

Lifting Up Families Advocacy Day

February 18, 2026

Tips for a successful meeting

Welcome and Introductions **(TAKE A PICTURE/SCREEN SHOT)**

- Brief introductions: name, organization, and location.
- If you are a contractor: share what is most important to your program and the families you serve.
- If you are a parent or provider: share your lived experience and current needs.

Why We Are Here Today – And Our Thanks

First, thank you for progress already secured:

- Continued commitment to fund **206,800 new child care spaces by 2027–28**, with **146,000 already secured**.
- Honoring commitments to family child care providers and centers through **stipends and Cost Plus rate increases** while working toward paying the true cost of care.
- California's continued progress toward **fully funding universal school meals**.

Where More Work Is Needed

- Ensure families can access critical supports—child care, food, housing, mental health, and more—wherever they enter the system (“No Wrong Door”).
- Support strong public–private partnerships in every county that reduce bureaucracy and center family needs.
- Invest in a well-resourced child care and early education workforce, with a focus on infant and toddler care, to support working families and employer stability.
- Address California's child care deserts, where demand exceeds supply by:
 - 60% overall
 - 90% for infant care
- Recognize that inadequate child care funding disproportionately impacts families of color:
 - 74.7% of California's children are children of color
 - 86.1% of children eligible for subsidized care are children of color
 - 70% of these families struggle to access care

Priorities to Move Forward

- Create clear, well-resourced pathways to grow **family child care homes and center-based businesses**.
- Strengthen a true **public–private mixed delivery system** that meets the realities of California's **24/7 economy**.
- Expand the **Child Poverty Tax Credit** so families can afford essentials without choosing between utilities, transportation, food, or child care.
- Improve **coordination across housing, food, child care, and health supports** to break the cycle of poverty and promote family self-sufficiency.

Share Experiences from Your Community:

- Say Thank You for the meeting. Make sure to exchange contact information.

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Social Media Information for the Day

[Click here](#) to see the social media toolkit.

Please take pictures and tag the following social media pages!

- Facebook – [Thriving Families California TFC](#)
- X - [@TFC_advocacy](#)
- Instagram – [thrivingfamiliescalifornia](#)
- LinkedIn – [ThrivingFamiliesCalifornia](#)
- Bluesky - [thrivingfamiliesca.bsky.social](#)

⇒ HASHTAGS ⇐

#LiftingUpFamilies, #SupportWorkingFamilies, #ChildCare, #EndHunger, #Housing, #FosterCare, #MentalHealth, #Healthcare, #CALeg #CABudget

Please make sure to recognize the legislators and/or their staff in your social media.

- A list of social media handles for legislators can be found on the [toolkit](#).



QR code linking to the 120 legislator packets