



OVERVIEW

Early care and education is a cornerstone for a child's healthy development and future well-being. All children deserve access to high-quality early learning environments that promote their growth and development so they thrive. Located within the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education envisions a world where children are healthy, thriving and have equitable opportunities to achieve optimal development and succeed in life. Its mission is to lead, build, and strengthen an affordable and high-quality early care and education system for the children and families in Los Angeles County. As a united approach, the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education embraces a shared vision and mission with the two stakeholder bodies it convenes, the County's Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development and the Child Care Planning Committee.

PROGRAM AND PROJECTS

Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable) – Established in 2000, the Roundtable is a Board of Supervisors appointed body comprised of 25 community leaders in early childhood, education, business, economics, and research and representatives of County Departments including Child and Family Services, Mental Health, Probation, Public Health, Public Social Services, and Parks and Recreation. The Roundtable is convened by the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education and charged with developing policy recommendations for elevation to the Board of Supervisors, advising County departments on early care and education programs, and identifying strategies to secure, coordinate, and maximize funding for high quality services.

Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) – The Planning Committee is Los Angeles County's state mandated Local Child Care and Development Planning Council (LPC) funded by the California Department of Education (CDE). Established as the County's LPC in 1991, the Planning Committee is staffed by the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education and is comprised of 50 members including parents/consumers, early educators, board appointees and representatives of public agencies, community-based organizations, higher education, and resource and referral agencies. The State requires the Planning Committee to conduct county-wide needs assessments comparing the supply with the demand for early care and education services and engage in planning to address access to quality, affordable early care and education.

Workforce Pathways LA –Based on the legacy of the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program (AB 212), Workforce Pathways LA is a comprehensive workforce development model that works in partnership with Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA), the County-wide quality improvement consortium. The project supports participants along the career lattice with a focus on three areas: licensing/health and safety; professional development, permits, and degrees; and workforce systems improvement. Workforce Pathways LA includes financial incentives for achieving milestones along the career lattice and professional development and career advisement targeted to early educators inclusive of family, friend and neighbor care, family child care providers, and center-based staff working directly with children and their families.



County Employee Child Care and Development Centers – Throughout the community, various Los Angeles County Departments partner with early care and education centers to support child care for County employees. The Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education assists County departments in developing employee child care and development services. There are currently 14 County child care and development programs. The programs offer quality services in center-based programs to children from six weeks to six years of age.

Public Policy

Policy and systems improvement are at the core of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education's work. As such, the office keeps abreast of research, economic trends, demographic shifts and trends, and Federal and State legislation to develop recommended actions for consideration by the Board of Supervisors on issues relating to early care and education.

Research and Publications

As a data hub for Los Angeles County's early care and education community, the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education oversees research and the development of reports that tackle issues relating to enhancing the quality of early care and education programs. The Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education manages a website with current information on the activities as outlined in this overview, as well as helpful resources on an array of issues including but not limited to: regulatory compliance; child care resource and referral agencies; assessing and enhancing quality; identification and inclusion of children with special needs; navigating the early care and education system and subsidy programs; professional development; data, research, and policy; financing, funding, and technical assistance; professional associations and collaboratives; and connecting families to community resources. In addition, the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education shares e-mail alerts on a variety of events, policy issues and topics relating to early care and education to listserv subscribers.

For more information on the work of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, located within the Health Promotion Bureau of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and on behalf of the Roundtable and Planning Committee, call (213) 639-6202 or visit our website at childcare.lacounty.gov.