



Action Items Background for the July 17, 2020 Planning Council Meeting

Action Item #1: Approve Annual Zip Code Priorities

Recommended by the State Contractors & Public Policy Committees

Background: Performance Measures #1, 2 and 3. As required by California law, the Early Care and Education Planning Council annually submits updated zip code priorities based on local, state and federal data that is dictated by the California Department of Education. The Planning Council is required to provide local funding priorities to the California Department of Education's Early Education and Support Division to help them prioritize the distribution of any new state general child care (e.g. infant/toddler and school-age) and new preschool funding based on direct impact indicators of Priority 1, 2 or 3. Programs must first voluntarily apply for the expansion funds, if available.

Pros: In the event of additional state funds for contractors, these zip code priorities may allow the state to align awards with areas of the County with identified gaps and needs of services and target funding resources accordingly.

Cons: Some communities once identified at a higher priority may no longer fit the criteria from one year to the next. Additionally, there may be great variation in need within a zip code so the requirement to use and provide zip code data can be problematic. The Public Policy Committee and many other County Planning Councils have expressed concerns about using two year old data and zip code level data over the years. This is an issue that can be addressed through state advocacy and conversations with Department of Education planners.

Next Steps: Support forwarding the identified zip code priorities to the California Department of Education and submit by the August 1 deadline. The Board of Supervisors will review and approve the priorities at a future meeting, and the County Superintendent of Schools will have to sign off as well. The Public Policy Committee has requested that the information is presented with the qualification that zip code level data is so broad that it has limitations when using it to target funds.

Action Item #3: Approve County Request to State Legislative Delegation to Sign Onto Letter Requiring Retention of Portion of Child Care Infrastructure Funds

Recommended by the Public Policy Committee

Background: Planning Council Performance Measures: #1 Increased ECE Access, #2 Increased Facilities Funds, #3 Increased Quality Funds

The State's FY 19-20 Budget included \$263 million in child care infrastructure grants to help child care providers address important facilities needs. However, this funding was rescinded in the recently passed FY 20-21 Budget. Facilities funds are critical for ensuring ECE quality and access, and many providers, including providers in Alameda County, were counting on these funds for projects that are either already in progress or are soon to begin. Given this need, Assemblymember David Chiu (CA-17) is requesting that Governor Newsom and the State Legislature reinstate \$50 million in infrastructure grants for projects that are in progress or shovel-ready, as well as for providers to make necessary facilities modifications to meet important COVID health & safety guidelines. Assemblymember Chiu is asking that other State legislators sign on to a letter which includes this request and explains the importance of ECE infrastructure, particularly during COVID-19. The Public Policy Committee recommends obtaining approval from the County's Policy Committee to engage in advocacy with the County's

State Legislative Delegation to ask them to sign on to Assemblymember Chiu's letter. Thus far, Assemblymembers Buffy Wicks (CA-15) and Rob Bonta (CA-18) have already signed on.

Pros: Approving the County Request to the State Legislative Delegation will operationalize the LPC's commitment to improving ECE infrastructure and access. Increased facilities funds are precursors to expansion and quality and are especially important as providers face necessary facility modifications to meet COVID-19 health & safety guidelines. This will also further our efforts to influence State ECE funding and policy.

Cons: By forgoing this outreach, providers in the County with infrastructure projects already in progress may not be able to continue, limiting their ability to serve children. Further, the Planning Council may potentially miss future opportunities for synergistic progress on behalf of our countywide efforts to advance ECE performance measures.

Next Steps: Vote to approve the request to the County's Policy Committee to engage in advocacy with our State Legislative Delegation. ECE staff would take the request to the Policy Committee and if approved, the County Lobbyist would support outreach with elected officials.

Action Item #4: Approve County Request to Support Federal Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act, Moving Forward Act, and Child Care for Economic Recovery Act

Recommended by the Public Policy Committee

Background: Planning Council Performance Measures: #1 Increased ECE Access, #2 Increased Facilities Funds, #3 Increased Quality Funds

At the Federal level, several bills have been introduced to increase funding for ECE. These include:

- Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act (CCCERA): Establishes a \$50 billion Child Care Stabilization Fund which would provide funding to providers in need of support during and after COVID-19; establishes a \$33 billion Governor's Trust Fund for ECE, K-12, and higher education; and includes other education supports to address the current crisis.
- Moving Forward Act (HR 2): Includes \$10 billion for child care infrastructure needs over four years, among other infrastructure investments.
- Child Care for Economic Recovery Act (HR 7327): Includes \$10 billion for child care infrastructure; increases funds to the Child Care Entitlement to States program; provides a new refundable payroll tax credit for child care providers; and includes other supports for child care.

The Public Policy Committee recommends that the LPC approve a County request to support these bills, through the County's Federal lobbyist.

Pros: These bills would significantly increase funding for ECE at a time when child care providers need additional and immediate support to continue providing care during the COVID-19 emergency. Congress is likely to discuss additional COVID-19 relief to states in the coming weeks and it is important that child care be included in the discussion. Child care is currently a bipartisan issue at the federal level.

Cons: By forgoing advocacy on these bills, it is possible that the ECE system will not see additional federal investment during the COVID-19 public health crisis. The LPC would also miss an opportunity to align with local and state ECE advocates calling on the Federal government to increase support for child care during this time.

Next Steps: Vote to approve the submission of a County Request for Support.