

**POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT  
 MAY 11, 2022 ♦ 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.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,<br>OAECE         |
| 10:15 | 2. Comments from the Chair | Information | Karla Pleitéz Howell,<br>Chair |

**Public Policy Update**

- |       |   |             |                              |
|-------|---|-------------|------------------------------|
| 10:25 | 3. Public Policy Platform – Legislative Session 2023-24 | Action Item | Ofelia Medina,<br>First 5 LA |
|-------|---|-------------|------------------------------|

10:55 **BREAK**

**General Business**

- |       |   |             |  |
|-------|---|-------------|--|
| 11:00 | 4. Approval of Minutes – April 13, 2022 | Action Item | Alejandra Albarran<br>Moses, Vice Chair<br>Leanne Drogin,<br>OAECE |
|-------|---|-------------|--|

**Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion**

- |       |   |            |   |
|-------|---|------------|---|
| 11:10 | 5. Joint ECE Delegations Board Engagement Update                  | Discussion | Alejandra Albarran<br>Moses, Vice Chair |
| 11:30 | 6. OAECE Operation Structure: Building An ECE Support System Team | Discussion | Debra Colman,<br>OAECE                  |

**COVID-19 and Early Care and Education (ECE)**

- |       |   |             |                        |
|-------|---|-------------|------------------------|
| 11:50 | 7. Update on COVID-19 and ECE in Los Angeles County | Information | Debra Colman,<br>OAECE |
|-------|---|-------------|------------------------|

**Wrap Up**

- |       |  |             |   |
|-------|--|-------------|---|
| 11:55 | 8. Announcements and Public Comment      | Information | Karla Pleitéz Howell,<br>Chair          |
| 11:59 | 9. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn | Information | Alejandra Albarran<br>Moses, Vice Chair |

**Next Virtual Meeting:**

Wednesday, June 8, 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 Los Angeles County.

This page intentionally blank.

## Minutes for Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission APRIL 13, 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 (Policy Roundtable) Commission meeting at 10:03 a.m. by reading the grounding statement to conducting a virtual meeting. Colman then called roll of the Policy 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 referenced OAECE Child Care Planning Coordinator/Program Specialist III Michele Sartell's retirement and leadership with the Policy Roundtable and ECE field. Chair Pleitéz Howell announced that LA County will include in its advocacy efforts to the state the following two issues that were in the Pursuit of Position approved by the Policy Roundtable in March 2022.

- Reinstatement and Increase Funding for Early Learning and Care Workforce Grants Program
- Continue Ongoing COVID-19 Relief Funds through October 31, 2023

Chair Pleitéz Howell introduced Ricardo Mota to the Policy Roundtable as the new Commissioner appointed by Supervisor Janice Hahn.

### Public Policy Update

#### 3. Voter Opinions & Parent Conversation Results Regarding Child Care & Early Learning Programs

Chair Pleitéz Howell introduced LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment's Executive Director Parker Blackman and Program Officer Steve Cahn to present the results of a recent poll of voter opinions and focus groups regarding child care and early learning programs conducted by the LA Partnership and SocialQuest. Blackman noted that the LA Partnership is a public/private partnership of 25 foundations and public agencies representing LA County. Blackman shared that the public opinion research includes focus groups, including parents, and more than 800 likely voters in LA County. Cahn noted that the research was conducted on December 14-30, 2021, in both English and Spanish, and across all the Supervisorial Districts. Cahn referenced the power point presentation for more detailed information.

Blackman highlighted three main themes from the poll results:

- 1) LA County voters understand the importance of early childhood and investing in early care and education (ECE), which includes supports for providers and quality ECE facilities.
- 2) Early childhood is important compared to other priority issues. When asked about the seriousness of problems facing LA County, an array of early childhood issues polled nearly as high as affordable housing/homelessness. When compared to other priority issues, early childhood polls incredibly well. Blackman added that Monica Torres, *Founder & Chief Executive Officer of SocialQuest*, noted these results are extremely high and rare and that the public's understanding and valuing of ECE is higher than ever before.
- 3) Blackman added that voters understand this as issues of equity and justice as providers are mostly low-income women of color. Voters strongly support increasing providers compensation, and they value the role of providers and want providers paid for their work. Blackman highlighted that there is strong voter support for public resources to fund child care, early learning programs, and pre-school.

Cahn and Blackman shared information about the following areas:

1. Support for greater public funding to ensure all families have access to affordable child care
2. Support for greater public funding to ensure all children have access to preschool and early learning programs

3. Support for publicly funded child care and preschool for all children based on where the revenue comes from
4. Likelihood to vote for a person running for local government office based on their positions on various topics including ECE
5. Ease of finding affordable child care and affordable preschool/early learning programs
6. Perceived seriousness of selected problems in LA County
7. Opinions on access to child care and support of child care providers and facilities
8. Opinions on access to preschool and support for early childhood educators
9. Beliefs about the healthy development of young children

Blackman concluded by sharing recommendations based on the opinion research data. The main recommendation is to update the Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis of the LA County ECE system. Chair Pleitéz Howell opened the discussion for questions.

Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey thanked Blackman and Cahn for their work and highlighted the importance of sharing these exciting results. Commissioner McCroskey noted there has been on-going work to keep LA County ECE Fiscal Analysis data current and added it would need to be refined to account for the changing times. Commissioner McCroskey also shared that the data is being used at the state level to inform conversations about the real cost of ECE based on the work in LA and San Francisco.

Chair Pleitéz Howell shared that there are current conversations at the state level regarding the inequity around the reimbursement rate and that the legislature and government are committed to establishing a new structure and fiscal strategies. She added that, as Commissioner McCroskey noted, there is a way to analyze the true costs of child care and this is being explored. P5 Fiscal Strategies is conducting a statewide survey to determine what are the necessary costs based on regions, similar to the LA County survey. The survey will be released by the end of April/May and will be shared with the OAECE to ensure the survey receives diverse responses.

Supervisor Janice Hahn's Children and Human Services Deputy Maral Karaccusian asked if the voter poll included vulnerable older adults. She noted that as a voter she would be more prone to vote yes, if the surveys included older adults as well as the 0-5 population. Blackman shared that the survey did not include vulnerable adults, but he welcomes the opportunity to thread these populations together. Deputy Karaccusian added that Dr. Laura Trejo, Executive Director of LA County Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services, can help with supporting this alignment.

Cahn noted that these surveys are one in a series of voter polls and focus groups that the team is planning to complete. There is potential to add more questions to build on current findings.

Chair Pleitéz Howell highlighted that these polls matter as we connect with elected officials. She thanked Blackman and Cahn for sharing this information.

4. Status of Priority Legislative First Year of 2021-22 Legislative Session  
OAECE's Michele Sartell reviewed the status of proposed ECE legislation and shared that the Joint Committee on ECE Legislation (Joint Committee) is monitoring various bills on behalf of the Child Care Planning Committee (CCPC) and Policy Roundtable Commission and these bills are in the legislative matrix. Sartell presented the following three ECE bills prioritized by the Joint Committee:
  1. **AB 92 (Reyes)** was introduced last session and is in the Senate Appropriations Committee. It will likely be acted upon after the May budget revise. This bill provides a sliding fee scale to help families pay for child care.
  2. **AB 2806 (B. Rubio)** expands existing law which prohibits the expulsion and suspension of children in state pre-school subsidized programs. If a child is unable to remain in the program, the program must work with the family to ensure an alternate place for the child. This bill would also prohibit the expulsion and suspension of infants and toddlers. Sartell noted it adds mental health services to ensure the individual needs of each child is met within the group setting.
  3. **SB 871 (Pan)** adds COVID-19 to the list of immunizations for children enrolled in ECE programs, whether it is a center-based or family child care program.

4. **SB 976 (Leyva)** addresses the mixed delivery system to ensure a robust universal pre-school (UPK) system. This bill is likely to include additional amendments to address questions, such as the role of pre-school programs operating outside of lead education agencies UPK services.

