



### Action Items for the 7/18/14 Planning Council Meeting

#### **Action Item #1: Support (if Amended) SB 837 (Steinberg)**

Recommended by the Public Policy Committee

**Background:** The recently signed state budget designated \$25 million in one time professional development funds for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) teachers and subsidized State Preschool teachers. (There are an estimated 120-130 TK staff in Alameda County and approximately 800 state preschool staff). This bill “allocates these funds” (provides basic governing language) in two categories. Ten million will be used for professional development and \$15 million will be used for a stipend program with TK staff at the first priority. It also requires the state to consult with entities including the California Community Colleges and Resource and Referral (R and R) agencies to administer the funds. This money is one-time only and is intended to be allocated over a three year period, with \$5 million additional dollars per year.

According to budget discussions, the intent is to use AB 212 as a mechanism to distribute the funds. Local Planning Councils have been contracting with the State Department of Education to administer the AB 212 funds for 14 years. This appropriation is expected to restore the program to 2009 levels, while expanding the scope to include TK staff. The ACECPC currently receives \$699,391 annually which it distributes to a range of subsidized ECE providers.

**Pros:** This is a significant influx of professional development resources and by supporting the bill *and requesting an amendment to require that the State Department of Education to consult with Local Planning Councils (LPCs)* in addition to the other entities listed. Adding this language would leverage Alameda County ECEPCs extensive and highly regarded work.

**Cons:** This bill is still very vague in terms of program specifics so it is clear a number of details need to be worked out beyond required consultation partners. Like much of the new money in this budget, it also does not support training for school age, infant, or toddler care ECE staff.

**Next Steps:** If the Council approves support, ECEPC staff will send a letter of support and submit a request for the County’s lobbyist to support this bill in Sacramento.