

HONORING OUR LEGACY



Shaping the Future

About us

Connections for Children is a non-profit agency serving parents and the early care and education community across West Los Angeles and the South Bay.

We offer assistance to families and early childhood professionals through child care referrals, financial assistance, professional development, and family engagement opportunities.

Mission

Connections for Children builds a stronger future for children, families, and the early care and education community by connecting them to resources, education, and economic support.

Vision

We envision a community where every child can attain their full potential through equitable access to high quality early care and education.



50

Years of serving families and providers

Fifty years ago, Connections for Children (CFC) was founded on a simple but powerful belief: when families are supported, children reach their full potential and communities grow stronger.

What began as a small effort to connect families with quality child care has grown into a critical resource for families, caregivers, and early childhood educators across the Westside and South Bay of Los Angeles. Since 1976, CFC has connected more than 200,000 families to essential resources, helping ensure that children have access to safe, nurturing, and quality early learning environments.

This report reflects both the impact of the past year and the legacy of five decades of service. It also marks a pivotal moment. Families today face increasing financial pressure, limited access to affordable child care, and widening disparities in opportunity. Meeting this moment requires more than continuity. It demands focus, innovation, and a sustained commitment to expanding access and strengthening systems of support.

As we look ahead, we are evolving to meet these needs. CFC is strengthening and expanding family-centered services, advancing workforce development for early childhood educators, and deepening its role as a responsive hub in times of crisis. These efforts ensure that families have consistent access to the resources, relationships, and support systems that create stability.

We remain committed to safeguarding access to early care and education, investing in the professionals who shape children's earliest experiences, and building communities where children can grow with strong foundations for lifelong success.

This milestone reflects what is possible through collective effort. The progress we celebrate today is the result of strong partnerships, shared purpose, and a community invested in the well-being of children and families. Together, we will continue to expand access, strengthen families, and shape a more equitable future for the next generation.

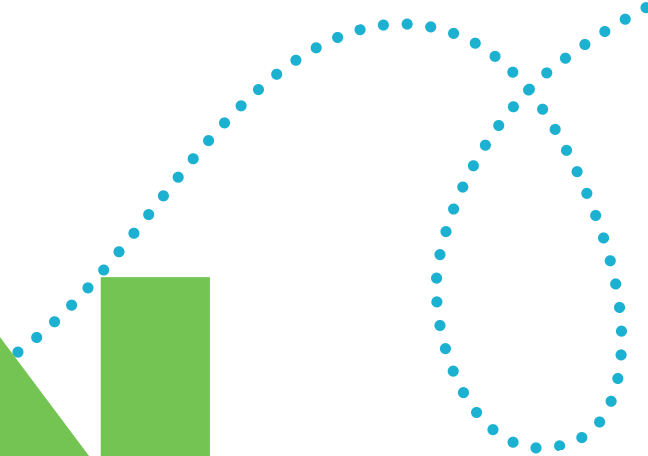


Jennifer Cowen
Chief Executive Officer

CONNECTIONS

1976-2026

Where our
story began...





In the mid 1970s, a group of early childhood leaders in Santa Monica and West Los Angeles recognized a growing need for reliable, quality child care as more women entered the workforce.

They came together to create a resource that would help parents navigate their options while strengthening the quality of care in the region. Among them were Betsy Hiteshew of Santa Monica College, Ida Bucher of First Presbyterian Nursery School, June Sale of UCLA Child Care Services, and educator Laurie Rozet. Their shared vision laid the foundation for Connections for Children.

The effort began as the Child Care Information Service within Family Service of Santa Monica. With early philanthropic support and emerging state investment in child care resource and referral programs, the initiative quickly expanded. Laurie Rozet became the program's first Executive Director, building partnerships, securing funding, and growing services that connected families to trusted child care and early learning resources.

By 1976, the program had grown into an independent nonprofit and was renamed Connections for Children. The organization would go on to become one of California's longstanding child care resource and referral agencies, serving families, caregivers, and educators across the Westside and South Bay in Los Angeles.



