



Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council 2016 Public Policy Platform¹

MISSION STATEMENT

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

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PLANNING COUNCIL'S PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA 2016

- 1) Initiate and promote efforts to protect and increase local, state, federal and private funding for Early Care and Education (ECE)—prioritizing infants and toddlers.
- 2) Monitor, take positions and make recommendations on federal, state and local issues, legislation and initiatives that significantly impact ECE **quality, access and affordability**.
- 3) Advocate for family centered, inclusive, developmentally and culturally** appropriate practices for all children in care as well as those in transitional kindergarten.
- 4) Specifically, in 2016 The Planning Council will advocate to:
 - a) Reinvest in ECE access, including increased funding for infant/toddler care and serving all eligible families
 - b) Increase Standard Reimbursement and Regional Market Rates
 - c) Streamlining and efficiencies such as coordinated regulatory, contracting and reimbursement processes within the current federal and state programs
 - d) Improve quality in early care and education
 - e) Increase ECE professional development with a possible focus to dedicate paid days of training for staff at Title 5 contracted centers and compensation to reflect professional work of the field
 - g) Restore the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL)
 - h) Increase the frequency of Community Care Licensing Visits
 - i) Increase funding for Local Planning Councils
 - j) Increase the Alternative Payment agency administration rate
 - k) Update the income guidelines to use most recent census income data
 - l) Allow one year eligibility for community college students with child care subsidy
 - m) Allow for CalWORKs parent volunteering in child care programs to count towards work requirements

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 while parents or other relative caregivers work or are engaged in work-related activities.

- n) Base income eligibility on net income, not gross income or gross income minus taxes
- o) Increase mental health resources and connections with ECE programs

* Definition of Ready to Learn: Self-regulation, social expression, self-care and motor skills, kindergarten academics.

** 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

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/Every Child Counts
Land use issues
Public and private resources