

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND NEED FOR CHILDCARE

Location - American Planning Association

The importance of distinguishing childcare facilities from commercial uses is because not doing so would characterize many childcare facilities as an intrusion into residential areas. On the contrary, **proper planning is to locate childcare in or close to residential areas.** (*PAS Report No. 422, Zoning for Child Care, by Ann Cibulskis and Marsha Ritzdorf*) The two primary reasons for childcare in residential areas are to reduce vehicle trips and replicate the home environment for the children.

Meet Demand - Shortfall of Childcare in Zip Code

Licensed Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) have been steadily declining since 2008 throughout the state. In 2008 there were 39,000 family child care homes; eleven years later, that number declined to 25,900. The state's biggest county, Los Angeles, has also experienced significant decreases, losing almost 4,200 FCCHs. This reduction in the number of FCCHs resulted in a 29% decrease in spaces, meaning over 109,000 children will not have access to early learning programs.^{3/} In the most recent Needs Assessment Report, it was determined that **zip code 91403 has a shortfall of 27 Licensed Family Child Care Homes spaces and 87 Center spaces.** (*Los Angeles County 2017 Needs Assessment, Technical Report, County of Los Angeles, Child Care Planning Committee.*)

The Goal of the Conditional Use Permit Process

A Conditional Use Permit is required to operate the proposed childcare with 32 children. A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is a discretionary permit for a particular use, which is not allowed as a matter of right within the zone. The CUP process singles out types of uses that are essentially desirable but, because of potential impacts, are not desirable in every location, in unlimited numbers, or in a location without restrictions tailored to them. **The CUP process aims to balance an applicant's needs with the legitimate governmental purpose of reducing potential adverse impacts to surrounding sensitive uses while providing a needed service to the community.** Thus, the CUP process is an important planning tool to ensure the proposed use is harmonious and compatible with the surrounding area.

Childcare in the Future will be By-Right.

In **City Council's August 11, 2021 Motion** (i.e., CF 20-0652), it is proposed to **reduce regulatory hindrances affecting the number of childcare spaces by City Planning, creating an administrative approval process for childcare facilities.** An applicant would have a by-right project if it complies with licensing requirements and agrees to standard conditions. It is also noted that City Council recognizes that childcare performs a function or provides a service that is essential or beneficial to the community, city, or region. (*See Attached*)