Introduction

The Child Care Law Center is pleased to provide this evaluation report on our impacts over five years. This report is an evaluation of two primary advocacy goals:

1) Expanding access to child care programs for children ages zero-to-five, and

2) Improving health and safety practices and regulatory oversight of licensed child care programs.

By expanding access to good, affordable child care, the Child Care Law Center helps transform lives, strengthen communities and spark bigger social change.

Beginning with our plan to eliminate the predicament so many families faced, of “churning” through the child care delivery system, and ending with new regulations that protect and expand the legal rights of families to 12 months of stable child care, the Law Center has transformed lives. More children will remain enrolled in quality child care or preschool, and more parents can achieve economic self-sufficiency knowing their children are safe and well-cared for because of new laws and funding the Law Center helped win. Thanks to their work, California now has some of the best laws in the country for parents with affordable child care subsidies.

In other progress, both California and the U.S. government committed significant new dollars to help families get good affordable child care. And lastly, new regulations about medical services, child abuse reporting and immunizations will help agencies and providers to protect children’s health and safety while in child care.

With solid progress in expanding access and improving health and safety, the need for CCLC’s work is still great. Their focus on legal, administrative and policy advocacy will help low income families get and keep quality child care and preschool. State and federal funding is still inadequate -- only one out of seven eligible children gets financial assistance to attend quality child care or preschool. Because lawmakers have not allocated resources, California ranked lowest in the country in regulatory oversight of child care health and safety in a 2012 survey.

This report documents how the Law Center’s work between 2013 and 2018 impacted on children, families and child care provider.
Goal 1 - Expanding Access

Desired impact: Children will receive nurturing care so they can develop the social, emotional and academic skills to prepare for their future. Parents will be able to work, support their families, and improve their economic prospects.

Background

California lawmakers’ reaction to the Great Recession was to cut nearly one billion dollars from child care funds, remove all programs (except state preschool) from Proposition 98 funding, and eliminate child care spaces for 110,000 children. These cuts exacerbated affordability problems for low-income parents, and many children simply did not get early learning.

Additionally, California had historically lacked due process protections in subsidy administration. Insufficient notice, outdated income guidelines, and onerous reporting and recertification policies caused low-income parents to unjustly lose their child care assistance. The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 mandated reforms, but did not contain funds to implement them. CCLC’s work has focused on “righting these wrongs” through administrative, legislative, and legal advocacy.

By 2014, the California economy had rebounded, but child care funding had not been restored - primarily because of Governor Brown’s frugality in state spending. Without child care, hundreds of thousands of families were left out of the economic recovery. CCLC and Parent Voices started to spotlight families who were “waiting” – whose lives, education, and economic security were on hold because lawmakers refused to increase child care funding.

A key finding of focus groups and community meetings was that many parents on waiting lists were receiving CalWORKs – they should have been receiving child care assistance through CalWORKs funding, instead of waiting on the lists. The bifurcated administration of child care services for parents on

In 2011, Maria was working in food service to support her family. With state assistance, she could afford good child care while she worked. One day, the child care agency informed Maria that her assistance was being terminated because the paperwork she had turned in was not on proper “letterhead.”

Grassroots activists from Parent Voices helped Maria request a hearing, and persisted to successfully challenge the agency decision. Maria’s children remained in their child care program.

Maria’s story was just one of many. Parents were needlessly losing their child care assistance. A 2007 study analyzing eligibility and utilization patterns in Los Angeles found that more than half of parents requesting child care assistance were denied because of improper paperwork.

The Child Care Law Center began a campaign to advocate for parents’ rights, improve due process, and establish 12-month eligibility for low income parents.
welfare was letting an estimated 55,000 parents fall through the cracks.

The four primary areas CCLC focused on in pursuit of Goal 1 are:

1. Due process; the end to unfair termination of child care benefits for those currently receiving them.
2. Barrier Removal; ensuring families who are eligible for childcare can receive it.
3. Increased funding for investments in child care and preschool at the state and federal levels (restoration of slots, funding).
4. Training for providers and parents to ensure that they are aware of the laws regulating the child care systems.

