

**POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT  
 MARCH 9, 2022 ♦ 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Microsoft Teams ▪ To join by telephone: 323.776.6996; Conference ID: 880 538 588#

**AGENDA**

**Welcome and Introductions**

- |       |                            |             |                             |
|-------|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 10:00 | 1. Roll Call of Membership | Action Item | Debra Colman, OAECE         |
| 10:10 | 2. Comments from the Chair | Information | Karla Pleitéz Howell, Chair |

**Public Policy Update**

- |       |  |  |   |
|-------|--|--|---|
| 10:20 | 3. Hold Harmless Provision for Alternative Payment Providers Information |  | Lisa Wilkin, Child Development Consortium of LA<br>Commissioner Fran Chasen, S. CA Chapter, CAEYC |
|-------|--|--|---|

**General Business**

- |       |   |             |   |
|-------|---|-------------|---|
| 10:50 | 4. Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2022<br>Roll Call Vote | Action Item | Karla Pleitéz Howell, Chair<br>Leanne Drogin, OAECE |
|-------|---|-------------|---|

**11:00 BREAK**

**Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion**

- |       |  |             |   |
|-------|--|-------------|---|
| 11:05 | 5. Roundtable Commission Policy Priorities:<br>Pursuit of Position | Action Item | Alejandra Albarran Moses, Vice Chair<br>Michele Sartell, OAECE<br>Ariana Oliva, CCPC Vice-Chair |
| 11:42 | 6. Board of Supervisors Joint ECE Delegations                      | Information | Alejandra Albarran Moses, Vice Chair  |

**COVID-19 and Early Care and Education**

- |       |  |             |                     |
|-------|--|-------------|---------------------|
| 11:45 | 7. Update on COVID-19 and ECE in LA County | Information | Debra Colman, OAECE |
|-------|--|-------------|---------------------|

**Wrap Up**

- |       |  |             |                                      |
|-------|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 11:50 | 8. Announcements and Public Comment      | Information | Alejandra Albarran Moses, Vice Chair |
| 11:55 | 9. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn | Information | Alejandra Albarran Moses, Vice Chair |

**Next Virtual Meeting:** Wednesday, April 13, 2022 ♦ 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Vision:** Children are healthy, thriving and have equitable opportunities to achieve optimal development and succeed in life.

**Mission:** Lead, build, and strengthen an affordable and high-quality ECE system for the children and families in LA County.

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## Minutes for Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission FEBRUARY 9, 2022

### Welcome and Introductions

#### 1. Roll Call of Membership

Debra Colman, Director of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE), opened the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable) Commission meeting at 10:05 a.m. by reading the grounding statement to conducting a virtual meeting. Colman then called roll of the Roundtable Commission.

#### 2. Comments from the Chair

Chair Karla Pleitéz Howell welcomed Commissioners, alternates, and guests to the meeting and invited all participants to turn on their video to enhance communication. Chair Pleitéz Howell highlighted that on February 7, 2022, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) released a \$100 million infrastructure grant Request for Application (RFA). These grant dollars ensure that the child care infrastructure is built out throughout the state for children ages 0-5. She noted that child care providers face many challenges when trying to open facilities and these challenges are similar across the state. Chair Pleitéz Howell shared an example of a child care provider's experience that demonstrated the multiple challenges in obtaining and renovating space to serve more children. Included in the example were fees that totaled \$90,000 the provider would have to pay to renovate her facility. Chair Pleitéz Howell shared that the Governor's budget from last year allocated \$250 million for infrastructure grant programs and the provider would be able to apply for this funding to help pay for the cost of fees and other work needed to renovate her child care facility.

Chair Pleitéz Howell announced that Supervisor Hilda Solis presented a motion on February 8, 2022, to the LA County Board of Supervisors and it was passed unanimously. The motion highlights LA County supports for child care providers to apply for the CDSS ECE infrastructure funding. She noted this is a historic time to draw down this funding to support providers.

Chair Pleitéz Howell concluded by thanking Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey and Commissioner Jessica Perea for starting these conversations with Board members months earlier.

Chair Pleitéz Howell transitioned the meeting to Michele Sartell for the Public Policy Update.

### Public Policy Update

#### 3. County and Federal Early Care & Education Policy Update

Michele Sartell, OAECE Child Care Planning Coordinator/Program Specialist III, introduced a panel of public policy experts who presented county, state, and federal early care and education (ECE) policy updates.