Connections for Children Co-founder and CEO:
Betsy Hiteshew & Jennifer Cowen

Our Legacy in Numbers

Generations of care measured in impact since 1976



\$300M+

distributed in child
care subsidies



More than

225,200+

in child care
referrals



54,100+

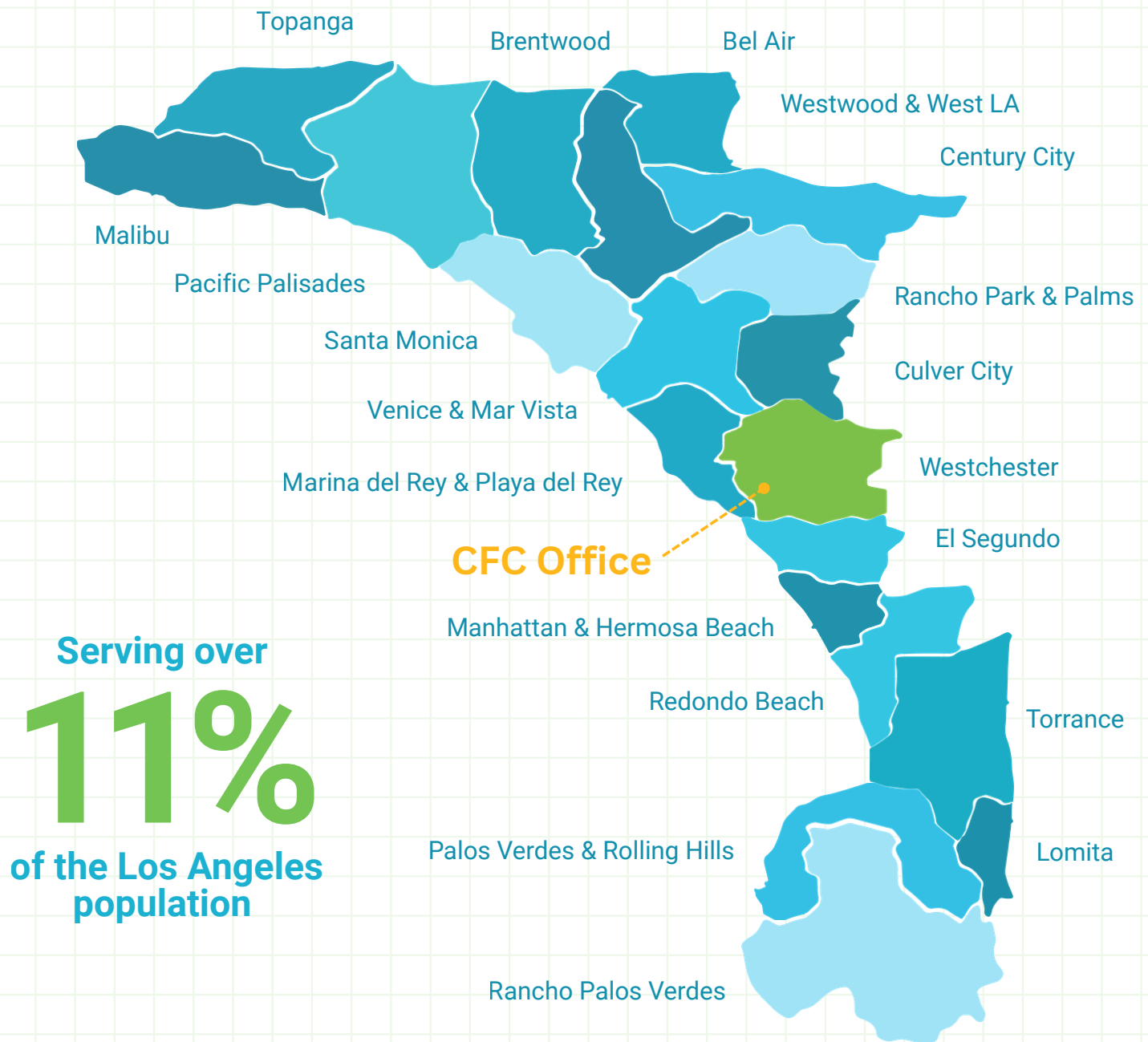
children served through
financial assistance
for child care



52,900+

hours of coaching
delivered to educators
and caregivers

Service Area Map





Family Engagement and Support

Family stability is built through access, connection, and trusted support. CFC's Family Engagement programs are designed to equip parents and caregivers with the tools, knowledge, and relationships needed to support their children's development while navigating the complexities of early care and education systems.

