

Policy Roundtable for Child Care & Development Commission

September 10, 2025

Welcome and Introductions of Commissioners, Alternates, and Guests



Chair



Justin Blakely
Appointee for
Supervisor Mitchell

Vice Chair



Mercedes Santoro
Appointee for
Department of Parks and Recreation

Introductions: Name & Organization

Comments from the Chair

Approval of Minutes

June 11, 2025

Presentation on Policy Roundtable Goals and Key Activities for FY 2025-2026

Goals identified in June 2025

1. **Strengthen Commission's collective knowledge** about issues such as:

- Integrated ECE mixed delivery system
- Be more familiar with other legislative agendas
- How other states are addressing ECE issues
- Increasing usage of data in decision-making

2. **Collaborate with other efforts** such as:

- Continue to invest in interdepartmental relationships
- Engage with cross-departmental initiatives
- Utilize common language and shared goals across LA County departments

3. **Support families experiencing trauma** by identifying tangible supports for families

4. **Follow up on and build on** the progress of the **Infant and Toddler ECE Blueprint**

5. **Strengthen ECE Board of Supervisor Delegation engagement**

1. Policy Recommendations

- Identify and provide policy recommendations to Board of Supervisors
- Co-Lead Joint Committee on Legislation (Committee) and consider Committee's advice to inform policy recommendations.
- Strengthen engagement with Board of Supervisors Offices
- Review and approve changes as needed to Public Policy Platform

2. Systems Coordination

- Implement Systems Coordination Strategy activities
- Identify additional opportunities to inform and support systems coordination

3. Strategic Plan FY 2026-2030

- Provide Child Care Planning Committee policy recommendations to consider including in LA County ECE Strategic Plan FY 2026-2030

4. Operations

- Implement Policy Roundtable Ordinance changes once Board of Supervisors provides approval
- Approve Policy Roundtable Annual Report FY 2024-2025

Presentation on Service Coordination Strategy Action Step #5: Child Care Choices Activities including Training for County Department Staff



CHILD CARE CHOICES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Presented By:

Alejandra Berrio, Department of Public Health, OAECE

Justin Blakely, Crystal Stairs Inc.

Ida Legesse, Department of Public Health, OAECE

Care First Community Investment



Measure J:
10% of
County
Unrestricted
Funds

Community
Driven
Priorities

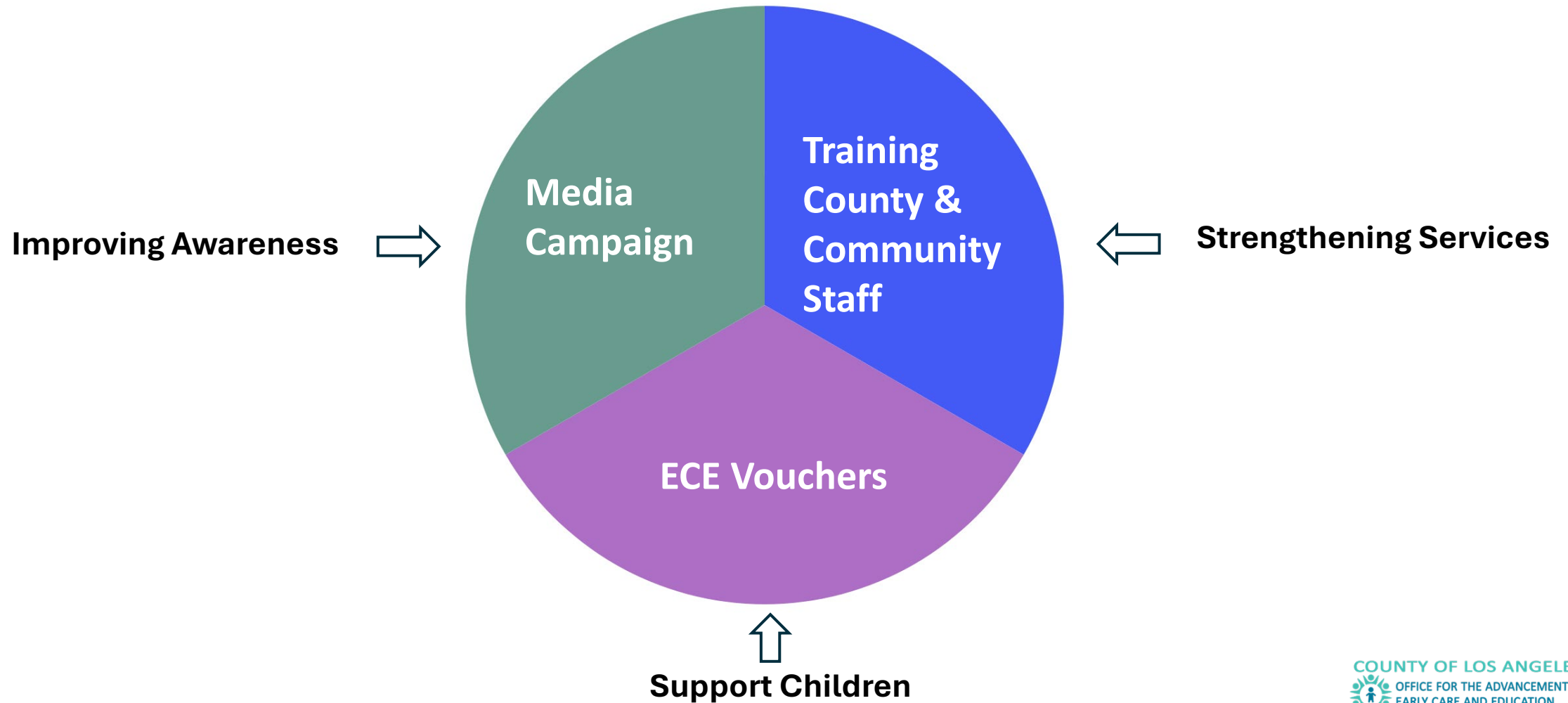
Child Care
Identified As
A Priority



Child Care Choices Overview & Goals



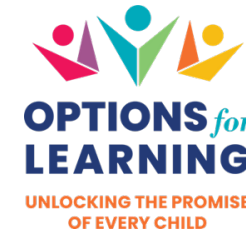
Increases awareness and access to early care and education services (ECE), especially in low-income communities with high incarceration rates



Child Care Choices Campaign



- **Child Care Choices Task Force**
 - Began meeting December 2024
 - Informed campaign messaging and design



- **Media Campaign**
 - Developed a Website / Partnership Hub - **Childcarechoiceslacounty.com**
 - Designed to streamline LA County families search for child care
 - Increase awareness of child care available and payment assistance
 - First media campaign to promote the website was launched in May 2025

Child Care Choices Campaign



Childcarechoiceslacounty.com



What are my child care and early education choices?

“Child care” and “early education” both describe programs where families receive child care services and children learn.



Child Care and Early Education Center



Family Child Care Home



Family, Friend, and a Neighbor



Elementary School



How can I find child care and early education for my child?

**Child Care Alliance of
Los Angeles**

**Los Angeles County
Office of Education**

Local Elementary School

My Child Care Plan



Childcarechoiceslacounty.com

How do I find payment assistance for free or low cost child care and early education?



Ask if you qualify for a voucher to pay for child care



Apply at a local child care and early education center



Visit your local elementary school



[Childcarechoiceslacounty.com](https://childcarechoiceslacounty.com)

Child Care Choices Campaign



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

Pilot Campaign: May – July 2025

19,000+ WEBSITE VISITS

BILLBOARDS

SOCIAL MEDIA

PUBLICATION ADS

RADIO ADS

PLACE BASED ADS





Training covers:

- Types of child care options available to families
- Ways to find these child care options
- Eligibility and payment assistance
- Recommendations on how to choose care
- How LA County staff and community partners can help families find and apply for child care
- OAECE as an ongoing resource



Child Care Choices Training



176
Staff Trained

17
Trainings

67%

Increase in staff who can describe the different types of child care in LA County

56%

Increase in staffs' confidence in sharing resources to help families find child care

51%

Increase in staffs' awareness that payment assistance is available for families

Child Care Choices Training



“Presentation was amazing **very informative**. I feel like I left with knowledge that I will be **sharing with my families** I work with. Thank you for your time and sharing information with us.”
Home Visitor, The Whole Child



“The **information on vouchers** and different payment plans are **so informative**. Thank you so much!”
Home Visitor, The Whole Child



“Everything is helpful, especially the links to different **child care options**.”
Community Health Worker, DPH

Child Care Choices Voucher Program



Three Program Pillars of Crystal Stairs Child Care Choices Program

Child Care Subsidies

- Early care and education vouchers for families at high risk of incarceration
- Prioritizing families impacted by the justice system with a tailored eligibility ranking system
- Increasing access to quality providers

Parent Skill Development

- Workshops on parenting strategies, trauma-informed care, and navigating systems
- Emotional wellness and resilience building
- Referrals to supportive services (housing, employment, legal aid)

Provider Skill Development

- Culturally responsive training for child care providers
- Tools for supporting children with incarcerated or justice-involved family members
- Community-building across providers in impacted neighborhoods

To reduce justice system involvement for parents of young children by supporting families and increasing access to quality early care and education in communities impacted by poverty and incarceration.





 www.childcarechoiceslacounty.com



1. How can Child Care Choices expand training to other County departments or other community-based organizations?
2. Which organizations working with communities impacted by incarceration do you recommend Child Care Choices should contact to inform them about this Initiative and possible collaboration?

Presentation on Status of Local, State, and Federal Public Policies

State and Federal Updates September 2025

JUSTIN BLAKELY, CHAIR –

2ND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT APPOINTEE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC POLICY MANAGER, CRYSTAL STAIRS



Final State 2025/2026 Budget Agreement

- ▶ On June 24th, the California State Legislature passed the Budget Act of 2025
- ▶ The Budget Act includes \$321.1 billion in total spending including \$228.4 billion from the general fund
- ▶ There remains \$15.7 billion in reserves, inclusive of \$11.2 billion in the Rainy-day Fund and \$4.5 billion in the regular reserve

Final State 2025/2026 Budget Agreement

- ▶ **Child Care Slot Expansion:** Maintains commitment to goal of reaching 200,000 slots by 2028
- ▶ **Emergency Child Care Bridge Program:** Reduces the program funding by \$30 million
- ▶ **Cost of Care Plus:** Extends child care providers cost of care plus rate to June 30, 2026 per child/per month
 - ▶ Stipends will be equal to current rate plus an increased percentage as calculated by the Department of Finance (\$70 Million General Fund and \$19.3 Million Prop 98)
- ▶ **Single Rate Structure:** \$21.7 Million for federal compliance items including the implementation of the single rate structure as informed by the alternative methodology

Final State 2025/2026 Budget Agreement

- ▶ **Prospective Payment:** Provides \$128.2 million for local assistance for child care contractors to pay child care providers for their services prospectively, based on enrollment not attendance
- ▶ **Single Rate Structure Codification:** Requires CDSS to provide written updates regarding how the department proposes to structure child care the single rate structure in future years
 - ▶ Extends the timeframe for the Alternate Rate Methodology from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027
- ▶ **Transitional Kindergarten:** Provides an additional \$2.1 billion funding for the final year of Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) implementation, including \$1.2 billion ongoing for 10:1 UTK child to staff ratios

