

Key Takeaways

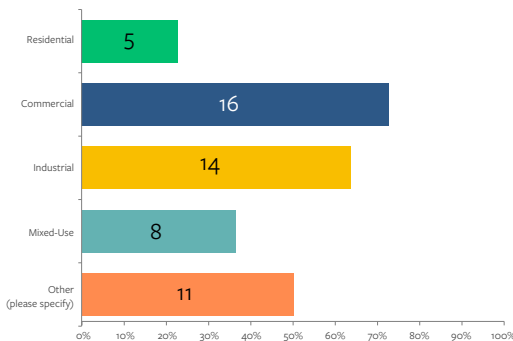
Family Child Care Homes

This section of the survey helped identify how and whether cities meet the requirements of SB 234. Enacted in January 2020, SB 234, or the Keeping Kids Close to Home Act, stipulates that a city or county government cannot require a family child care home provider to obtain a zoning permit or a business license to run a large or small family child care home and must be allowed by-right in zones where residential use is allowed.

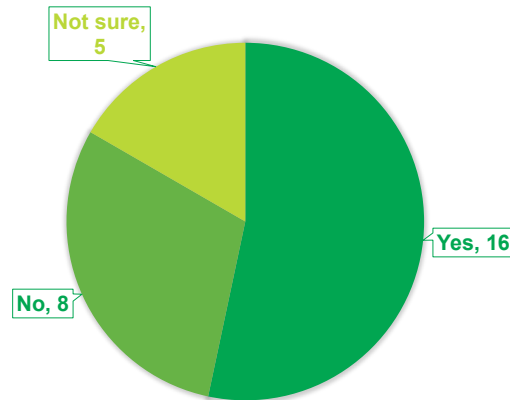
Family child care homes are an affordable and accessible child care option for many families in California. For example, they are often the choice of families who work nontraditional hours. The goal of the legislation was to encourage a greater supply of child care options by reducing costs and barriers for new and existing family child care home providers.

The survey found over 83 percent of cities allow family child care homes by-right in residential zones, with only five cities reporting family child care home is not allowed by-right in residential zones. However, contrary to SB 234, more than half of cities require family child care homes to pay a business license fee. While some cities' business license fees vary by number of children or annual gross receipts, the average cost of these fees is \$82 and ranges from \$28 to \$600. Additionally, while prohibited by SB 234, over 50% of the jurisdictions require large family child care homes to obtain a permit for fire department clearance adding expense and time. Only six cities have eliminated the requirement for large family child care home providers to obtain a permit for fire department clearance.

Zones where a Family Child Care Home is not allowed by right



Over 83 % of cities allow family child care homes by right in Residential Zones



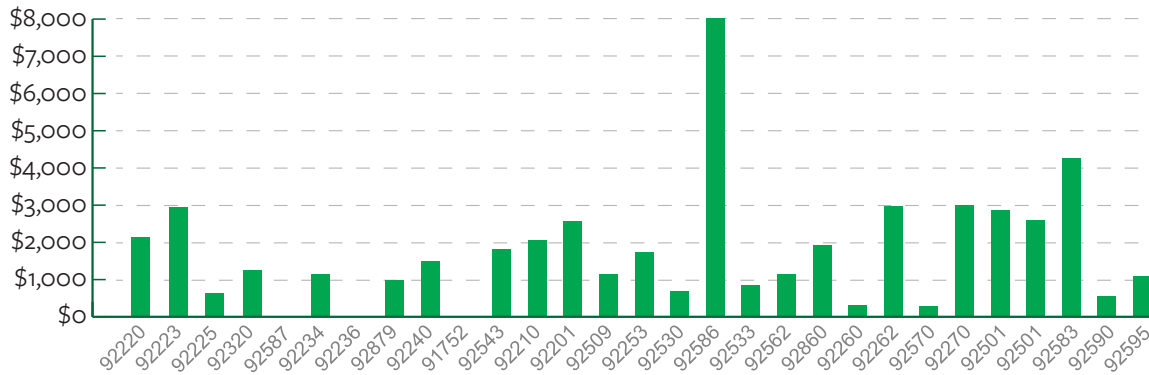
More than half of cities require family child care homes to pay a business license fee

Seven cities and the County became aware of state law SB 234 for the first time during completion of this survey. 23 jurisdictions had some knowledge of SB 234. **In Riverside County, City of Coachella Valley, City of La Quinta, City of Blythe, City of Beaumont, City of Jurupa Valley, City of Moreno Valley and City of Riverside** are fully aligned with state law SB 234. The remaining 22 jurisdictions provided an estimated time to become aligned with SB 234. Two cities plan to take over one year to make changes that align with SB 234, three cities have no current plans, one city will update in six to twelve months, three jurisdictions will update within the next six months and 13 have not yet outlined plans for such adjustments. 24 out of the 29 jurisdictions allow family child care home by right in residential zones aligned with SB 234. Eight out of the 29 jurisdictions have eliminated business license fees for family child care home.

Child Care Centers

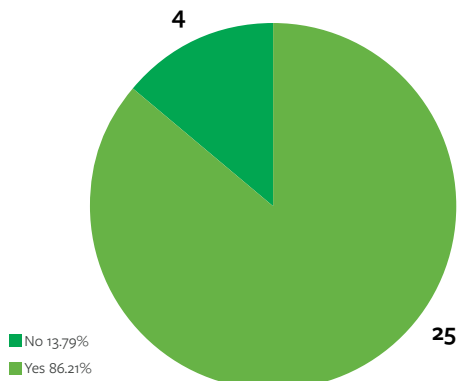
While SB 234 does not apply to child care centers, fees and licensing costs can still be a barrier for opening a new center. This study found the average cost for a child care center permit across Riverside County is \$5,500. For many child care operators, this presents one of the first obstacles in their journey to opening a child care center. When cities eliminate or reduce the fees associated with applying for a permit, they can help advance child care and be seen as a child care-friendly community. Streamlining child care center applications with policies and processes that are the least restrictive can further contribute to increasing the supply of early care and education.

Sum of Combined Appeal cost by ZIP/Postal Code

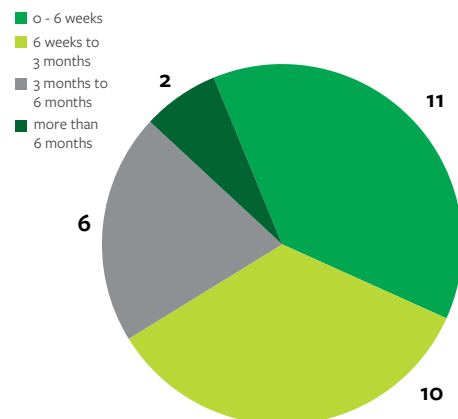


27 cities have costs associated with the appeal process

Twenty-four cities, including the County, allow child care centers by-right or with an administrative/non-discretionary permit in at least one zone. Most cities require child care center operators to obtain a conditional use permit in residential zones or commercial zones and prohibit operations in industrial zones, recreational areas, commercial areas, or in business parks. For most cities, the permit review process takes over six weeks with combined fees ranging from \$53 to \$133,143; the average fee is \$5,500. A conditional use permit can trigger a public hearing, which for most cities takes up to 12 weeks. Most cities require child care centers to pay a business license fee based on the number of children or gross annual income. These fees can range from \$28 to \$600.



