

Policy Roundtable for Child Care & Development Commission

A graphic of three overlapping silhouettes of human heads in profile, facing right, rendered in various shades of blue. The silhouettes are positioned on the right side of the slide, partially overlapping the main text area.

February 11, 2026

Welcome and Introductions of Commissioners, Alternates, and Guests

Comments from the Chair

Approval of Minutes

January 14, 2026

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



CHILD CARE
PLANNING
COMMITTEE



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



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

Child Care Planning Committee Update

Los Angeles County

Local Child Care and Development Planning Council (LPC)

Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.





First Vice Chair

(Internal focus in preparation for becoming chair)

- Presides over meeting in absence of chair
- Assists chair in agenda development and meeting preparation
- Key advisor to chair on strategic development and implementation
- Provides support to ad hoc committees and consultation



Second Vice Chair

(External focus for community involvement)

- Presides over meetings in absence of chair and first vice chair
- Participates with chair and first vice chair in agenda development and meeting preparation
- Works with OAECE staff on community outreach, membership recruitment and member involvement

Launched Recruitment for Councilmembers FY 26-27



- Child Care Planning re-establishes membership annually
- Members serve two 3-year terms
- Members represent parents (20%), early educators (20%), community agencies (20%), public agencies (20%), discretionary (20%).
- 04/17/2026 - Membership applications due
- Member Recruitment
 - Quality Start LA, R&Rs, First 5LA, etc.
 - Created a parent friendly membership flyer for parent networks, such as:
 - Community Voices, InnerCity Struggle, and Families in School, etc.

Scan here for the online Planning Committee
Membership
Application FY 2026-27



- **What it is:**
 - Required every 5 years by CA Welf & Inst Code § 10486
 - Prepare a comprehensive countywide child care plan designed to mobilize public and private resources to address identified needs.
- **What it is not:**
 - It is not OAECE's strategic plan, but rather a roadmap for the LA County system
- **How is it used:**
 - Guides public and private investments in the ECE system
 - Informs policy priorities at a local, state, and federal level
 - Serves as a framework to unify ECE system across LA County

- **01/15/2026 - Strategic Planning Ad Hoc launched**
 - Chaired by Eli Pessar
 - Discussion about workforce
 - Reviewed lessons from the past five years (i.e. impacts of COVID-19, funding instability, workforce shortages, and natural disasters)
 - Elevated need for quality improvement paired with resources and higher wages
 - Discussed strategies such as policy, advocacy and dedicated funding approaches to strengthen compensation and retention.
- **Next steps**
 - 02/04/2026 -Discussion at Planning Committee with Dr. Bruce Fuller about the impact of TK on the ECE system
 - 02/19/2026 - Next Strategic Planning Ad Hoc



Presentation on Service Coordination Strategy: Utilization of Child and Adult Care Food Program Overview

Increasing Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Utilization

Anna Potere, LA County Office of Child Protection

Gina Rodríguez, First 5 LA

Policy Roundtable Meeting
February 11th, 2026

Presentation Goals

- Ensure knowledge of CACFP, the opportunity it presents, what some of the challenges are, and discuss how LA County could increase utilization to help alleviate food insecurity
- Review potential public policy strategies already identified
- Generate additional public policy opportunities and determine which are most feasible

About CACFP

- Pays for nutritious meals and snacks for eligible children and elderly or disabled adults who are enrolled at participating child care centers, family child care homes, afterschool programs, Head Start programs, adult care centers, and homeless shelters.
- CACFP ensures that children:
 - Receive a nutritious diet
 - Start good nutrition habits early in life
 - Grow healthy and strong
 - Are prepared for school, ready to learn
- CACFP plays a vital role in improving the quality of child care and making it more affordable for many low-income families.
- CACFP's resources and training support communities, especially rural, by supporting child care.

Data to Ground the Conversation

- Between November 2022 and May 2024, 56% of LA County families with children under age six experienced food insecurity.
- Over the past four years (Feb 2021- March 2025), 48% of child care providers reported difficulty affording food.
- In 2023- 2024, in LA County, more than **\$23 million** in federal funds came into the county through family child care providers participating on the food program.
- 53% of licensed family child care providers in LA County do NOT participate in CACFP
- In 2023 center participation was 23%, from the CCR&R network data tool

The Opportunity

Food security remains one of the biggest challenges facing families with children 0-5, including providers and the families they serve

YET, CACFP is underutilized!

