



# President Obama's Proposal to Expand Access to Early Childhood Education



**Presentation  
to the  
Alameda  
County Child  
Care  
Planning  
Council**

**March 15,  
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# Presentation Overview

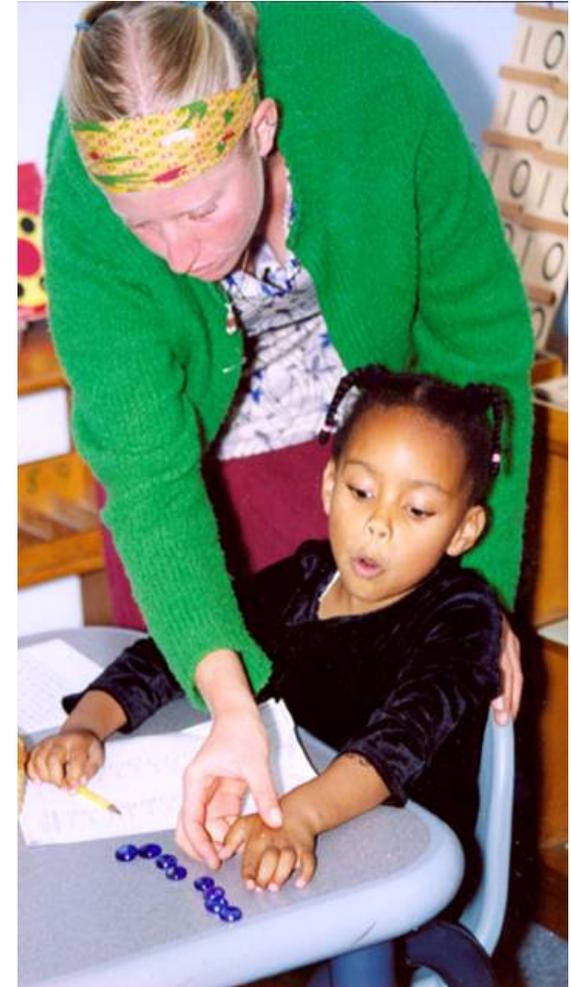
1. Highlights of the President's Proposal
2. Small Group Exercise



# Highlights of Obama's Proposal

## ❖ Three Main Components:

- Expanding Early Childhood Education for Preschoolers
- Expanding Early Head Start
- Expanding Home Visiting
- “Administration remains strongly committed to focusing on the whole child”





## Expanding Early Childhood Education for Preschoolers

- ❖ New federal-state partnership to provide all low- and moderate-income four-year old children with high-quality preschool;
- ❖ Expanding these programs to reach additional children from middle class families;
- ❖ Incentivizing full-day kindergarten policies;
- ❖ Financed through a cost-sharing partnership with states;
- ❖ Targeted to four years olds under 200% of poverty.



## Expanding Early Childhood Education for Preschoolers

- ❖ Allocated to states based on number of low-income four year olds;
- ❖ Distributed to school districts AND other partner providers;
- ❖ Includes incentive to states to expand services to middle income families;
- ❖ In order to access funds, states would be required to meet quality benchmarks.

# Required Quality Benchmarks for ECE Expansion

- ❖ State-level standards for early learning;
- ❖ Qualified teachers for all preschool classrooms;
- ❖ A plan to implement comprehensive data and assessment systems.





# Required Quality Benchmarks for ECE Expansion

Preschool programs across the states would meet common and consistent standards for quality across all programs, including:

- ❖ Well-trained teachers, who are paid comparably to K-12 staff;
- ❖ Small class sizes and low adult to child ratios;
- ❖ A rigorous curriculum;
- ❖ Comprehensive health and related services;
- ❖ Effective evaluation and review of programs.

# Full Day Kindergarten

Only 6 out of 10 of America's kindergarten students have access to a full day of learning.

Funds may also be used to expand full-day kindergarten once states have provided preschool education to low- and moderate-income four year-olds.



# Early Head Start Expansion

- ❖ New Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program
  - Children birth to age 3
  - New, full-day services
  - Prepare children for transition into preschool



# Expanding Home Visiting

- ❖ Expansion of the Administration's evidence-based home visiting initiative
- ❖ Voluntary programs that provide nurses, social workers, and other professionals to meet with at-risk families in their homes and connect them to assistance that impacts a child's health, development, and ability to learn.

