

May 20, 2018

Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

Thank you for your continued stewardship of our public investments. As we noted in our January letter, we appreciate your early care and education proposals to increase Title 5 rates, sustain last year's voucher rate increase, and add funding to increase support for inclusive child care.

However, in Alameda County, our soon to be finalized annual zip code survey shows that there are over 20,000 0-2 year olds who qualify for subsidized ECE but do not have access to vouchers or subsidized slots. We are also concerned about the lack of ECE access for hundreds of homeless children. Our County has recently made investments to cover the gap and has placed a half percent sales tax to significantly increase ECE access and quality on the June 5<sup>th</sup> ballot. For equity issues, the state needs to champion reinvestment in our ECE system to stimulate the economy and children's brain development for generations to come.

In this time of booming state revenue, we request that you make new investments in this budget to:

- increase funding for infant and toddler spaces
- increase infant reimbursement rates (or "the adjustment factor")
- increase ECE for vulnerable populations such as families experiencing homelessness
- provide ECE staff in contracted programs with two days at a minimum of paid professional development
- if adopted by the Joint Budget Committee, accept Senate Budget Subcommittee 1 actions to:
  - turn the Revolving Loan Fund into grants
  - increase Alternative Payment rates and family, friend, and neighbor care ratesIncreased reimbursement rates for licensed programs are pivotal for giving programs more adequate resources to increase staff wages for recruitment and retention

We remain concerned about the lack of public deliberation and hearing for the last budget's proposed exemption of School District run state preschool programs from basic health and safety requirements and especially the possible lack of a viable parent complaint process.

We also look forward to working with the California Department of Education in the next few months to implement federal CCDBG revenue that does not supplant current state funding per federal directive and offer our County's large ECE field as ongoing partners in budget and policy discussions.

Sincerely,

Renee S. Herzfeld  
Chair