HOPE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

This year’s budget session has been a roller-coaster ride for those advocating for working families. What started out as looking dismal; a “pause” to the multi-year funding increases from the 2016-17 budget process, became hope for a brighter future for children and families. Here’s a summary of what children and families have gained through this new budget agreement:

1. **Hope for assistance with child care costs due to raising the maximum amount a family can earn to qualify for assistance and the ability to enroll in the program once without having to update their income and hours every time there is a change.**  
   $25 million is allocated to update income guidelines and adopt twelve-month eligibility. The State had been using the State Median Income (SMI) guidelines from 2007, making it difficult to qualify for assistance as minimum wages go up. Thanks to the new budget trailer bill language, families can qualify for 12 months of care as long as their income does not exceed 85% of SMI. Parents are responsible for reporting any increase that would put them over the 85% of SMI. This lifts a huge reporting burden for student parents and parents working variable shifts. Family fees may go down for those families who have a share of cost of care. The budget requires the SMI to increase annually, preventing the issue from reoccurring.

2. **Hope for a space in a preschool program for children ages 3-4 years old, as well as spaces for children with special needs.**  
   Funding for 2,959 full day state preschool slots administered by Local Education Agencies (County Offices of Education, School Districts.) Combined with the updating of the SMI, more children have the opportunity to attend preschool. If LEAs don’t spend the money, it can be used by non-LEAs for part-time preschool. If all income eligible children have been served and there is space available, State Preschool Programs will be able to accept children with special needs who may be over income thresholds.

3. **More choices as child care providers will be paid higher rates, making caring for subsidized families a more attractive option for child care providers.**  
   Effective January 1, 2018, raising the rates paid to providers. State funded centers will receive increased funding and private child care providers who receive vendor payments to serve children on child care subsidies will receive an increase based on their rates charged to private families. The budget requires these rates to change annually based on the regional market rates for child care.

4. **Hope for foster families who need care immediately and for children who have experienced trauma.**  
   $15 million to fund emergency child care for foster children. Effective January 1, 2018, the budget establishes an emergency child care grant for foster families for the first six months of care, with an additional six months if families are unable to secure care and become stable in the first six months. This program is optional and individual counties must indicate an interest in participating in the program. Resource and Referral Agencies will receive funding for extended services to assist with finding child care that meets the needs of the family. This includes funding for Trauma-Informed training for child care providers; preparing to caregivers work with children affected by trauma and assisting families with locating care.

Child Action, Inc. applauds California’s legislature and the Governor for showing their commitment to families in California and setting goals that look toward a better future. Child Action, Inc. is dedicated to working with State leaders on continuing to improve the quality of life for families in California!
INCIDENTAL MEDICAL SERVICE PLANS

Do you have an Incidental Medical Services Plan of Operation for your site? Do you know what an “IMSP” is? Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Programs that provide specialized medical care are required to have a Plan of Operation on Incidental Medical Services. This plan provides a blueprint for staff providing these services. Licensing requires a copy of this plan along with other licensing paperwork and analysts are required to ask about, discuss, and document the Incidental Medical Services (IMS) Policy with licensees and their staff.


For more information and technical assistance on an operation policy, contact Child Action, Inc. at (916)369–0191.

INTRODUCING THE CALIFORNIA ECE WORKFORCE REGISTRY

The CA ECE Workforce Registry is a website designed to track and promote the employment, training, and education accomplishments of the early care and education (ECE) teachers and providers. It’s also a great place to find professional development opportunities or jobs!

As of July, you will need a Workforce Registry ID number when you register for trainings, workshops, or events funded by the California Department of Education. Child Action, Inc. can assist you in creating your own workforce registry profile that can support you in tracking your accomplishments and building your professional profile. You can use your Registry ID number to sign into trainings and submit education and training data, ensuring that information is quickly attached to your profile.

As a participant in the Registry, you can:

• Build a secure, professional profile that can be accessed and updated anytime.
• Electronically store education, training, employment and professional growth accomplishments, including transcripts, permits and other pertinent documents.
• Search for jobs or trainings.
• Create a resume and share professional qualifications.