Through personalized child care referrals, Family Time early learning playgroups, and Parent Café peer support groups, families gain access to reliable information, developmental resources, and a community of support. These programs strengthen caregiver confidence, reinforce parent-child relationships, and promote school readiness through hands-on learning and shared experiences.

CFC's approach is rooted in accessibility and responsiveness, ensuring that families can connect to the resources they need in ways that reflect their lived experiences and evolving circumstances.

10,526

requests for child care information, referrals, and resources

FY 24-25 IMPACT NUMBERS

“Family Time is my favorite event. It gives my daughter the opportunity to do things I don't usually have access to. She also sees bigger kids doing different activities, which I think motivated her to begin walking more.”

- PARENT, FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Emergency Response

In times of crisis, families and child care providers often face immediate and overwhelming challenges. CFC serves as a trusted response hub, coordinating resources and delivering critical support that helps stabilize families, assist providers, and restore essential services for children.

As an emergency distribution site, CFC mobilizes supplies, wellness resources, and financial assistance for families and child care providers impacted by natural disasters and economic disruption. These relief efforts help providers recover and continue operating their programs while ensuring that young children have access to safe, nurturing environments during times of uncertainty.

“To receive this support now, nearly four months later, is more than financial relief. It’s proof that we haven’t been forgotten—that we are still in the hearts and minds of those who care.”

- PARENT, EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Los Angeles Wildfires

In 2025, wildfires devastated families and child care providers across the region, damaging homes, care sites, and essential materials. Connections for Children responded immediately, coordinating relief and distributing critical resources.

In collaboration with the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles and with support from Save the Children, California Community Foundation, Steins, Goldman Sachs, Ballmer Fire Aid Fund, Keck Foundation, Rhode Futures Foundation, and the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment, CFC provided relief stipends to stabilize those impacted. Additional supplies were provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Baby2Baby, and Backpacks for Disaster.

43 Families

38 Providers

\$425,500
Cash stipends provided

Financial Assistance and Child Care Subsidy

For many families, the cost of child care is one of the most significant financial barriers to stability. Across Los Angeles County, child care expenses often rival housing and other essential costs, forcing families to make difficult decisions about how to balance work, education, and basic household needs.

CFC helps address this challenge by connecting families to financial assistance that makes quality child care accessible. Through state, federal, and local funding, we provide subsidies that allow children to learn and grow in safe, supportive environments while enabling parents and caregivers to remain in the workforce, pursue education, and build economic security.

These investments do more than offset the cost of care. They help families maintain stability while ensuring children receive the support they need during the most critical years of development.



FY 24-25 IMPACT NUMBERS

\$2,080

Median monthly household
income of CFC subsidy families

\$1,036

Average monthly cost of child care

2,829

Children served through
financial assistance for
child care

\$23M

Distributed in child care
subsidies to under-
resourced families

Workforce Development for Early Childhood Educators

Early childhood educators play a critical role in shaping the development, well-being, and long-term success of young children. CFC invests in this workforce by providing coaching, technical assistance, and professional development that strengthen both the quality and sustainability of care.

“I was filled with pride and a sense of accomplishment after many years with Connections for Children. The training classes were very beneficial throughout my many years working with preschoolers and also parents.”

- PROVIDER, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Through training aligned with California’s Early Care and Education Competencies, CFC supports educators at every stage, from individuals entering the field to experienced providers seeking to expand their skills. These efforts recognize child care providers as educators and small business owners who are essential to sustaining a vital part of the broader economic ecosystem.

Through this work, CFC helps ensure that families have access to early learning environments where children are supported by skilled educators during the most formative years of life.



600+

Licensed child care providers served

336

Child care centers

271

Family child care homes

624

Child care professionals participated in coaching or training

FY 24-25 IMPACT NUMBERS

Family Learning Festival

Created to connect with families and strengthen community engagement, the Family Learning Festival has quickly become a signature event for Connections for Children. In just two years, the festival has seen remarkable momentum, with attendance growing by more than **50%** from its inaugural year and families traveling from **38 cities** to participate, reflecting both strong community interest and the need for accessible resources that support young children and providers.

The Family Learning Festival transforms play into possibility. Families take part in hands-on activities, cultural experiences, and resource sharing designed to spark curiosity and support early learning. The festival also serves as an entry point to CFC's programs, connecting families to services and opportunities available throughout the year.

