



AT A GLANCE: CITY OF OAKLAND EARLY CHILDHOOD ECOSYSTEM OPPORTUNITIES

As the City of Oakland implements the 23-25 Budget, [Oakland Starting Smart and Strong](#) highlights priority areas to increase opportunities for all young children and families to realize their full potential.

Early Childhood Housing and Homelessness Solutions

The City must concretely support families with young children through affordable housing funding, tenant protections and legal supports, and other housing resources.

- **ASK: Oakland elected officials, Housing and Community Development staff, and other City leaders partner with early childhood housing and homelessness efforts, specifically the [Alameda County CARE Program](#), which provides child care navigation and help to families experiencing homelessness.**

Family-Friendly Community Infrastructure

The City must protect and invest in joyous, safe, communal spaces for young children and their families.

- **ASK: Share information about the City's Capital Improvement Program Scoring Process, so OSSS can highlight opportunities to elevate family-friendly measures/scoring criteria in parks, recreation facilities, libraries, and other community assets that serve young children and their families.**

Prioritizing Early Childhood in the New Department of Children, Youth, and Families

The City must concretely include and support children 0-5, their families, caregivers, and educators, as well as the programs that serve them in the new DCYF.

- **ASK: Actively engage community stakeholders in the implementation process for transparency, accountability, and building authentic relationships. Prioritize staff retention and preserving institutional memory.**

Cultivating Early Childhood Champions in Oakland

The City's elected officials and leaders are encouraged to become early childhood champions and amplify early childhood leaders across the city.

- **ASK: Build accountability-centered relationships with OSSS stakeholders across the ECEcosystem. Our stakeholders include staff from public systems, community-based organizations, and foundations, as well as early childhood educators/child care providers and families.**

Strengthening Oakland's Early Childhood Funding Streams

The City's historic budget crisis, the new Oakland Children's Initiative (OCI), and changes at Oakland Fund for Children and Youth (OFCY) pose challenges and opportunities for our ECEcosystem. The majority of ECE programs remain significantly underfunded, with over 10,000 eligible children not receiving subsidized child care or preschool. Family Child Care providers aren't prioritized by the OCI and have great financial need.

- **ASK: Partner with OSSS to learn about the diversity and scope of EC funding streams and needs, strategize with us around public/private partnerships and innovative community- and Family Child Care provider-led solutions, and support equitable funding relationships between City funders and EC grantees.**