To learn how to create a ECE Workforce Registry profile visit the website at www.caregistry.org or contact us at (916) 369–0191.

What are Incidental Medical Services (IMS)?

• Administering inhaled medications
• Administering Epi-Pen and Epi-Pen Jr
• Administering glucagon– insulin injections
• Blood glucose monitoring
• Administering gastrostomy tube feeding and care
• Administering emergency anti-seizure medications

CHILD ACTION, INC. HAS A NEW SITE! HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

NEW SITE. NEW LOOK. SAME GREAT SERVICE

Welcome to the new childaction.org

CHECK IT OUT & TAKE OUR SURVEY...

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!
COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING UPDATES

Child Action, Inc. partners with the Department of Social Services to ensure the health and safety of all children in licensed care. One way we do this is by sharing information to keep providers informed on recent changes and updates affecting child care. Please see helpful links on our new website or visit: www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Community-Care-Licensing/Policy/Provider-Information-Notices/Child-Care.

Licensing Violations Effective July 1, 2017, Penalties for licensing violations increased dramatically, specifically for repeat violations and failure to correct violations. All licensed providers, centers and family child care homes, are responsible for knowing all the licensing requirements regardless of whether or not they were informed by their assigned licensing analyst or received written notification of change.

New Mobile App: DSS has a new mobile app for parents to search for licensed facilities-inspections, reports, citations, complaints. This valuable tool will allow parents to find out information on the go. The app is called “CDSS Facility Search” and is available for free at both Apple and Google Play app stores.

LOOK WHAT’S NEW! RESOURCE LIBRARY

It’s Fun in the Sun, but PLEASE Regard Water Activities and Extreme Heat Seriously! CCLD reminds providers to:

- Review your facility’s emergency disaster plan.
- Have lots of WATER available for children.
- NEVER leave infants, children, dependent adults, elderly or pets in a parked car. As little as 10 minutes turns a car into an oven.
- Reduce exposure to the sun from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. when UV rays are strongest.
- The FDA has ruled sunscreen as an over-the-counter medication. Remember to obtain written consent from the parent or guardian before use.
- All pool fencing, gates, pool and spa covers must meet licensing requirements.
- Check outdoor surfaces before allowing children to play on them- they can heat up quickly and cause burns.

BIG BODY PLAY & I’M OK!

Rolling around the floor, wrestling like puppies, climbing trees or to the top of the play structure, spreading your arms and “flying like an airplane”; many of us enjoyed “big body” play like this in our own childhood. New studies are shining light on the fact that, not only are these activities fun for kids, they are essential to developing the social, physical, and cognitive skills necessary for future learning.

Child Action, Inc. has added two new reference books to support big body play in programs and family child care, “Big Body Play”, and “I’m Ok! Building Resilience through Physical Play”. Both books investigate physical play, how to provide for safety while children engage in it, and how to message to parents the importance of this type of play in your program.

Child Action, Inc. is continually updating our resource library for providers, parents, students, and anyone working with children and families. Membership is always free and you can browse through our current inventory online at www.childaction.org.
Our Children, Our Community

Is a free publication of Child Action, Inc., serving Sacramento since 1976. Child Action, Inc. is primarily funded by the California Department of Education.

Our Services

Child Action, Inc. provides information and consumer guidelines to assist families in making choices regarding child care. We offer resources and services to assist current and new child care providers in providing quality care for children and we provide subsidies to help low-income families pay for child care services.

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GOOD NEWS!

The Governor has increased funding for the California Earned Income Credit in this year's budget for the 2017 tax year! All working families are encouraged to see if they're eligible for this credit by visitingcaleitc4me.org, or irs.gov.

DID YOU KNOW?

Child Action, Inc. has workshops and trainings monthly for child care providers and families. Currently, we are offering trainings in five languages! For more information on topics, dates, and times, please visit our Calendar of Events at www.childaction.org.