



Progress Report:

California's Master Plan for Early Learning and Care



Goal 1 | Unify and Strengthen Programs and Services to Support Children's Learning and Development

Child Care Expansion: Since 2021, more than 129,000 additional child care subsidies are funded for children across California.

State Preschool and Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Expansion: California has more than doubled its investment in the California State Preschool Program since 2021 and tripled its investment in TK.

Paid Family Leave Expansion: The Governor and Legislature enacted SB 951 to boost leave benefits for lower- and middle-income workers, including child care and development employees.

Working Toward Equitable Treatment: 2022-23 State Budget provided eligibility for children with disabilities in the California State Preschool Program. The Governor and Legislature enacted laws to:

- Create a process for identifying dual language learners in early learning and care programs.
- Limit suspension and expulsion in early learning and care programs, ensuring that children are instead provided the behavioral and mental health resources they need to thrive.



Goal 2 | Support Children’s Learning and Development by Enhancing Educator Competencies, Incentivizing and Funding Career Pathways, and Implementing Supportive Program Standards

Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program: The Governor and Legislature invested \$163 million to expand this program, which funds infrastructure, professional development, and other elements necessary to support students in inclusive classrooms.

Training and Development: In January 2023, the California Health & Human Services Agency and the California Department of Social Services announced 12 new online courses for professional development designed for early learning and care professionals. Through the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, \$650 million from 2021-2023 was provided for local education agencies to develop, expand, and/or improve teacher residency programs that support shortage fields.

Training Partnership Fund: Under a first-ever memorandum of understanding that was reached in 2021, the State and the Child Care Providers United-CA (CCPU) established a \$40 million Joint Child Care Providers United—State of California Training Partnership Fund to expand and strengthen training opportunities for family child care providers. Under a successor agreement reached in 2023, the State agreed, for each year of the agreement starting July 1, 2024, to make a single contribution to the fund should the balance drop below \$15 million.

Goal 3 | Unify Funding to Advance Equity and Opportunity



Updating California's Child Care Rate Structure: California is moving to a single rate structure that is informed by the actual cost of providing services.

Interventions to Respond to COVID-19: The pandemic created financial instability for child care providers. The CDSS issued the following supplemental payments and stipends:

- **Supplemental Rate Payments to Providers:** In April 2022, the CDSS announced one-time supplemental rate payments, distributed to eligible family child care providers, to support critical access to quality, affordable child care and services. The payments, enacted due to an agreement between the Governor, Legislature, and CCPU, totaled \$144.5 million.
- **Incentive Payments and Stipends:** The CDSS provided a one-time \$500 incentive payment to eligible family child care home licensees to boost child care capacity. Also, child care and development providers serving children receiving specified State-subsidized child care services have received, since 2023, three rounds of stipends totaling \$2,157 per-child-enrolled.

Reduced Family Fees: Historic investments, including \$56 million in 2023-24, were made to support revisions to the family fee schedule for child care and development programs. This included limiting fees to one percent of families' monthly income and prohibiting fee assessments for families with a monthly income below 75 percent of the state median income.



Goal 4 | Streamline Early Childhood Governance and Administration to Improve Equity

Historic Partnership with CCPU: In 2023, the State and the CCPU union fully ratified a new memorandum of understanding, providing more than \$1 billion in funding to further stabilize the child care and development workforce and invest in California's children and families. The State made a one-time contribution of \$80 million for a retirement trust to be administered by the CCPU, a first-in-the-nation investment. The State will make additional contributions to keep the balance of that trust above \$80 million.

Streamlining Programs: In 2021, more than \$4 billion in child care and nutrition programs were transferred from the California Department of Education to the CDSS to support the State's commitment to building and strengthening an equitable, comprehensive, quality, and affordable child care and development system for children and families.

Improving Data Coordination: Recent crises in California, ranging from wildfires to the COVID-19 pandemic, underlined the need for comprehensive, integrated, State-maintained early childhood data. To this end, efforts are underway to better coordinate publicly available data to inform how government is doing in serving our youngest learners, while also ensuring access and equity. Significant progress was made on the development of the Early Childhood Integrated Data System, which will support State leaders' comprehensive understanding of early childhood programs and services through data-driven insights.

(more Goal 4 Progress on next slide)



Goal 4 | Streamline Early Childhood Governance and Administration to Improve Equity

Renovation Funds Awarded to Child Care Programs: On July 23, 2021, the Legislature enacted the Child Care and Development Infrastructure Grant Program, a \$350.5 million investment in the child care infrastructure across California. The program has increased capacity to serve children by funding infrastructure grants for the acquisition, construction, development, and renovation of licensed child care programs serving children birth to age five. The program prioritized expanding child care capacity for infants and toddlers in areas experiencing a shortage of care.

Expanded Kindergarten Facilities: The Governor and Legislature enacted AB 1808 and AB 130, which established and expanded access to the Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant Program.