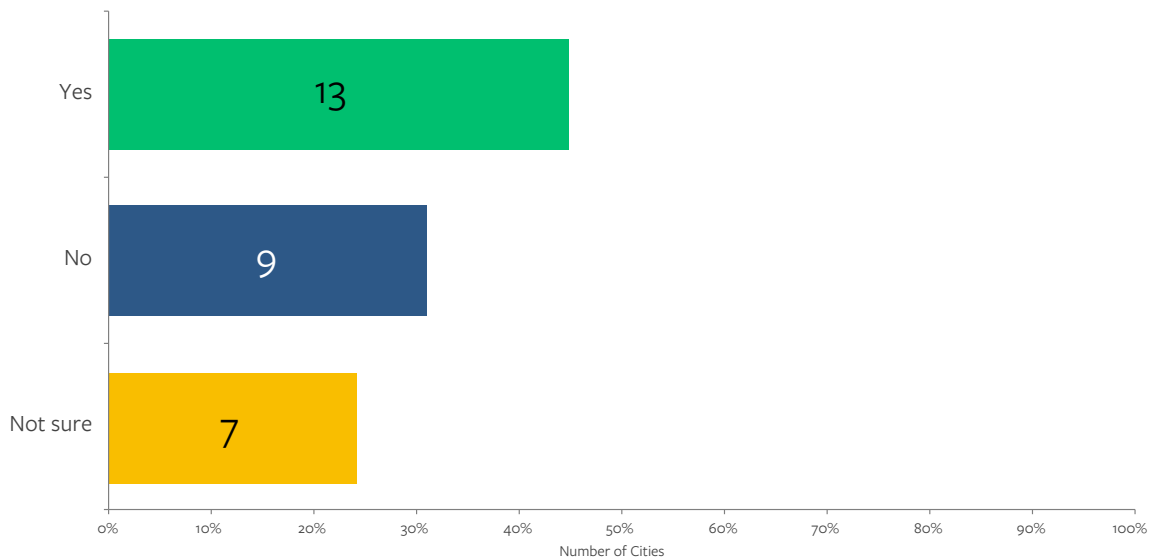
86% cities allow child care centers by right or with an administrative/non-discretionary permit



Average length of time to complete the review process for a child care center permit

General Plan

Despite child care being an essential community development element, currently only 45% of cities include child care in their General Plan. Five cities indicate they will be updating their General Plan in the next year, while the rest state it will take them more than two years to update. One of Build Up Riverside County's goals is to support every city in incorporating child care into their General Plan and ensure that their General Plan is in compliance with SB 234.

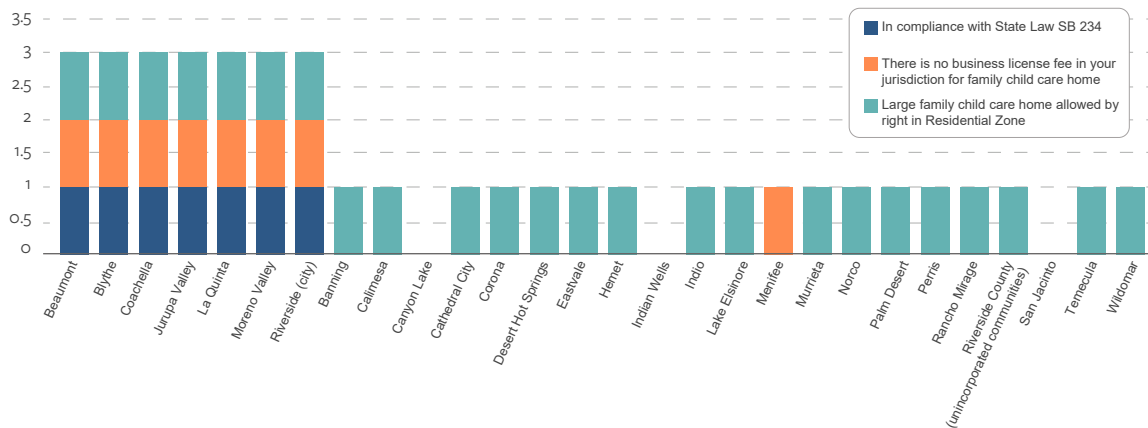


Less than half of cities are certain that child care is included in their current general plan

Next Steps

SB 234 has been a state law for 4 years. The lack of widespread implementation and enforcement takes time and resources away from providers who already operate on razor-thin profit margins. This impacts their ability to start a new family child care home and hinders cities' ability to advance child care in their communities. Among other issues highlighted, this report sheds light on how cities are advancing child care through aligning their policy with state law and best practices. These responses also provide Build Up Riverside County and fellow advocates a roadmap to build bridges among government departments so we can create a system that supports providers and expands access to child care across Riverside County.

Riverside County – State Law SB 234 Overall Results



Following the release of city reports, Build Up Riverside County will be providing ongoing technical assistance as needed and requested, to the cities and to the County. We look forward to ensuring all communities in Riverside County meet the requirements of SB 234 and address the needs of child care providers and the families they serve.

More than 80% of cities in Riverside County are aware of state law SB 234 requirements

Expected time frame to comply with SB 234

