

# Childcare: A Protective Factor for Young Children and Their Families

March 9, 2022



# OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- Role of the Office for the Advancement for Early Care and Education
- Shared Vision and Mission
- Community Engagement
- Advancing Public Policy



# ROLE OF THE OFFICE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ECE

- Located within the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Staff two County bodies
  - ❑ Child Care Planning Committee
  - ❑ Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development
- Advise the County Child Care and Development Employee Centers
- Coordinate COVID-19 Resources



# VISION AND MISSION

## VISION STATEMENT

*Children are healthy, thriving and have equitable opportunities to achieve optimal development and succeed in life.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Lead, build and strengthen an affordable and high-quality early care and education system for the children and families of Los Angeles County.*

County of Los Angeles – A Unified Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education 2020-2025. [https://childcare.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/OAECE-Strategic-Plan\\_2020-2025.pdf](https://childcare.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/OAECE-Strategic-Plan_2020-2025.pdf)



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**ACCESS** – Increase access for children birth to 5 years of age and out of school are for children thru 12 years old.

**QUALITY** – Strengthen the quality, especially for children most in need.

**WORKFORCE** – Improve their compensation and qualifications

**FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES** – Increase engagement of parents, caregivers and communities



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Child Care Planning Committee

- ❑ 50 members – parents/consumers, early educators, community and public agency representatives, R&R, higher education, Board appointees
- ❑ Mandates/Deliverables – needs assessment, priority setting for subsidized services, countywide comprehensive plan
- ❑ Other Activities – Workforce Pathways LA, Universal Prekindergarten and the Mixed Delivery System



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Workforce Pathways LA

- ❑ Partnership with Quality Start LA (QSLA)
- ❑ Comprehensive workforce development model that supports participants in their career pathways
- ❑ Three components
  - ✓ Licensing/health and safety
  - ✓ Professional development, permits, and degrees
  - ✓ Workforce systems improvement



# ADVANCING PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

## Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development

- ❑ 25 Board appointees – community leaders in early childhood, education, business, economics, and research and representatives of County departments (Child and Family Services, Mental Health, Probation, Public Health, Public Social Services, Parks and Recreation)
- ❑ Develop policy recommendations to elevate to Board of Supervisors, advising County departments on ECE programs, identifying strategies to secure, coordinate, and maximize funding for high quality services





# 2022-23 BUDGET PRIORITIES

- 1) Extend COVID-19 relief benefits through 10/31/23
- 2) Reinstate and increase workforce development funding
- 3) Restore funding for local child care and development planning councils



## PURSUIT OF COUNTY ADVOCACY POSITION

- **Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children.** A coalition of child welfare and child care organizations is requesting an augmentation of \$48.0 million in State funding to increase access to early care and education services for abused and neglected children across the State. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy and the County's prior support of a similar budget request, the Sacramento Advocates will support the State budget proposal to provide \$48 million to augment the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children and extend the statutory time-limit on the use of child care vouchers.



# EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION RESOURCES

- Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
  - <https://www.ccala.net/>
  - Find Child Care
  - Hyperlinks to each of Resource and Referral Agencies
  - Also administer Emergency Child Care Bridge Program
    - ✓ <https://www.ccala.net/emergency-child-care-bridge-program/>



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Michele P. Sartell

323.594.1244

[msartell@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:msartell@ph.lacounty.gov)

<https://childcare.lacounty.gov/>

