

**Infant Toddler Early Care and Education Blueprint DRAFT Policy Recommendations**

UPDATED 1.3.24

	Category	Rationale	Recommendations
			<p><b>Type of Lever:</b> Legislative, Administrative, &amp; Programmatic Policies</p> <p><b>Level:</b> County, State, &amp; Federal</p>
1	<p><b>Infant Toddler Early Care and Education (ECE) Capacity</b></p>	<p><b>1) NEW Language:</b> There is not enough child care spaces for infants and toddlers</p> <p><u>ORIGINAL LANGUAGE:</u> There is not enough licensed child care spaces for infants and toddlers</p>	<p><b>NEW LANGUAGE 1.1) County-Unincorporated Areas Only (Administrative)</b> - Require new housing and commercial construction to 1) pay a child care linkage fee or 2) include infant toddler child care space in the construction project</p> <p><b>1.2) County-(Programmatic)</b> - Provide grants for start up costs to open Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) or center-based care that serve infants and toddlers (e.g.: licensing fee, health and safety training, etc.)</p> <p><b>NEW 1.3) County-Unincorporated Areas Only (Programmatic)</b> - Provide facility development fee waivers for Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) or center-based care serving infants and toddlers</p> <p><b>1.4) School Districts (Programmatic)</b> - Develop shared partnerships with Local Education Agencies to utilize unused facility space for infant toddler child care services</p> <p><b>1.5) County-Unincorporated Areas (Administrative)</b> - Approve By-Right Ordinance that does not require infant toddler child care centers to obtain a Conditional Use Permit</p>
2	<p><b>Cost of Infant Toddler ECE</b></p>	<p><b>2) New: Families have difficulty paying for infant toddler ECE services</b></p> <p><u>ORIGINAL LANGUAGE:</u> Moderate-Income families have difficulty paying market rate for infant toddler ECE services</p>	<p><b>2.1) State (Legislative)</b> - Increase income eligibility of California subsidized early care and education to include families of moderate income who have infants and toddlers (Note: Moderate Income defined by HUD 2023 = 120% of household income not exceeding 120% of county area median income. Family of 4 in LA County Moderate Income = \$117,840.)</p> <p><b>2.2) County (Programmatic)</b> - Establish a local child care voucher program for low and moderate income families in Los Angeles County</p> <p><b>2.3) County (Programmatic)</b> - Increase linkages and leverage resources between infant and toddler child care providers and family support programs (e.g.: food, diapers, utilities, and insurance to reduce program operation costs).</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Infant Toddler ECE Workforce Compensation</b></p>		<p><b>3.1)</b> Wages are low for infant/toddler child care providers in Los Angeles County</p>	<p><b>3.1 A) State (Legislative)</b> - Increase State reimbursement rate for early care and education providers, especially those who care for infants and toddler, that covers Los Angeles County's true cost of care</p> <p><b>3.1 B) County (Administrative)</b> - Establish wage scale approved by the Board of Supervisors to set a standard of wage parity across the infant toddler child care system</p> <p><b>3.1 C) County-Unincorporated Areas Only (Administrative)</b> - Establish a Los Angeles County minimum wage that covers the true cost of care for early education providers that serve infants and toddlers</p> <p><b>3.1 D) County (Legislative)</b> - Explore the feasibility of a local on-going revenue source to subsidize compensation for infant toddler child care providers</p> <p><b>3.1 E) Federal (Legislation)</b> - Establish legislation that supports Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) serving infants and toddlers to qualify for earned income tax credit</p>
		<p><b>3.2)</b> Infant toddler ECE workforce receives few benefits</p>	<p><b>3.2 A) County (Administrative)</b> - Establish mechanism to track Los Angeles County's investments in early childhood services that support infant toddler child care</p> <p><b>3.2 B) State (Legislation)</b> - Waive child care fees for the children of early care and education providers who care for children in subsidized programs</p> <p><b>3.2 C) State/Federal (Legislative)</b> - Provide financial relief to infant toddler child care providers through stipends, bonuses, tax credits, home buying assistance, etc.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Quality Infant Toddler ECE Programs</b></p>	<p><b>4)</b> It is difficult for infant toddler ECE workforce to participate in professional development</p>	<p><b>4.1) <u>State (Legislative)</u></b> - Expand workforce stipends for professional development and college credit to providers who care for infants toddlers in subsidized child care</p> <p><b>4.2) <u>County (Programmatic)</u></b> - Invest in innovative "earn and learn" strategies for infant toddler child care providers, such as apprenticeship programs</p> <p><b>4.3) <u>County (Programmatic)</u></b> - Partner with Department of Economic Opportunity to provide business management training, coaching, and mentoring for FCCHs</p> <p><b>4.4) <u>County (Programmatic)</u></b> - Conduct campaign to promote free professional development and training opportunities, particularly targeting home-based providers that care for infants and toddlers</p> <p><b>4.5) <u>County (Programmatic)</u></b> - Develop professional development resource guide for infant toddler child care providers to increase the quality of care</p> <p><b>4.6) <u>County (Programmatic)</u></b> - Partner with Department of Mental Health to provide well-being and mental health supports to infant toddler early care and education workforce</p> <p><b>4.7) <u>State (Legislative)</u></b> - Revise Child Development Teacher Permit to require successful completion of at least one infant toddler development course</p>
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5	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Access to Infant Toddler ECE Services</b></p>	<p><b>5.1)</b> It is difficult for parents to navigate the complex subsidy system, and as a result, many subsidized programs are experiencing low enrollment of infants and toddlers</p>	<p><b>5.1 A) State (Legislative)</b> - Align income eligibility requirements for subsidized infant toddler child care across California programs</p> <p><b>UPDATED LANGUAGE 5.1 B) County (Programmatic)</b> - Create a centralized, family friendly website (<b>and corresponding application for mobile devices</b>) for parents to access information about available infant toddler child care, subsidy eligibility requirements, and the process to apply for subsidized child care</p> <p><b>5.1 C) County (Programmatic)</b> - Implement County-wide public awareness campaign to promote subsidized infant toddler child care options for low income families in under-resourced communities</p> <p><b>NEW 5.1 D) County (Programmatic)</b> - Partner with Department of Parks and Recreation and LA County Library, who are trusted messengers with families, to provide Resource and Referral agency information to families seeking early care and education services for infants toddlers</p>
		<p><b>5.2)</b> Age range for infants is not consistent across subsidy program definitions and licensing requirements which causes operational challenges when braiding funding</p>	<p><b>5.2 A) State (Administrative)</b> - Adjust infant toddler age range definitions to be consistent across all California subsidized early care and education programs</p>