Sartell introduced Joshua Bobrowsky, *Director of Government Affairs at LA County's Department of Public Health*. Director Bobrowsky first provided an overview of LA County's CEO's legislative affairs process once the Governor's budget is released. Director Bobrowsky then shared overall public health areas the Department of Public Health elevated to the CEO based on the release of the Governor's budget. The ECE public health areas that were elevated to the CEO include:

- \$823.7 million for 36,000 additional subsidized slots
- \$373.0 million to support a full year of rate increases while the state continues to work with partners and stakeholders toward further rate reform and increased access to a comprehensive, quality, and affordable child care and development system as set forth in the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care

Sartell then welcomed Anais Duran, *Government Affairs Strategist at First 5 LA*.

Duran shared federal updates on policies related to ECE:

- Build Back Better Act (BBB) – It is likely that a scaled down version of the BBB will be presented than what was originally included. Paid family leave and the child care tax credit extension will likely not be included. There will likely be additional funding for child care and possibly universal pre-school. It is anticipated that a large focus of BBB will be on health care.
- Duran highlighted the release of the 2019 [NSECE Snapshot: Child Care Cost Burden for US Households with Children Under Age 5](#) which is a national survey of ECE supply and demand.
- Congressperson Mark DeSaulnier introduced the Right IDEA Act to increase funding for IDEA part C and Section 619 over the next five years. This Act covers early intervention services for children ages 5 and under.
- Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021, which aims to improve maternal health particularly for racial and ethnic minority groups. Duran noted that this Act aligns with Vice President Kamala Harris and California's efforts around maternal morbidity and mortality.

Sartell then introduced Commissioner Ofelia Medina, *Senior Policy Strategist at First 5 LA*, and a representative of the ECE Coalition.

Commissioner Medina provided an update on the ECE Coalition and shared that the ECE Coalition just finalized its FY 2022-2023 budget priorities and they are in the process of finalizing their budget letter. The budget priorities include:

- Increase child care provider wages
- Increase child care access by continuing to waive family fees and increase child care spaces
- Investment in infrastructure/facilities grants
- Reinstatement and increase of ECE Workforce Pathways grant program to rebuild and expand workforce capacity. Within the investment there are two set aside that the ECE coalition is proposing which are:
  - \$25 million for workforce development for family, friends, and neighbor providers
  - \$25 million for professional development specifically to support dual language learners
- Requesting COVID-19 pandemic policies to continue in FY 2022-2023 which were not included in the Governor's budget

Chair Pleitéz Howell thanked Sartell and the panelists for raising concepts that families need during this time..

Director Bobrowsky added that the Governor will sign the COVID-19 supplemental paid leave bill, that day, February 9, 2022, and encouraged the group to review the bill.

## Policy Priorities Showcase

### **4. Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils: Role of the Child Care Planning Committee in ECE Systems**

Chair Pleitéz Howell introduced Ernesto Saldaña, *Chair of the Child Care Planning Committee (CCPC)*, who presented an overview of the CCPC which is LA County's Local Planning Council (LPC). The CCPC is required to meet the following deliverables:

- Engage community stakeholders through diverse membership of 50 – parents/consumers, early educators, public agencies, CBOs, IHE, Resource and Referral (R&R) agencies, and Board appointees – plus alternates and members of the public
- Conduct needs assessment – every five years; examine availability of ECE
- Develop comprehensive countywide plan – every 5 years; informed by needs assessment
- Assign annually priorities to zip codes based on gaps in subsidized services (LPC Local Funding Priorities) – informs allocation of funds by state
- Foster partnerships designed to meet local needs for ECE
- Provide a forum for examining current and emerging issues impacting the field of ECE

Saldaña shared the differences between the CCPC and the Policy Roundtable which includes the Policy Roundtable is the policymaking body of the work and the CCPC is the voices of what is occurring on the ground. The CCPC informs the Policy Roundtable of the issues of greatest concern and urgency. These are independent bodies but also need each other.

Saldaña presented CCPC's focus areas for FY 2021-2022, which is motivated by a theme of "centering equity and lifting community voices to build a path for transformative change in our ECE system." He mentioned that the work should be driven by values and two important values for him is centering racial equity and lifting community voices. The focus areas center on exploring current & emerging issues impacting the ECE field:

- Racial Equity
- Workforce Pathways
- Data collection & Analysis (needs assessment, LPC Local Funding Priorities)
- Licensing Protocols
- Universal Prekindergarten & Mixed Delivery System
- Parent Engagement
- Ensuring the health & safety of children enrolled in ECE, their families & their early educators

Saldaña highlighted that the CCPC focused its first meeting topics of 2022 on Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK)/Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) and the goal of these discussions was, and is, to inform and support the successful transition of UPK.

Saldaña opened the discussion for questions regarding the role of the LPC.

Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey asked if Saldaña is aware of which local school districts are interested in implementing a mixed delivery system and if the Education Coordinating Council is having conversations about this.

Saldaña suggested that districts should look to the ECE community to be partners, help bridge this gap, and help provide wrap around supports needed in this mixed delivery system. Sartell added that LACOE started a workgroup to help inform LACOE's UPK Plan that needs to be completed by June 30, 2022. Sartell also mentioned that Long Beach Unified School District is ahead of the curve because they are working with the ECE community to transform their early childhood system to be inclusive of birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Commissioner Ellen Cervantes highlighted the importance of keeping attention on the negative ripple effect is separating infant and toddlers from a mixed delivery system.

Chair Pleitéz Howell closed the discussion.

## **BREAK**

Chair Pleitéz Howell transitioned the meeting into a five-minute break.

## **General Business**

### **5. Approval of Minutes – January 12, 2022**

*Chair Pleitéz Howell presented the minutes from January 12, 2022 and asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Justin Blakely made the motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Jessica Perea seconded the motion. Commissioner Blakely noted that the spelling of his last name needs to be corrected in the minutes. Commissioner Cervantes was not present for the vote. The motion on the minutes passed with no abstentions.*

## **Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion**

## 6. Roundtable Commission Policy Priorities

Chair Pleitéz Howell reviewed the policy priorities the Roundtable approved in December 2021. She reminded the Roundtable that these priorities are based on previous discussions regarding the Unified Strategic Plan. Chair Pleitéz Howell reviewed the Public Policy Priorities chart in detail and discussed the importance of this chart.

Chair Pleitéz Howell and Debra Colman provided an update for each Policy Issue and introduced potential pursuit of positions within Policy Issues for the Roundtable to consider. The pursuit of positions to consider are in green in the Public Policy Priorities chart. The Roundtable will vote on which pursuit of positions to approve in its March 2022 meeting.

### Facilities

Chair Pleitéz Howell provided an overview of Supervisor Solis' February 8, 2022 ECE infrastructure motion noted earlier and highlighted the motion's long and short term supports for providers. Colman shared that OAECE has convened a LA County Facilities workgroup that includes LA County's Regional Planning, Public Works, and Fire Departments; CDSS Community Care Licensing Division; First 5 LA; and Public Counsel to provide the short term supports and develop long-term solutions.

### Stabilize ECE Services

Colman presented an update on efforts underway to help stabilize the ECE field:

1. OAECE is working in partnership with the LA Community Development Commission to provide \$20 million in operations grants to ECE providers across LA County. There is a plan to launch the program by July 2022.
2. Provide sustainable training and tools for family child care homes to increase their operational and business knowledge.

Colman elevated as a pursuit of position recommendation to the Roundtable the need for the state to continue to provide full funding for subsidized ECE/child care contracts to ECE providers, also referred to as "Hold Harmless" provision due to COVID 19.

### Transitional Kindergarten

Colman referenced Saldaña's presentation that highlighted CCPC's role and discussions regarding UPK/UTK.

### Workforce

Colman shared that ECE is an important issue for the Board of Supervisors and Supervisor Holly Mitchell is particularly focused on this goal. OAECE is leading the LA County Workforce Pathways grant and that the funding originally allocated for Workforce Pathways during the pandemic was swept into the budget and not restored. Colman elevated to the Roundtable this issue to restore the Workforce Pathways funding as a possible pursuit of position.

### Parents and Community

Colman highlighted the importance of parents and community voices and the need for LA County to have the capacity to engage community members, parent representatives, and larger stakeholders. During the 2007 recession the budget for LPCs budget was decreased by half and the funding was never restored. Colman proposed the need to restore LPC funding as another area to be considered as a pursuit of position.

Colman then invited Commissioner Ariana Olivia, who is also CCPC Vice Chair, to share the status of CCPCs discussions regarding the proposed pursuit of positions. Commissioner Olivia stated that the CCPC will discuss the pursuit of positions at their March 2022 meeting and Commissioner Oliva will bring this information to the next Roundtable meeting. Commissioner Oliva mentioned that the recommendations are consistent with other advocates across the state. Debra Colman opened the discussion for comments and questions.

Commissioner McCroskey asked how restoring the Workforce Pathways funding relates to the scope of Supervisor Mitchell's Workforce Development motion?

Colman reported that every county has an AB212 program that provides stipends to early educators to improve their qualifications. In the 2020 budget, there was a reimagining of the larger workforce development strategy which was envisioned as Workforce Pathways across the state. Due to COVID-19, the state swept the additional money into the state budget and the funding needed to support a comprehensive support system was not provided. Thus, the ask is for the funding to be restored to Workforce Pathways to fund the ongoing challenges in the ECE workforce.

Commissioner Nurhan Pirim highlighted that the term "Hold Harmless" is vague and needs to be defined because everyone does not define it the same way.

Colman reminded the group that the OAECE team is available if Commissioners want to provide additional feedback. The goal is to provide the Roundtable with proposed pursuit of positions to review before the March 2022 Roundtable meeting and take a vote on those positions will be taken during the March 2022 meeting. If passed, then the Joint ECE Board of Supervisors delegations will connect with the Board of Supervisors to elevate these important issues.

Vice-Chair Albarran Moses transitioned the discussion to the next agenda item.

## COVID-19 and Early Care and Education

### **7. Update on COVID-19 and ECE in LA County**

Debra Colman shared that across LA County, there has been a decline of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. The positivity rate in the school system is lower than community transmission which indicates that schools are a safe space for children.

Colman added that California lifted the indoor mask mandate. However, due to the higher transmission in LA County the indoor mask mandate will continue. There is also significant progress regarding vaccines for children under 5 years old. The ECE response team is working with the Public Health Vaccination team to plan the roll of vaccines for children under 5 years old once available.

## Wrap Up

### **8. Announcements and Public Comment**

Vice-Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for announcements and public comment.

Leanne Drogin, OAECE Senior Program Analyst, discussed the upcoming webinars LA County is hosting to provide information about the CDSS Minor Renovation and Repairs grant. Information about the webinars and registration links are on OAECE's website on the Special Projects page:

<https://childcare.lacounty.gov/special-projects/#1556031471673-e8cf1f4d-2d7a2ab3-4b06>.

### **9. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn**

Vice-Chair Albarran Moses adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

## Attendance

### **Commissioners Attendance**

1. Karla Pleitéz Howell, *First Supervisorial District*
2. Jessica Perea, *First Supervisorial District*

3. Justin Blakely, *Second Supervisorial District*
4. Terry Ogawa, *Third Supervisorial District*
5. Alejandra Albarran Moses, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
6. Joannie Aguayo, *Fifth Supervisorial District*
7. Ellen Cervantes, *Fifth Supervisorial District*
8. Dawn A. Kurtz, *Child360*
9. Jackie Majors, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
10. Julie Taren, *Child Care Planning Committee*
11. Ariana Oliva, *Child Care Planning Committee*
12. Steve Zimmer, *Commission for Children and Families*
13. Ofelia Medina, *First 5 LA*
14. Dean Tagawa, *Los Angeles Unified School District*
15. Jennifer Hottenroth, *Department of Children and Family Services*
16. Nurhan Pirim, *Department of Public Social Services*
17. Jeannette Aguirre Carrillo, *Department of Probation*
18. Fran Chasen, *Southern California Chapter – California Association for the Education of Young Children*

#### Alternate Commissioners Attendance

1. Elsa Jacobsen, *Child360*
2. Paul Pulver, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
3. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*
4. Marcy Manker, *First 5 LA*
5. Colleen Pagter, *Los Angeles Unified School District*
6. Nora Garcia-Rosales, *Department of Public Social Services*

#### Guests Attendance

1. Christina Alvarado, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
2. Joshua Bobrowsky, *Department of Public Health*
3. Gus Bribiesca, *Department of Public Social Services*
4. Richard Cohen
5. Jennifer Cowan, *Connections for Children*
6. Anais Duran, *First 5 LA*
7. Ernesto Saldaña, *CCPC*
8. *Esther Nguyen, First 5 LA*
9. JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia, *CA Federation of Family Child Care Association*