Sartell invited Commissioners to highlight bills of interest for further study by the Joint Committee. Commissioner Paul Pulver listed the following four bills in the chat and Sartell briefly discussed these:

1. **AB 1649 (Quirk-Silva)** is a bill focused on alternative payment programs
2. **SB 246 (Leyva)** is a reimbursement bill from last year and is no longer moving forward
3. **AB 2131 (Mullin)** aims to create one license for caring for children ages 0-5. This is important in the transition with UPK and potential wrap around services for 4 and 5-year-olds.
4. **SB 878 (Skinner)** proposes transportation reimbursement for pre-schoolers which will be important during the UPK transition

Commissioner Ofelia Medina added that First 5 LA officially supports AB92 and SB976 because there is a need for a comprehensive mixed delivery system that offers comprehensive family choice and different opportunities for providers to professionally succeed.

## **BREAK**

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

## **General Business**

### **5. Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2022**

*Chair Pleitéz Howell presented the minutes from March 9, 2022 and asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Fran Chasen made the motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Justin Blakely seconded the motion. The motion on the minutes passed with three abstentions: Commissioners Joannie Aguayo, McCroskey, and Mota.*

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

### **6. Joint ECE Delegations Board Engagement Update**

Vice-Chair Alejandra Albarran Moses reminded the group that the CCPC Board of Supervisors' (BOS) appointees and the Policy Roundtable BOS Engagement teams came together to create Joint ECE Delegations (Delegations) with the purpose of meeting with BOS and provide information about the Pursuit of Position approved by the Policy Roundtable in March 2022. The Delegations met with their respective BOS office since the last Policy Roundtable meeting and Vice-Chair Albarran Moses asked that a representative from each Delegation share highlights with the Policy Roundtable regarding their conversations with the BOS offices.

- Vice-Chair Albarran Moses noted that the Delegation for Supervisor Hahn will meet with Supervisor Hahn's office during the week of April 17, 2022.
- Chair Pleitéz Howell shared that Supervisor Hilda Solis is 100% committed to ECE and that Supervisor Solis' staff appreciates hearing from the Policy Roundtable to understand the latest ECE developments. During the meeting with Supervisor Solis' Assistant Chief of Staff Elise Weinberg the Delegation thanked Supervisor Solis for the ECE Facilities motion the Supervisor brought forward and received unanimous approval by the BOS in February 2022. The Delegation then reviewed the issues in the Pursuit of Position and Assistant Chief of Staff Weinberg had questions about the ECE workforce. Chair Pleitéz Howell shared that it has been helpful to have an on-going communication strategy with Supervisor Solis' office.
- Commissioner Justin Blakely presented to the Policy Roundtable on behalf of the Delegation that met with Supervisor Holly Mitchell's Senior Deputy of Human Services and Child Welfare Kelvin Driscoll. Commissioner Blakely shared that the discussion with Senior Deputy Driscoll acknowledged the ECE landscape and that even though there are legislators who understand the plight of the ECE system there is a need to continue to educate legislators and stakeholders that ECE was not taken care of last year and that a significant amount of predominantly Black and Latinx communities continue to be impacted by COVID-19 and historical inequities. The discussion highlighted the importance of leveraging the Supervisor's reach federally and ensuring that federal legislators make the significant investments in child care that funnel down to the state and County levels. Commissioner Blakely noted legislators and stakeholders need to know ECE is still in a crisis mode and there is more work to be done.

- Delegation member and CCPC BOS appointee Julie Taren presented to the Policy Roundtable the Delegation's discussion with Supervisor Shelia Kuehl's Child Welfare Deputy Lisa Pinto. Taren highlighted that the Delegation included ECE provider Liliana Alvarez, who shared her workforce journey and issues people experience and get support with as they move through the workforce pathways. The Delegation reviewed the issues in the Pursuit of Position with Deputy Pinto. Following the meeting, Deputy Pinto shared the information from the Delegation with her legislative counterpart and Director of Government Affairs and they confirmed two Pursuit of Position issues will be going forward.
- Commissioner Ellen Cervantes presented to the Policy Roundtable the Delegation's discussion with Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Family and Children's Deputy Monica Banken. Commissioner Cervantes noted that workforce development is a key issue for Supervisor Barger and in ECE, particularly in the Antelope Valley. Commissioner Cervantes shared that the Delegation discussed apprenticeship programs and that Supervisor Barger is interested in supporting this as a workforce development training modality. Other issues raised in the conversation that are important to Supervisor Barger included equity and filling open positions in County Departments.

Vice-Chair Albarran Moses acknowledged that the Supervisors are supportive of ECE issues and referenced Commissioner Blakely's point that there is more work to be done.

#### 7. Pursuit of Position: Increase Reimbursement Rates for State Subsidized ECE Programs

Michele Sartell presented to the Policy Roundtable a Pursuit of Position to consider for approval. The Pursuit of Position is grounded in the Policy Roundtable's Public Policy Priorities and focuses on the need to increase the reimbursement rate for state subsidized ECE programs from the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2018 Regional Market Rate Survey (RMR) to the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2018 RMR. Sartell noted the following reasons why there is a need for the reimbursement rate to be increased:

- Current rates fail to cover the costs of operating state subsidized programs
- Impact on compensation of a workforce that is largely comprised of Black and Latinx women
- Low rates make it harder to recruit and retain qualified staff

Sartell referenced the Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis that notes one reason why ECE providers' wages remain low is because they must pay other program expenses before paying themselves. This amount is barely a minimum wage salary for a child care provider and is not in line with their education and experience. As background, Sartell shared that the Budget Act of 2021:

- Initiated streamlining the reimbursement rate system from a dual system to single RMR system
- Updated rate ceilings from the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2016 RMR survey to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2018 RMR survey
- Established two workgroups to make recommendations for implementing a single child care reimbursement rate structure and proposed rate

Sartell added that the recommended Pursuit of Position is consistent with one of the County policy/legislative agenda items: "Support efforts to adequately fund high quality ECE services for all children from low- and moderate-income families." Examples of this includes: 1) increasing levels of reimbursement in the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR) and the RMR to compensate providers for the true cost of high-quality services; and 2) streamlining and reforming the dual reimbursement systems into a single, regionalized reimbursement system that incentivizes quality and supports the cost of program operations.

*Chair Pleitéz Howell asked for a motion to approve the Pursuit of Position. Commissioner Pulver made the motion to approve the Pursuit of Position; Commissioner Ellen Cervantes seconded the motion. Chair Pleitéz Howell opened the floor for public comment. Commissioner Pulver said this is an important topic and noted that the reimbursement rate should be based on the true cost of quality care, not the market rate. Commissioner Blakely also shared that there is a max exodus of ECE providers and the equity gap is widening. Commissioner McCroskey commended the Policy Roundtable for going to the heart of the matter and voting on a Pursuit of Position that reflects what the Commission has been talking about for a long time and builds on the relationships the Commission has been building with the Supervisors' offices and others. Chair Pleitéz Howell proceeded with the vote. Commissioner Chasen was not present for the vote. The Pursuit of Position passed with three abstentions: Commissioners Nora Garcia-Rosales, Colleen Pagter, and Pleitéz Howell.*

8. Early Care and Education Facilities Development Project Update  
OAECE's Senior Program Analyst Leanne Drogin shared that Supervisor Solis' February 2022 ECE Facilities motion directed the OAECE, along with other partners, to help inform and develop an ECE facilities plan to assess the feasibility of strategies to streamline the LA County ECE facility development process. The motion also directed the OAECE and partners to provide a comprehensive support system for ECE providers applying for the state ECE Infrastructure Grant Program. Drogin noted the workgroup has drafted a Report back to the BOS and asked if three Commissioners can review and provide input to the draft Report. Commissioners McCroskey, Cervantes, and Elsa Jacobsen volunteered to review the Report.
9. Farewell to Michele Sartell  
Chair Pleitéz Howell opened the floor to acknowledge Michele Sartell for her tremendous work in the ECE field as Sartell will retire at the end of April 2022. Chair Pleitéz Howell highlighted her leadership and passion for the ECE field and Commissioners Blakely, Cervantes, and McCroskey added their appreciation for Sartell.

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

10. Update on COVID-19 and ECE in LA County  
Colman highlighted that there continues to be a low transmission of COVID-19 cases in LA County, however, with spring break there was a slight uptick in cases. Colman added that the Department of Public Health, in partnership with OAECE, launched free public health technical assistance to ECE centers. Any center or family child care program can request technical assistance and coaching to ensure safety for children.

