

2018 CCRC Policy Priorities

The Child Care Resource Center is a non-profit child and family service agency serving the San Fernando, Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley regions of Los Angeles County and all of San Bernardino County. We support the State's ongoing investment in the early care and education delivery system. In our efforts to build effective systems of support for children and families in our communities we recommend these policy priorities:

1. **Accessibility:** Increase funding for more child care spaces.
 - a. Preserve and increase subsidies in flexible child care spaces, through the **Alternative Payment Program (AP)**. Prioritize these investment for families with infants and toddlers but ensure language is included to allow them to serve all income eligible children (birth to 12) once that need is exhausted.
 - b. Seek new and expanded funding options to increase access for children engaged in the **child welfare system** to child care services while preserving services to children from working families.
 - c. Support the maintenance of current California **State Preschool** dollars as part of the state's investment in early childhood programs. As four-year-old children begin to shift to Transitional Kindergarten, advocate for dollars to shift to caring for infants and toddlers through the Alternative Payment Program.
 - d. Prioritize funding toward programs, which meet the needs of California's families.
2. **Affordability:** Continue to increase rates to allow parents access to most child care options.
 - a. Simplify reimbursement rates for all subsidized care and move toward a single reimbursement structure based on market forces and tiered to support higher quality of care.
 - b. Continue and expand investments in provider Reimbursement Rates for all types of providers to reflect the current cost of care and increasing minimum wage in California. Support the legislative intent to move to the 85th percentile of the current **Regional Market Rate Survey**.
 - c. Seek expanded eligibility for Head Start programs in California, which reflect our state's higher cost of living, rather than the Federal Poverty Level.
3. **Quality:** Invest in the development of high quality care.
 - a. Support the expansion of the **role of Resource and Referral Programs** in recruitment and training of child care providers. Advocate for expanded funding for **training, apprenticeship and mentor-coaching models**, including for Family Friend and Neighbor (license exempt) providers.
 - b. Support the development of a single center based license and **licensing visits** and oversight for all licensed child care programs.
 - c. Support the further development of **Family Child Care Home Education Networks** in California to expand quality care options for families, especially those with children birth through three years.
 - d. Expand Quality Improvement Program efforts, which enhance the practice of all providers in all settings.
4. **Family Engagement:** Advocate for program investments, which provide effective consumer education and access to services, supporting healthy child and family development.
 - a. Invest in the **Resource and Referral infrastructure** in California to expand the availability of **community-based support for families**.
 - b. Continue and expand state investment in Child Care Resource and Referral Programs and the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network to support the development of systems to facilitate data collection, analysis and consumer education.
 - c. Advocate for efforts to engage with at risk families in local communities through programs including **child welfare, home visiting** and expansion of services to **homeless families**.
 - d. Ensure the definition of home visiting services encompass models beyond the Nurse Family Partnership to enable broader reach of these critical services to new parents.