



April 9, 2021

Governor Newsom
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

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State Superintendent of Public Instruction
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California State Senate
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The Early Care and Education (ECE) Coalition envisions child care and early childhood education systems that serve and meet the diverse needs of all children, families and ECE professionals, especially Black, Latinx, Indigenous people and others harmed by systemic racism and additional injustices; integrate culturally, developmentally, and linguistically relevant and responsive high-quality care and education for children, inclusive of children with disabilities; and value and justly compensate all who serve children and families.

To achieve this vision, the Coalition advocates for state budget investments and policies that promote equity by serving the highest-need children first, are informed by current research and promising practices, and are led by the expertise of families and ECE professionals.

The investments outlined in this letter will help mitigate the disparate impact that communities of color face on a daily basis when it comes to child care in California. **These funds will strengthen and expand a comprehensive child care system that is equitable, affordable, accessible, meets families' needs, and pays providers a fair wage.**

Direct Services:

- \$435 million in on-going general fund and federal fund dollars for a rate increase to bring all child care providers to the 2018 regional market rate level;
- \$1.75 billion for child care spaces with family fees waived (including Title 5 programs, contracted centers, family child care homes, AP providers & family friend neighbor providers)
 - \$750 million in on-going general fund and federal fund dollars
 - \$1 billion in one-time federal fund dollars over three years;
- \$325 million in one-time federal fund dollars to cover all family fees through September 2024;
- Ensuring providers are paid on an enrollment basis through September 2024.

Infrastructure Supports:

- \$825 million in one-time general fund and federal fund dollars for facilities including comprehensive services for families ex: wellness hubs; re-opening and new child care provider grants;
- \$275 million in general fund and federal fund dollars to support professional development;
- \$1.875 billion in one-time federal fund dollars for child care provider stipends and incentive grants to reach our neediest communities;
- \$105 million in various funding to support and stabilize our child care infrastructure.

Women are leaving the workforce

The COVID-19 pandemic has sharply illuminated what every working family already knew, Child Care IS Essential. According to the [National Women's Law Center](#), more than 2.3 million women have left the labor market entirely since the beginning of the pandemic in the United States. [Lean In and the McKinsey & Co](#) estimate that 1 in 4 women are considering leaving the workforce or downshifting their careers due to the impact of COVID-19.

Black and Latinx women are bearing the brunt of this crisis

The pandemic has exposed the reality that women, particularly Black and Latinx women, have lost the most during this economic downturn. According to [Child Trends](#), Twenty-nine percent of Latinx and thirty-one percent of Black families with children are facing three or more economic and health-related

hardships during the pandemic. This means that Latinx and Black families with children are experiencing three or more hardships at nearly twice the rate of their White and Asian counterparts (13% and 16%, respectively).

Child care infrastructure is on the brink of collapse

According to the [Resource and Referral Network](#) in California 33% of licensed child care centers and 14% of licensed family child care homes have closed their doors since the start of the pandemic. This represents a significant loss of an already precarious private and state supported child care capacity. [The UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Child Care Employment](#), determined that nationwide, the child care workforce shrank by 20%, nearly 200,000 child care workers, within the first six months of the pandemic. **California's child care system, which is overwhelmingly served by Black, Latinx, and immigrant women, has for decades persistently functioned in low-wage survival mode barely able to make it from year-to-year.**

From our collective experiences, during the pandemic, we know that child care is not only vital for children and families to thrive, but is an essential element in the future of the California economy. The ECE Coalition developed this budget request with working parents in both the private and state-support system, a broad array of child care providers, and child advocacy groups. Based on our shared experience, we believe the Coalition's budget recommendation will stabilize our child care system, to get families back to work, and ensure California's sustained economic growth.

Sincerely,
ECE Coalition

Cc:

Keely Martin Bosler, Director, Department of Finance,
Kim Johnson, Director, Department of Social Services
Sarah Neville-Morgan, Deputy Superintendent, California Department of Education
Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget Committee
Assemblymember, Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee