



**Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council
2017-2018 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.

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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

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**THE ALAMEDA COUNTY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PLANNING COUNCIL'S PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA
2017**

- 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, regulations, administration and ~~and~~ initiatives that significantly impact ECE **quality, access and affordability**.
- 2) Support increasing spectrum of family engagement and family leadership opportunities in ECE.
- 3)4) **Advocate for family centered, inclusive, developmentally and culturally** appropriate practices for all children in all Early Care and Education** ~~care as well as those in transitional kindergarten in all programs programs.~~
- 4)5) Specifically, in 2018~~7~~ The Planning Council will advocate to:
 - A. Support legislative efforts to support successful implementation of the AB 833 pilot, ~~including~~ scaling policies covered in the pilot to the bay area region and across the state.
 - B. Significantly Continue to expand ECE funding, access and services for all income eligible children and families with special focus on
 - C. Meeting the needs of vulnerable families, including increased funding for:

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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.

- i. ~~funding for infants and toddlers care;~~
 - ii. ~~Vulnerable access and services to meet the needs of children and families including immigrants, those experiencing homelessness, children in poverty, children with special needs, or families connected to the Child Welfare system, families;~~
 - iii. ~~access and services for children in immigrant families~~
 - iv. ~~access for children connected to the Child Welfare system~~
 - v. ~~Eliminating racial disparities in access~~
 - b. ~~Eliminating child care deserts~~
 - vii. ~~children with special needs~~
 - and access for all income eligible and homeless families
- b) **Access**
- D. ~~Protect and increase child care access for immigrant, homeless and foster care families; access to child care and children in poverty~~
 - Allow income eligibility guidelines to be waived for Alternative Payment vouchers and Title 5 contracts for up to 10% of families who have children with special needs
 - E. ~~Promote utilization of CalWORKs child care including through simplified eligibility, increased service navigation, and coordination~~
 - f) Continue to increase Standard Reimbursement and Regional Market Rates
 - G. Streamline and create efficiencies such as coordinated regulatory, contracting and reimbursement processes within the current federal and state and local programs
 - H. ~~Integrate child care in County place based strategies that concentrate resources and investments in communities with the highest level of need~~
 - ~~Promote utilization of CalWORKs child care through simplified eligibility, increased service navigation, and coordination~~
 - ~~Expand and protect the Central Learning Center funding~~
 - I. Restore the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL)
 - K. Restore the Alternative Payment agency support services rate
 - L. Advocate for 24 month eligibility redetermination for all child care subsidies
 - ~~Allow income eligibility guidelines to be waived for Alternative Payment vouchers and Title 5 contracts for up to 10% of families who have children with special needs~~
- e) **Quality/Health, Safety and Environmental Health**
- M. Continue to improve quality in early care and education, including addressing facilities, ~~health including environmental health and safety, workforce, staff compensation, wages and professional development~~ and Quality Rating and Improvement System funding
 - N. Increase ~~workforce compensation and~~ the frequency of Community Care Licensing visits to annual visits (aligns with County Social Services Agency)
- e) **Quality/Workforce**
- O. Increase ECE professional development including but not limited to:
 - a. ~~Dedicating paid days for training for staff~~
 - e) ~~Increased workforce compensation and benefits to reflect the professional work of the field~~
 - c. ~~Advocating and career pathways~~
- f) Increase workforce staff compensation and benefits to reflect the professional work of the field
- h) Restore the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL)
 - i) Increase the frequency of Community Care Licensing visits to annual visits (aligns with County Social Services Agency)
 - j) Increase funding for Local Planning Councils and preserve local flexibility
 - k) Restore the Alternative Payment agency support services rate
 - l) Update the income guidelines to use most recent census income data
 - m) Allow 24 month eligibility redetermination for all child care subsidies
 - n) Allow income eligibility guidelines to be waived for Alternative Payment vouchers and Title 5 contracts for up to 10% of families who have children with special needs

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- o) Allow CalWORKs parent volunteering in child care programs to count towards work requirements
- p) Base income eligibility on net income, not gross income or gross income minus taxes

Quality/Support Services

- r) ~~Increase mental health resources and connections with ECE programs~~
- s) ~~Increase funding for providers, including all Resource and Referral agencies for vulnerable families~~
- t) Increase funding for Local Planning Councils and preserve local flexibility

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

** 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

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Planning Council Vision, Mission and Goals:

~~Our vision is to be a guiding force for excellence in the care and education of all children and to be regularly sought out for our expertise by local, state and national decision makers. The mission of the Planning Council is to advise and make recommendations to policymakers to ensure that all children and families have access to quality child care that educates children and enriches their lives. Our overarching goal is to increase access to quality early care and education through Steering Committee action by (not in priority order) : educate and advocate on policy issues and legislation that impact children, families and child care providers; retain and increase funding; support the child care community in meeting the needs of our diverse child and family populations; and strengthen internal knowledge and increase external awareness of the Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council.~~

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 categories listed below. 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 ~~Every Child Counts~~
Land use issues
Public and private resources