### **Wrap Up**

11. Announcements and Public Comment  
Vice-Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for announcements and public comment. No comments or announcements were provided.
12. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn  
Vice-Chair Albarran Moses highlighted Michele Sartell and adjourned the meeting at 12:02.

### **Attendance**

#### **Commissioners Attendance**

1. Karla Pleitéz Howell, *First Supervisorial District*
2. Justin Blakely, *Second Supervisorial District*
3. Alejandra Albarran Moses, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
4. Ricardo Mota, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
5. Joannie Aguayo, *Fifth Supervisorial District*
6. Ellen Cervantes, *Fifth Supervisorial District*
7. Dawn A. Kurtz, *Child360*
8. Ariana Oliva, *Child Care Planning Committee*
9. Ofelia Medina, *First 5 LA*
10. Jeannette Aguirre Carrillo, *Department of Probation*
11. 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. Nora Garcia-Rosales, *Department of Public Social Services*
5. Marcy Manker, *First 5 LA*
6. Debi Anderson, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
7. Colleen Pagter, *Los Angeles Unified School District*

#### **Guests Attendance**

1. Cristina Alvarado, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
2. Parker Blackman, *LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment*
3. Steve Cahn, *LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment*
4. Gus Bribiesca, *Department of Public Social Services*
5. Maral Karaccusian, *Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn*
6. Esther Nguyen, *First 5 LA*

7. Luis Molina, *Early Edge California*
8. Ericka Omena Erickson
9. Josefina Ramirez Notsinneh, *Children Now*
10. Julie Taren, *Child Care Planning Committee*

#### 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)*

Pending Approval



# Policy Roundtable for Child Care & Development Commission

April 13, 2022

# WELCOME!



## Policy Roundtable for Child Care & Development Commission

**Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.**

Feel free to share  
your name & organization  
in the chat

**Meeting materials can be accessed at:  
OAECE website  
<https://childcare.lacounty.gov/prccd/>**



# Public Policy Update

JANUARY 2022

# VOTER OPINIONS AND PARENT CONVERSATIONS ON CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

SURVEY OF 801 COUNTY VOTERS  
6 FOCUS GROUPS WITH PARENTS



LA Partnership  
for Early Childhood Investment  
*A great beginning changes everything*

# METHODOLOGY

- Online survey with 801 completes sourced from an opt-in panel.
- Respondents required to live in LA County, be aged 18+ years and have voted in the 2020 Presidential election (proxy to identify active voters versus those registered but rarely or never vote).
- Fieldwork conducted December 14–30, 2021.
- Survey offered in English and Spanish.
- Percentages in this report have been weighted to approximate the distribution of residents in Los Angeles County per estimates in the U.S. Census Bureau *American Community Survey 2020*.
- Factors incorporated in the weighting scheme included: age, gender identity, race/ethnic identity, household income, and presence of children <18 years old in the household.
- Survey sample error is  $\pm 3.5\%$ .

# CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

WEIGHTED PERCENTAGES

AGE	
18 – 24	16%
25 – 34	25%
35 – 44	19%
45 – 54	15%
55 – 64	11%
65+	12%
GENDER IDENTITY	
Female	50%
Male	49%
Non-binary	1%
HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
<\$35,000	27%
\$35,000 - \$99,999	45%
\$100,000+	27%
CHILDREN	
Parents	63%
Non-parents	37%

RACE/ETHNIC IDENTITY	
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	15%
Black or African American	8%
Hispanic or Latino	48%
White or Caucasian	26%
Other	3%
LIVING SITUATION	
Doesn't live with spouse/partner	52%
Lives with spouse/partner	48%
POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION	
Democrat	58%
Independent	18%
Republican	16%
Green/Libertarian/Other	4%
None/Non-partisan	4%
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT (count)	
District 1	144
District 2	157
District 3	163
District 4	162
District 5	175

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VOTERS UNDERSTAND  
AND VALUE INFANTS  
AND TODDLERS AND  
WHAT IT TAKES TO CARE  
FOR AND NURTURE  
THEM

- **LA County Voters Get It.** They understand the importance of early childhood and the importance of:
  - Investing in early care and education, from great providers to quality facilities
  - Investing in providers themselves - their training, support and compensation
  - Investing in early care for infants and toddlers' healthy growth and development
- **Early childhood isn't just important in general.** It is important compared to other priority issues. When asked about the seriousness of problems facing LA County, an array of early childhood issues polled nearly as high as affordable housing/homelessness
- **Voters understand these as issues of equity and justice**
  - Housing is an early childhood issue. Affordable housing is often far from where parents work, causing long commutes, less time at home with the little ones and additional stress
  - They understand that providers are largely low-income women of color and voters strongly support increasing their compensation. They value the role of providers and want them paid a fair, living wage for their important work of caring for their children

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONT.)

**STRONG VOTER  
SUPPORT FOR  
INVESTMENTS AND  
PUBLIC FUNDING**

- There is **Strong Support for Public Funding of Child Care**: Half of County voters **Strongly Support** greater public funding to ensure all families have access to affordable child care, and **90% Strongly or Somewhat Strongly Support** greater public funding for child care.
- There is **Strong Support for Public Funding of Early Learning**: Half of county voters **Strongly Support** greater public funding to ensure all children have access to preschool/early learning programs, and **90% Strongly or Somewhat Strongly** support greater public funding.
- Half also **Strongly Agree** local government should fund free preschool for all children, and 82% Strongly or Somewhat Agree.

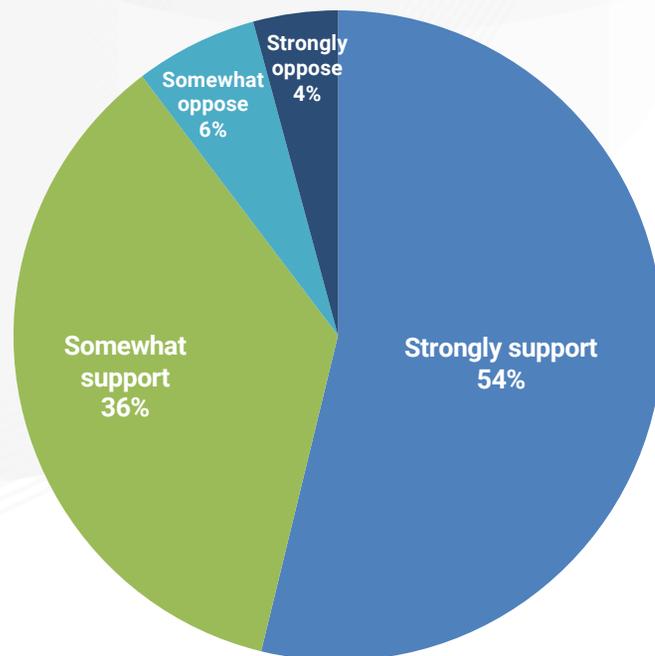
# RESEARCH - KEY FINDINGS



LA Partnership  
for Early Childhood Investment

*A great beginning changes everything*

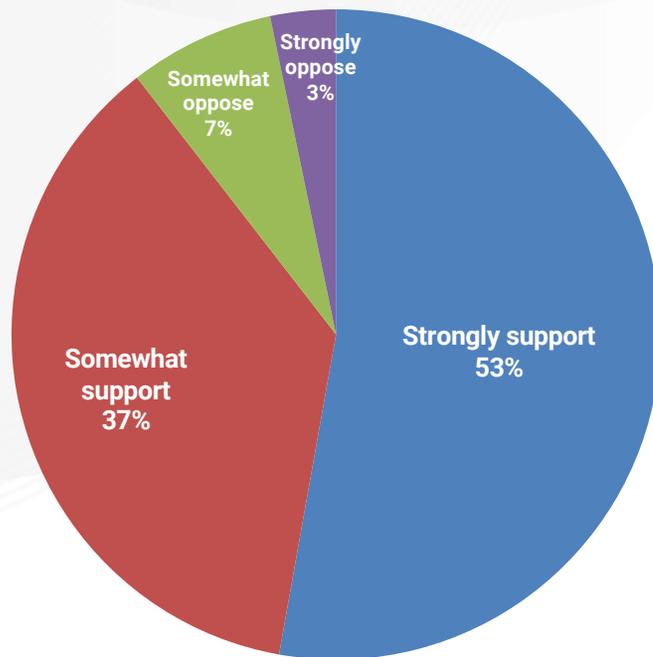
# SUPPORT FOR GREATER PUBLIC FUNDING TO ENSURE ALL FAMILIES HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE



90% Support Funding

- **Strong Support for Public Funding:** Half (54%) of County voters **Strongly Support** greater public funding of child care.
- **Vast Majority Agree on Some Level of Support:** In total, 90% **Somewhat or Strongly Support** greater public funding of child care.
- **Stronger Support Tied to Parents & Democrats:** Subpopulations significantly more likely to **Strongly Support** greater public funding of child care:
  - Parents (61% vs. 49% of non-parents).
  - Democratic party affiliated (61% vs. 34% for Republican party affiliated).

