



Nicola Parr, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534-1658  
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## **Solano Child Care Planning Council Membership Application**

**Mission:** The mission of the Solano County Child Care Planning Council is to provide leadership and advocacy for the development of high-quality, accessible, and affordable child care programs for every child and family in Solano County.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Child Care Planning Council is to assess and prioritize Solano County child care and development needs and develop and implement, as appropriate, plans to address those needs. The Child Care Planning Council is committed to ensuring that all children in Solano County have equal access to community services and support and experience high-quality, safe, healthy, and nurturing care and education. The Child Care Planning Council shall collaborate with public and private partners to maximize resources for child development.

The California Department of Education assigns the Child Care Planning Council various responsibilities and provides funding through an annual contract to support this work. The Child Care Planning Council members are appointed by the Solano County Board of Supervisors and/or the County Superintendent of Schools. The Council is responsible for carrying out its assigned tasks.

**Membership Expectations:** The office term is for two years from the date of appointment. Meetings are convened at least six times per year, usually every other month from 1:00–2:00 pm, with one or two meetings held in the evenings. Council members are expected to attend all regular meetings.

### **Membership Categories:**

Each of the 5 categories represented on the Local Planning Council has 3 positions:  
**Parents/Child Care Consumers:** parents or persons who receive or have received child care services within the past 36 months.

**Child Care Providers:** persons who provide child care services or represent persons who provide child care services.

**Public Agency Representatives:** people who represent a city, a county, or a local education agency.

**Community Representatives:** persons who represent an agency or business that provides private funding for child care services or who **advocate** for child care services through participation in civic or community-based organizations, but are not child care providers and do not represent agencies that contract with the California Department of Education to provide child care and development services.

**Public/Discretionary Member:** people from any of the above categories or outside of these categories at the discretion of appointing agencies.

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**Qualification Statement (Required):** Describe your community, professional, or personal experiences that enable you to provide leadership and work collaboratively with diverse groups of people. Please list specific contributions you will make to the work of the LPC. **We are unable to accept applications without qualification statements or without the signature and date below.**

As a member of the Early Childhood Community for over 30 years, I have worked and served in a variety of positions that have provided me many different experiences when providing quality early childhood programs to the children and families in my community. Since obtaining my degree in Child Development, my journey has taken me to a variety of settings in the early care and education field – from being a teacher, trainer, coach, lead teacher, center director, area supervisor, department lead, all the way to my current role as the Deputy Director for our local Head Start program. With all of these experiences, I have had the opportunity to work within various programs in different roles, with different funding sources and program models, with a variety of partnerships, all with the focus of supporting the child care needs of the children and families within that community.

I have worked with Child Start for the last 24.5 years, since my move to Solano County. Within all of my roles at Child Start, I have had extensive opportunities to work with various Solano County community agencies that have allowed me to work with various individuals to provide quality services to children and families. Along with my direct work at Child Start, I have had the opportunity to be on the leadership team for the local affiliate of NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children), the ECE Advisory Board for both Solano and Napa Community Colleges, an ECE Mentor Selection member for both communities, and different leadership and community members of a variety of community teams focused on serving children ages 0-5 and their families, including the UPK mixed delivery systems committee. I joined the Solano County Child Care and Development Planning Council in January of 2022, and became Chair for the Council for 2023.2024. Since then, I have sat on the executive committee as past chair for the last 2 years.

I have also had the opportunity to work with other non-profit agencies in Solano County focusing on food security and ensuring basic resources for our families. During the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic, I worked with Food is Free Solano/Bay Area to support Solano County residents with easy-to-access food within their neighborhoods and communities.

With my extensive experiences in all of my life's endeavors, I have been able to learn and grow and am able to step into leadership roles, build community and work with a variety of individuals and groups towards a common goal. With my current role at Child Start, it seems to be a natural fit, both professionally and personally to work with other members of the community to support the child care needs in Solano County. I would be able to use my leadership and experience at Child Start to bring a vital perspective of one of the child care providers in Solano County which represents approximately 600 children and families in our community.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to use my experiences and knowledge of the Early Care and Education field and the services and needs within our community to support the ongoing work of the Solano Local Planning Council in the mission of supporting and providing child care programs that meets the needs of children and families in order to help them grow and thrive.

I understand this application will not guarantee me a position on the Local Planning Council. I will be informed of my status during each stage of the process.

**Applicant's Signature:** Susan Smith

Digitally signed by Susan Smith  
DN: c=US, o=Susan Smith, ou=Child Start, Inc., ou=Solano Child Care Planning Council, ou=CA  
Date: 2026.03.26 17:56:09 -0700

Date: 3/26/26

**Please submit completed applications to:**  
**Juanita Morales**  
**Solano Child Care Planning Council Coordinator**  
**[jmorales@solanocoe.net](mailto:jmorales@solanocoe.net)**  
or  
**Mail to:**  
**5100 Business Center Dr**  
**Fairfield, Ca 94534**

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