



Impact of 2021-22 Early Childhood Budget Proposals - At a Glance

[Oakland Starting Smart and Strong \(OSSS\)](#), a key early childhood (EC) table in Oakland, has 40 agency partners working together for equitable systems change for Oakland children and families. OSSS seeks to leverage the power of our collaboration and the lessons learned on improving EC outcomes to our advocacy efforts. **Our [Policy & Advocacy Agenda](#) seeks to undo the systemic racism embedded in the field of EC through greater investment in a workforce composed primarily of women of color and making child care more accessible.**

Current State of Early Childhood in Oakland

We advocate for a budget grounded in racial and economic justice that supports working families and their children, fairly compensates educators who are critical for our state's economy, and centers the Oakland communities who have been most impacted by the pandemic. **The Oakland child care field is currently losing approximately \$4.2 million per month. Even before the pandemic, only 44% of Oakland kindergarteners are developmentally on track for school success.** With strategic and sufficient public investment, we can stabilize the field and ensure that the pandemic does not have lasting impact on young children and their families.

Early Childhood in the 2021-22 Budget

The Governor's proposed 2021-2022 January state budget makes solid investments in child care and other supports for early childhood. OSSS has the following additional recommendations for the final budget:

- **Alameda County Child Care Subsidy Plan (AB 1294):** Make permanent the child care reimbursement rate pilot is the most important child care funding priority of Oakland this year.
- **Reimbursement Rates:** Child care reimbursement rates need to be increased to support child care providers who want to re-open and sustain those that remained open during the pandemic.
- **Transitional Kindergarten:** The budget proposes a one-time \$250 million incentive for school districts to expand TK for all four-year-olds. There is concern that TK expansion will reduce parent choice, harm child care businesses, and exacerbate inequities in our mixed-delivery system.
- **Child Care Voucher Slots:** The budget proposes a reduction of up to 15,500 child care slots across the state. We encourage you to advocate for at least the same amount of vouchers from last year.
- **Facilities:** There is \$200 million in the budget for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to expand kindergarten and TK facilities. We propose opening up this funding to non-LEA providers, to improve the full range of early childhood facilities in our mixed-delivery system.
- **Supporting ECE Professionals:** We advocate for increased investment in culturally-responsive, trauma-informed, anti-racist professional development opportunities.
- **COVID-19 Response:** We urge releasing \$400 million in federal funds to child care providers now to stabilize the industry. The state must also continue to waive family fees and hold providers harmless.
- **Early Intervention Services:** We support the current proposal of \$300 million in additional funding to increase the availability of early intervention services for young children. We seek to tighten the language to ensure these dollars go toward direct services rather than school district general funds.
- **Economic Support for Families and Child Care Providers in the 2021-22 Budget:** The budget includes \$2.4 billion for the Golden State Stimulus to provide relief for taxpayers with low income, with additional payments for tax filers with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs), including undocumented workers. We encourage you to support additional measures to increase stimulus funding eligibility.

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