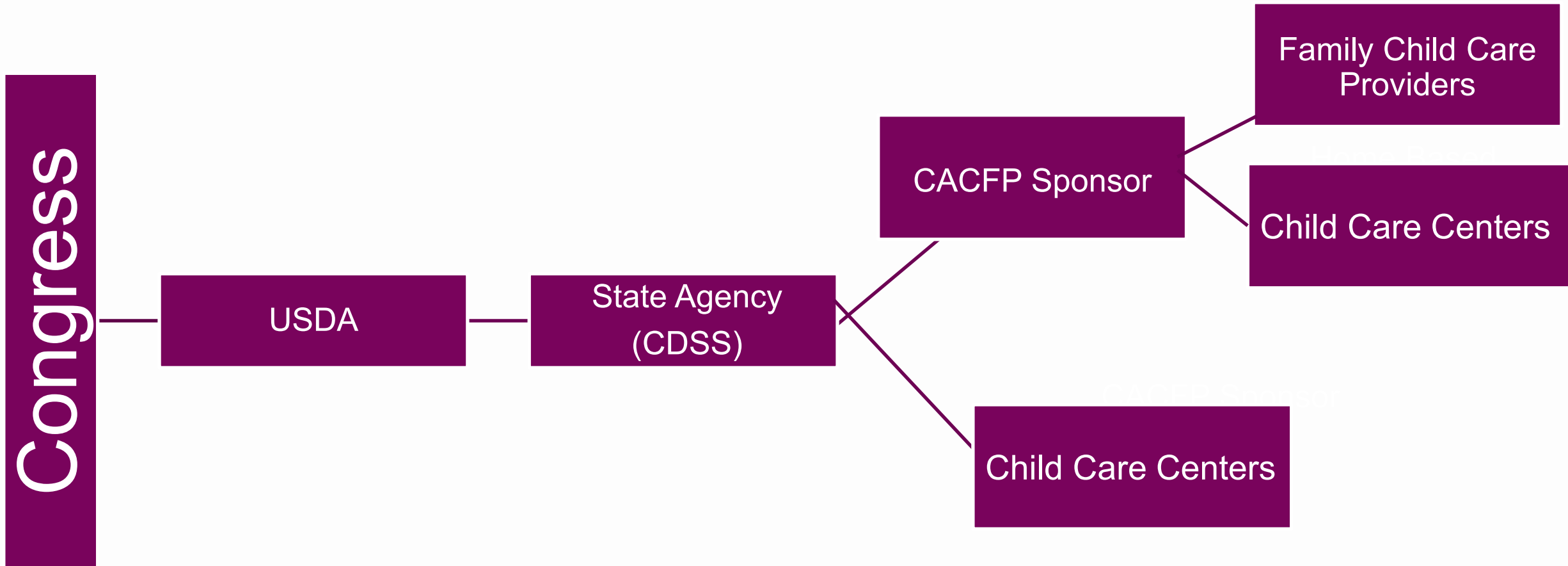
“Increasing WIC Utilization” Board Motion (12/9/25)

