

Senate Bill 271 Implementation Guide for Basic Needs Centers at Colleges & Universities



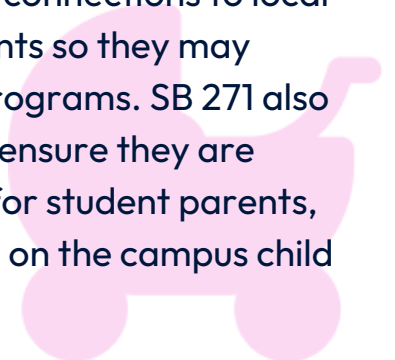
INFORMATION ON CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES

Early Edge California and the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network are proud to share this guide as a resource for college and university Basic Needs Centers, as they implement the new requirement of connecting student parents with local child care resource and referral agencies, per [Senate Bill 271](#) (Gómez Reyes, 2025).



WHAT'S NEW FOR BASIC NEEDS CENTERS IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Basic Needs Centers are now required to provide information and connections to local Child Care Resource & Referral (R&R) agencies to parenting students so they may obtain support in applying for and locating subsidized child care programs. SB 271 also requires centers to connect students to the Financial Aid Office to ensure they are receiving all available aid inclusive of the supplemental Cal Grant for student parents, and if the campus has one, provide information to student parents on the campus child development center.



HOW TO SATISFY THE NEW REQUIREMENTS

1) When approached by a student parent, a Basic Needs Center must provide them with information and connection to their local [Child Care Resource & Referral \(R&R\) agency](#). This information should include:

- Contact information of their local R&R (phone, email, website)
- A brief explanation of what a R&R is and the services they provide
- Direction on how to access services of the local R&R (phone intake, online referral form, walk-in availability)

2) Ensure parenting students are connected with the campus Financial Aid Office and, if applicable, information about the child development center.

3) Follow recommended practices:

- Basic Needs Centers should maintain an internal record of identified student parents that is regularly updated and shared with the campus Financial Aid Office and, if applicable, child development center, to ensure these students have what they need to succeed.
- Maintain regular communication with parenting students via a listserv or newsletter to share parenting resources.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I find our local Child Care Resource & Referral (R&R) agency?

State law requires each county to be served by at least one R&R agency, and you can find your nearest agency by accessing the [R&R Directory](#) and inserting your zip code.

What could a partnership with a local R&R look like?

Hosting information sessions, sharing outreach materials, coordinating warm hand-offs, and establishing referral agreements or MOUs. These [partnerships](#) help student parents access affordable child care, navigate subsidies and eligibility lists, and connect with additional family support, leading to better retention and graduation rates.

What if a student parent is undocumented or hesitant to share personal information?

R&R agencies provide free information regardless of immigration status, and do not collect or share immigration-related information about families or children. The legislation does not require colleges to collect data, although it is a best practice, so if students do not want to share their information, the Basic Needs Center can still provide referral services.



RESOURCES AND LINKS

- [What is a Resource & Referral Agency?](#): Explains what R&R's do and services provided
- [R&R Directory](#): Helps find the R&R closest to your zip code
- [My Child Care Plan Outreach Materials](#): Resources for engagement, including a brochure on how to utilize MyChildCarePlan.org
- [MyChildCarePlan.org](#): Helps parents find local trusted child care programs
- [My Child Care Law Center's Legal Information and Referral Service](#): General legal information on child care in California
- [Emergency Child Care Bridge Program](#): Child care assistance for foster children: contact your local R&R agency to get connected with a navigator
- [Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles](#) (for L.A. County): A local network of agencies serving families and providers
- [Universal PreKindergarten](#): Presents overview of available preschool options
- [Early Head Start](#) and [Head Start](#): Free, federal programs for children ages birth to 5
- [CA State Preschool Program](#): Subsidized, income-eligible state preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds
- [Transitional Kindergarten](#): Universally free school-based program for 4-year-old children. Learn more at [TKCalifornia.org](#)
- [Help Me Grow \(HMG\)](#): Connects families to local programs and services
- [California Community College Early Childhood Educators](#): A network supporting early childhood educators in the CCC system

ABOUT US

[Early Edge California](#) is a statewide non-profit organization advocating for high-quality early learning & care for children in under-resourced communities, starting from birth. We champion nurturing environments and support the growth of the educators and caregivers who make them possible.

The [California Child Care Resource & Referral Network](#) is a membership organization of state-funded R&R agencies from across California that facilitates statewide coordination and service delivery. The Network also provides technical support & training, research, and policy advocacy.

Scan the QR code to download a digital version:



Questions? Please contact Early Edge California at info@earlyedgecalifornia.org or the R&R Network at hello@rrnetwork.org or 1-800-543-7793.