

# COMMUNITY VOICES MONTHLY UPDATE



**OCTOBER 2015**



## Have a Happy, Healthy Halloween!

It's a festive time for children and families, as they come together for one night of costumes and tricks-o-treats. Halloween is usually associated with an abundance of candy. As a parent, you may be concerned with your child overloading on sugar, so how about getting creative and leaving the candy behind?

Do you know of any healthy alternatives for Halloween candy? If not, below are some suggestions for creative tricks-o-treats:

- **Small Toys** - something playful like Play-Doh, Legos, glow-sticks, etc.
- **Games** - play a game and offer a prize (ex. bubbles, stickers, activity kits, etc.)
- **Apples** - eat them with peanut butter or any other preferred dip
- **Fruit Snacks** - satisfy their sweet tooth with less sugar
- **Trail Mix** - balance the sweet treat with nuts
- **Decorate Water Bottles** - quench their thirst during their trick-o-treat walk

**Community Voices wishes you and your family a safe and Happy Halloween!**

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**STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The Legislature has just completed its first year of the two year legislative session. October 11 was the last day for Governor Brown to sign or veto legislation received the last week of the session. Below is an update on the 2015-16 child care legislation, provided by the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network:



### [Child Care Legislation 2015-16](#)

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## **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

October 1 marked the beginning of the federal fiscal year 2016 (FY16). Currently, Congress is negotiating final budget allocations and funding priorities to meet the Continuing Resolution (CR) deadline of December



11. A CR is an appropriations bill that keeps the government funded until a final budget is approved.

Another pressing deadline is lifting the debt ceiling, - limits the total amount of money that the U.S. government can owe- which is expected to expire on November 3. Recently, Congressman John Boehner (R-OH) retired as the Speaker of the House. On Thursday, October 29, Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) was voted as his successor. At the same time of this election, the House of Representatives on passed a two-year bipartisan budget deal, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which extends the nation's debt limit through 2017 and also sets spending levels through September of that year. It also raises the spending caps set in place in 2011 providing for \$80 billion in sequester relief. The bill now moves to the Senate for their review and approval.

Ongoing discussions on FY2016 budget allocations, will continue between Congress and President Obama, as he upholds to commit to veto any budget bills that do not lift the spending caps on discretionary programs, such as Head Start/Early Head Start, Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). Stay tuned as staff continue to track the FY16 federal budget.

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## ADVOCACY CORNER

### Advocate L.A.!

Are you a parent frustrated with the lack of access to affordable child care?



In November, join Community Voices for our 2015-16 kick-off meeting, meet other advocates across Los Angeles County and learn about what you can do this new year to ensure your child is not left behind.

[Register Today!](#)

For more information, please contact Jessica Guerra at (323) 421-2602 or email [jguerra@crystalstairs.org](mailto:jguerra@crystalstairs.org)

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**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!**

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