



**To: Members of the California State Legislature**

**From:** California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA)  
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network (CCCR&RN)  
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA)  
Northern Directors Group (NDG)  
Professional Association of Childhood Educators (PACE)

**RE: Oppose Governor Brown's Budget Proposals for Child Care and Development Programs**

On behalf of CAPPA, the CCCR&RN, CCALA, NDG and the PACE which represent early care and education public and private contractors, centers, providers and parents from all parts of the delivery system and in all 58 counties, we respectfully ask that you oppose the Governor's child care reduction proposals. We understand that tough choices must be made. However, we believe the proposals were developed in haste and lacked true understanding of efficient existing community based public and private early care and education delivery systems.

From 2008 through 2012<sup>1</sup>, CalWORKs and early care and education have been cut by roughly \$883 million dollars and 107,262 child care slots. Noting that for every dollar invested in child care returns at a minimum \$3 back into local and State economies, past cuts have already cost California \$3.1 billion in lost revenues. The proposals before you will cut funding an additional \$517 million and cut 62,000 more child care slots. Further, child care which represents roughly 2 percent of the General Fund is being proposed to disproportionately be cut by 10 percent of all the cuts.

For purposes of moving forward and framing the discussions, the following areas ought to be considered a starting point to begin the discussion of saving California's early care and education system; and maintaining a delivery framework for years when more monies can be invested in our children.

1. Recognizing that there needs to be a sole administrative entity to receive federal monies for CalWORKs, let that entity be the California Department of Education (CDE).

Rationale: The CDE has an existing community based early care and education delivery infrastructure for CalWORKs and working poor families. The existing system is highly efficient and transparent. Further, over half of California's 58 counties contract out their Stage 1 contracts and eligibility verification to their local public and private alternative payment programs (APPs).

2. Recognizing that there are federal Work Participation Rates (WPRs) that must be met, the process for tracking eligibility of these rates, for setting priorities for eligibility for families, and for reporting the outcomes, the existing CDE administered contracts to APPs already have a system in place.

Rationale: The CDE contractors already have a developed and highly transparent system of data collection, setting eligibility priorities and need verification, and tools for reporting outcomes. The APPs currently have the infrastructure to immediately implement any State mandated policy changes for WPR. Due to the fact that the infrastructures are already in place, and again noting that roughly 32 counties currently contract with APPs for the eligibility functions, ***valuing the current infrastructure will save from the governor's proposal \$35 million budgeted for counties to ramp up.***

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<sup>1</sup> [http://my.rnetwork.org/site/DocServer/Child\\_Care\\_Funding\\_Reductions\\_2008-2012\\_.pdf?docID=1282](http://my.rnetwork.org/site/DocServer/Child_Care_Funding_Reductions_2008-2012_.pdf?docID=1282)

3. Recognizing that there will be needed local efforts to train families on how to meet the WPR rates, the existing CDE administered contracts to APPs/R&Rs have already established connections with the families.

Rationale: The CDE contactors already have staff and caseworkers available to work within local communities and with CalWORKs and working poor families to support them in their process to ongoing gainful employment. Due to the fact that the infrastructures are already in place and again noting that roughly 32 counties currently contract with APPs for the eligibility functions, ***valuing the current infrastructure will save from the governor's proposal another \$35 million budgeted for counties to train on the WPR.***

**NOTE: As noted in numbers 2 and 3 above, using the existing delivery systems will save \$70 million in fiscal year 2012-13 and can be used to support additional slots for serving children from birth on.**

We are ready to sit at the table with legislators and other field experts to formalize language for legislative consideration. The child care and development system in this State is currently very fragile due to years of devastating cuts. It is our collective belief that any budget proposal considered from the perspective of saving monies, but devoid of a true local community impact or CDE contractor input, will dismantle California's decades old history of success in development of a quality early care and education system beginning at birth and that supports "children learning, parents earning."

If you have any questions, please call (916)567-6797.