50% Attendance growth
in two years

38 Participating
cities in
LA County



Provider Appreciation

The Provider Appreciation Conference brought together early childhood educators from across Connections for Children's Workforce Development programs for a day of learning, connection, and recognition. More than 80 child care providers participated in the inaugural gathering designed to strengthen professional practice while celebrating the essential role educators play in the lives of young children and families.

By investing in the educators who shape children's earliest learning experiences, this event reflects CFC's commitment to advancing a skilled, resilient, and supported early childhood workforce.

“Thank you, Connections for Children, for seeing us and reminding us that we're not alone.”

- PROVIDER, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Trauma-Informed Care Conference

FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS

Connections for Children convened early childhood educators from across its network for the Stronger Together: Nurturing Growth through Trauma-Informed Care Conference, a full-day professional learning experience held in Culver City in partnership with the Los Angeles County Emergency Child Care Bridge Program.

The conference brought providers together for expert-led sessions and interactive workshops grounded in the real-world application of trauma-informed care. Topics ranged from supporting children navigating adversity to prioritizing provider well-being, offering practical tools educators can apply immediately.

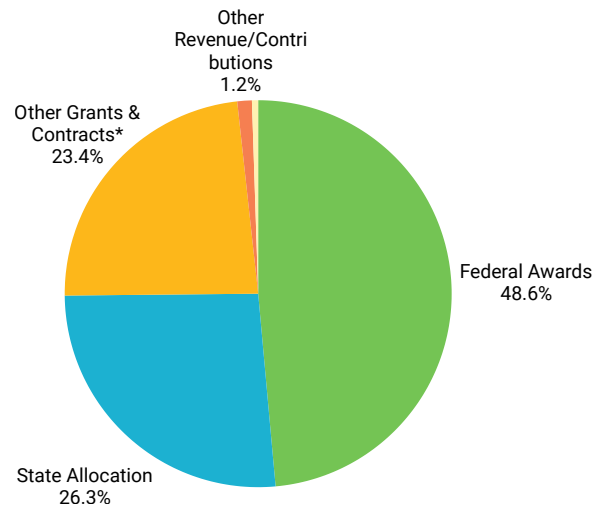
Beyond training, the gathering fostered connection and shared learning among providers navigating similar challenges. Participants earned professional development hours and left with new approaches to creating environments where children feel safe, valued, and ready to learn.

CFC Financials 2024-2025

For the Year Ended June 30, 2025.
Summarized Totals for 2024.

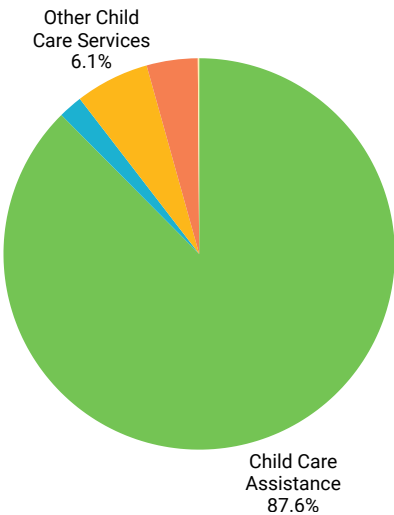
TOTAL REVENUE		
Federal Awards	\$14,707,775	48.6%
State Allocations	\$7,959,429	26.3%
Other Grants & Contracts*	\$7,093,392	23.4%
Other Revenue/Contributions	\$367,724	1.2%
Investment Income	\$156,777	0.5%
Total	\$30,285,097	

* Includes local government and foundation grants.



TOTAL EXPENSES		
Child Care Assistance	\$26,264,085	87.6%
Child Care Referral Services	\$598,717	2%
Other Child Care Services	\$1,832,655	6.1%
Management & General Expenses	\$1,265,072	4.2%
Fundraising Expenses	\$33,826	0.1%
Total	\$29,994,355	

* The organization maintains a reserve fund to protect against financial risk during times of economic uncertainty and to fund innovation.



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Chief Program Officer





“Connections for Children has gone above and beyond for me and my family. Because of your services, I am able to work and provide as a single mom.”

- PARENT, FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



Donate Today!

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5901 W. Century Blvd., Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90045