

Opportunities for Making California's Child Care System Better Through Child Care Development Block Grant Implementation

Child care is the keystone of an equitable educational system, a productive workforce, and a fit society. Early experiences affect a child's brain development, providing the foundation for all future learning. Quality child care helps children develop a sense of security, knowledge and skills that are essential for their success.

Over the past seventy years, the availability of child care has become a pillar of gender equity by enabling women to participate in the workforce. Child care has also become a critical support for low-income families working to achieve economic stability. However, California's child care infrastructure continues to face significant challenges. Legislative changes and financial investment are needed to ensure a strong child care system that will return dividends to us in years to come.

New rules contained in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014, which reauthorized the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), and the planning process it requires, present a unique opportunity for state agencies and the Legislature to be bold and visionary in strengthening the State's child care system.



QUALITY CHILD CARE

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PROPOSALS FOR BUDGET YEAR 2016-2017

- Implement 12-month eligibility that reduces burdensome reporting requirements for parents, providers, program administrators, and employers.
- Update income guidelines for subsidized child care based on the most current data available and raise the exit ceiling to qualify for child care subsidies to 85 percent of the State Median Income.
- Incrementally increase funding for child care subsidies to reduce waiting lists of income eligible children by at least 50 percent in 5 years.
- Fund the required consumer education statewide website within the current California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. The website should be parent friendly, with dynamic capacity to answer questions parents need to ask about child care, allow parents to apply for child care subsidies, and track their place on a centralized waiting/eligibility list.

- Increase provider rates by at least 20 percent of the difference between the present rate and the most current market rate with the intent to fully fund rates within 5 years; merge the Regional Market Rate (RMR) and the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR) into create a single, tiered rate system that accounts for regionalized rates over the same period.
- Fund child care provider training to meet the additional health and safety requirements.
- Fund annual inspections of licensed child care facilities, and begin to develop a strengths-based model for implementing license-exempt visits.
- Expand the California Early Care and Education Workforce Registry to track and promote the education, training and experience of providers and the utilization and impact of current professional development efforts.



CHILD CARE

*is the keystone
of an equitable
educational system*

A unified voice for CCDBG Implementation in 2016

On November 9, 2015, child care stakeholders from 38 organizations came together to discuss the future of child care in California in light of the opportunities and financial challenges presented by increased federal requirements. Child care providers, administrators, parents, advocates, and other members of the child care and education community contemplated ways to implement the CCDF reauthorization consistent with guiding principles and little additional federal funding. With information gathered through the convening and additional outreach and research, we have produced a detailed accounting of our vision for California's child care system that addresses six major CCDBG topic areas.

PROPOSALS FOR BUDGET YEAR 2017-2018 and *BEYOND*

- Use the consumer education website or an equivalent to create an alternative rate methodology, which could save costs by obviating the need for a regional market rate survey.
- Create an aligned and coordinated infrastructure for child care professional development and quality improvement that:
 - Enables career mobility, incentivizes education and training, and is captured by a workforce registry.
 - Makes quality coaching and technical assistance available to support providers in offering a safe, healthy and enriching environment for children, particularly those with special needs.
 - Informs providers of training requirements and how they are tracked (i.e. consumer education website or registry).
 - Includes a crosswalk between professional development and quality improvement initiatives that is financially efficient, clear, and mutually supportive.
 - Provides a clear framework for quality improvement to guide locally driven efforts.
 - Includes statewide evaluation, reporting mechanisms and additional state-level management capacity for the quality improvement system.
 - Requires all entities that receive state funding for quality improvement or professional development to participate in developing a plan to collaborate at a regional level.
- Create a plan for health and safety training and monitoring system for license-exempt providers that:
 - Seeks a waiver or adaptation of said training requirements for providers who are not CCDBG exempt relatives to prevent denial of child care to children and families.
 - Uses a supportive home-visit program led by local resource and referral programs to meet monitoring requirements for providers who are not CCDBG exempt relatives.
 - Provides financial incentives to CCDBG exempt relatives who elect to participate in approved trainings or in home-visit programs through one-time bonus and/or increased subsidy rates.

MAKING CHANGE POSSIBLE *together*

The following organizations participated in the convening that resulted in these proposals.

Advancement Project • Early Care and Education Planning Council of Alameda County

- Bay Area Coalition • California Budget & Policy Center • ECE & Foster and Kinship Care Education of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office • California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
 - California Federation of Family Child Care Associations • California Early Childhood Mentor Program
 - California Rural Indian Health Board • CalSAC • California Alternative Payment Program Association
- California Community College Early Childhood Educators • California Child Development Administrator's Association
- Child Care Coordinators Association • Child Care Council • Child Care Law Center • Children Now • Children's Council of San Francisco • Center for the Study of Child Care Employment • Early Edge • Family Child Care Association • Family Child Care Association of San Francisco • Family Service Agency of San Francisco • First 5 Association • First 5 California
- First 5 LA • First 5 Santa Clara • Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles • LA UP • Low Income Investment Fund • Mills College
- Northern Directors' Group • Professional Association for Childhood Education • Parent Voices • San Joaquin County Office of Education • SEIU & AFSCME • SETA Head Start • The Opportunity Institute • Child Care Resource Center