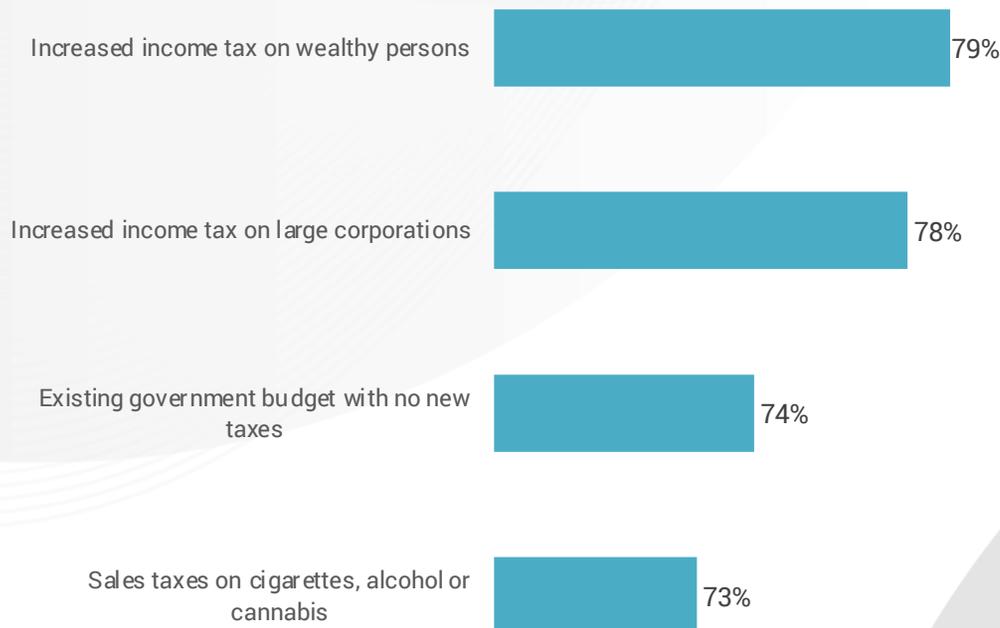
# SUPPORT FOR GREATER PUBLIC FUNDING TO ENSURE ALL CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL & EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS



**90% Support Funding**

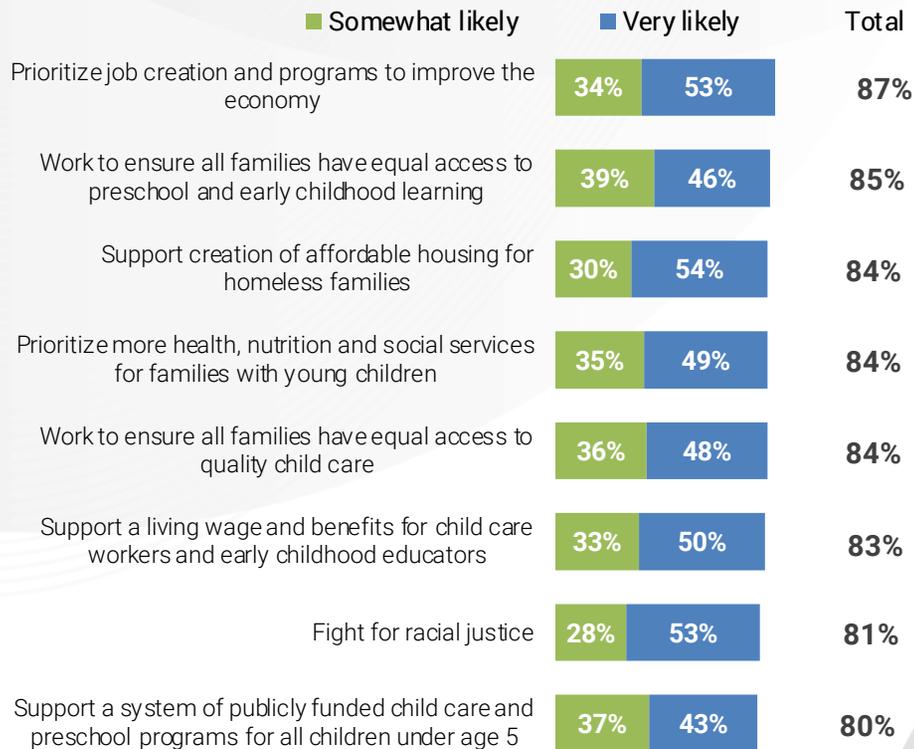
- **Strong Support of Public Funding:** Half (53%) of County voters **Strongly Support** greater public funding of preschool and early learning programs.
- **Majority Show Some Level of Support:** In total, 90% **Somewhat or Strongly Support** greater public funding of preschool and early learning programs.
- **Stronger Support Tied to Parents & Democrats:** Subpopulations significantly more likely to **Strongly Support** greater public funding of preschool and early learning programs:
  - Parents (59% vs. 49% of non-parents).
  - Democratic party affiliated (63% vs. 31% for Republican party affiliated).

# SUPPORT FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED CHILD CARE & PRESCHOOL FOR ALL CHILDREN: IF THE REVENUE CAME FROM...



- **Majority Support Funding Via Taxing Top Earners: Strong support for public funding of child care and preschool** if the revenue came from increased income taxes on wealthy persons (79%) or large corporations (78%).
- **Support for Taxing Wealthy Tied to Demographics:** Subpopulations significantly more likely to support increased tax on wealthy persons:
  - Lower income <\$35K (84%), Democratic party affiliated (90%), Black/African Americans (85%) and Latinos (83%).
- **Support for Taxing Corporations Tied to Demographics:** Subpopulations significantly more likely to support increased tax on large corporations:
  - Lower income <\$35K (84%) and Democratic party affiliated (87%).
- **Taxing Support and Parental Concerns:** Parents are more likely to support sales taxes on cigarettes, alcohol or cannabis than non-parents (77% vs. 70%).

# LIKELIHOOD TO VOTE FOR A PERSON RUNNING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE: IF THEY...



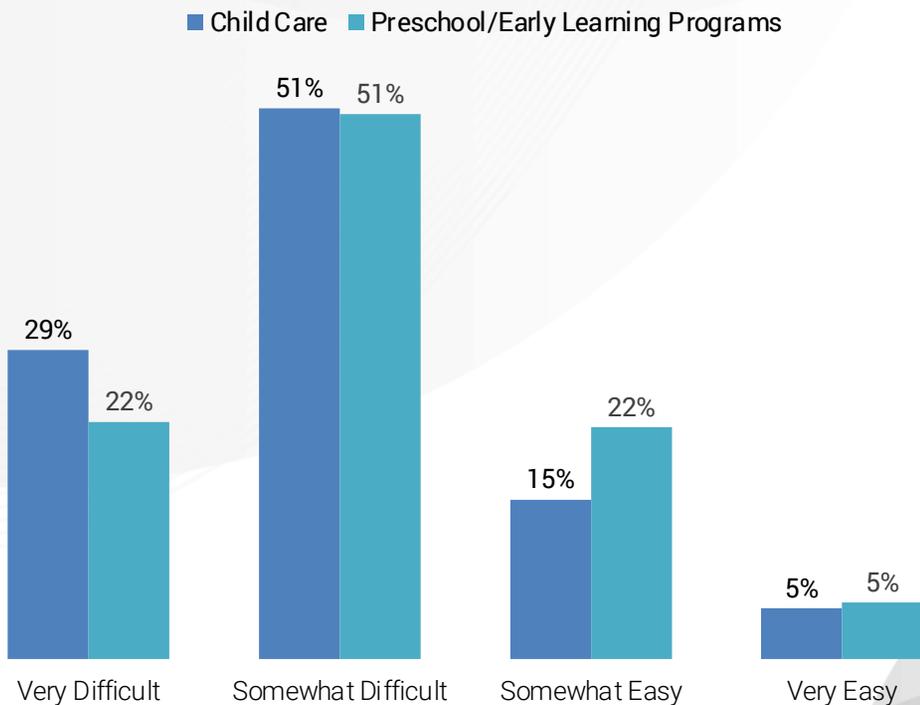
## ➤ Voters Feel Strongly Across the Board:

Consistent, high levels of support for candidates who take strong positions on ECE issues.