Aims to address the problem via multiple strategies

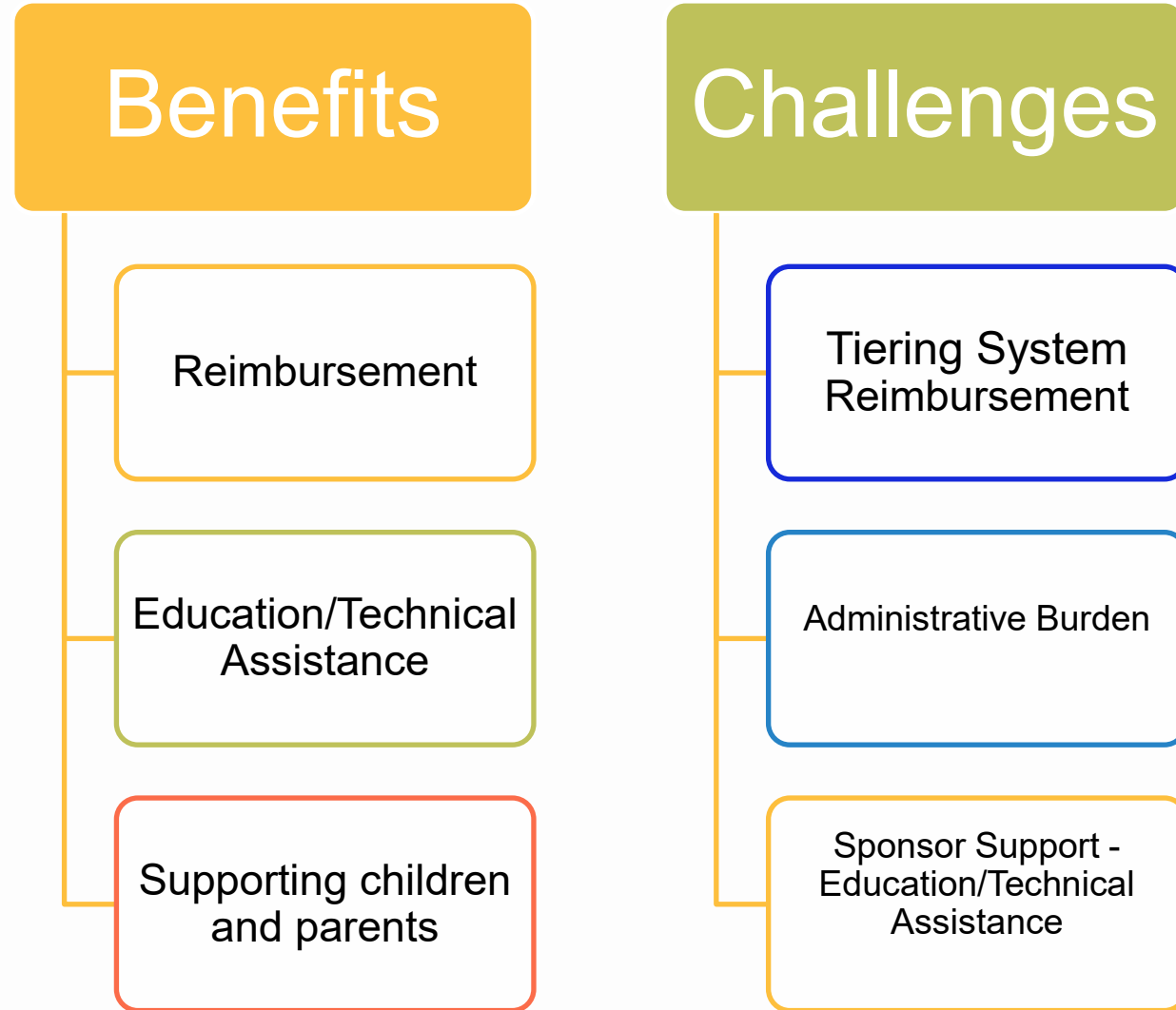
Most relevant directives for today’s discussion:

- Identify strategies for increasing utilization of CACFP in the County.
- Increase knowledge and awareness of food-related resources, including WIC and CACFP, at natural touchpoints such as early education centers, child care providers, healthcare settings, and other family-serving organizations.

About CACFP: How it Works



About CACFP: Benefits and Challenges



Opportunities to Make Change

Federal Level – Federal Bills before Congress

- Tiering System Reform
- Increasing Reimbursement Rate
- Administrative Burden & Monitoring Concerns

State/Local Levels

- Sponsor Access and Capacity – Oregon Example
- Administrative Burden & Monitoring Concerns (as permitted by federal regulations)
- Stakeholder Engagement & Education



Q&A/Discussion

Do you have any clarifying questions?

Based on the information provided, what strategies do you think are most feasible?

