

2020 CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

# QUESTIONNAIRE ON FUNDING FOR CHILDREN, CHILD CARE AND WORKING FAMILIES



**Your response is encouraged!**

# ABOUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE

This Candidate Questionnaire is intended to elicit input from major party candidates running to serve in the California State Legislature. Questions cover a range of children's issues focused mainly on access to child care and early learning and its workforce, economic security for working families, community based delivery of vulnerable family supports, homelessness and food insecurity.

## COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE

Completed questionnaires will be highlighted and/or linked in the [\*Monday Morning Update\*](#) distributed to more than 6,000 federal and state community based nonprofits, state and federal government entities, elected legislators and their staffs', family child care providers and center-based owners, parents and advocates.

To submit completed questionnaire or to answer any questions, email [CAPPA@CAPPAONLINE.COM](mailto:CAPPA@CAPPAONLINE.COM). Please consider also submitting a photo.

When the candidate's profile is scheduled to be run in the *Monday Morning Update*, an email will be sent to the noted contact beforehand.

If you would like to be connected to the community-based organization that supports working families with connections to child care and early learning opportunities in your county, email [CAPPA@CAPPAONLINE.COM](mailto:CAPPA@CAPPAONLINE.COM).

The California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA) does not support nor endorse candidates.

# WHO IS CAPP?

The California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPP) is a 40-plus year network of community-based public and private non-profit agencies that supports parental choice and access for children from birth on of working poor families to child care, early learning and other social supports. CAPP is the lead voice for community who contract with California Department of Education (CDE) to provide child care subsidies to families and to ensure children keep learning while parents are earning.

Today, there are 74 Alternative Payment Programs (APP) that administer California's subsidized child care programs across all 58 counties. The focus of these programs are to support working families and those on the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) programs with access to a variety of early care and education settings inclusive of high quality Title 5 centers, Family Child Care Home Education Networks (FCCHENs) and family child care small business providers. Additionally, these programs may too link families living in or near poverty with access to supports for housing, food, clothing, and mental health amongst a list.

## **What are some core functions of an Alternative Payment Program?**

- To determine family eligibility and enroll families including Essential Workers in subsidized child care programs.
- To verify hours of child care provided.
- To make payments to child care providers chosen by the family.
- To process vouchers for counties that opt in to the foster care bridge program
- To educate parents about provider types and setting options for children from birth on.
- To provide parents with community support information.
- To offer access to toy closets and resource libraries for parents and providers.
- To link families directly to programs and services within their community including food, housing and insurance.
- To serve as a community resource hub during times of declared emergencies.

## **What are some of the other contracts delivered by Alternative Payment Programs?**

APPs administer CalWORKs Stages 2 & 3, preschool and center based programs, general child care, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Family Child Care Home Education Networks (FCCHEN), transportation, behavioral health, respite, regional center, health and safety, 21st Century, and Trustline. Additionally, 37 counties contract out administration of CalWORKs Stage 1 child care to their local APP agency; this represents roughly 94 percent of the caseload.

## **How does CAPP help families and children?**

- We promote economic self-sufficiency by helping parents pay for the child care they need to work, look for work, or attend a training program.
- We promote school readiness by providing children with access to quality child care and development programs.
- We promote consumer responsibility by allowing parents to choose the child care program or programs that best meet their needs.
- We ensure continuity of services by serving children from infancy through the school age years.
- We increase employment options by accommodating non-traditional work schedules and the changing child care needs of families.
- We facilitate access to family service programs.
- We provide parent education and important health and safety information.

To learn more about CAPP [click here](#).

# BACKGROUND PROVIDED TO CANDIDATES

**Access to Child care and Early Learning**—Access to stable child care supports stability for families, supports success in school for children and is an essential economic generator.

In 2016, the California Budget & Policy Center reported that over 1.2 million income eligible children in need of child care did not receive services. In 2017-18 that number surged to 2.032 million with 1.804 million income eligible with no access and roughly 230,000 with partial access. Prior to COVID-19 in March 2020, it had been estimated that the number was approaching 2.3 million.

Currently funded in California, are 32,190 child care slots for income eligible families in center-based and family child care home networks, roughly 160,000 child care slots in California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), and 75,394 child care slots for the working poor and COVID-19 identified *Essential Workers* to access.

**Family Child Care Provider Workforce**— California's child care and early education workforce need to be supported with meaningful investments for the care for children starting at birth. To give an example of the rates paid for infant care, full-time care rates can range from roughly \$3.20 per hour to roughly \$9.50 per hour depending on licensure status.

During the COVID-19 pandemic it has been reported that 70 percent of family child care providers have had to use their own dollars to keep them operating safely. Family child care providers and centers have not been supported with meaningful financial support to stabilize them during stable times and certainly not during times of crisis.

**Critical Needs**—Prior to COVID-19, California--the fifth largest economy in the world--had the highest poverty rate with almost 2 million children living in poverty and 450 thousand in extreme poverty.

According to the CA Center on Budget and Policy, communities of color face much higher child poverty rates and less access to resources. The child poverty rates are 31% for Latinx children, 28% for black children, 18% for other children of color, and 12% for white children.

Among the one in five Americans who have lost jobs during the pandemic, researchers have found that those hit the hardest financially were the least educated and lowest paid further exacerbating the impact on children and families of color..

A shocking 31 percent of Californians report food insecurity, approximately 12 million people, and nearly triple the pre-COVID level. Rates are even higher for households with children, and higher still for families of color. With the summer upon us, when hunger among K-12 students increases, many children are at risk of not having a single nutritious meal in a day.

Prior to COVID-19, only one in nine qualified children had a voucher to access a family child care home or center. With the addition of prioritizing the needs of income eligible essential workers on the front lines, it's estimated by some to be about 70 percent of the existing child care capacity.

# CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE RUNNING FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTIES REPRESENTED: \_\_\_\_\_

WEBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Please tell us about your career path, why you're running for office, and why children and families are an important part of your agenda?
2. What work have you done in your career to this point that reflects your interest in serving children and families?
3. What actions will you take to reduce multigenerational poverty and support greater success outcomes for children?
4. Do you support parents having the choice to choose the best family child care provider or center that best meets their needs?
5. Have you had any personal or family experiences with family leave, child care or early childhood education that will impact your legislative agenda?
6. What actions will you take to reduce racial disparities and ensure strong health, education, and economic outcomes for all?
7. Do you have any thoughts on how to build up the child care and early learning workforce with meaningful compensation and value for their contributions?
8. Do you believe that meeting the child care needs of California is dependent solely on the state, the private sector or a combination of both?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE:

When completed, email to: [CAPPA@CAPPAONLINE.COM](mailto:CAPPA@CAPPAONLINE.COM). If you have any questions, please call 916-567-6797.