Final State 2025/2026 Budget Agreement

- ▶ **State Preschool Program:** Funds \$10 million as an increase to the program's cost of care reimbursement rates
- ▶ **CalFood:** Restores \$52 million one-time funds for the CalFood program
- ▶ **CalFresh:** Restores \$36 million one-time funds for the CalFresh Fruits and Vegetables program
- ▶ **Family Urgent Response System:** Modifies Governor's proposal to reduce Family Urgent Response System (FURS) by \$9 million, ongoing. Approximately \$22 million (\$21 million General Fund) remains to support the system

Final State 2025/2026 Budget Agreement

On Friday, August 8, 2025, the Child Care Providers United union (CCPU) reached a tentative 3-year agreement with the Governor's administration, which includes the following:

- ▶ Cost of Living Adjustment: \$37 million per year
- ▶ Training and Continuing Education: \$15 million ongoing, per year
- ▶ Ability to re-negotiate rate increases if the Legislature allocates more money in future budgets
- ▶ Continuing of payment based on enrollments not attendance
- ▶ Significant progress on rate reform structure and a commitment to move to prospective pay
- ▶ One-Time Stabilization Payments

Federal Policy and Budget Updates

▶ **Federal Government Shutdown**

- ▶ Congress resumed session September 2nd with a focus on averting a government shutdown by September 30th
- ▶ Medicaid funding reversal will be the primary focus for Congressional Democrats in negotiations
- ▶ Republicans are likely to pursue a continuing resolution – a temporary measure to keep the government funded at the current spending levels

Federal Policy and Budget Updates

- ▶ **US Senate Appropriations Committee Investment in Child Care**
 - ▶ \$12.4 billion in funding for Head Start and \$8.8 billion for the Child Care Development Block Grant – an 85% increase for each program compared to Fiscal Year 25
 - ▶ Agreed to fund at prior year levels two programs that were sought to be eliminated by the federal administration
 - ▶ The Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five program
 - ▶ The Child Care Access Means Parents in School program
- ▶ Department of Education
 - ▶ US Senate proposal includes language to prevent the `current federal administration from dismantling the Department of Education

Questions/Comments



Presentation on Child Care Planning Committee Activities for FY 25-26

Child Care Planning Committee

Los Angeles County
Local Child Care and Development Planning Council (LPC)

Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, Vice Chair





Complete the LPC Local Funding Priorities and certify membership annually



Coordinate the Voluntary Temporary Transfer of Funds process



Provides input on policy issues through the Joint Committee on Legislation



Develop a Child Care Needs Assessment every five years (Due in 2027)



Plan for Universal Prekindergarten Mixed Delivery System



Develop countywide ECE strategic plan every five years

- **Temporary transfer of funds between ECE contracts from the California Department of Education or the California Department Social Services**
 - Available for programs that may be under- or over-earning their contracts.
 - Ensures that funds are retained within LA County
- **Eligible Programs**
 - General Child Care and Development (CCTR)
 - Includes CCTR administered Family Child Care Home Education Networks (FCCHEN)
 - Family Child Care Home Education Network (CFCC)
 - Alternate Payment Program (CAPP)
 - California State Preschool Program (CSPP)
- **Timeline**
 - Fall – October/November 2025
 - Spring – April/May 2026



What is it?

- Compares the number of LA County children income eligible* for subsidized early care and education services, to the number of children enrolled in subsidized early care and education

*ELNAT defines “income eligible” in alignment with the state eligibility guidelines according to the year of the data set.

- Separated by zip code & age group

How is it used?