➤ **Children's Issues Impactful:** Most issues related to very young children receive the same range of high, overall percentages as issues such as affordable housing and jobs/the economy.

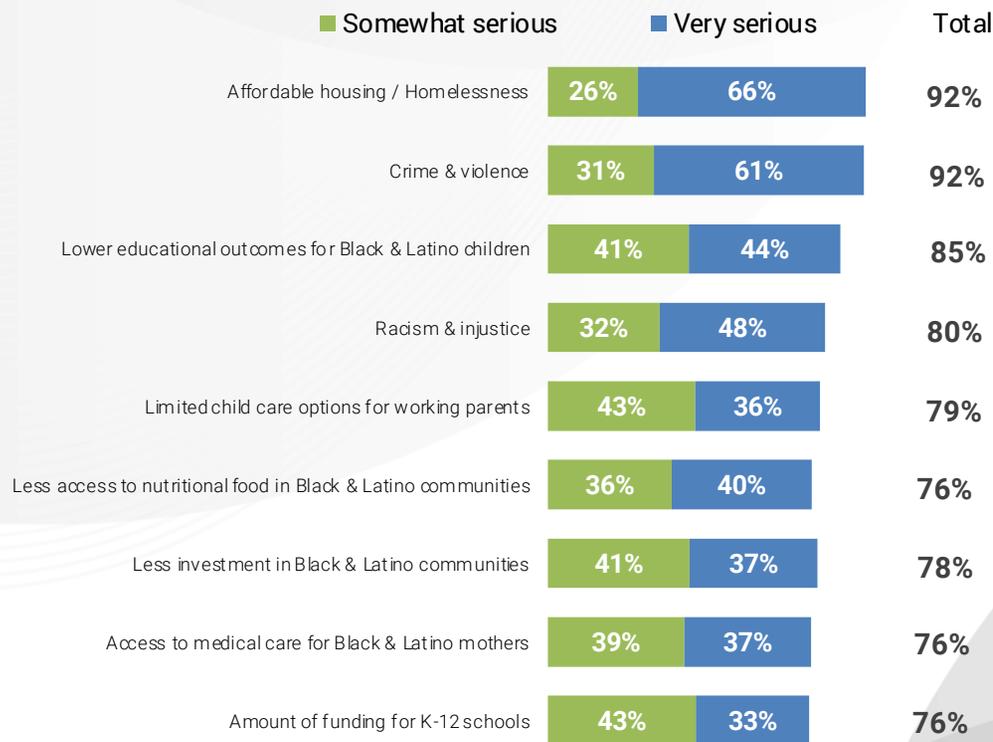
➤ **Democrats Have Stronger Leanings:** In general, Democratic party affiliated are significantly more likely to vote for a person if they support any of these issues.

# EASE OF FINDING AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE & AFFORDABLE PRESCHOOL/EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS



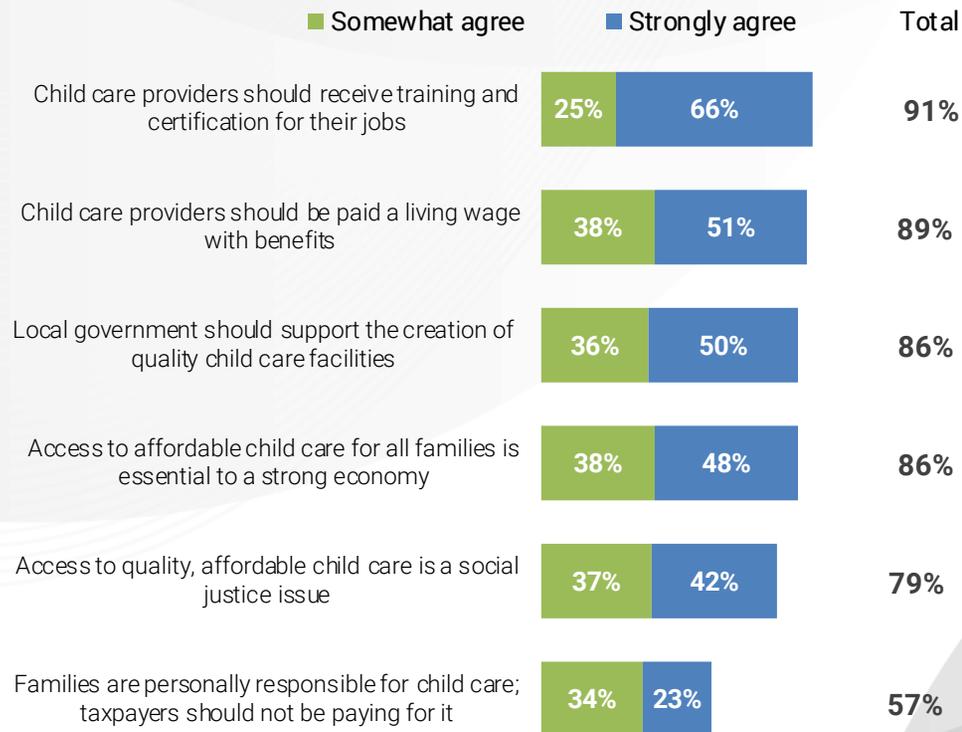
- **Majority Agree on Affordability:** Majority of voters think it's **Somewhat or Very Difficult** to find affordable child care (80%).
- **Decrease in Accessibility Tied to Income & Race:** Subpopulations more likely to say it's **Very Difficult** to find affordable child care:
  - Lower income <\$35K (39% vs. 29% overall).
  - Black/African Americans (39% vs. 29% overall).
- **Majority Agree on Lack of Access to Programs:** Majority also think it's **Somewhat or Very Difficult** to find affordable preschool/early learning programs (83%).
- **Access to Programs Tied to Income & Race:** Subpopulations significantly more likely to say it's **Very Difficult** to find affordable preschool/early learning programs:
  - Lower income <\$35K (31% vs. 22% overall).
  - Democratic party affiliated (27% vs. 16% for all other parties combined).

# PERCEIVED SERIOUSNESS OF SELECTED PROBLEMS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY



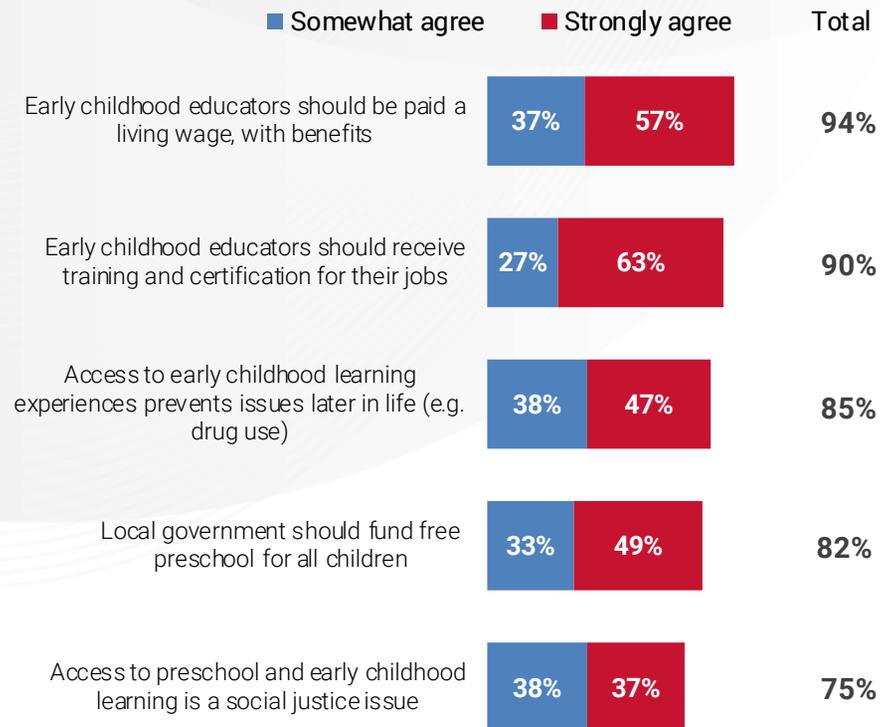
- **Top Problems for All:** Voters overall believe **Lower Educational Outcomes for Black & Latino Children** is a major problem in LA County, second only to Affordable Housing/Homelessness and Crime & Violence.
- **Other Serious Problems:** Limited **Child Care Options for Working Parents**, along with Racism & Injustice, are considered comparably less serious problems.
- **Perceived Problems by Voter Population:** Some are significantly more likely to view these problems as **Very Serious**:
  - **Lower Income (<\$35K):** All problems except child care.
  - **Black/African Americans & Latinos:** All problems except Affordable Housing/Homelessness and Crime & Violence.
  - **Persons Not Affiliated with the Republican Party** (e.g., Democrat, Libertarian, Independent): All problems except 1) Access to Medical Care for Black & Latino Mothers, 2) Amount of Funding for K-12 Schools, and 3) Crime & Violence.