Please Feel Free to Reach Out

Anna Potere: apotere@bos.lacounty.gov

Gina Rodríguez: grodriguez@first5la.org

Presentation on Status of Local, State and Federal Public Policies and Joint Committee Legislation

State Budget 2026-2027

- Trailer Bill language starting to be posted at trailerbill.dof.ca.gov
- Next major step: May Revise must be submitted by 5/14/26

State Legislation

- January 31 deadline for last year's bills to pass out of house of origin
- February 20 deadline for introducing new bills
- Child Care Bulletin issued in response to SB 792 (2025)
 - New definition of “Attendance” to expand the categories of excused absences
 - Technical revision to policies related to state median income (SMI)
 - Extension of the family fee exemptions for vulnerable populations

Federal: Child Care Funding Freeze

- January 6: \$10 billion in federal funding for 5 states was frozen
 - **\$7 billion** in funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - **\$2.4 billion** for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
 - **\$869 million** in the Social Services Block Grant
- January 9: Two-week restraining order issued until 1/23/26
- January 23: Restraining order extended two weeks to 2/6/26
- February 6: Preliminary injunction granted

Federal Funding 2026

- Partial government shutdown started on 1/31/26 and ended on 2/3/26 after narrow vote
- Most of government now funded through 9/30/26
 - Dept. of Homeland Security on Continuing Resolution through 2/13/26

Federal: 2026 Funding for Early Childhood

- Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG): \$8.831 billion: + \$85 million
- Head Start: \$12.357 billion: + \$85 million
- Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5): \$315 million: no change
- Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools (CCAMPIS): \$75 million: no change

Federal: 2027 Funding

- President's budget due first Monday in February, reports indicate late March
- State of the Union on 2/24/26
- Less time in session due to midterm elections


Presentation on Joint Committee Legislation Recommended Public Policy Priorities

Pursuit of Position

Request the County to take an official position on state and/or federal public policy issues

- **Once the County takes a position then it can weigh in on policy issues at state and federal level**
- ***Example:* Every time there is a meeting on the policy issue then the County provides a letter with position**

Process for Developing Pursuit of Position

- **Joint Committee on Legislation (JCL)** reviews state and federal public policies: *budget, legislation, and administrative policies*. **JCL** identifies and recommends priority policy issues to Policy Roundtable to consider for Pursuit of Position.
- **JCL** presents recommended policy priorities to **Child Care Planning Committee** for input
- **JCL** presents recommended policy priorities to **Policy Roundtable** and shares Child Care Planning Committee input 
- **Policy Roundtable** reviews and finalizes policy priorities to include in Pursuit of Position (**Feb. 2026**)
- **OAECE** staff prepares Pursuit of Position
- **Policy Roundtable approves** Pursuit of Position (**March 2026**)
- **Joint ECE Delegation** consisting of Policy Roundtable Commissioners and Child Care Planning Committee Board appointees meet with Children's Deputies and shares pursuit of position (**starting March 2026**)

Joint Committee on Legislation Composition

- 4 Representatives from Policy Roundtable
 - Andrea Fernandez Mendoza
 - Ofelia Medina
 - Jessica Perea
 - Nurhan Pirim
- 4 Representatives from Local Planning Council
 - Sarah Soriano - **CHAIR**
 - Rachel Bocarsly
 - Lester Garcia
 - Patrick MacFarlane

Meeting Dates, Time, & Location

- Dates: 3rd Wednesday of month (Jan. 2026 - June 2026)
- Time: 10am – 11:30am
- Location: CCALA - 2700 E Foothill Blvd, Ste. 300, Pasadena, 91107

Provided updates on...

Public Policies

- **State Level**
 - Governor's 2026-27 Proposed Budget
 - Legislation
- **Federal Level**
 - Administrative Policies
 - Legislation
 - Budget

Policy Issues Elevated

- Reviewed issues elevated in
Sept 2025 – Jan 2026 Policy Roundtable meetings

Prioritize the following policy issues to pursue:

- 1. Implementation of Alternate Reimbursement Rate Methodology**
- 2. Strengthen measures that protect immigrant children, families, and staff**
- 3. Wildfire Rebuild and Recovery**

Commission Discussion

Temperature Check

**What do you think about
elevating these policy
priorities in a
Pursuit of Position?**

Announcements and General Public Comment

Call to Adjourn Meeting



Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission