

Albany: Families & The Built Environment

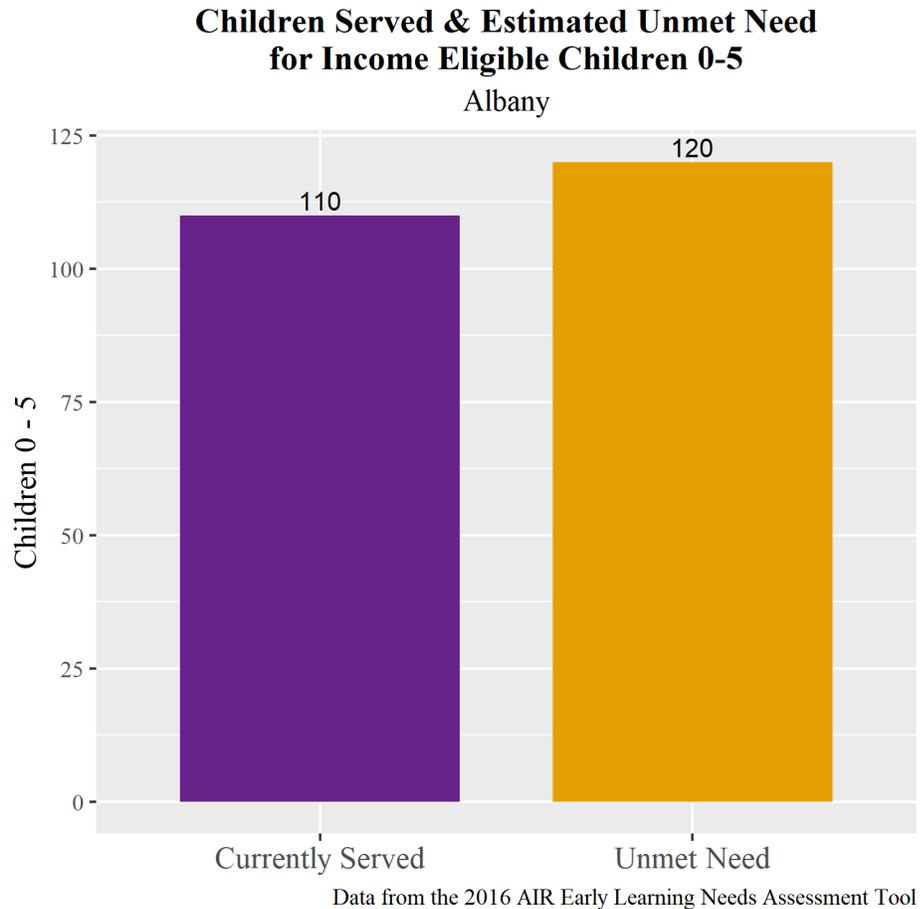
Community development policy from the Albany 2035 General Plan

December 30th, 2019

Data

Community Demographics

- Number of income eligible children ages 0 to 5 at or below 85% SMI: 230
- Estimated percent of children 0-5 not served: 52%
- County Kindergarten Readiness rate: 44%



Land Use Element

3-22: "Along many of the perpendicular side streets that intersect Solano Avenue, zoning allows commercial uses in the first one or two single family homes on the block. This creates a transition zone between commercial and residential uses, and provides opportunities for service businesses, small offices, child care, and similar activities on otherwise residential streets. This is a positive attribute of the commercial district and it should also be retained."

3-25: University Village--"The Master Plan also raises the possibility of relocating the Little League Field from 10th Street to the area east of Ocean View School, and developing housing in its place, although there are no plans to implement this change at this time. Other community facilities, including a child care center, are also envisioned in the Village area."

3-35: Policy LU-2.9: Non-Residential Uses

"Ensure that non-residential uses in residential areas, such as child care centers, houses of worship, and group homes, are designed and operated to minimize adverse effects on nearby homes and neighborhoods."

Transportation Element

4-25: "Establishments with more than 50 employees are required to provide information to their employees on commute alternatives. Potential incentives for employees include transit fare subsidies, preferential parking for carpool vehicles, BART shuttles, on-site child care facilities, and guaranteed ride home programs for persons working late."

4-39: Action T-4.D: School Pick-Up and Drop-Off

"Continue to study and implement programs which reduce conflicts associated with drop off/ pick-up of children at local schools, including private schools and child care facilities as well as public schools."

Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Element

6-6: Memorial Park "contains baseball field, soccer field, grassy area, children's playground, picnic area, restrooms, 4 tennis courts, fenced dog play area, Veterans Memorial Building, community garden, child care"

6-14: "The City's recreational services are further supplemented by non-profit organizations such as the YMCA, and by private service providers. The YMCA of the Central Bay Area has a health and wellness center on Kains Avenue in Albany. The Albany "Y" is one of the most well-established human services organizations in the East Bay. It provides workout facilities, classes, licensed child care, and a variety of summer camps."

6-23: Policy PROS-4.2: Children and Teen Programs

"Continue to provide and maintain facilities for child care, early childhood education, and teen programs operated by the City or by private interests."

Community Services & Facilities Element

9-10: Albany Police Department: Connected to the Community

"The Department also collaborates with the School District to carry out programs at Albany High School, operate the school crossing guard program, and offer station tours and site visits for elementary schools and child care centers. It participates in the Albany Civics Academy, sponsors safety oriented events such as bike rodeos, and provides tips to residents on how to improve home safety and deter crime."

9-15: Child Care

"Quality child care enriches the lives of children and provides an essential resource for their parents. The City of Albany operates the Friendship Club Program. Located at Ocean View Park and Memorial Park, Friendship Club is an after-school program that serves children in Grades 1-5 attending Cornell, Marin, and Ocean View Schools. The City also operates a Teen Center and an after-school program that serves children in Grades 6-8 at Albany Middle School. Albany Pre-School, a Parent Cooperative, is also housed in the City-owned building at 850 Masonic Avenue. The Albany Unified School District also operates child care, pre-K, and after-school programs. The AUSD Children's Center (on the former Vista School campus) provides before and after school programs, as well as pre-school and kindergarten classes.

Public child care centers are supplemented by those operated by non-profit and for-profit entities throughout the city. These include several Montessori Schools and large and small family day care providers who operate in private homes and commercial buildings. Family child care centers include those which function like nursery schools in a home setting and others that are structured so that children are welcomed as part of the family unit. Under State law, large family day care homes are licensed for 12 to 14 children and are required to hire a full-time assistant. Small family child care homes are licensed for six to eight children."

Community Services & Facilities Element

9-16: "Child care needs will continue to be significant in the future. Nearly three-quarters of Albany's children age 6 and older and more than half of the City's children under age 6 are in households headed by two working parents or a working single parent. The most recent assessment of child care needs for the City found that Albany had sufficient facilities for school-age children, but a deficit of approximately 200 child care slots for children four and younger. Center-based care for school age children accounted for 63 percent of the total child care supply, with the remainder at family day care centers. The City will continue to support quality child care, both through municipal programs and by the private and non-profit sectors."

9-26: Policy CSF-4.1: Expanding Child Care

"Increase the range of child care programs and expand child care opportunities by committing adequate resources and funding for child care facilities and programs."

9-26: Policy CSF-4.2: Coordinating Child Care Service Delivery

"Continue working with the Albany Unified School District, the YMCA, UC Berkeley, the private sector, and other child care service providers to develop and coordinate child care programs for persons of all income groups. Strive to keep child care affordable to persons of all incomes."

9-26: Policy CSF-4.3: Awareness of Child Care Programs

"Increase awareness of local child care programs by providing easily accessible information about resources and programs, improved facilities, and outreach to persons of all economic and cultural backgrounds."

Implementation

11-3: "Examples of Standard Operating Procedures rooted in the General Plan include building code enforcement (EH-1.F), solid waste reduction and recycling programs (CON-7.B), and emergency management drills (EH-4.E). Other examples include day-to-day activities such as requiring soils and geologic reports for new hillside development, collecting crime statistics, monitoring traffic volumes, and maintaining child care and after-school programs. Collectively, these operations move the City toward its long-range planning goals."