# OPINIONS ON ACCESS TO CHILD CARE AND SUPPORT OF CHILD CARE PROVIDERS & FACILITIES



- **Strong Opinions of County Voters:** 66% **Strongly Agree** child care providers should **receive training and certification for their jobs**.
- **Importance of Living Wage:** Half (51%) **Strongly Agree** providers should **be paid a living wage with benefits**, significantly more among voters affiliated with the Democratic party (60%).
- **Child Care and Economic Strength:** Lower income (57%) and Democratic party affiliated (58%) **Strongly Agree affordable child care is essential to a strong economy** (vs. 48% overall).
- **Child Care Access & Social Justice:** Parents, in particular, **Strongly Agree affordable child care is a social justice issue** (48% vs. 39% for non-parents), as are Black/African American (50%) and Latino (48%) voters.

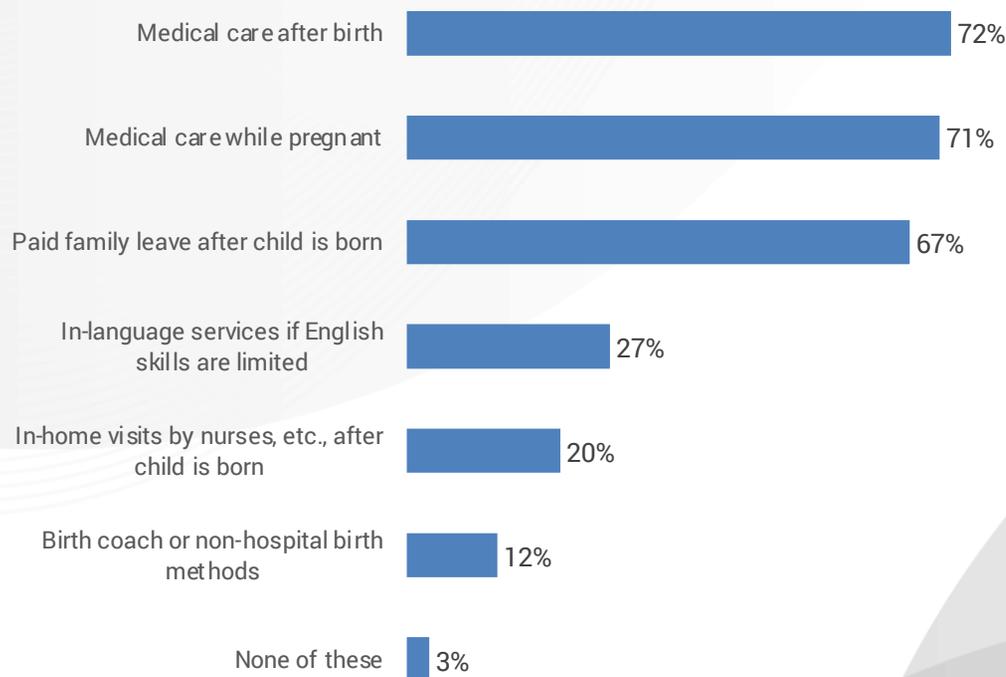
# OPINIONS ON ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL AND SUPPORT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS



- **Majority Agree on a Living Wage:** County voters **Strongly or Somewhat Agree** early childhood educators should be **paid a living wage with benefits** (94%) and receive **training and certification for their jobs** (90%).
  - Black/African Americans (69%) are significantly more likely to **Strongly Agree** early childhood educators should be paid a living wage.
- **Support for Public Funding:** Black/African Americans and Latinos are significantly more likely to **Strongly Agree local government should fund preschool for all children** (56% and 61% vs. 49% overall).
  - Parents also are more likely to **Strongly Agree** that government should fund free preschool for all children (55% vs. 45% for non-parents).

# BELIEFS ABOUT THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG CHILDREN: MOTHER HAS AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO...

*Select the 3 things in this list you believe are most needed by mothers.*



➤ **Majority Agree on Key Services Mothers Need:**

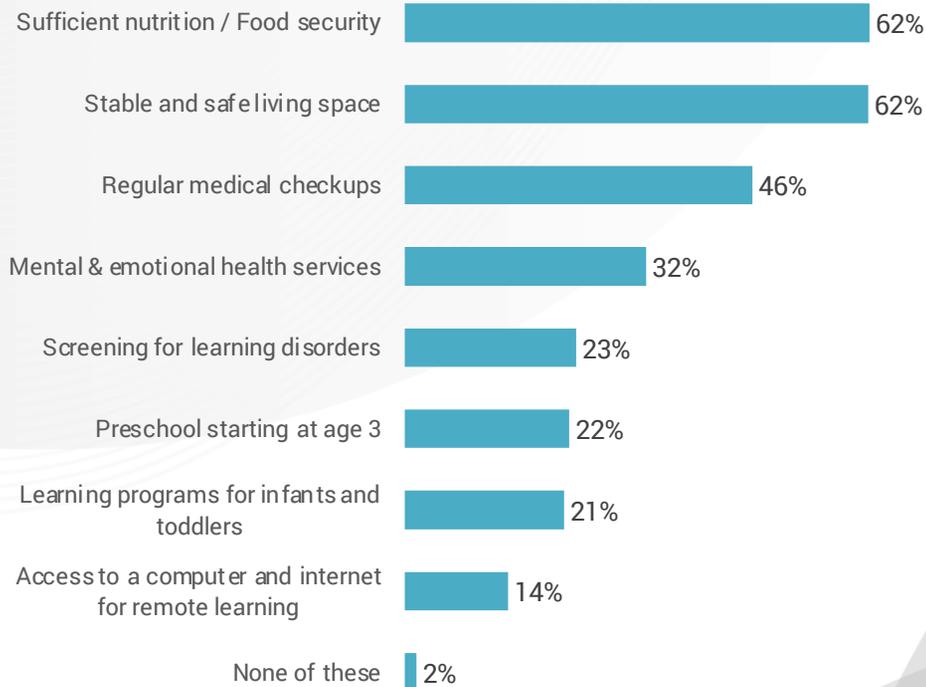
Overwhelming agreement on the top services to which mothers need affordable access for the healthy development of young children:

- Medical care after birth
- Medical care while pregnant
- Paid family leave after the child is born

➤ **Support Across the Board:** No subpopulations indicated differing opinions.