As the tables below reflect, these policy changes met our goals to simplify and streamline eligibility, enrollment, and retention policies to help families access child care assistance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area: Due Process</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES:</th>
<th>SYSTEMS &amp; POLICY OUTCOMES:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal analysis and recommendation to California Department of Education to instruct child care contracting agencies to improve due process.</td>
<td>CDE issued Management Bulletin 13-04, with clear guidance outlining parents’ rights to a hearing and appeal when they receive a Notice of Action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal analysis and recommendations to California Department of Social Services to simplify their Notice of Action forms.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area: Barrier Removal</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES:</th>
<th>SYSTEMS &amp; POLICY OUTCOMES:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drafted legislative language for Parent Voices and the Women’s Policy Institute (AB 60 and AB 273, 2017).</td>
<td>State Legislature passed AB 273 to assure child care assistance for parents taking ESL or GED classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal analysis of parents’ entitlement to CalWORKs child care and seamless access specifically for “sanctioned” parents and “Stage 1” parents</td>
<td>California Department of Social Services and California Department of Education issued joint guidance to contracting agencies to clarify agencies’ duty to ensure a seamless transfer from Stage 1 to Stage 2 child care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Created the Interagency Task Force to identify problems, devise solutions, and improve the transition between Stage 1 and Stage 2 child care. Identified and prioritized 26</td>
<td>Change in policy by CalWORKs administrators and child care agencies. State Agencies issued joint guidance and one hundred thirty child care agencies attended the joint CDE and CDSS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
regulatory or administrative barriers to CalWORKs child care.

briefing on about the new transfer rules. (*data-sharing problems and access to technical databases are being fixed in 2018). 24 barriers remain on the list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area: Increase Funding</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-chaired the Minimum Wage Task Force of the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and produced &quot;Bringing Child Care Policy in Line with the New Minimum Wage&quot; for submission to Governor Brown.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendations for California Implementation of the Child Care & Development Block Grant Act of 2014 (Issued to Joint Legislative Hearing on CCDBG Reauthorization, December 2015).

Response to Notice of Proposed Rule-Making of Child Care & Development Block Grant (Issued to Administration of Children and Families).

Comments to Draft State Plan of California Department of Education, Lead Agency for CCDBG.

2017-2018 Advocacy in Congress to increase CCDBG funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY &amp; SYSTEMS OUTCOMES:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Legislature passed AB 97, the State Budget Act of 2017, which:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Updated the State Median Income guidelines used to determine income eligibility for child care to the 2017 level (from the 2006 level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Raised the maximum money a parent could earn and still be eligible for child care assistance to 85% of the State Median Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Established 12-month-eligibility for child care assistance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State Funding increased by $1.2 Billion

Federal CCDBG funding increased by $5 billion

Number of new child care spaces since 2016 is

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area: Training</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provided technical assistance to 259 parents through “Know Your Rights” trainings and one-on-one meetings.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provided direct representation to 49 parents to request hearings upon receipt of a Notice of Action from their child care agency, and/or appeal unfavorable hearing decisions to the California Department of Education.

Took feedback and policy suggestions from parents provided in focus groups, advocacy meetings, and workshops.

Published “Know the Law About New Child Care Eligibility Rules in California.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SYSTEMS &amp; POLICY OUTCOMES:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appeals data from the Department of Education indicates that parents know and are exercising their due process rights.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of parents who appealed an agency hearing decision to the Department of Education increased between 2013, when MB13-04 was issued and we began Know Your Rights education for parents, and 2017.

The number of parents who successfully appealed to the Department of Education and kept their child care subsidy went up. Our success rate was 100% - in every case, parents retained their child care assistance.
1. Due Process Protections: More parents successfully requested hearings and appealed unfavorable hearing decisions

CCLC assessed its impact on improved due process rules by assisting parents with hearings and appeals, and tracking outcomes using these indicators:

- The number of appeals to California Department of Education (CDE) that did not have procedural defects;
- The number of hearing decisions that were decided in favor of the parent upon appeal.

