

Early Childhood Education Investments:

Accomplishments, Shortfalls, and Opportunities



Child Care
Program
Food Roundtable



Child Care Nutrition Policy: Past, Present, & Future

Elyse Homel Vitale, Nutrition Policy Advocate
California Food Policy Advocates



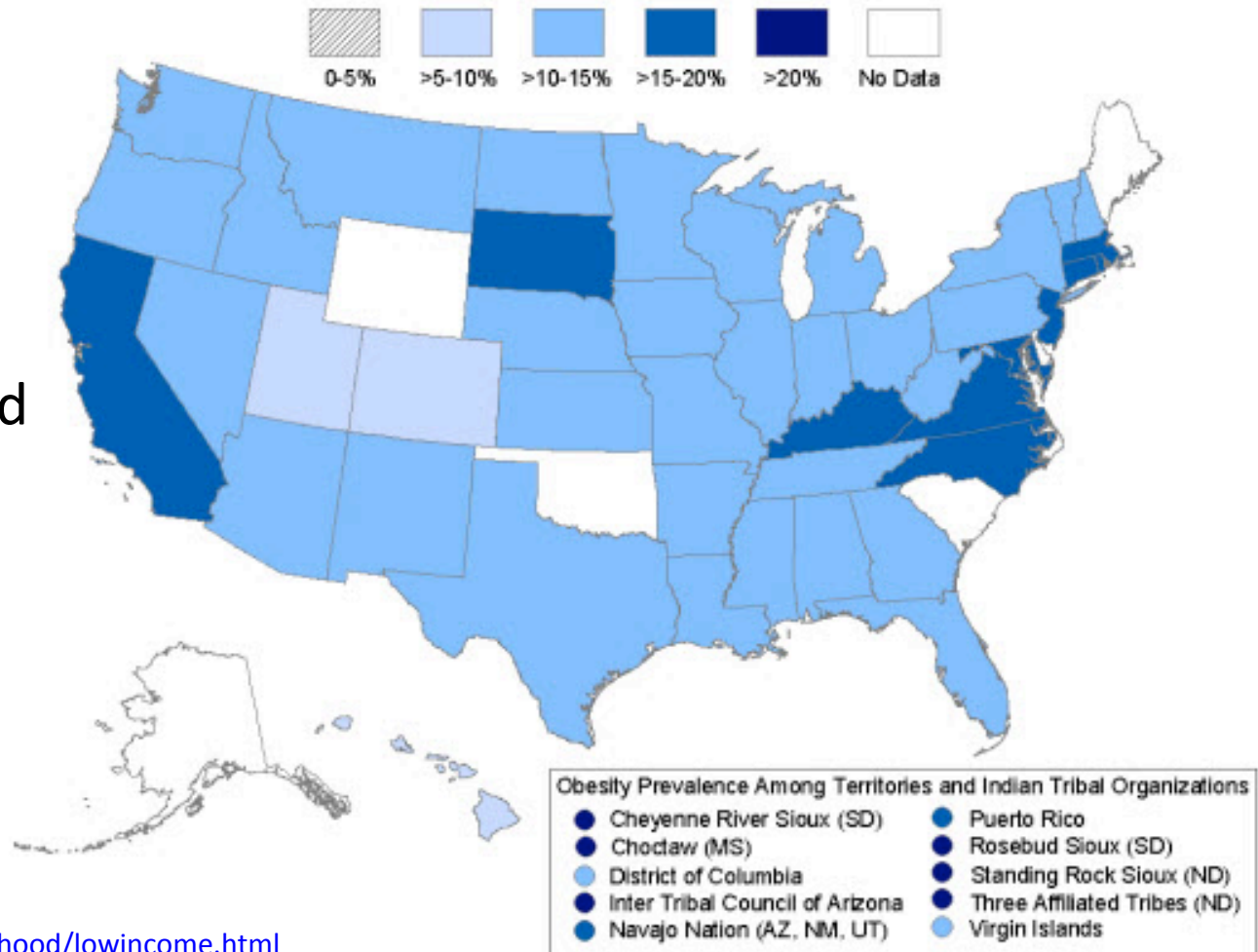


We are a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well being of low income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food.

