighted the need for facility updates, including replacing cracked windows and 40-year-old shades to create a more adequate and welcoming environment for program participants.

SUCCESSES

1. Programs harnessed community collaboration and support.

Several programs successfully leveraged partnerships to overcome resource limitations. Family SOUP secured donated space and equipment for events, while MYA worked closely with library staff to brainstorm solutions for modifying class offerings.



2. Programs focused on data-driven insights to enhance services.

Programs used participant feedback to refine their services. Family SOUP adjusted its balance of in-person and remote program offerings based on survey insights, and MYA plans to revise its survey data collection strategies in order to improve response rates.

3. Programs improved their operational efficiency.

Programs like Family SOUP implemented cost-saving measures while maintaining the level of support they offer families. By consolidating office space, transitioning to a hybrid work model, and eliminating outdated resources, they ensured families still received quality services despite rising costs.