![Percentage of Appeals Accepted & Decided in Favor of the Parent](image.png)

**Figure 1: Percentage of Parent Appeals Accepted for Review and Decided in Favor of the Parent**

Figure 1 shows that the percentage of appeals CDE accepted for review has increased since FY12-13. This indicates that CCLC’s outreach to parents about their legal rights was successful. During FY16-17, CCLC helped nine parents file an appeal of a local hearing decision to CDE. CDE overturned a higher percentage of hearing decisions, meaning that a parent retained their child care subsidy.

During FY16-17, CCLC assisted a total of 23 parents with hearings or appeals; 100 percent retained their subsidy. Fifty-one children stayed in child care as a result.

2. Barrier Removal: Family-friendly policies protect continuity of child care

CCLC has consistently worked to create family-friendly policies that protect the continuity of child care and meet the requirements of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014. Specifically, CCLC proposed to remove barriers to child care through two avenues:

- Advocate for funds to implement the family-friendly recommendations in the CCDBG Act
- Work completed with the Interagency Task Force to implement recommendations that streamline the transition between Stage 1 and Stage 2 child care.
CCLC drafted legislation for Parent Voices, so they could advocate for CCDBG implementation favorable to low income families. The draft legislation contained the CCDBG Act’s recommendations to:

- Increase the maximum income ceiling,
- update the State Median Income guide to the current year, and
- guarantee a family twelve-month eligibility;

CCLC set out to make sure California fulfilled its mandate to help parents receive good quality child care for their children. As a result of CCLC’s activities, the California budget for FY17-18 included $25 million in new funding to update family guidelines for families receiving affordable child care subsidies, and eliminated reporting requirements unless a family income goes over 85% of the State Median Income. 280,000 children in California will be impacted by this legislation and funding.

**The Interagency Task Force**

Parents in the CalWORKs program are guaranteed child care during and after receiving cash aid, and families should move seamlessly between the three stages of CalWORKs child care, with no interruption in services.

In reality, it works differently. On average across California, 70% of families on CalWORKs are not using Stage 1 or Stage 2 child care, despite being eligible. Approximately 40% of families on CalWORKs are entering the Stage 2 program on their own, without a “warm transfer” from Stage 1. In FY16-17, 9,414 children (approximately 35%) were potentially eligible to transfer to Stage 2, but did not.

CCLC convened the Interagency CalWORKs Child Care Task Force in mid-2016 to begin removing the administrative barriers to CalWORKs child care. The Task Force is comprised of representatives from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), California Department of Education (CDE), and a dozen stakeholders and child care agencies. Its mission is to identify barriers and execute solutions to help more parents get child care through CalWORKs.

Thus far, the Interagency Task Force has identified 26 reforms, 5 priority areas for reform, and implemented the first priority: to streamline families’ transition from Stage 1 to Stage 2. CDE and CDSS issued joint directives clearly laying out each agency’s responsibilities in this process, thus ensuring that children do not fall through the cracks.

These directives were the result of the collaboration between CDE, DSS, contractors, and county welfare agencies. By establishing the Interagency Task Force, stakeholders who had never had a formal meeting space were able to hear each other’s frustrations and suggestions, in order to devise solutions to improve the transition between Stage 1 and Stage 2 child care.

**3. INCREASED FUNDING: New funds for child care vouchers and preschool spaces**
Both federal and state funding increased substantially between 2013 and 2018. Few people expected new funds from Congress in 2018. But a surprise opportunity arose when Congress members recommended $5 billion new dollars in CCDBG funding, as a negotiation tool with Congress members who were eager to lift spending caps to increase military spending.

State funding also increased each year. The Law Center’s advocacy and legal analysis - together with a coordinated and dedicated advocacy effort from early childhood advocates and legislative leadership – contributed to this analysis.

Each year since FY 13-14, the California State Legislature has increased its investment in early learning, child care and preschool. Spaces in preschool or child care programs for 51,959 children have been reinstated.

