

## 2023 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 the entirety of San Bernardino County. We work to achieve our agency mission to cultivate child, family and community well-being through collaborative partnerships and coalition work at the local, state and federal levels.

Our policy priorities support our agency's vision of strong and resilient children and families living in thriving communities. As California's child care system works to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical to stabilize, restore and expand supports that meet the needs of all children and families to ensure our health and economic recovery. Furthermore, CCRC strives to advance equitable policy solutions that uplifts the well-being of all, as well as disrupt systemic barriers of historically marginalized, under-resourced, and underserved communities. These well-being conditions includes but is not limited to race/ethnicity, lived experiences, language, gender, social-economic status, and community of residence.

### Strong and Resilient Children and Families

- Sustain and expand child care subsidies to move toward broader access and equity for all California families. Advocate for funding to preserve and increase flexible options for working families in our 24/7 economy. Reform family fee structure and preserve services for children to support family economic well-being.
- Promote an emergency response model. Support investment for an expanded fund to provide for the child care needs of families in crisis, including families experiencing homelessness or domestic violence, children engaged in the child welfare system, unaccompanied minors, and children and families with refugee status.
- Advocate for enhanced mental health and other child/family supports for our youngest learners and the child care providers who care for them.

### Supportive and Connected Communities

- Support the child care and early learning community to provide services to children and families.
  - Support the implementation of a single child care reimbursement structure for all provider types to reflect the current cost of care. Support reforms to the reimbursement rate model to ensure all providers are adequately compensated
  - Promote expanded access to support, resources, and training to stabilize and strengthen the full early childhood workforce beginning with family, friend, and neighbor caregivers. Include innovative models such as virtual services and apprenticeship models.
- Support mixed delivery system for Universal Preschool and Transitional Kindergarten expansion
  - Work collaboratively with state and local education agencies to provide services that meet the full-day, full-year needs of families.
  - Support programs that create career pathways for child care workforce to build jobs in all early childhood settings.
- Support the development of local, community-based partnerships to expand child and family services.
  - Work collaboratively at the state and local levels to align a broad array of support services including home visiting, Help Me Grow, health care access and trauma informed practices to meet the needs of children, families and the early childhood workforce.
  - Identify partners in the health, nutrition and mental health communities to expand program options for maternal and child health and resources.

## **Sustained Public and Political Will**

- Continue collaborative relationships with state departments to actively provide policy guidance and recommendations.
- Advocate for a system that supports the whole child and family, parent resilience, and strong parent-child relationships.
- Support the expansion of prevention and early intervention infrastructure, including paid family leave, home visiting, developmental screenings, and services for developmental delays.
- Seek opportunities across programs to maximize federal eligibility and resources to reflect the needs of California families.
- Engage and educate parents and child care providers on existing and proposed programs, family and child rights and responsibilities.