



## Policy Agenda | 2025

**A vision for families to create a legacy of success and prosperity that passes from one generation to the next.**

Children’s Institute believes every child and family has the potential for emotional well-being and educational success, which build pathways to economic mobility and lifelong health. To address today’s unprecedented societal inequities and stabilize communities, we advocate for a strong, compassionate safety net for all, recognizing that whole-family success is vital to a resilient economy and a just society.



### Educational Success

All students access a high-quality education that fosters their success and healthy development at every stage of life. To achieve this, we advocate for:

- **Equitable Early Education Funding:** Fully fund year-round, full-day early education and ensure fair compensation for educators and home visitors.
- **Fair Reimbursement for Early Care:** To ensure stable access for families, calculate state reimbursement on student enrollment, not attendance.
- **Mental Health Support in Schools:** Invest in school-based mental health services, including the Multi-Payer Fee Schedule, to support student well-being during and after school hours through community partnerships.
- **Support for Youth in Foster Care:** Provide comprehensive education, career, and housing support for youth in foster care, up to age 26.



### Emotional Well-Being

All families access quality, affordable whole-person healthcare, including reproductive, behavioral health, and substance use treatment. To achieve this, we advocate for:

- **Community-Based Engagement in BHSA:** Involve communities in the implementation and financing of the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) to protect quality prevention, early intervention, and Full-Service Partnership programs.
- **Fair Rates for Providers:** Ensure adequate rates and streamlined administration for community-based providers under California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CAAIM).
- **Sustainable Funding for Behavioral Health Clinics:** Amend California’s state Medicaid plan to secure dedicated funding of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) within Medi-Cal.

For more information, please contact:

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## Lifelong Health

All individuals have the right to live in healthy and safe communities, which are vital to generational well-being. To build resilience and address the impacts of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), we advocate for:

- **Violence Prevention & Intervention:** Reduce barriers to employment and center the expertise of community members with lived experience.
- **Inclusive Environments:** Expand access to safe spaces for foster youth, LGBTQ+ youth, and undocumented youth.
- **Community Healing Initiatives:** Fund local programs that support wellness and healing from generational trauma.

## Economic Mobility

All adults access stable, living-wage employment and affordable housing, regardless of immigration status. To achieve this, we advocate for:

- **Financial Assistance for Families:** Invest in safety net benefits that provide direct financial support and prevent homelessness.
- **Socioeconomic Well-Being:** Promote and support community-based programs that foster economic resilience by addressing key areas such as employment opportunities and financial stability.

**To advance this policy agenda, we envision a fair, holistic, and diverse human services ecosystem. Nonprofit financial stability is critical to meeting community needs. We advocate for:**

- **Full Funding for Nonprofits:** Ensure adequate funding for services, including overhead expenses and rate increases in line with inflation.
- **Streamlined Processes:** Simplify procurement, payment, and oversight for community-based providers.