**Yearly Increases to Overall Child Care Funding by the California Legislature**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY13-14</td>
<td>$51M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY14-15</td>
<td>$256M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY15-16</td>
<td>$423M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY16-17</td>
<td>$145M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY17-18</td>
<td>$320M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This work is especially meaningful in light of the drastic cuts to child care funding during the Great Recession: In 2011, Governor Brown removed most child care programs out from under the Proposition 98 funding guarantee. Between 2008 and 2013, California eliminated services for 110,000 children. CCLC’s work contributed to the reinstatement of critical child care funding. (Details on the activities completed by CCLC to contribute to this accomplishment are found in the Appendix).

While child care dollars have been restored, costs have risen. Therefore, legislators have restored just 1/3 of the 110,000 child care spaces they cut during the Great Recession. CCLC will continue to advocate for more spaces for low-income children in state subsidized child care.

**4. TRAINING: Increasing Parents’ & Child Care Providers’ Knowledge of Policy and Systems**

CCLC workshops for parents and child care providers are a two-way street – attendees learn valuable legal information about their rights and protections under law, and CCLC attorneys learn from the participants about the challenges and issues they face. CCLC conducted trainings in Los Angeles, the Central Valley, San Diego, Alameda County and the Bay Area, and Sacramento and Eureka. Topics included:

- mandated child abuse reporting
- new laws on immunizations
- including children with disabilities, and administering incidental medical services to children with special health needs
- parents’ rights to child care subsidies and due process
- state and local budget advocacy
- community development, zoning, and business fees
- child care legal framework
On average, the Law Center offered a workshop to the community once every other month. Thirty workshops were conducted in total. CCLC also produced a video in Spanish and English for Facebook, and produced “Know the Law” publications for the workshop topics. Workshops were in Spanish and English.

**IMPACT at a Glance**

- 89% families who pay a “family fee” saw their fees reduced or eliminated after eligibility was updated to the 2017 State Median Income.
- 280,000 children now have "12-month eligibility" - stable child care for kids, stable expenses for parents, and stable income for providers.
- CDE officials assert a "paradigm shift:" child care eligibility policy will now focus on the child, rather than the parent's activity.
Goal 2: Health and Safety

Desired impact: Licensed child care programs will be safer, especially for babies, and for children with disabilities, special health needs, and other vulnerabilities

In 2013, California regulations governing health and safety in licensed child care caused it to be ranked in the bottom third of the nation. For example:

- No requirement existed for ongoing provider training for child abuse prevention, shaken baby syndrome, fire safety, or other suggested requirements of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014.
- No requirement existed for annual inspections of licensed child care programs.
- Insufficient guidance was offered regarding serving children with disabilities, or those with special health needs who must receive medications while in child care.

Over the past five years, CCLC has worked to improve oversight issues. As a result of CCLC’s work, the following improvements have been made:

- Legislation was passed to require providers to take training on how to report child abuse.
- Funding for inspections increased by $7.5 million, creating 71 new inspection positions.
- Express language was added to authorize the administration of Incidental Medical Services for children with disabilities.
- New laws were passed to require immunizations of all children and child care professionals
- Increased penalties were assessed in facilities where a licensing violation results in bodily injury or death.
- The California State Fire Marshall agreed to clarify fire safety codes for large family child care homes across all counties. This will impact 890 fire departments, saving family child care providers hundreds of dollars in unlawful inspection fees and fire alarm costs.
The primary areas CCLC focused on in pursuit of Goal 2 were:

- **Child Abuse Prevention**
- **Incidental Medical Services**
- **Inspections & Oversight**
- **Immunizations**

CCLC’s work in these four core areas is summarized below. Activities and outputs led to a clear set of policy and regulatory wins. Many of these wins were achieved in collaboration with partners in the ECE field.

**Area: Incidental Medical Services**

**Activities**
- Legal analysis and recommendations to Community Care Licensing on administering Incidental Medical Services.
- Legal analysis to Health & Safety Regulatory Workgroup
- Published “Know the Law About Administering Incidental Medical Services in Child Care in California.”
- Direct assistance to parents of children with disabilities who need medications.
- Surveyed Regional Offices of Community Care Licensing on their knowledge of IMS guidance.

**Policy & System Outcomes**
- CDSS Evaluators’ Manual contains clear guidelines for child care providers to follow to administer IMS (*regulations are still under revision by the Health & Safety Regulatory Workgroup.*)
- 525 licensed child care centers have submitted modified plans of operation to accommodate children with disabilities by providing IMS
- Licensing Offices reported an increased knowledge of revised IMS Policy.
Area: Inspections and Oversight

Activities:
- Recommendations to annually inspect licensed child care programs.
- Surveyed 661 child care providers for recommendations for new health & safety training topics and requirements.
- Direct assistance to child care providers in 10 towns across the state, which revealed inconsistent fire safety regulations.
- Conducted 13 workshops for child care providers in 9 counties.

Policy Outcomes:
- Increased funding for inspections of child care programs by $7.5 million, creating 71 new inspection positions, but not legislation or regulation to assure annual inspections.
- The California State Fire Marshall agreed to clarify fire safety codes for large family child care homes for consistency in all counties, but hasn’t actually taken steps to do so yet.
- Increased penalties assessed in facilities where a licensing violation results in bodily injury or death.

Area: Child Abuse Prevention

Activities:
- Survey of 175 child care providers regarding training of mandated reporters of suspected abuse or neglect.
  - White Paper: “Recognize & Report: Child Care Providers Have the Power to Prevent Child Abuse”.
  - Participation in the Health & Safety Regulatory Workgroup, composed of representatives of more than 40 organizations and state agencies, to recommend new safeguards children’s health and well-being in child care.

Policy Outcome:
- Recognize & Report law (AB1207) passed - requires all child care professionals to take training in recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.
PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE: Increased awareness of new health & safety laws

In October 2015, Governor Jerry Brown signed AB 1207 into law. Known as “Recognize & Report”, the law helps child care workers protect children by requiring ongoing training on how to recognize and report suspected child abuse or neglect. All child care providers, administrators, and employees of licensed family child care homes and child care centers must take the pre-licensure and ongoing training every two years. CCLC wrote the White Paper which was the basis for the legislation, surveyed 175 child care providers for their feedback, and secured broad support from child care advocates and stakeholders for the necessity and impact of the bill.*

AB 1207 became effective in January 2018. During the interim, CCLC conducted two trainings to educate child care professionals and agency staff about the new requirements, and published “Know the Law About New Training Requirements for California Child Care Providers Regarding Mandated Child Abuse Reporting.”

Recognize & Report training will empower all child care providers with tools to keep children safe and report suspected abuse, and will in turn improve health and safety for children in child programs.

TARIQ’S STORY

Every child deserves to be happy and healthy in preschool – including kids with special health needs like diabetes. Leila (right) was terrified when her son’s preschool teachers told her they could not give him his insulin. How would she be able to work if the school did not administer the medication he needed? The Law Center worked with preschool teacher Phoenix (left) to make sure that Tariq would get the care he needs. We also clarified the law so that child care programs know about supporting kids who need medications.

INCIDENTAL MEDICAL SERVICES: Children who need medication receive better care and greater access to child care facilities
Over the past five years, CCLC has made great strides in ensuring that children with special health needs receive quality and equitable care in child care facilities. CCLC worked to revise the Child Care Licensing guidelines on Incidental Medical Services (IMS) so that children can receive the medication they need while in licensed child care.

Until 2015, Community Care Licensing regulations did not specifically permit child care providers to administer IMS to children in their care.

Now, guidelines clearly establish that child care providers can administer IMS. Furthermore, they cannot deny a child access to a child care facility based on a child’s need of IMS.

In order to assess the extent to which the revised licensing policy had been implemented, CCLC called each California licensing office during April and May, 2015, and asked for an explanation of the procedures regarding the provision of a child’s medication while at a child care facility. **Just 31% of the sites were aware of the revised policy.**

CCLC and state administrators then offered a training on the new procedures to all staff regional Community Care Licensing offices. A follow-up phone survey was conducted in November 2015, and **100% of the regional offices correctly communicated that child care centers are allowed to administer IMS.** This improvement in licensing knowledge of IMS regulations represents a significant win for CCLC’s campaign to improve the child care health and safety.

In order to administer IMS care, family child care homes and child care centers must submit a modification to their plan of operation. As of January 2018, only 525 family child care centers have changed their plans of operation to accommodate children with IMS needs. Considering that there are 30,701 licensed family child care homes in California, much improvement is needed in this area.

**IMMUNIZATIONS**

In 2015, Senator Richard Pan introduced legislation to eliminate the personal beliefs exemption from immunization requirements to attend child care, preschool and school. The Senator’s proposal drew strong support, but also drew strong opposition from the anti-vaccine constituency.

Child care presents a unique setting for the transmission of illness. Children are together at a young age before they have received scheduled immunizations, or had the chance to develop immunities. Child care programs often called CCLC for clarification about the law regarding immunizations, or when faced with enrolling an unimmunized preschooler. Infants, young children, and the immunocompromised cannot safely be vaccinated, and therefore depend on those around them to be fully vaccinated.

CCLC convened an ad hoc task force of child care health experts to discuss Senator Pan’s proposal and prepare expert testimony. CCLC also provided technical assistance on legislation requiring all adults working in child care programs to be vaccinated. Lastly, CCLC published “Know the Law About Immunizations in Child Care Settings in California” after the legislation passed.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

**Opportunities for new child care funding and policy advocacy often arose unexpectedly.** By laying a foundation for action, with short- and long-term goals, targets, preparatory analysis and a plan for activity, we were prepared when opportunities presented themselves. Often, the series of events we had foreseen did not unfold as we had planned.
For example, in 2013 we thought that the CCDBG fund would be reauthorized, and with new funding to implement the new rules. Instead, the states got the new rules, but without the funding to put them in place. We organized to build consensus with or without funding, and created seven topic papers and a set of recommendations. With the election of a new president, no one expected new federal child care dollars – but then, that unlikely event did occur. We are now well-positioned to help California maximize its new federal child care dollars in 2018.

*Horizontal integration fizzled.* When the Affordable Care Act was being debated and passed, there was a possibility of integrating some benefit programs, like child care for low-income Californians, through the architecture of the new health care programs. But the implementation of the ACA proved to be too overwhelming to layer on additional reforms.

*Implementation and monitoring of new policy reforms must be part of all our advocacy proposals.* The Law Center’s capacity to ensure that the “Recognize and Report” law, was limited, and the AB 1207 did not contain sufficient provision to ensure that the CDSS training is user-friendly and available in languages other than English. We published a “Know the Law” and gave technical assistance to CDSS, but CDSS did not create an effective training curriculum about reporting suspected child abuse.

In contrast, CCLC was in position to assist with the implementation of the new regulations on child care subsidies enacted through AB 97, the State Budget, in 2017. By working closely with CDE, we helped write the implementing guidance so that the parents could immediately experience the benefits of the updated guidelines, in July of 2017 right after the budget passed.

*Communications and effective messaging became an integral part of our advocacy strategy.* We worked with a communications firm to develop message tactics in our advocacy in 2017 and 2018, and shared the messages with all our ECE partners. We believe this improved our advocacy outcomes.

**FUTURE ADVOCACY DIRECTIONS**

*Improve child care quality with the new 2018 and 2019 CCDBG funds*

Parents should be able to rely on safety in child care and know that their child care program has passed an annual safety inspection. Advocates won a small funding increase in 2014 but it wasn’t enough for annual inspections of licensed child care programs or full oversight. With the new federal CCDBG funds allocated in 2018, no excuse exists to delay implementing annual inspections, a requirement of the CCDBG Act of 2014.

*Child care providers help children grow and learn, and deserve to fairly compensated and treated as professionals.*

In our work to increase the availability of child care for low-income families over the past 35 years, we have learned that policies aimed at improving the work conditions and pay for child care providers are just as important as increasing the quantity of available, affordable child care for parents. For this reason, we advocate for policies that address both sides of the supply-and-demand equation. Two urgent areas of future advocacy will be:

- Assist family child care providers so they can stay in business and address shortage of child care for babies and toddlers
- Advocate for comprehensive reform of reimbursement rates paid to providers
Solutions that are transparent and fair must be developed to improve child care utilization rate for families on CalWORKs.

As explained in the section on the Interagency Task Force, many administrative barriers are keeping eligible families from getting child care through the CalWORKs program.