



Process for Developing ECPC Recommendations in 2026

Background

AB563 directs the ECPC's Annual Report to include the following:

- “This bill would require the above-described report to include, at a minimum, the successes, challenges, and gaps in the state’s early childhood education systems and recommendations to facilitate advancing the state’s vision for children, families, and communities. The bill would require the council to annually submit the report to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature. The bill would also require the council to develop policy proposals and budget requests for the Legislature to consider related to facility needs, workforce needs, and family access.”



Process for Developing ECPC Recommendations in 2026

Background, Continued

- As a way to focus the scope of Council recommendations in 2026, Council members at the February Council meeting suggested the Council focus on the topics outlined in the ECPC 2026-27 Budget Priorities letter, which was submitted to legislative leaders and the Governor's Office on February 27, 2026. At that same meeting, the Council formed two subcommittees—the Workforce Needs Subcommittee and the Family Access and Federal Policy Subcommittee—to drive the development of draft recommendations for Council feedback and refinement.
- The two subcommittees divvied up the topics from the ECPC 2026-27 Budget Priorities letter in order to avoid duplication of effort. Here are the recommendation topics from the Budget Priorities letter that the Family Access and Federal Policy Subcommittee could pursue...

Possible Topics for Family Access & Federal Policy Subcommittee to Pursue from ECPC Budget Priorities Letter



1. Funding the promised 200,000 child care spaces by Budget Year 2026-27, the additional 44,000 slots originally promised, and a commitment to continuing to backfill declining Proposition 64 revenue to ensure current spaces are maintained and expanded. Inaction will result in families being disenrolled or children losing access to child care.
2. Protecting health care access for young children, families, and early educators by protecting Medi-Cal coverage through continuous coverage policies and additional eligibility flexibilities that are threatened by the federal administration.
3. Protecting housing security and grant funding to cities and counties that support our unhoused population, many of whom are women and children from communities of color.
4. Protecting the safety and well-being of our immigrant children and families, as well as the many immigrant members of the child care work force, including by bolstering legal services programs and reversing proposals that would cut health care for many immigrants.
5. Strengthening safety net policies that provide long term support to reduce poverty and promote economic stability and invest funds to replace those safety net funds cut by HR1.



Process to Support Development of ECPC Recommendations

May 27 Council meeting:

- Sought guidance on content that recommendations should address across the above five topics areas to ensure they authentically reflect the needs and realities of children and families.
- Sought guidance on which current and historical sources to consult for relevant recommendations related to both the current year priorities and future recommendations. Examples include, but are not limited to: Black ECE, Child Care Providers United, The ECE Coalition, The Rate and Quality Work Group Report, The Master Plan for Early Learning and Care, the Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission, historical ECPC Annual Reports, and other state and national policy and advocacy groups.

June 9 Workforce Advisory Committee (WAC) and Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting:

- Seek guidance from Advisory Committee members on the above.

Process to Support Development of ECPC Recommendations, Cont'd



June – August: Review of ECPC public input:

- Review and synthesize historical and current public comment and stakeholder input received through ECPC meetings (chat messages and written submissions).
- Review previous ECPC Annual Reports.

August 27 Council meeting:

- Send draft recommendations to Council members in advance of meeting for review.
- Seek feedback at meeting for refinements.

September 10 WAC and PAC meeting:

- Send draft recommendations to Advisory Committee members in advance of meeting.
- Seek feedback at meeting for refinements.

November 19 Council meeting:

- Send final draft recommendations to Council members in advance of meeting for review.
- Seek endorsement of recommendations for ECPC Annual Report.



Overview of Today's Questions

1. Looking at the five topics areas from the ECPC Budget Priorities letter under this Subcommittee's purview, what key gaps, risks or opportunities should our recommendations address to build towards our vision for equity and opportunity for young children and their families? (Especially as we look to address HR1 impacts)
2. For the selected topic areas, what current and historical reports/sources should be reviewed for related recommendations?



What key gaps, risks or opportunities should ECPC recommendations address?

From ECPC Budget Priorities Letter:

1. Funding the promised 200,000 child care spaces by Budget Year 2026-27, the additional 44,000 slots originally promised, and a commitment to continuing to backfill declining Proposition 64 revenue to ensure current spaces are maintained and expanded. Inaction will result in families being disenrolled or children losing access to child care.

Questions:

- What is our 2027 ask with a new Governor and Legislative session? Should it be broader, since according to the [California Budget and Policy Center](#) only 16% of California children eligible for subsidized child care are actually enrolled?
- Equity is not the same as equality: how do we ensure equitable access and an affirming and strengths-based approach for children and families facing particular barriers due to poverty, historical racism, language, and special needs? What are potential recommendations? What are priorities for 2027?



What key gaps, risks or opportunities should ECPC recommendations address?

From ECPC Budget Priorities Letter:

4. Protecting the safety and well-being of our immigrant children and families, as well as the many immigrant members of the child care work force, including by bolstering legal services programs and reversing proposals that would cut health care for many immigrants.

Questions:

- How do we ensure rapid response and accurate information about federal actions?
- What are key state budget and policy recommendations?
- What are priorities for 2027?

What key gaps, risks or opportunities should ECPC recommendations address?



From ECPC Budget Priorities Letter:

2. Protecting health care access for young children, families, and early educators by protecting Medi-Cal coverage through continuous coverage policies and additional eligibility flexibilities that are threatened by the federal administration.
3. Protecting housing security and grant funding to cities and counties that support our unhoused population, many of whom are women and children from communities of color.
5. Strengthening safety net policies that provide long term support to reduce poverty and promote economic stability and invest funds to replace those safety net funds cut by HR1.

Questions:

- How do we coordinate more effectively and break down silos between services?
- How do we respond to HR 1 funding cuts, ensuring rapid response to and accurate timely information on federal actions?
- What are recommendations for state budget and policy initiatives?
- What are targeted recommendations for children and families facing particular barriers?
- What are key priorities for 2027?



Sources to Review

For the selected topic areas, what current and historical reports/sources should be reviewed for related recommendations?

Examples include, but are not limited to: Black ECE, Child Care Providers United, The ECE Coalition, The Rate and Quality Work Group Report, The Master Plan for Early Learning and Care, the Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission, historical ECPC Annual Reports, and other state and national policy and advocacy groups.