1 of 3 children are obese or
overweight before their 5th birthday

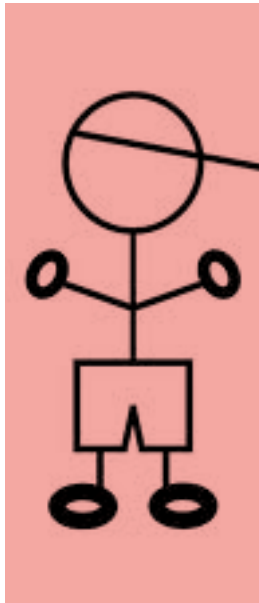
2009

Low-income
preschool-aged
children



This map is accessible at
www.cdc.gov/obesity/childhood/lowincome.html

27% of children
in CA are food insecure



Impact of Poor Nutrition

- Overweight & obese children
 - Increased risk for chronic disease
 - Breathing problem
 - Self-esteem & other social psychological problems
- Hungry Children
 - Sick more often
 - Growth impairment
 - Development impairment
- Obesity Paradox
- Health care & long-term costs for all society



Why **CHILD CARE** nutrition?

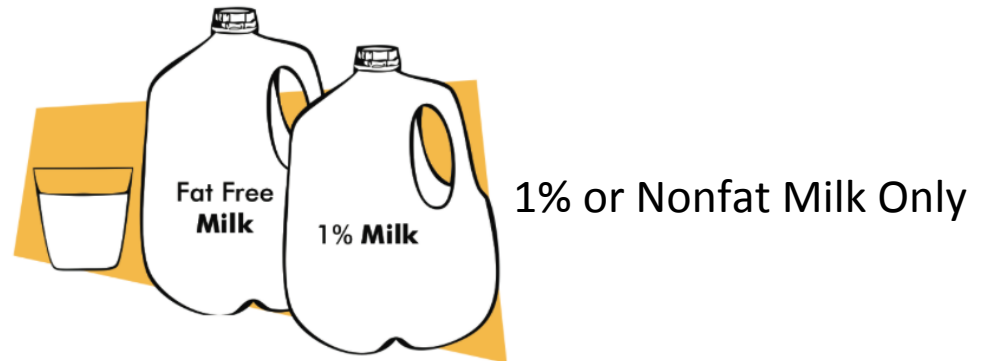
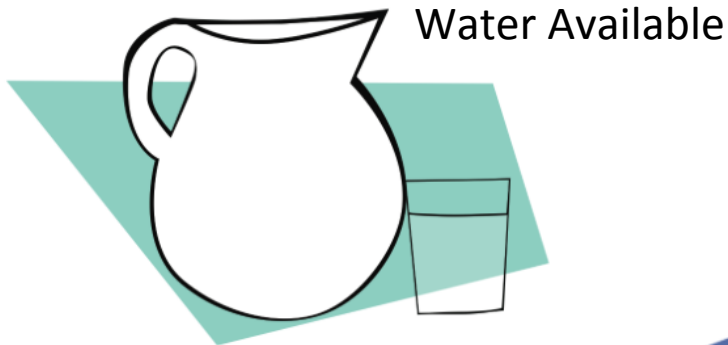
- 40% of kids enrolled in child care centers
- Thousands more in FCCH
- A significant portion of daily nutrition
- Taste preferences and habits are formed early
- Nutritional quality – room for improvement!
- Providers are gatekeepers



AB 2084 (Brownley): Healthy Beverages in Child Care

APPROVED

Passed – 2010
Implemented - 2012



Only 1 Serving
of Juice



No Sweetener



AB 1872 (Alejo): Improving Child Care Nutrition



- FDCH providers follow the CACFP meal pattern for all meals and snacks served;
- Local licensing authorities to inform FDCH providers and child care centers about CACFP

AB 290 (Alejo): Foundations for Healthy Nutrition in Child Care

- Educate child care providers about early childhood nutrition
- Ensure child care providers are informed about the resources of CACFP



APPROVED

ECE Nutrition Investments

Building Blocks of Investing in Early Childhood Nutrition Investments

A **small** investment can make a **BIG** difference.



CACFP ensures that state dollars support the **best nutrition**.



Every penny counts towards the **financial stability** of our early childhood educators.

Healthy food means **healthy minds**, preparing our youngest for kindergarten.



Healthy meals in early care support families in stretching their **household food budgets**.



- Require the state to reimburse all ECE programs enrolled in the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) \$0.2248 for each free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch served.

CACFP Meal Pattern & Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2015

- Proposed meal pattern released:
 - Advocacy opportunity: *Comment on the proposed meal pattern, when released!*
- Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2015
 - Reauthorizes child nutrition programs every 5 years
 - Advocacy opportunities:
 - Organize site visits
 - Meet with your Legislators
 - Use media to raise awareness



Thank you!

Elyse Homel Vitale, MPH



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California Child Care Resource & Referral

NETWORK



California Child Care Resource & Referral Network

**CCFP Conference
October 27, 2014**

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies



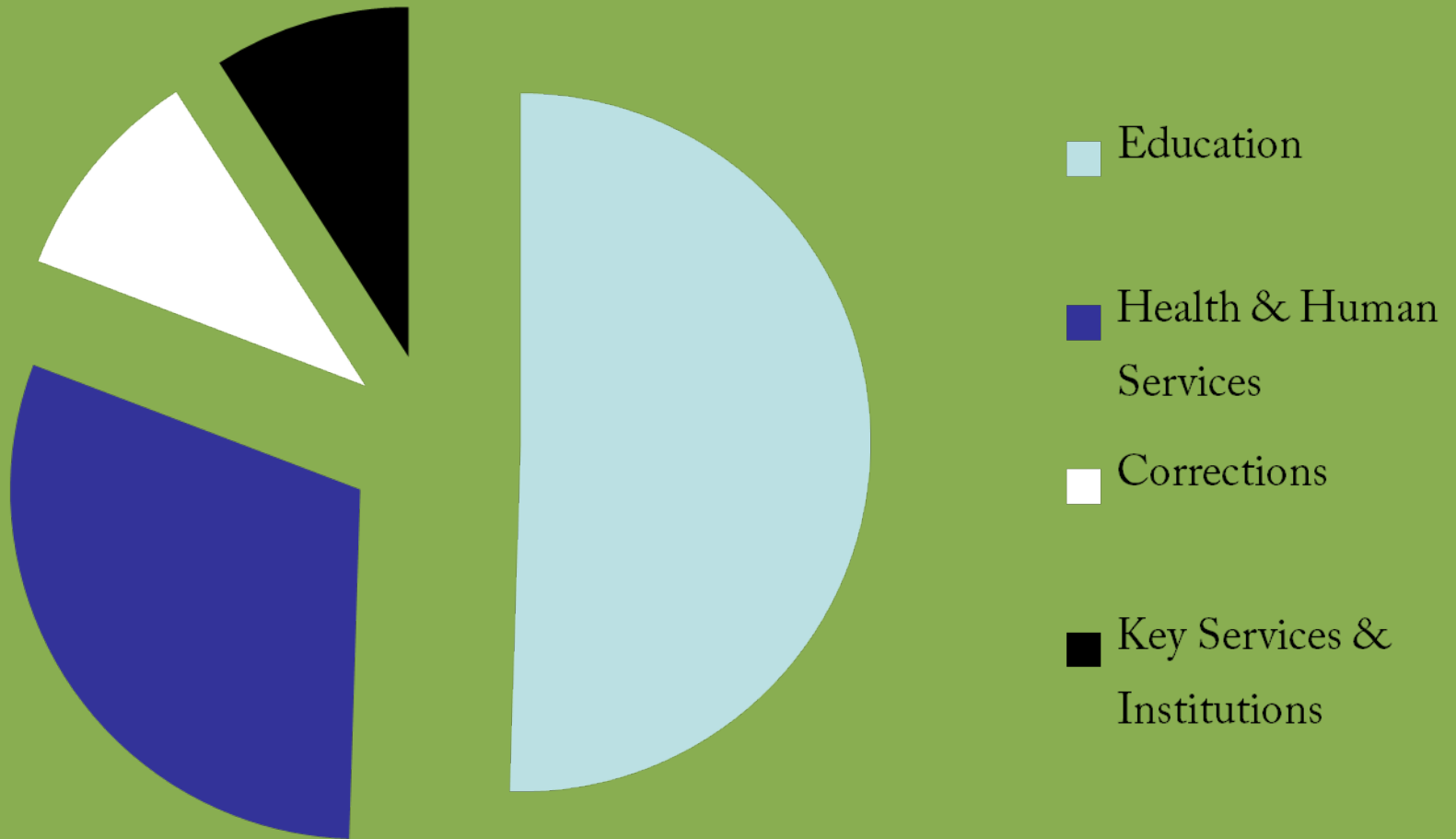
HELP FAMILIES
FIND CHILD CARE &

WORK TO IMPROVE THE
QUALITY OF CHILD CARE

Funded by:



CALIFORNIA'S TAX DOLLARS



Subsidized Child Care & Development Funding



Between 2008 and 2013,

a third of the funding was lost OR

over \$1B and 110,000 subsidized child care spaces

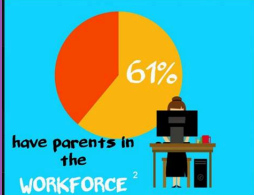
A look at California's youngest learners

California is home to the largest number of children living in the United States.

However, access to child care and development programs is limited.

There are 3,027,523 children 5 years old and younger living in California.¹

1.5 million

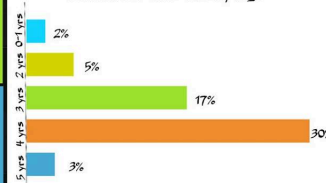


children ages 0-5 years eligible for a child care subsidy³