- State departments consider the report when distributing funding to promote equal access to child development services
- Excel and PDF reports are available at childcare.lacounty.gov/lpc/#activities

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CHILD CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE
POLICY • PLANNING • PRACTICE

Local Planning Council (LPC) Local Funding Priorities Background Data - FY 2022-2023

Infant and Toddler (Birth to 35 Months)

Service Planning Area (SPA)	Supervisory District	Zip Code	Estimated Number of Infants & Toddlers Eligible for Subsidized Care	Number of Children Served in Subsidized Spaces	Number of Children NOT Served in Subsidized Spaces	Percentage of Children NOT Served in Subsidized Spaces	2022-2023 Priority
6	2	90001	2924	204	2720	93%	1
6	2	90002	2548	187	2361	93%	1
6	2	90003	3218	201	3017	94%	1
4	2	90004	1356	121	1235	91%	2
4	1	90005	909	32	877	96%	3
4	2	90006	1647	155	1492	91%	2
6	2	90007	1205	248	957	79%	2
6	2	90008	506	85	421	83%	3
5	4	90009	0	0	0	No unmet need	No unmet need
4	2	90010	87	3	84	97%	3
6	2	90011	4853	236	4617	95%	1
4	1	90012	1096	46	1050	96%	2
4	1	90013	434	5	429	99%	3
4	1	90014	259	1	258	100%	3
4	1	90015	580	215	365	63%	3
4	1	90016	773	86	687	89%	3
6	2	90017	606	89	517	85%	3
6	2	90018	1133	204	929	82%	2
4	2	90019	977	87	890	91%	2
4	2	90020	955	46	909	95%	2
4	1	90021	145	37	108	74%	3
7	1	90022	2080	190	1890	91%	1
4	1	90023	1593	140	1453	91%	2
5	3	90024	278	1	277	100%	3
5	3	90025	248	8	240	97%	3
4	1	90026	1700	337	1363	80%	2
4	3	90027	878	28	850	97%	2
4	3	90028	518	65	453	87%	3
7	4	90029	717	32	685	96%	3
4	1	90030	0	0	0	No unmet need	No unmet need
7	4	90031	1005	182	823	82%	2
8	2	90032	772	223	549	71%	3
4	1	90033	1801	192	1609	89%	1
8	2	90034	539	61	478	89%	3
5	2	90035	364	12	352	97%	3
4	3	90036	473	7	466	99%	3
6	2	90037	2733	169	2564	94%	1
4	3	90038	520	115	405	78%	3
4	1	90039	471	5	466	99%	3
7	1	90040	465	84	381	82%	3

LPC Local Funding Priorities Background Data Approved by the Child Care Planning Committee (LPC) on May 3, 2023.

*Management Bulletin 15-04. Local Child Care and Development Planning Council Funding Priority Setting Process. June 2015. Available at <https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/child-care-and-development/quality-improvement-initiatives/local-child-care-and-development-planning-councils/management-bulletin-15-04>



Early Care and Education(ECE) Strategic Plan

- Comprehensive countywide plan
- Developed every five years
- Current Strategic Plan
 - Access
 - Quality
 - Workforce
 - Families and Communities
- New strategic planning is taking place in FY 25-26

Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) Mixed Delivery Planning Grant



Goal 1: Increase parents' knowledge about their early education choices



Goal 2: Strengthen partnerships between school districts and ECE mixed delivery systems



Goal 3: Enhance partnerships to support children with special needs



Goal 4: Increase supports for UPK workforce

- **Standing Committee**
 - Held by Brown Act and meets in-person
- **Appointees**
 - 4 appointees from Child Care Planning Committee
 - 4 appointees from Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Policy Roundtable)
- **Purpose**
 - Discusses State and Federal budget
 - Analyzes proposed State and Federal legislation
 - Informs positions on ECE issues which are approved by the Policy Roundtable.

 County of Los Angeles
Child Care Planning Committee and
Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development

**PROPOSED PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM for
2025-2026 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 proposed 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 2025-2026 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.
- Define a mixed-delivery system as schools, centers and family child care home programs, and family, friends, and neighbors that provide parental choice through quality options for children 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.

 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**
OFFICE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health**





Questions:

- Comments from Councilmembers
- Comments from the Public

Discussion and Possible Approval of Establishing an Ad Hoc

Announcements and General Public Comment

Call to Adjourn Meeting



Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission