

Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council 2017 Federal Funding Priorities

All children and families should have access to affordable, high-quality culturally competent child care regardless of their income, where they live, their special needs, or immigration status. All children must have a safe and healthy place to learn and thrive and where all domains of their development are nurtured. Their teachers must be well-qualified and well-paid and the necessary investments for quality and infrastructure must be maintained.

We commit to providing background information on how specific federal proposals in each of these areas will impact children, families, providers, agencies and Alameda County broadly. We will include analysis of their concrete impacts and their impact on our goals and including their impact on income inequality and gender and racial disparities. We plan to provide updates to our elected Senators, Members of the House of Representatives and State Legislators as federal proposal are developed.

1. Expand the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the major federal child care program, to make child care assistance available to all eligible low- and moderate-income families who need it
2. Stabilize and increase funding for Head Start and Early Head Start to expand access for the nation's most vulnerable children and families, especially for infants and toddlers.
3. Expand IDEA funding. The Federal government committed in 1975 to cover 40% of expenditures, but today cover only 16% of funding. (Need to verify 16%).
4. Expand funding for TANF including funds available for early care and education.
5. Avoid the detrimental impacts of sequestration or other across the board funding cuts for CCDBG, Head Start, TANF and IDEA.
6. Oppose proposal that will push children into poverty and jeopardize their well- being including their access to food, shelter and health care.
7. Oppose immigration policies that will divide parents and families, penalize children or deny them access to early care and education.
8. Increase payment rates to child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance and address the Head Start workforce crisis.
9. Make the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) refundable so that it is available to more low- and moderate-income families, increase the CDCTC's sliding scale so that it provides more assistance to middle-class families, and raise the expense limits so that it covers a greater proportion of families' child care costs. .