206,339 children ages 0-5 years served through state subsidized child care and development programs⁴

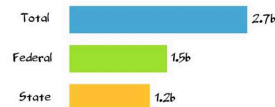
Federal Early Head Start and Head Start programs serve an additional 111,909* children 0-5 years⁵

Percent of Children Served Through Subsidized Child Care by Age^{5,6}

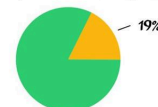


While the total child care and development program investment in California is close to \$3 billion, this investment serves less than one-quarter of the children eligible for subsidized child care.

Child Care and Development Program Funding (in billions)



Percent of Eligible Children 0-5 Years Served by Subsidized Programs




California Child Care Resource & Referral

NETWORK


1. CA Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2012 Projection.
2. California Child Care Resource and Referral Network estimate.
3. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2012 1-year estimate.
4. CA Department of Education, CDS01-A October 2012/April 2013 average.
5. CA Department of Education, CDS01-A October 2012.
6. CA Head Start Association, Head Start/Early Head Start in California Data Report FY12-13.
7. CA Department of Education, Child Development Programs FY2012-2013 and CA Head Start Association, Head Start/Early Head Start in California Data Report FY12-13.

*This includes 42,086 children served through Head Start and EESD program collaborations.


Over \$265M in New Investments in 2014-15

- 
- Increased Access (State Preschool, General Child Care wrap around slots for full day options)
 - Increased Reimbursement Rates
 - Increased Quality funding (QRIS Block grants, stipends, facilities)
 - Increased funding for Community Care Licensing Division

Health & Safety Workgroup

- 
- Support best practices and improve child care health and safety standards
 - Make recommendations to the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division on regulatory reform for California's child care health and safety regulations.

CCDBG Reauthorization & CCDF Regs.

