

# California's Early Learning Advocacy Day

MAY 24, 2017

## Affordable, Quality Child Care Is a Pathway to Economic Security

Parents, child care administrators, school districts and advocates agree—changes to the current child care system need to happen so parents can continue to work and children can thrive.

### UPDATE THE STATE MEDIAN INCOME (SMI) GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING FAMILY ELIGIBILITY

- Because of outdated income guidelines, many parents who earn the new minimum wage are no longer eligible for affordable child care if they work full-time. The extra 50 cents an hour has unintentionally caused many families to lose child care.
- In raising the statewide minimum wage, California has invested in a more prosperous future for everyone. But that investment will be squandered if working parents lose their child care.

### STREAMLINE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING CHILD CARE SERVICES ELIGIBILITY

- Current eligibility for affordable child care must be re-established each time there is a change in employment status or household make-up.
- By streamlining reporting requirements and providing continuous eligibility, children can stay in child care for as long as needed and sustain continuity of care—essential to positive child outcomes. Overall, it minimizes disruptions for children, parents, employers and child care providers.

### TARGET LOCAL CHILD CARE NEEDS BY ALLOWING FLEXIBILITY TO INCREASE ACCESS

- Even with recent progress, the state has 70,000 fewer child care and preschool slots than in 2007-2008. The gap largely exists in infant and toddler spaces across programs.
- By increasing funding for the General Child Care and Alternative Payment programs, this ensures flexible child care spaces are available to more infants and toddlers and enacts the prior commitment to expand the State Preschool Program.

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## THE MULTI-YEAR CHILD CARE PROMISE MADE IN THE 2016-2017 BUDGET IS IMPORTANT TO FAMILIES

- We would like to thank the Administration for honoring the multi-year deal in the May Revise and the Legislature for vocal support.
- Quality early care and education is critical to the current and long-term economic and education viability of California. The lack of access to quality and affordable child care impacts all Californian families.
- The average annual cost of center-based infant care in 2014 was more than \$13,327—more than one year of UC tuition.
- With 6 out of 7 eligible children not receiving subsidized care—that equates to 1.2 million children without care—and nearly half of children under age 6 in low-income households, the investment in affordable child care is a clear anti-poverty measure.

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



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