#### Staff Attendance

1. Debra Colman, *Director*
2. Leanne Drogin, *Senior Program Analyst*
3. Michele Sartell, *Child Care Planning Coordinator/Program Specialist III*
4. Erica Weiss, *Intermediate Clerk*
5. Charli Lewis, *Intern (Master of Social Work and Master of Public Administration)*
6. Erica Torres-Ness, *Intern (Master of Social Work)*

# Policy Roundtable for Child Care & Development Commission

February 9, 2022



# Public Policy Update



# POTENTIAL BUDGET PRIORITIES TO ELEVATE

- **Extend COVID-19 relief benefits**
  - Sustainability funding (“Hold harmless”)
  - Waived family fees until October 31, 2023
  - Allow for 18 months to fully expand funds
- **Restore workforce development funding**
- **Restore full funding for local child care and development councils (LPCs)**



# COUNTY PROPOSED PURSUITS OF POSITION - STATE BUDGET

## Early Care and Education

- \$823.7 million for 36,000 additional subsidized slots; when combined with the slots funded in the 2021 Budget Act, brings the total to over 145,000.
- Additionally, \$373.0 million to support a full year of rate increases while the state continues work with partners and stakeholders toward further rate reform and increased access to a comprehensive, quality, and affordable child care and development system as set forth in the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care.



# Public Policy Update

## LA County

Joshua Bobrowsky, Director of Government Affairs  
Department of Public Health



# Public Policy Update

## Federal

Anais Duran

Government Affairs Strategist, First 5 LA



# Federal Update Topics

**Appropriations**

**Build Back Better (BBB)**

**Other legislation**

**New ECE Report: Office  
of the Administration for  
Children and Families  
(ACF)**



**First5LA.org**

# Appropriations

- **Timeline & Anticipations**
  - Continuing resolution likely to pass ahead of Feb. 18 deadline
  - Allow more time to finalize a final Appropriations package w/ potential new funding levels
  - CCDBG likely to get an estimated \$1.4 Billion increase over FY2021's \$5.91 Billion

# Build Back Better (BBB)

- Scaled down version most likely
  - Attempt to pass via reconciliation
- What's out & what's in?
  - Paid Family Leave & Child Tax Credit Extension likely out / Child Care & Universal Pre-K still in
- Child Tax Credit (CTC) extension

# New Federal Data on Child Care

## Administration for Children & Families Report: Child Care Cost Burden for U.S. Households with Children Under Age 5

- Most recent national data available from the 2019 NSECE Household Survey
- Link to the report [HERE](#)

# Other ECD Legislation

- The Funding for Early Childhood is the Right IDEA Act
  - Increases funding for IDEA part C and Section 619 over the next five years
- Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 (H.R. 959)
  - Efforts to improve maternal health, specially around racial and ethnic minority groups

# Public Policy Update

## ECE Coalition

Commissioner Ofelia Medina  
Senior Policy Strategist, First 5 LA



# Questions?



# Role of Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils (LPCs)

## Los Angeles County LPC = Child Care Planning Committee

- CA Department of Social Services contract with Board of Supervisors
- Administered by DPH/Implemented by OAECE
- Deliverables listed in Welfare and Institutions Code



# Role of Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils (LPCs)

## Deliverables

- Engaging community stakeholders through diverse membership of 50 – parents/consumers, early educators, public agencies, CBOs, IHE, R&Rs and Board appointees – plus alternates and members of the public
- Conduct needs assessment – every five years; examine availability of ECE
- Develop comprehensive countywide plan – every five years; informed by needs assessment
- Assign annually priorities to zip codes based on gaps in subsidized services (LPC Local Funding Priorities) – informs allocation of funds by State
- Foster partnerships designed to meet local needs for ECE
- Provide a forum for examining current and emerging issues impacting the field of early care and education



# Role of Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils (LPCs)

## Prioritizing & Meeting Deliverables Informed by 2021-22 Theme

*“Centering equity & lifting community voices to build a path for transformative change in our ECE system.”*

**Focus Areas 2021-22:** Exploring current & emerging issues impacting the field of ECE:

- Racial Equity
- Workforce Pathways
- Data collection & Analysis (needs assessment, LPC Local Funding Priorities)
- Licensing Protocols
- Universal Prekindergarten & Mixed Delivery System
- Parent Engagement
- Ensuring the health & safety of children enrolled in ECE, their families & their early educators