- 
- New Requirements/Major Changes for CA
 - New Health and Safety Standards & Monitoring Requirements for the Workforce
 - Child care providers requirements *“may include requirements related to nutrition, access to physical activity...”*
 - S. 1086 expected to be passed by House in mid-November, President expected to sign before the end of the year
 - ACF will issue new CCDF Regulations



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.rrnetwork.org

www.facebook.com/CARRNetwork

Kim Johnson,
Public Policy Director
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View from the 30,000 foot level



Speaker: Denyne M. Micheletti, CEO
California Alternative Payment
Program Association

Date: October 27, 2014

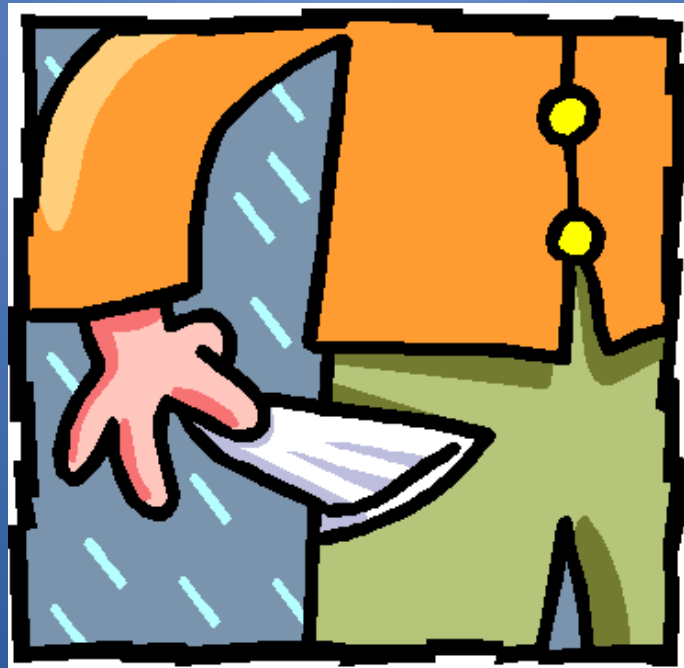
How to move forward



Impacts: Policy versus Reality

Biggest issue facing families and programs

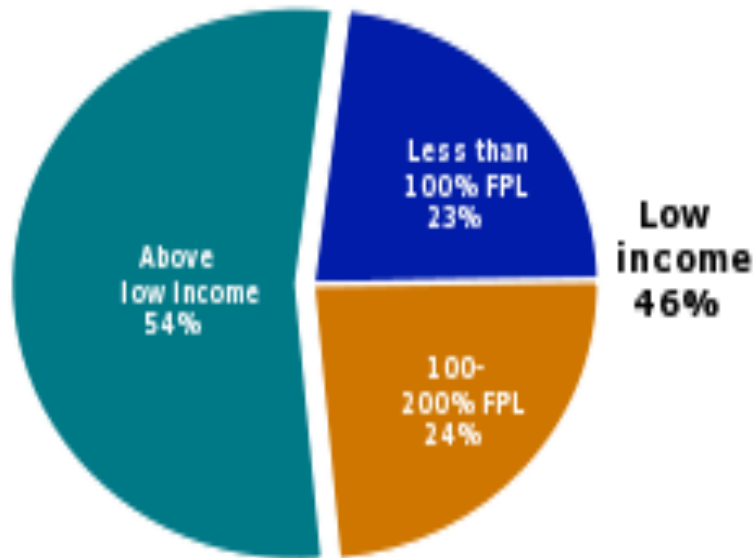
POVERTY



According to the Census Bureau, nearly one-fourth (**23.8 percent**, up from a 20-year low of 12 percent in 2006,) of California's 38-million people live below the poverty line – with Latinos, now the state's single largest ethnic group, bearing the brunt of such deprivation.

More than 16 million children in the United States – 22% of all children – live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level – \$23,550 a year for a family of four. Research shows that, on average, families need an income of about twice that level to cover basic expenses. Using this standard, 45% of children live in extreme poverty.

2014 research suggests that, on average, families need an income of about twice the federal poverty threshold to meet their most basic needs. Children living in families with incomes below this level—\$46,566 for a family of four in 2012—are referred to as low income. The United States measures poverty by an outdated standard developed in the 1960s.



In California, there are 4,560,022 families with 8,859,248 children.

Low-Income Children: 46% (4,114,424) of children live in low-income families (National: 45%), defined as income below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Why are we here and why do we exist

- Reflections
- Moving forward
- What is a nation's and a state's budget and policy actions say?





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Creative Partnerships for Nutrition Programs in Los Angeles County

Cristina Alvarado, MSW
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- Los Angeles is a large, diverse region
- Most populous county in the U.S.
- 9,818,605 people
- Land area of 4,083 mi²



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

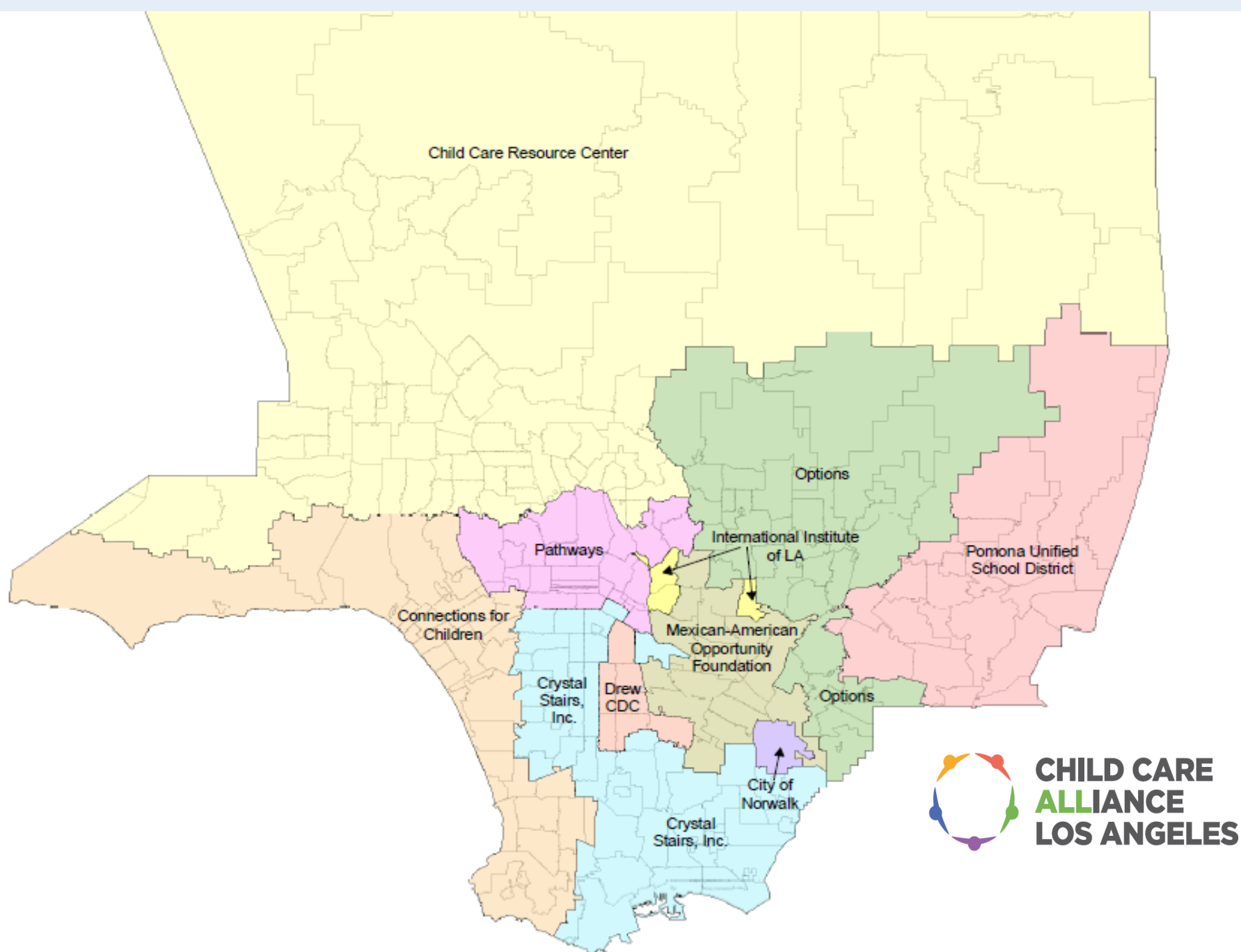
- Ethnicity
 - 47% Hispanic
 - 27.8% White
 - 13.7% Asian
 - 8.7% African American
- 63% of the under 6 population is Latino
- Our agencies provide services in at least 10 languages





**CHILD CARE
ALLIANCE
LOS ANGELES**

The Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
is a partnership of 10 community-based
organizations working together to ensure the
delivery of seamless, consistent, quality child
care throughout Los Angeles County.