# BELIEFS ABOUT THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG CHILDREN: CHILD HAS OR RECEIVES...

*Select the 3 things in this list you believe are most needed by the child.*



## ➤ **Majority Agree on Young Children's Needs:**

Overwhelming agreement on the top needs of young children for healthy development:

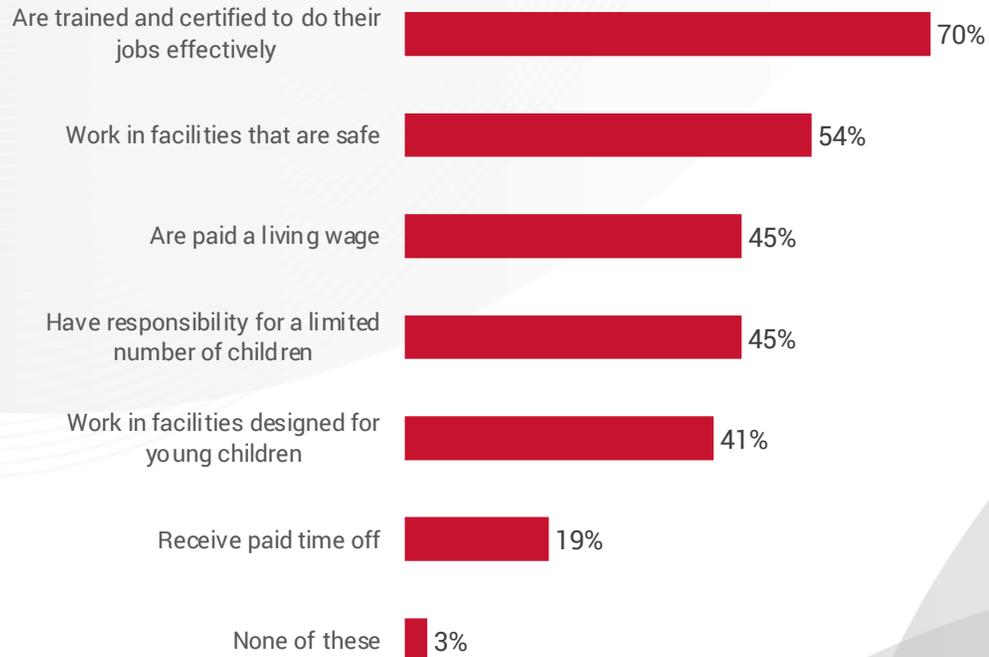
- Sufficient Nutrition/Food Security
- Stable and Safe Living Space
- Regular Medical Checkups

## ➤ **Priorities Shift for Non-Parents:** The top three items did not differ for non-parents vs. parents, however:

- **Non-parents** put more emphasis on sufficient nutrition (65% vs. 57% for parents) and safe living space (66% vs. 54%).
- **Parents** put more emphasis on learning programs for infants & toddlers (27% vs. 18% for non-parents) and mental & emotional health services (39% vs. 28% for non-parents).

# BELIEFS ABOUT THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG CHILDREN: CARE FROM PROVIDERS & EDUCATORS WHO...

*Select the 3 things in this list you believe are most needed by providers and educators.*



➤ **Majority Agree on Top Needs:** Overwhelming agreement on the top needs of child care workers and early childhood educators for the healthy development of young children:

- Trained and certified to do their jobs effectively
- Work facilities that are safe

➤ **Emphasis Shifts for Non-Parents:**

The top two items did not differ for non-parents vs. parents, however:

- **Non-parents** put more emphasis on training and certification (73% vs. 64% for parents).
- **Parents** put more emphasis on facilities designed for young children (48% vs. 37% for non-parents).

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Update the Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis of the LA County ECE System
  - In November 2019, Capito Associates prepared the analysis for LA County Office of Child Protection
  - Update is needed based on changes due to pre-k and TK expansion, demographics, additional state funding for ECE facilities, etc.
  - Include compensation increases for ECE providers in the analysis
  - Recommend the request come formally from the Board of Supervisors to enhance the formality and commitment to implementing recommendations
  - Philanthropy can fund the updated analysis in a public-private partnership approach, deepening commitment to implementing the findings across both sectors

# THANK YOU

**For more detailed information on the findings:  
[investinkidsla.org/resources/](http://investinkidsla.org/resources/)**





# Questions?

- **AB 92 (Reyes): Family Fees**
- **AB 2806 (B. Rubio):  
Expulsion & Suspension/Mental Health Services**
- **SB 871 (Pan): Immunizations**
- **SB 976 (Leyva): Universal Preschool Act**



# Questions?



# BREAK

# 5 Minutes



# General Business Approval of Minutes



# Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS JOINT ECE DELEGATIONS



District	1	2	3	4	5
Board of Supervisor (BOS)	Supervisor Hilda Solis	Supervisor Holly Mitchell	Supervisor Sheila Kuehl	Supervisor Janice Hahn	Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Staff Contact	<b>Elise Weinberg</b> Asst. Chief of Staff	<b>Kelvin Driscoll</b> Human Services & Child Welfare, Sr. Deputy	<b>Lisa Pinto</b> Child Welfare Deputy	<b>Maral Karaccusian</b> Children & Human Services Deputy	<b>Monica Banken</b> Family & Children's Deputy
Roundtable BOS Appointee	Karla Pleitez Howell (Lead)	Justin Blakely (Lead)	Terry Ogawa (Lead)	Alejandra Albarran Moses (Lead)	Ellen Cervantes (Lead)
	Jessica Perea	Sharoni Little	Vacancy	Vacancy	Joannie Aguayo
Roundtable Organization Representative	Dawn Kurtz or Elsa Jacobsen Child360	Jackie Majors or Paul Pulver Child Care Alliance of LA	Fran Chasen or Liliana Alvarez Hernandez So. CA Chapter, CAEYC	Keesha Wood or Debi Anderson LACOE	Dean Tagawa or Colleen Pagtar LAUSD
	Steve Zimmer or Jacquelyn McCroskey Commission for Children & Families	Ariana Oliva Child Care Planning Council	Ofelia Medina or Marcy Manker First 5 LA		
Child Care Planning Committee BOS Appointee	Kelly O'Connell Alternate: Kimberly Dobson-Garcia	Jessica Guerra Alternate: Patrick McFarlane	Julie Taren Alternate: Fran Chasen	Sarah Soriano Alternate: Andrea Sulsona	Dianne Philibosian Alternate: Carla Hegwood

## Proposed Recommended Pursuit of Position: Governor's Budget

- Increase reimbursement rate for state subsidized early care & education programs from the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2018 Regional Market Rate Survey (RMR) to the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2018 RMR

## Why?

- Current rates fail to cover cost of operating state subsidized programs – centers and family child care homes
- Impacts compensation of workforce largely comprised of Black and Latinx women
- Low rates making it harder to recruit and retain qualified staff

## Recent History: Budget Act of 2021

- Initiated streamlining reimbursement rate system from dual system to single regional market rate system
- Updated rate ceilings from the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2016 RMR survey to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2018 RMR survey
- Established two workgroups to make recommendations for implementing a single child care reimbursement rate structure with proposed rate

Recommended pursuit of position is consistent with County policy:

- 5. Support efforts to adequately fund high quality early care and education services for all children from low- and moderate-income families**
  - Increasing levels of reimbursement in the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR) and the Regional Market Rate (RMR) to compensate providers for the true cost of high-quality services
  - Streamlining and reforming the dual reimbursement systems into a single, regionalized reimbursement system that incentives quality and supports the cost of program operations

## ECE Facilities Development Project

### Supervisor Solis Motion, February 8, 2022

- Provide a plan to assess the feasibility of strategies to streamline the ECE facility development process
  - The plan should explore strategies to identify barriers and potential solutions to remove those barriers in ECE facilities land use entitlement and permitting processes
  - The plan should also identify any staffing needs and costs that would be required to implement strategies to streamline the ECE land use and facilities requests process
- Engage additional partners such as First 5 LA, the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, and the Partnership for Early Childhood Investment to develop a comprehensive support system for ECE providers applying for the state Infrastructure Grant Program

## ECE Facilities Development Project

### Report back to Board of Supervisors April 2022

- Requesting 3 Commissioners to volunteer for an ad hoc group to provide input on the Report back to the Board



# Policy Roundtable for Child Care & Development Commission



## PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM 2023-2024 Legislative Session

### Introduction

The Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) and Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable) promote policies designed to increase the availability of and access to affordable, high quality early care and education programs for all children and their families of Los Angeles County. This public policy platform presents current and emerging policy issues in early care and education that are consistent with the County of Los Angeles State Legislative Agenda for the 2023-2024 Legislative Session. The platform delineates each of the County's legislative agenda items in **bold** followed by examples of efforts that may be addressed by proposed legislation and/or the proposed state budget.

