

Community Assessment Update
2021

1. Demographics: (No significant change)

Disabilities:

Number of children with disabilities in the community:

Ages 4-5	
Shasta County	217
Siskiyou County	42
Trinity County	4

Ages 0-3	
Shasta County	233
Siskiyou County	24
Trinity County	4

Number of children with disabilities served by SHS 2020-21

- Ages 3-5: 57 or 11% of the population
- Ages 0-3: 69 or 13% of the population

Homeless children enrolled in school districts:

Shasta County – 3%

Siskiyou County – 6%

Trinity County – 11%

Income Eligible Children

Children in Poverty			
Age	Shasta	Trinity	Siskiyou
0-5	1,588	122	372
0-3	935	72	219
4-5	652	50	153

Children Enrolled in Foster Care

Children in Foster Care

Age	Shasta	Trinity	Siskiyou
0-3	182	5	10
4-5	116	5	10
*Trinity and Siskiyou data in aggregate			

2. Education, Health, Nutrition and Social Service Needs of eligible children and their families:

Community, Regional, and State Issues:

Housing: Finding affordable housing continues to be an issue in CA and in the SHS service area. The average rental cost of a two-bedroom apartment or home is \$980 a month. Average rental and home prices are increase at an average rate of 7.1% in 2020. High housing cost are expected in the future due to the limited supply of homes and apartments and the rising cost of construction.

Home Visiting programs in local area: There continues to be several home visiting programs in the SHS service area. Last summer, more home visiting money was made available through the Cal-WORKS program. It is increasingly difficult to fill home visiting caseloads because of the variety of programs available in the community. As seen below, it is possible that home visiting programs will become nearly universal in CA.

New opportunities for children and families in CA: Governor Newsom, the newly elected governor of CA has put forth several ambitious proposals for his administration to accomplish. These include:

- Universal Preschool
- Expansion of paid leave for new parents
- Cradle to Career Data System
- Universal full day kindergarten
- Home Visitation/CalWORKS
- Home Visitation/Public health
- Universal Developmental Screenings
- Child Savings Accounts
- Working Families Tax Credit

Minimum wage: The minimum wage in CA will increase to \$14.00 per hour in 2021. The minimum wage will continue to rise yearly until it reaches \$15.00 per hour in 2022. Without an increase in our funding it will be a yearly challenge to accomplish this meet the rising cost of payroll.

Children and families with mental health and other challenges: We continue to serve children and families with significant mental health issues. Last year, 65 children in HS and 21 children in EHS were referred for consultation because of mental health concerns.

Economic: The COVID-19 pandemic devastated the economy of CA and has hit Shasta County particularly hard. Many of the small restaurant, food service, and family recreation companies were forced to close during the pandemic. Many of these food service businesses may never reopen as they were locally owned and operated and did not have the capital to continue business under the state lockdown orders. Unfortunately, the industries hit the hardest by Covid-19 are major employers for the young families in our community. As a result of business cutbacks related to the pandemic unemployment increased by the following.

- Shasta County increased from 3.7% to 7.8%
- Siskiyou County increased from 4.5% to 8.5%
- Trinity County increased from 3.7% to 6.8%.

3. **Classroom space:** High quality classroom space continues to be a concern. Construction cost have increased considerably making it difficult to remodel and build classroom space.

Infant Toddler slots: There continues to be a need in the community for additional center based infant toddler slots.

I.T. Infrastructure: Increasing our use of programs such as Learning Genie means that we will need to increase in-house technology capacity and ongoing replacement and maintenance of equipment.

Human Resources: Recruiting and retaining qualified staff continues to be a challenge; however, we have seen success with the ECE trainee program. 20 trainees have completed the program at this point.

Public Safety Power Outages: PG&E public safety power outages have had an impact on families and center operations.

Fire Danger Disaster Plans and Locations: The increase in fire danger and explosive wildfires have made it necessary to explore evacuation plans for our centers.