



2019 Public Policy Platform¹

VISION

The Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council is a guiding force for excellence in early care and education of all children and regularly sought out for our expertise by local, state and national decision makers.

MISSION

The Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council advises and makes recommendations to policymakers to ensure that all children and families have access to quality child care that educates children and enriches their lives.

Long Term Desired Result:

All Alameda County Children Enter School Ready to Learn*

Strategies to Support Result:

Expand Access to Quality** Early Care and Education

- 1) Initiate and promote efforts to protect and increase local, state, federal and private funding for Early Care and Education (ECE) ~~and~~ prioritizing infants and toddlers.
- 2) Monitor, take positions and make recommendations on federal, state and local issues, legislation, regulations, administration and initiatives that significantly impact ECE including but not limited to racial disparities in **quality, access and affordability**.
- 3) Support increasing spectrum of family engagement and family leadership opportunities in ECE.
- 4) **Advocate for family centered, inclusive, developmentally and culturally** appropriate practices for all children in all Early Care and Education programs.**
- 5) Specifically, in 2019 The Planning Council will advocate to:
 - A. ~~Support~~ legislative efforts to ~~further ensure-align and ensure~~ successful implementation of the AB 833 pilot, scaling policies covered in the pilot to the bay area region and across the state.
 - B. Significantly expand ECE funding, access and services for all income eligible children and families with special focus on:
 - a. Equity
 - b. Meeting the needs of:
 - i. Infants and toddlers;
 - ii. Vulnerable children and families, including: immigrants, those experiencing homelessness, children with special needs, or families connected to the Child Welfare system;
 - c. Eradicating racial disparities and structural, policy and institutional barriers
 - d. Eliminating child care deserts

Commented [CS1]: Is there a particular reason for this being bold? (this includes bolding quality, access and affordability). If it is because it is important and needs to be called out, we should consider moving this higher.

Commented [JM2]: Jennifers recommendation makes sense of me

Access

- C. Protect and increase child care access for children with special needs, immigrant, homeless, ~~and~~ foster care families and children in poverty
- D. Promote consumer education and utilization of CalWORKs child care including, but not limited to: simplified eligibility, increased service navigation, and coordination

¹ Note: "child care" and "early care and education" both refer to care of infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school age children by a licensed or legally license-exempt child care provider or program.

- E. Continue to increase Standard Reimbursement and Regional Market Rates until these rates match the cost of care
- F. Streamline and create efficiencies such as coordinated regulatory, contracting and reimbursement processes within the current federal, state and local programs
- G. Integrate child care in County place based strategies that concentrate resources and investments in communities with the highest level of need
- H. Retain and protect 21st Century Learning Center funding
- I. ~~Promote the restoration and refinement of~~ Restore the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL)
- J. Restore the Alternative Payment agency support services rate
- K. Advocate for 24 month eligibility redetermination for all child care subsidies

Quality/Health, Safety and Environmental Health

- L. Continue to improve quality in early care and education, addressing: facilities; health, safety and environmental health; workforce wages and professional development; and the Quality Rating and Improvement System
- M. Increase timely inspections, and frequency of Community Care Licensing visits to annual visits (aligns with County Social Services Agency)

Quality/Workforce

- N. Increase ECE professional development including, but not limited to:
 - a. Dedicated paid days for training
 - b. Increased workforce compensation and benefits to reflect the professional work of the field
 - c. Education, succession planning, and career pathways

Quality/Support Services

- O. Increase mental and behavioral health resources and connections with ECE programs
- P. Increase funding for navigators (including at Resource and Referral agencies) for vulnerable families
- Q. Increase funding for Local Planning Councils and preserve local flexibility
- Q-R. Support funds for infrastructures which promote collective impact and systems alignment to better serve Alameda County's children and families

Commented [JM3]: I like this I think she means funding- not funder

Commented [CJS4]: Heavily uplifted in the SSA Legislative Breakfast, feel free to reword or adjust as necessary.

* Definition of Ready to Learn: Self-care and motor skills, self-regulation, social expression, and pre-kindergarten academics such as recognizes letters, shapes, colors, rhyming words, as defined by Applied Survey Research (ASR) through developmentally appropriate practices.

** Quality programs have research based philosophy, educators continually learning, formal and informal program evaluation, support parents' need for employment or education, consider community needs and may participate in Quality Rating and Improvement System

*** See NAEYC statement on developmentally appropriate practices and Alameda County ECEPC Statement on Culturally Responsive Early Care and Education

Planning Council Goals:

The overarching goal is to increase access to quality early care and education through Steering Committee action to support retained/increased ECE access, facilities funds, quality funds, and percentage of teachers with improved practice.

Commented [CJS5]: Not certain what we mean here about quality funds?

Commented [JM6]: Perhaps we should say QRIS and other PD funding

Planning Council functions and responsibilities:

The Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council is a legislatively mandated body that advises the County Board of Supervisors and County Superintendent of Schools on child care program and policy issues, conducts research and analysis, makes recommendations on California Department of Education funding, and coordinates county wide projects to assist in the development of child care. The Planning Council has an inclusive **General Membership** of more than 250 individuals. **Everyone willing to work for child care is welcome and encouraged to become a General Member.**

Planning Council Steering Committee functions and responsibilities:

The Planning Council's **Steering Committee** is a voting membership of 25 individuals representing consumers, providers, public agencies, the community, and discretionary members. Fifty percent (50%) of the Steering Committee is appointed by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and 50% by the Alameda County Superintendent of Schools. Committee Members serve three year terms. The Steering Committee is responsible for successful functioning of the Council.

Examples of Relevant Programs/Funding Streams

Federal:

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) investments
Child and Adult Care Food Program
Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Early Learning Challenge Fund Grants in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
Early Head Start
Head Start
Race to the Top
Social Services Block Grant
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
Title I

State:

Alternative Payment programs
Bridge Loans for state contracted programs
CalWORKs and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
Child Care Planning Council funding
Child care support for children with special needs/Early Start program
Community Care Licensing
Community College campus based lab schools
Early Care and Education professional development (AB212, CARES)
Early childhood mental health programs/Proposition 63
Early Head Start
Early Learning Quality Improvement System (ELQIS)
Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)
Facility financing
First Five State Commission
Head Start
Public and private funding resources
Resource and referral agencies
Subsidized child care funding:
 Title V programs such as California State Preschool Program (CSPP)
 Title I preschools
 California School Age Families Education (CalSAFE)
School age child care programs such as:
 21st Century Community Learning Centers
 Afterschool Education and Safety Program (ASES)
Stage 3 Subsidies

Local:

Business planning
Community planning and regulations
Facility financing (also mentioned above)
First Five Alameda County
Land use issues
Public and private resources