



Understanding and Changing Land Use Policies to Benefit Child Care

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Today's presentation:



- Land use policy change as one component of LINCC
- Local zoning and permitting of family child care homes & child care centers
- Inclusion in local general plans
- Strategies used by LINCC Projects

GENERAL PLANS



- ABCs of General Plans
- Why child care should be included
- Linkages with child care plans
- Opportunities for input
- What input to provide

ABCs of General Plans



- 'Blueprint' for city's/county's future development
- Vision for next 10-20 years
- Serves as policy basis for other land use decisions
- Consists of narrative, maps, diagrams, data
- CA Government Code (Sections 65300 et seq.)

ABCs of General Plans



- Contains:
 - Background—existing conditions and planning issues
 - Policy goals and objectives
 - Some include implementation plan (specific strategies, timeline, designation of responsibility)
- Must address 7 topics in some form

General Plan-- 7 Mandatory Elements:



- Land Use
- Housing
- Circulation (Transportation)
- Conservation
- Open Space
- Safety
- Noise

General Plan-- Optional Elements



- Economic Development
- Human Services/Community Services
- Child Care
- Parks & Public Facilities
- Educational Facilities
- Historic Resources
- etc.

GP Revision/adoption



- No requirement as to when updated (often 10 yrs.); can be amended
 - Exception: Housing Element
- May be done 'in-house' and/or by consultants
- Often takes 1-2 years!
- Many opportunities for input

GP Revision process



- Information-gathering phase
 - Visioning with local officials & community (Forums, focus groups, study sessions)
 - Data collection, other plans (LPC needs assessments & strategic plans?)
- Re-writing existing elements and/or developing new ones
- Consideration/public hearings/approval by appointed Planning commission/board
- Forwarded to City council/Board of Sups for adoption (more public hearings)

Child Care- what to include



- **Background: rationale & existing conditions**
 - Family/child demographics
 - Child care/early ed needs & resources (e.g. LPC needs assessment & plans)
 - city-level data, if possible; mapping?
 - Community benefits (economic, social, educational, etc.)

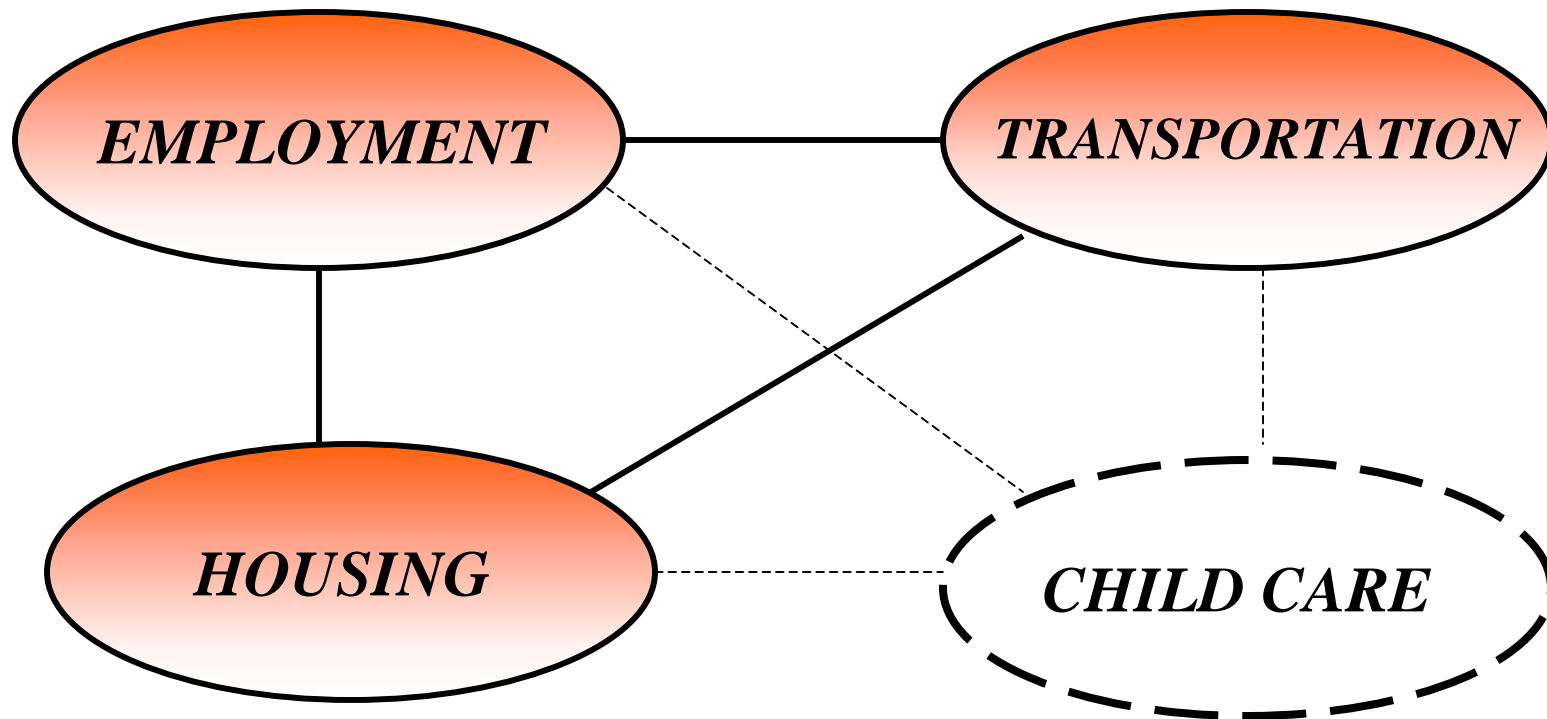
Child Care- what to include



Policy goals and objectives that:

- Address needs of child care system (quantity, quality, access)– e.g. zoning/permitting barriers, fcch
- Connect child care with envisioned community development activities: housing, employment, transportation

CHILD CARE: A MISSING PIECE
in
Community Planning and Economic Development



A challenge for advocates



Child Care- the 'soft' issue

- Viewed as “a social problem not to be solved by inclusion in a GP”
 - Parallel with affordable housing?
 - Infrastructure needed to deliver services
- Child care services vs facilities
 - Includes barriers for family child care homes

Child Care- how to include it



- Separate Child Care element?
 - Examples
 - Pros/cons
 - “internal consistency requirement” (?)
- Integrated in other elements?
 - Pros/cons
 - Link with community development goals and activities

Child Care-

Types of policy goals

- Reduce barriers in zoning, permitting, etc.
- Prioritize use of city facilities, land, and funds for child care; encourage other public entities to do so
- Assess impact of large developments on child care resources
- Negotiate with, require impact mitigation and/or provide incentives to developers

About Housing Elements



- Revised by specified years in law, then every 5 yrs
- Very detailed req'ts (Gov't Code §65580)
- Review by CA Housing & Comm. Devel.
- 'teeth'– no access to Fed housing funds

How does child care fit?



- City/county housing staff may not know how to address child care
- Gov't Code §65583(a)(6) An analysis of any special housing needs, such as those of the elderly, persons with disabilities, large families, farmworkers, **families with female heads of households**, and families and persons in need of emergency shelter.

Child Care/Housing



A few issues to address:

- Link cc with housing development/rehab
 - Child care for working families, all incomes
 - Early education for all children
 - Access for low-income families (geographic and \$\$); links with transit
- Family child care homes
 - Treatment of fcch is a 'fair housing' (discrimination) issue; often inconsistent w/ law re landlords, HOAs
 - Improvement of environments for children

Resource materials



- APA policy guide on child care
- Policy language examples from other cities
- CC Law Center advocacy guide
- Gov't Code -- general plan requirements
 - Consideration of plans of other entities
 - Public input/participation
- OPR's General Plan Guidelines www.opr.ca.gov
 - Suggests use of cc needs assessments & plans