Diverse Group of CCR&Rs

- Unique natural reach to all communities in LA County
- Local reach within differing neighborhoods, cultures, & languages
- Relationships with child care programs already in place
- Ability to reach parents through their children's caregivers



Services Delivered by Alliance Agencies

- Subsidized Child Care (Voucher Programs – CCDBG)
 - 44,000 children
 - 25,000 families
- Child Care Providers
 - Approx. 10,000 licensed providers in database
 - Contract with 9,000 license-exempt providers monthly
- Referrals and Other Information
 - 72,000 requests for child care referrals and other information annually

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Challenges and Opportunities

- Faced shrinking budgets
- Envisioned growth in new program areas
- Interest from local funders who desired consistent, high quality services in a large region
- As a collaborating group of CCR&Rs, we each have natural reach into our own communities

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Long-Time Partnerships

- California Department of Education
- California Community Care Licensing
- California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
- LA County Department of Social Services



NEW APPROACHES



NEW APPROACHES



- Built New Partnerships
 - First 5 LA
 - LAUP
 - Department of Public Health
 - UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities
- Secured New Funding
 - Quality Improvement component of two local QRIS
 - Public Health Initiatives

PROGRAMS



Choose Health LA Child Care **FUNDED BY FIRST 5 LA & LA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Aimed to improve the nutrition and physical activity environment in child care settings countywide and reduce obesity among preschool age children

Goals:

- Improve the nutrition and physical activity environment in child care settings countywide
- Reduce obesity among preschool age children





Choose Health LA Child Care

RESULTS (JULY 2013 – AUGUST 2014)

- Conducted workshops on nutrition and physical activity for 2,275 providers
- Provided 1-2 follow-up sessions for 687 of the workshop participants
- Reached 12,259 families with information on nutrition and physical activity
- Reached 10,545 child care providers by distributing nutrition and physical activity information to them

PROGRAMS



Nemours National Early Care and Education Learning Collaboratives Project

Provides training and technical assistance to ECE providers to achieve long term, positive change in the areas of nutrition, breastfeeding support, physical activity and screen time.

Participants receive 1 ½ years of intensive coaching and training and work in 1 of 3 cohorts comprised of 20-25 ECE centers

Project Goals:

- Reduce childhood obesity rates
- Improve program policies and practices related to nutrition, physical activity, screen time and breastfeeding support

Nemours National Early Care and Education Learning Collaboratives Project



RESULTS (MAY 2014 – PRESENT)

- Conducted 3 Learning Sessions for 80 ECE centers (240 participants)
- Provided 1-3 T&TA Coaching Sessions per program per Learning Session
- Reached approximately 4000 children and families

PROGRAMS

UCLA Dental Homes Project



To improve parents' and child care providers' knowledge of children's oral health needs and available community resources (UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities)

Project Goal

- Reach 800 child care programs and 7,500 parents in year one

UCLA Dental Homes Project

RESULTS (JANUARY 2014 – JULY 2014)

- Conducted workshops on oral health for 808 providers
- Reached 7,696 families with information on nutrition and physical activity



INITIAL PROGRAM RE: TO HEALTH

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PANDEMIC AWARENESS/PREVENTION
(FUNDED BY LA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH)

Influenza Prevention

- Department of Public Health needed to set up influenza vaccination clinics and distribute information to the community
- DPH asked Alliance agencies to implement a program short notice

RESULTS:

- 50 influenza vaccination clinics in 7 weeks for 1,839 people (children, parents, relatives, and providers)
- 11.2% under age 5
- 45.6% spoke Spanish

Formula for Success

- Identify services that are not being met that you have the expertise to offer
- Create a program design that will work for your community
- Seek out partnerships with new groups
- Co-create a model program with those new partners
- Deliver solid services and gain recognition from your new partners

Questions?

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