

## WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE IF QUALITY CHILD CARE WAS ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE FOR ALL INFANTS AND TODDLERS IN CALIFORNIA?



- Our youngest children would have the developmental support they need.
- Parents wouldn't have to leave their jobs.
- Businesses would have a reliable workforce.
- Families could afford to stay in the state.

## Child care impacts every Californian and their future.

Our goal is to change California's current state of child care to positively impact the lives of children, ages birth to three years, their families, and the Early Learning workforce that supports them.

### THE CURRENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S BIRTH TO THREE CHILD CARE

#### The Current Landscape

- **1.7 million children ages birth through 3** live in California, representing about 4 percent of the state's population.
- The majority of California's **infants and toddlers are children of color**.
- More than **60% of children under 5 years old** speak a language other than English at home.

#### The Challenge

##### Severely Limited Access to Free or Affordable Quality Infant and Toddler Care

- An estimated 36% of the state's children, ages birth to 2 years, are eligible for subsidized care, **yet only 14 percent are enrolled**.
- The **unmet need is even greater for children of color**: 64% of Black children and 46% of Latino children ages birth to 2 eligible for subsidized care, yet only 23% and 9%, respectively, of those eligible are enrolled.
- Infant care in California costs **\$7,000 more annually than public college tuition**.
- Families with lower incomes are **paying up to 62% of their salary** on child care.
- Child care providers, who are predominantly women of color, are too often paid unlivable wages or work without benefits like health care, causing them to leave the field entirely and putting **further pressure on an already strained system**.

**While California has made strides in recent years to improve access to child care, too many families continue to struggle, impacting every community across our state. Lack of child care access means families struggle to get by, the stability of our workforce is at risk, and children don't have the support to reach their fullest potential from birth and beyond.**

# Our Vision

By investing in child care for California's children from birth, we strengthen the state today and for generations to come. [Learn more.](#)

## Early Edge is looking at new ways to change the current state of child care in California, so that:

- Child care is recognized as a basic need.
- Caregivers are treated with respect and have access to compensation, resources, and training.
- Families—particularly those in underserved communities—experience economic mobility and opportunity.
- State leaders prioritize child care and make California a place where every child can grow up supported.

## Our Current Goals:

- To build awareness around the importance of quality Birth to 3 care—and advocating for more resources for children and families—through a multi-year communications campaign.
- To uplift expanded supports for Birth to 3 caregivers and providers.

To achieve change, we're building a movement, bringing together families, providers, and child policy experts to work with policymakers to strengthen the child care system for the families who need it, the providers who support it, and the communities across the state that depend on it.

## What We've Accomplished:

- We've laid the groundwork for our multi-year campaign through targeted and foundational communications efforts and invested time in a strategic planning process.
- We've engaged key stakeholders impacted by the issue, including parents, caregivers, and early learning teachers, to better understand the current state of care, as well as their needs and challenges.
- We've brought together partners from the field to form a workgroup that identifies policy recommendations to advance change in this space.

## On the Horizon

Year 2

Build awareness and present policy recommendations through a communications campaign, coalition-building, and engaging with partners.

Year 3

Collaborate with partners to increase capacity of the Early Learning and Care mixed-delivery system to serve more infants and toddlers.

Now is the time to ramp up investments to address the inequities within our state's Early Learning and Care system.

[Learn more about opportunities to join our collective movement!](#)