# Role of Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils (LPCs)

## Universal Prekindergarten & the Mixed Delivery System

*Imagining a Coordinated Approach to  
Promoting Children's Optimal Development & Meeting Family Needs*

- **Three-part Series:**

- January 2022 – Overall vision and guidance for planning UPK; local efforts to inform planning
- February 2022 – Local perspectives from representatives of a family child care home, center and school district
- March 2022 - Identification of short- and long-term outcomes and activities to achieve outcomes

- **Potential Activities:**

- Contribute to LACOE's Workgroup and offer resources (data/mapping) for partnering with ECE programs to school districts
- Develop fact sheet on mixed delivery system and ECE targeted to school districts
- Create fact sheet on opportunities/ recommendations targeted to ECE programs
- Prepare decision chart/tool on early learning options targeted to parents/primary caregivers



# Discussion



# BREAK

# 5 Minutes



# Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion



# Roundtable Public Policy Priorities

ECE Strategic Plan Priority Area	Policy Issue	Policy Ask	OAECE	Role of Roundtable	Role of Bd. of Sup. (Authority/ Influence)
<b>Access</b>	<b>Facilities:</b> Increase the number of licensed ECE facilities	1a. Establish an ECE facilities development navigation team within LA County Departments to provide support to ECE providers	Lead	Support	Direct County (Co.) Resources/Personnel
		1b. Position LA County to draw down funding from \$250M in Federal/State facility expansion funds	Support	Lead	Establish Co. Personnel
		1c. Advocate for application waivers for licensing of new ECE programs for programs adding a license (i.e., infant/toddler license)	Monitor	Monitor	Support Pursuit of Position on State Leg. Budget &/or Sponsor State Leg.
	<b>Stabilize</b> ECE services for families	1d. Expand operations grants for the mixed delivery system, including ECE centers & FCC homes to stabilize ECE services	Lead	Support	Appropriate Co. Funding
		1e. Support FCC homes with business technical assistance	Lead	Support	Appropriate Co. Funding
		1f. <b>Extend “Hold Harmless” provision for all subsidized ECE services</b>	Support	Lead	<b>Support Pursuit of Position on State Leg. Budget</b>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Transitional Kindergarten:</b> Ensure universal pre-kindergarten (UPK/TK) is age appropriate & uses whole child approach	2. Monitor and influence conversations about universal pre-kindergarten (TK expansion) that promotes a mixed delivery system	Monitor (CCPC Leads)	Monitor (CCPC Leads)	Pursuit of Position/ Influencer
<b>Workforce</b>	<b>Workforce:</b> Expand ECE workforce	3a. Support ECE workforce in improving their qualifications through professional development and providing ECE college students with fee waivers, book scholarships, career advisement, <b>restore Workforce Pathways funding</b> , and child care vouchers	Support	Lead	Appropriate Co. Funding, <b>Support Pursuit of Position on State Leg. Budget,</b> &/or Sponsor State Leg.
		3b. Re-envision the State ECE reimbursement system to cover the true cost of quality care by utilizing the Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis	Monitor	Monitor	Support Pursuit of Position on Sate Leg. Budget
		3c. Provide financial relief (e.g., stipends, bonuses, tax credits, education loan forgiveness, home buying assistance, and local increases to child care payments) to individuals in ECE workforce	Monitor	Monitor	Appropriate Co. Funding, Support Pursuit of Position on State Leg. Budget, &/or Sponsor State Leg.
<b>Families &amp; Communities</b>	<b>Parents &amp; Community:</b> Elevate partnering with parents & communities in ECE practice	4a. Monitor and influence legislation/bills that support family engagement and community connections as an integrated element of all universal preschool programs (including TK)	Monitor (CCPC Leads)	Monitor (CCPC Leads)	Approve State Policy Agenda, Support Pursuit of Position on State Leg. Budget, &/or Issue Co. Proclamation
		4b. <b>Restore Local Planning Council (LPC) funding to inform the transformation of UPK (ECE services for children ages birth-5)</b>	Support (CCPC Leads)	Support (CCPC Leads)	<b>Support Pursuit of Position on State Leg. Budget</b>

# POTENTIAL BUDGET PRIORITIES TO ELEVATE

- **Extend COVID-19 relief benefits**
  - Sustainability funding (“Hold harmless”)
  - Waived family fees until October 31, 2023
  - Allow for 18 months to fully expand funds
- **Restore workforce development funding**
- **Restore full funding for local child care and development councils (LPCs)**



# Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission



## **RECOMMENDED PURSUITS OF POSITION – GOVERNOR’S 2022-23 BUDGET PROPOSAL: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION**

### **Introduction**

The Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable), in consultation with the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee), recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed pursuit of position to increase investments in the early care and education system in three areas:

- 1) Continue ongoing COVID-19 Relief Funds through October 31, 2023
- 2) Reinstate and Increase Funding for Workforce Development Grants
- 3) Restore Full Funding for Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils

This document provides a brief analysis of each proposed budget item and justification. It concludes with the recommended pursuit of position and consistency with existing County legislative policies.

### **1) Continue Ongoing COVID-19 Relief Funds through October 31, 2023**

#### *Summary Analysis of Proposed Budget Item*

Early care and education programs have been providing a critical service to the children and families throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by remaining open and/or re-opening to support working families, many of whom are low-income relying on subsidized services. COVID-19 relief benefits have been critical to programs operating with reduced capacity to maintain social distancing and enhanced cleaning practices to ensure the health and safety of the enrolled children and their early educators. Families, especially in communities of color, have been hit hardest by the pandemic and have faced challenges about what bills to pay including rent, utilities, food and child care. COVID-19 relief benefits have ensured that early care and education programs have remained open and re-opened to serve essential workers throughout the pandemic and allowed low-income working families to continue accessing the services without the worry of fee payments. The relief benefits are due to sunset on June 30, 2022. Ongoing relief funding for an additional 18 months will provide the necessary supports for agencies to rebuild their early care and education programs to achieve full enrollment and offer families additional time to financially recover from the impacts the pandemic.

#### *Justification*

Early care and education programs continue to experience the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as children miss days due to illness, families need to isolate/quarantine, and programs temporarily close classrooms due to exposures. Furthermore, children under five years old remain ineligible for vaccines. It will take time for programs to fully recover from the impact of the pandemic that have resulted in reduced enrollment and attendance and temporary closures and re-openings. The “hold harmless” provisions will allow agencies to earn their full contract amounts regardless of enrollment and attendance as they rebuild their programs to full capacity while providing child care to the children of essential workers under current guidance as they recover from the aftermath of the pandemic. Additionally, waiving family fees will reduce the hardships imposed on families during the pandemic by relieving them of making difficult choices about paying for food, rent or child care.

## **2) Reinstate and Increase Funding for Early Learning and Care Workforce Development Grants Program**

### *Summary Analysis of Proposed Budget Item*

The 2019-20 Budget Act established the Early Learning and Care Workforce Development Grants Program with an appropriation of \$195 million to be disbursed over a four-year period by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The full amount was swept in early 2020 during state budget negotiations due to concern for economic instability with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Investing in the workforce is necessary to meet the demands of early care and education programs for qualified staff. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic and the emergence of universal prekindergarten have amplified the need for supports to re-build the workforce and support opportunities for career pathways. Re-investing the \$195 million in professional development will go a long way to supporting a diverse and qualified early care and education workforce that facilitates the optimal development of children in partnership with families. An additional \$55 million is proposed to focus on the professional development needs of family, friend, and neighbor (license-exempt) providers who are most disconnected from systems of support including access to training opportunities and build the capacity of early educators to serve dual language learners.

### *Justification*

Since 2001, the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education administered the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program (Stipend Program) that awarded early educators working in centers – and beginning in 2005, family child care providers – serving mostly low-income families with stipends for completing college coursework towards a child development permit and degree in child development. Los Angeles County held a contract with the California Department of Education for just over \$3 million for the Stipend Program, which was sunset at the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20. For FY 2020-21, Quality Counts California Workforce Pathways (Workforce Pathways) replaced the original Stipend Program with less funding (\$2.4 million for Los Angeles County of the \$12.2 million across the state) and a broader scope of work designed to support early educators along career pathways with a focus in three areas: licensing/health and safety; professional development, permits and degrees; and workforce systems improvement. Workforce Pathways was originally intended as a one-year program and then was extended through FY 2021-22. It will likely be continued for an additional year of funding through FY 2022-23.

