

COMMUNITY VOICES MONTHLY UPDATE



DECEMBER 2015



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Community Voices sends best wishes to you and your family for a Happy Holiday Season!

We thank you for all your support this past year and look forward to continuing to work with you to advocate on behalf of our children and working families in the coming year. Your voice is the best gift we could ask for, Because Children Can't Vote!

See you in 2016!

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan



In January, the California Department of Education (CDE) will hold a hearing to gather public input on the development of the 2016-18 CCDF plan.

CCDF is the federal program that provides funding to states to support child care programs and services. The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which oversees and administers the CCDF, was reauthorized in November 2014. The reauthorization includes changes to the way child care programs and services will be delivered. The California

Department of Education (CDE) is the lead agency to develop the State Plan on how the new federal regulations will be implemented across state agencies. A system has been set-up for public input on the State Plan, as follows -

Public Hearing

January 12, 2016

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

California Department of Education

1430 N Street, Room 1101

Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

If you are not able to attend in person, you can provide your written testimony by:

Mail

Written comments on the proposed State Plan should be addressed to:

State Plan Public Hearing Coordinator

Early Education and Support Division

California Department of Education

1430 N Street, Suite 3410

Sacramento, CA 95814

E-Mail

Please use the following e-mail address: statepln@cde.ca.gov

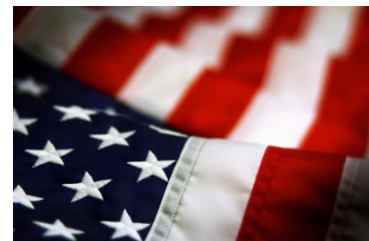
Fax

Please use the following fax number for written comments: (916) 323-6853

If you have any questions regarding the CCDF State Plan public hearing, please contact the Early Education and Support Division, Policy Office by phone at (916) 322-6233

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This week, Congress released the FY 2016 budget bill, which now awaits the President's signature. The bill includes the following funding for child care and development programs:



Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

- Increase of \$326 million, of which \$125 million is set aside to improve quality child care for infants and toddlers

Head Start and Early Head Start

- Increase of \$570 million, of which \$141 million will go to a cost of living adjustment for current Head Start grantees and \$294 million to support training, technical assistance and expanded program hours
- Increase of \$135 million for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships

Preschool Development Grants (PDG)

- Support states in expanding access to high-quality Pre-K for four-year-olds in high-need communities
- Allocated \$250 million

Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit

- \$800 billion to solidify the refundable credits received by low-income families
- Both tax credits were set to expire in 2017

Stay tuned as staff continues to track the development of the federal budget.

ADVOCACY CORNER

Advocate L.A. Workshop Series On Its Way!

Community Voices invites you to join us for the beginning of our advocacy workshop series. Start off the year ready to lead and achieve, Because Children Can't Vote!



The first workshop will take place on **Saturday, January 30 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** Location to be confirmed.

All workshops are FREE, lunch will be provided and translation will be available. For the 2016 workshop calendar, [click here](#).

REGISTER TODAY!

To register, please contact Jessica Guerra at (323) 421-2602 or email jguerra@crystalstairs.org

Community Voices is a Los Angeles countywide program led by Crystal Stairs, Inc. that focuses on building parent leadership and stronger advocates for children and working families through workshops, community organizing and advocacy events. Learn more about how you can become an advocate and be a stronger voice by joining Community Voices!

STAY CONNECTED:

