President Obama’s Proposal to Expand Access to Early Childhood Education

Presentation to the Alameda County Child Care Planning Council

March 15, 2013
Presentation Overview

1. Highlights of the President’s Proposal
2. Small Group Exercise
Three Main Components:

- Expanding Early Childhood Education for Preschoolers
- Expanding Early Head Start
- Expanding Home Visiting
- “Administration remains strongly committed to focusing on the whole child”
Expanding Early Childhood Education for Preschoolers

- New federal-state partnership to provide all low- and moderate-income four-year old children with high-quality preschool;

- Expanding these programs to reach additional children from middle class families;

- Incentivizing full-day kindergarten policies;

- Financed through a cost-sharing partnership with states;

- Targeted to four years olds under 200% of poverty.
Expanding Early Childhood Education for Preschoolers

- Allocated to states based on number of low-income four year olds;

- Distributed to school districts AND other partner providers;

- Includes incentive to states to expand services to middle income families;

- In order to access funds, states would be required to meet quality benchmarks.
Required Quality Benchmarks for ECE Expansion

- State-level standards for early learning;
- Qualified teachers for all preschool classrooms;
- A plan to implement comprehensive data and assessment systems.
Preschool programs across the states would meet common and consistent standards for quality across all programs, including:

- Well-trained teachers, who are paid comparably to K-12 staff;
- Small class sizes and low adult to child ratios;
- A rigorous curriculum;
- Comprehensive health and related services;
- Effective evaluation and review of programs.
Only 6 out of 10 of America’s kindergarten students have access to a full day of learning.

Funds may also be used to expand full-day kindergarten once states have provided preschool education to low- and moderate-income four year-olds.
Early Head Start Expansion

- New Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program
  - Children birth to age 3
  - New, full-day services
  - Prepare children for transition into preschool
Expanding Home Visiting

- Expansion of the Administration’s evidence-based home visiting initiative

- Voluntary programs that provide nurses, social workers, and other professionals to meet with at-risk families in their homes and connect them to assistance that impacts a child’s health, development, and ability to learn.