

# California's Early Learning Advocacy Day

FEBRUARY 3, 2016

THE GOVERNOR'S  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
BUDGET PROPOSAL  
FOR 2016-17

TALKING POINTS  
REGARDING THE  
GOVERNOR'S  
PROPOSAL

NEEDED SUPPORTS  
FOR CALIFORNIA'S  
SYSTEM OF  
EARLY CARE  
AND EDUCATION



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## THE GOVERNOR'S EARLY CHILDHOOD BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 2016-17

### Targeted Play and Learning Block Grant

Proposes creation of a \$1.6 billion Early Education Block Grant for local education agencies to serve four- and five-year-olds.

Combines Proposition 98 funding from the State Preschool Program, Transitional Kindergarten, and the CSPP QRIS Block Grants with no new funding.

Would shift all contracted child care funding into a voucher system throughout the next five years and requires Department of Education to develop a plan to transition funding into vouchers.

Supports concepts of the Local Control Funding Formula. Administration's objectives are as follows:

- Expand financial flexibility that prioritizes services for each community's lowest-income and most at-risk four- and five-year-old children
- Distribute any new funding based on factors such as local demographics and financial need, while ensuring no Local Educational Agency (LEA) receives less funding under the block grant than it received under the prior pre-kindergarten programs
- Provide each LEA with the discretion to implement pre-kindergarten education programs that align funding with local priorities
- Streamline administrative processes

The proposal would include a "hold harmless" provision so that no LEA receives less funding under the block grant than it received under the prior funding models.

Stakeholder input is being sought in February and March 2016.

Unanswered questions about the proposal:

- How would the block grant be allocated?
- How will quality be addressed?
- How will three-year-olds be served?
- How will existing non-LEA program providers be involved in providing services?

### Other Early Childhood Funding

Includes \$16.9 million non-Proposition 98 general fund and \$30.9 million Proposition 98 general fund for the following:

- 1,200 Non-LEA Wraparound Care Slots for State Preschool: \$3.471 million
- 4.5% Regional Market Rate Ceiling Increase: \$9.875 million
- 5% Rate Increase for License-Exempt Providers: \$3.578 million
- 5,830 Full-Day LEA State Preschool Slots: \$28.369 million
- 1,200 Non-LEA Part-Day State Preschool Slots: \$2.507million

\$1.8 million non-Proposition 98 general fund increase for CalWORKs Stage 2, reflecting a decline in the number of cases but increase in the cost per case.

\$33.4 million non-Proposition 98 general fund increase for CalWORKs Stage 3 to reflect an increase in the number of cases and the cost per case.

\$10.4 million increase in federal funds to reflect the projected increase in the base grant amount.



## TALKING POINTS REGARDING THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL

Proposal does not address unmet needs of California's working families, particularly infants and toddlers.

Proposal ignores the ongoing crisis facing providers who rely on the state's still shockingly low reimbursement rate to serve the state's lowest income children.

Proposal does not address additional impacts on programs to keep up with minimum wage increases and the cost of doing quality business.

Proposal does not reflect a critically needed investment in California's children to secure a prosperous future for our state.

In a time of economic prosperity, it behooves the state to build up the eroded early care and education system and invest in working families, the workforce dedicated to preparing their young children for success, and the well-being of future generations.

We need to build on the momentum gained in the last few years to restore access and build quality in California early childhood programs.

## NEEDED SUPPORTS FOR CALIFORNIA'S SYSTEM OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

### Access

We urge the Legislature and Governor to continue the commitment to and progress in addressing the unmet need for quality child care and preschool programs; tens of thousands of low-income children remain without access.

### Eligibility

The State Median Income needs to be updated to reflect current income eligibility; many families are unable to meet the outdated eligibility criteria, particularly in high-cost counties where families often work multiple jobs to survive.

### Mixed Delivery System

Despite the reductions of the Great Recession, California's mixed-delivery system has developed and maintained an infrastructure that has a valuable role in providing services and a range of choices to families to find care that meets their particular needs.

### Rates

Increase the Standard Reimbursement Rate and update the Regional Market Rate. We must continue to increase provider reimbursement rates and take steps toward modernizing the rate structure so that programs can efficiently and effectively provide high-quality services.

### Quality/Professional Development/Infrastructure

Continue to build on recent investments in quality. We need greater and sustained investment in evidence-based quality improvement efforts, especially in professional development for educators and care givers working with children from birth to age five in state programs. The state only recently started designating investments in quality, through the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) by providing \$50 million in on-going funding for preschool quality and a one-time \$24 million allocation in infant/toddler programs. Program quality, especially the training and support for those working in child care and preschool programs, is essential to providing enriching early education experiences and improving outcomes in children's social-emotional and cognitive development.

### Other Potential Investments

- Fund child care provider training to meet additional health and safety requirements
- Fund annual inspections of licensed child care facilities
- Expand Early Care and Education Workforce Registry
- Fund consumer education statewide website



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## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



[www.caeyc.org](http://www.caeyc.org)



[www.cappaonline.com](http://www.cappaonline.com)



[www.california-childcare-coordinators.org](http://www.california-childcare-coordinators.org)



[www.rrnetwork.org](http://www.rrnetwork.org)



[www.ccdaa.org](http://www.ccdaa.org)



[www.caheadstart.org](http://www.caheadstart.org)

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[www.childrennow.org](http://www.childrennow.org)



[www.earlyedgecalifornia.org](http://www.earlyedgecalifornia.org)



[www.first5association.org](http://www.first5association.org)



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