Investing in the workforce that is woefully undercompensated and comprised largely of women of color and immigrant women is necessary to meet the demands of early care and education programs for qualified staff working in centers inclusive of assistant teachers, teachers, supervisors, and directors as well as family child care providers committed to enhancing their knowledge and skills for working with diverse populations and unique needs of children and their families. Both the COVID-19 pandemic and the emergence of universal prekindergarten have amplified the need for support to re-build the workforce and support opportunities for career pathways from holding a child development permit to earning a degree and, eventually a achieving a teaching credential to work as a transitional kindergarten teacher. Additional investments are critical to building a robust cadre of early educators working in centers, operating family child care homes, and providing family, friend and neighbor care prepared to work with the diverse populations of children and families, including dual language learners, children with

special needs, children of families experiencing homelessness, and children involved in the child welfare system, among others. Moreover, increased investments will provide opportunities for early educators to advance along their career pathways that may lead to becoming credentialed to serve as transitional kindergarten teachers.

### **3) Restore Full Funding for Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils**

#### *Summary Analysis of Proposed Budget Item*

Local child care and development planning councils (LPCs) were established in 1997 to convene community stakeholders in each county to identify and address local child care needs and priorities. Furthermore, LPCs are required to fulfill several mandates as provided in Welfare and Institutions Code in addition to assuming other duties as assigned by the state. For example, LPCs have been charged with emergency planning and implementation, in response to wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic and most recently with contributing to the planning for universal transitional kindergarten as liaison between school districts and the early care and education community. The State Budget for the LPCs was slashed in half in 2010 during the great recession. Los Angeles County experienced a reduction in its contract with the State from nearly \$380,000 to short of \$190,000.<sup>1</sup> Aside from modest cost-of-living adjustments since the recession ended, full funding has not been restored. Many counties across the state are operating on the margins of their budget. As such, many LPCs operate without even a part-time coordinator. Restoring full funding for the LPCs would ensure that all counties are equipped to fully meet their contract mandates as part of the early care and education infrastructure designed to support the system of early care and education. As the largest County in the state, full funding for Los Angeles County's LPC would allow for greater engagement of diverse community stakeholders and deepening the efforts to identify and respond to the early care and education needs of the communities of families and the programs that serve them throughout the County.

#### *Justification*

Los Angeles County's contract funds maintains a full-time coordinator with minimal additional support to effectively meet its mandates including staffing the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee – Los Angeles County's local child care and development planning council), conducting a needs assessment every five years, identifying communities of highest need for subsidized services on an annual basis, and creating a comprehensive countywide plan informed by the needs assessment every five years. Restoration of funds would allow the Planning Committee to build upon its work that may include deeper data collection and analyses of the early care and education needs with an equity lens, authentically engaging parents/primary caregivers and family child care providers as advisors, activating community stakeholders around emerging initiatives such as universal prekindergarten, and leveraging funding opportunities for the expansion of subsidized services and facility development as new monies become available through the State budget process.

#### **Recommended Pursuit of Position – Support**

The Roundtable, with input from the Planning Committee, recommends a position of support for greater investments in the early care and education system as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Modest COLA's over the years have put Los Angeles County's contract amount to \$207,000 as of FY 2021-22.

- 1) Continue the COVID-19 relief benefit provisions for state-contracted early care and education programs and family fee waivers through October 31, 2023;
- 2) Reinstate and increase investments for workforce development grants for a total of \$250 million (consistent with ECE Coalition ask pending release); and
- 3) Restore full funding for local child care and development planning councils.

*County Legislative Policy*

These positions are consistent with County policies as follows:

1.3 Child Development and Early Care and Education

10. Support efforts that increase flexibilities and resources for early care and education providers during local, state, and/or national emergencies to ensure families have timely access to services and providers can meet any resulting increase in demand for services.
3. Support efforts to develop and sustain a well-educated and highly skilled professional workforce prepared to serve the cultural and linguistically diverse child and family populations of Los Angeles County.
6. Support the streamlining of California Department of Education and Social Services administrative processes to expand access for low-income families, ensure continuity of care, and promote flexible use of early care and education funding to meet the needs of families.

*Supporting Materials*

The recommended pursuits of position also are consistent with local and statewide entities including the following:

- EveryChild California – see attached fact sheet
- ECE Coalition – advocacy letter pending release