---

### Platform Issues

#### 1. **Support efforts to enhance the quality of early care and education that set high standards for all services and program types and address the needs of all children, including those with disabilities and other special needs, and their families.**

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Addressing the early care and education needs of children from birth through age 12, including infants and toddlers, preschool and school age children, and children with disabilities and other special needs up to age 22, and their families.
- Enhancing the quality of centers, family child care homes, and license-exempt care providers.
- Promoting a strengthening families approach to meet the needs of children at risk for abuse, neglect or sexual exploitation or under the supervision of the child welfare system and children of families under the supervision of Probation.
- Integrating early identification and intervention systems that recognize and respond early to young children who may be at risk for disabilities and other special needs.
- Developing policies that encourage collaboration between early care and education programs and locally funded projects and public agencies that foster child and family well-being through the provision of coordinated services.
- Incorporating optimal health promotion policies and procedures as an integral component that contributes to the overall quality of early care and education services and programs.
- Engaging parents as their child's first teachers and partners in promoting their child's optimal growth and development.



**2. Support efforts to develop and implement a statewide quality rating and improvement system and a system to adjust reimbursement rates based on demonstrated quality.**

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Providing parents with clear, concise information on the quality of early care and education settings.
- Fostering the engagement of parents that promotes their child's optimal healthy growth and development and learning through a variety of modalities including virtual supports as well as in person meetings and may also be comprised of counseling and referrals.
- Incorporating early learning standards that are research-based, culturally responsive to children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, aligned with existing regulatory systems and local quality initiatives, recognize and respond to the individual needs of children in group settings, and attend to families' needs for comprehensive services.
- Building an infrastructure of technical assistance, financial supports and training, all of which are tied to defined quality standards, to help early care and education programs achieve and maintain high quality services.

**3. Support efforts to develop and sustain a well-educated and highly skilled professional workforce prepared to serve the culturally and linguistically diverse child and family populations of Los Angeles County.**

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Compensating staff working in centers and family child care homes commensurate with education and experience to include benefit packages (e.g. health insurance, retirement) to attract and retain qualified staff.
- Focusing on teachers and other members of the workforce gaining skills and demonstrating competencies in the following areas: **engaging children in social-emotional learning, business practices, forming** relationships and interacting with children, how to provide instructional support to children, best practices in working with dual language learners, proficiency in recognition and response to children with disabilities and other special needs, health and nutrition best practices, trauma-informed practices, engaging parents and guardians, and expertise on the spectrum of child development from birth through early adolescence. Workforce practice must be based on established early care and education research.
- Offering coursework and instruction responsive to a multi-lingual, multicultural workforce, including but not limited to providing content in students' home language and offering classes during non-traditional hours.
- Integrating early childhood mental health consultation into early care and education programs to support the workforce in meeting the social, emotional, and mental health needs of children.

- Expanding early childhood educators' access to higher education through stipend programs, grant funds and loan forgiveness programs, higher compensation when they attain post-secondary degrees, and benefits (i.e. health insurance and retirement plans).
  - Facilitating child development or early childhood education coursework coordination and articulation between the community colleges and California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) systems.
  - Supporting efforts to enhance the quality of the license-exempt care workforce and facilitating connections between license-exempt care and the larger system of early care and education.
  - Supporting alignment of teacher requirements under Title 22 with teacher requirements under Title 5 and with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.
  - Facilitating support of license-exempt (family, friend, and neighbor) providers serving children subsidized with federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds.
  - Training and supporting teachers and other professionals through distance learning strategies.
- 4. Support efforts to ensure the health and safety of all children cared for in licensed early care and education facilities as afforded by timely, regular, and frequent on-site monitoring by the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD).**

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Increasing to, at a minimum, annual inspections of centers and family child care homes.
  - Advocating for, at a minimum, annual unannounced inspections of all licensed facilities.
  - Providing that CCLD is sufficiently funded, staffed and held accountable to meet the standards, conduct timely reviews of licensing applications and responses to complaints, and provide technical assistance and resources to current and future licensees.
  - Ensuring that costs of obtaining and renewing the license (or licenses for programs with multiple sites) is reasonable and not an extraordinary burden to the licensee's cost of doing business.
- 5. Support efforts to adequately fund high quality early care and education services for all children from low- and moderate-income families.**

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Streamlining and transitioning the former dual reimbursement rate systems (Standard Reimbursement Rate and Regional Market Rate) into a single, regionalized reimbursement rate system that covers the true cost of quality and supports the cost of

program operations, including facility development and staff compensation commensurate with education and experience.

- Expanding access to high quality subsidized services for all eligible children, including infants and toddlers and children with disabilities and other special needs as well as preschool and school age children.
- ~~Increasing levels of reimbursement in the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR) and the Regional Market Rate (RMR) to compensate providers for the true cost of high-quality services.~~
- ~~Streamlining and reforming the dual reimbursement systems into a single, regionalized reimbursement system that incentivizes quality and supports the cost of program operations.~~
- Prioritizing funds targeted to infants and toddlers to meet the growing demand for high quality services.
- Increasing funds for expansion of high quality full-day, full-year services for all ages.
- Offering tax incentives to businesses to provide or subsidize employee's early care and education services.
- Ensuring that the income ceiling for eligibility for State subsidized care reflects the current State Median Income (SMI), adjusted by region if appropriate.
- Opposing proposals that would reduce subsidized rates based on geographic location.

**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.**

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Allowing administrative efficiencies such as multi-year contracting, grant-based funding, and waivers on program rules and regulations to allow flexibility of services based on community and family needs.
- Maintaining a 12-month annual eligibility redetermination to allow for more stable enrollments for early care and education programs and continuous services for children and their families while exploring implementation of 24-month annual eligibility.
- Ensuring agencies have the capacity to connect with and serve the most vulnerable and the most difficult-to-serve families.
- Maintaining affordable family fees that do not exceed eight percent of gross family income.

- Maintaining part-day State Preschool as a free, comprehensive early care and education program.
  - Allowing for various systems that serve vulnerable and low-income children and families to streamline administrative functions and share information in order to facilitate the enrollment of children in subsidized early care and education programs and to participate in joint data collection efforts.
  - Expanding the role of the local child care and development planning councils to augment and strengthen the preparation of the needs assessment to capture and report on data relating, but not limited, to workforce, quality and facilities as well as access.
- 7. Support proposals designed to prevent, detect, investigate and, when appropriate, prosecute fraud in subsidized child care and development programs.**
- 8. Support efforts to ensure that vulnerable children and their families have access to consistent, uninterrupted subsidized early care and education services.**

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Making sure that California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) families have access to child care and education services, ensure that participating families are afforded the time and information needed to evaluate their child care and education options and make sound choices, and that allow parents to pursue or maintain employment.
- Maintaining 12-months annual eligibility for CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care for welfare-to-work participants or until the participant is transferred to CalWORKs Stage 2 Child Care.
- Promoting, facilitating and supporting consistent and continuous participation of children under the supervision of the child welfare system and Probation and their families in high quality programs that promote healthy child development and support effective parenting.
- Ensuring that all subsidized children – infants and toddlers, preschool age, and school age children – and their families have access to consistent and continuous high quality early care and education services that partner with parents to promote children’s healthy growth and development and prepare them for school and life, and meet the needs of families.
- Addressing the needs of pregnant and parenting teens to ensure their access to high quality early care and education services that support their academic goals, promote positive and effective parenting skills, and contribute to their child’s healthy growth and development.
- Facilitating access to high quality early care and education programs that are responsive to the unique needs of children and families experiencing homelessness.

**9. Support efforts to expand the supply of appropriate early care and education services through facility development in communities with a significant shortage of these services.**

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Facilitating the cost and technical assistance of effective construction or renovation of early care and education – centers and family child care homes – facilities in communities with unmet needs for these services.
- Integrating early care and education inclusive of centers and family child care homes in specific plans for land use, housing, transportation, economic, workforce, and community development.

**10. Support efforts to ensure that children and their families have timely access to early care and education services during a local, state and/or national emergency.**

Such efforts may include:

- Increasing and extending funds ongoing to subsidize early care and education services of the essential workforce and at-risk populations.
- Enhancing child care resource and referral services to directly connect families impacted by the emergency with early care and education programs with the capacity to serve them.
- Waiving liability due to damages relating to COVID-19 infection, transmission, or other related conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pending Approval