



2007 FIVE ISSUES OF CONCERN
(BASED ON TOP PRIORITIES FROM OUR PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM)

Improve Community Care Licensing (CCL): Community Care Licensing ensures basic health and safety standards for all licensed child care facilities in California. Recent cuts have reduced required visits even with increases triggered by the rate of citations, to one of the least frequent in the US. CCL MUST be adequately funded, including increased visits and full restoration of the Child Care Advocate program, to effectively monitor and support programs

Increase the Reimbursement Rate for State Subsidized Programs: The current state reimbursement rate is not adequate to operate quality child care programs. Our model state contracted programs, called Title V programs, serve income eligible children and are held to higher standards and lower adult child ratios. However, they are reimbursed at one statewide rate that does not recognize regional cost differences. The reimbursement rate MUST be increased to ensure these programs can offer a high quality program for our children.

Reduce the Number of Eligible Families Waiting for Subsidized Child Care: Recently data from the State funded Centralized Eligibility Lists were submitted to CDE. For the first time this data provides us with an accurate number of families who have asked for financial assistance to pay for their child care and preschool needs. In general, a family of four on this list would be eligible for subsidies if they earned less than \$48,000 per year. For the third quarter of 2006, CEL data indicate that there were 132,003 families and 206,974 children waiting for subsidized care. We MUST reduce the number of children waiting and provide real choices for families by increasing funding for our state subsidized programs, through both vouchers as well as state subsidized centers, to make sure families can earn and children can learn.

Improve Coordination of Afterschool Funding Streams: The Afterschool Education and Safety Program received a significant infusion of funding in January 2007 to expand programming for school-age children. This program is not well coordinated with, and in some cases, is in direct competition with Title V School Age Child Care services. This lack of coordination could lead to a loss of services to families in our communities. We MUST oppose cuts to any program, like Title V School Age Child Care, that supports children who are not in the ASES program. At the very least, funding for these programs should remain at present levels.

Increase the Participation of Children in the Child Care Food Program: This program provides essential food and nutrition services to licensed and license exempt child care providers. However, the reimbursement rate has not kept pace with the cost of food, and the paperwork is burdensome and a deterrent to participation. We MUST improve this program to ensure that our children have healthy and meals and snacks when they are in care.