



## EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION (ECE) FOR ALL PLANNING

### PURPOSE, SCOPE, AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

APPROVED BY ALAMEDA FIRST 5 COMMISSION, COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION,  
AND CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL

AUGUST, 2005

## PROPOSAL

It is proposed that Alameda County integrate *Preschool for All* planning into a comprehensive approach to *Early Care and Education for All* that will build on the work of many experts and ECE practitioners in Alameda County, and include a wide group of community stakeholders.

## BACKGROUND

### Purpose of ECE for All Planning

The ECE for All planning is based on several factors:

1. The PFA (Preschool for All) state-wide movement and role of County First 5 Commissions in PFA planning
2. The County Superintendent of Education's approval of First 5's lead role in planning for PFA Alameda County
3. The Child Care Planning Council's comprehensive review of ECE needs that must be completed in 2006

The integrated process will enable Alameda County to leverage resources from the County Superintendent, the Planning Council, and First 5 Alameda County, resulting in an in-depth and effective plan. The planning process is intended to benefit our collective efforts for quality early care and education whether the State-wide PFA Initiative, authored by Rob Reiner, passes or not. Our goal is to create the highest quality ECE for all children birth to five years of age in our county.

### Specifically, this process will:

1. Develop a vision and goals for Quality Early Care and Education for all children in Alameda County, infants to five years of age
2. Develop a county-wide consensus on the vision and goals
3. Develop a proposed implementation timeline and activities plan to work toward those goals and vision

### **Proposed Scope of Work:**

1. Comprehensive research, data collection , and analyses, including identification of policy and systems changes that could assist in better delivery of resources and services
2. Development and management of Advisory and Work Groups
3. Development and monitoring of input sessions, professional contracts, etc.
4. Organization of reports; submission to Commission and other stakeholders
5. Final plan development

### **Timeline:**

**June - July, 2005:** Child Care Planning Council and Every Child Counts staff develop a proposed structure and timeline; take recommendations to the County Superintendent of Schools, Child Care Planning Council and First 5 Commission;

**August - September, 2005:** Issue a Request for Qualifications for planning work; select contractor; develop committee membership (see below for Committee structure);

**October, 2005 – March, 2006:** Develop and organize data; hold meetings of Committees draft report on need and supply; begin identification of policy and legal issues. Research standards for ECE staff (all gradations of program types, age groups taught, etc.); develop ECE program standards (Accreditation, “star system”, etc.); develop cross-discipline standards (parents, child assessment, family support, health); hold Advisory Group meetings; solicit input and support for Committee recommendations.

**April-May, 2006:** Draft sections of final report; Advisory Committee members review; begin full draft

**June-August, 2006:** Finalize full draft

**September, 2006:** Submit final draft to County Office of Education, County Board of Supervisors, Planning Council, First 5 Commission, etc.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

The ECE for All planning process will include comprehensive input and involvement from professional, policy and practitioner groups and individuals, including but not limited to the following representation:

- Parents
- Family Child Care Providers
- Community based non-subsidized cc centers (Title 22)
- Community based subsidized cc centers
- School Districts
- Child Care Resource and Referral

- Child Care Payment Programs
- Head Start
- County Planning Department
- Parks and Recreation
- Community colleges
- Community Care Licensing
- County Health Agency
- Business
- Faith-based Organizations
- Legislators
- County Social Service Agency
- Four year colleges or universities
- Labor unions
- Mental Health
- City representative
- Inclusion Specialists
- County Office of Education

### **Workgroups**

- Data and Needs Assessment
- Program and Workforce Standards

### **Data & Needs Assessment Workgroup**

In conjunction with the Program and Workforce Workgroup, determines questions to be addressed by the needs assessment; defines data required for needs assessment, assesses and reviews data sources, and determines additional data to be collected for analysis; reviews reports from staff; and recommends items for inclusion in the ECE for All Plan to the Program and Workforce Standards workgroup and to the Advisory Committee. Meeting times and duration are to be determined.

### **Potential Members:**

- Planning Council staff
- Child Care Fund Advisory Board members
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Head Start
- Social Services and School District planners
- City and Regional planners
- Total membership maximum: 10 members

### **Program and Workforce Standards Workgroup**

Conducts research on infant-toddler and pre-school quality criteria; drafts proposed standards on workforce, curriculum and parent involvement. Recommends goals and standards to the Advisory Committee for inclusion in the ECE for All Plan; recommends steps on how county should work toward the goals and standards. Meets quarterly; full day meetings

**Members:**

- College and university faculty
- Community based Title 22 centers
- Family child care
- Mental health consultant
- Social Services agency
- Linguistic and cultural experts
- Inclusion Specialists
- Infant/Toddler Specialists
- Head Start and Title V Programs
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Total membership maximum: 12 members

Each workgroup will be staffed by a consultant (see below)

**Staff and Consultants: Skills and expertise needed:**

Organizer/Coordinator

Recorder/writer

Meeting facilitator

Demographer

Economist

Fiscal Leveraging expert

“Messaging” experts

Curriculum Specialist

Mental Health Specialist

Family Support Specialist

Higher Education Researcher

Legal & Policy

Linguistic/Cultural expert

**Fiscal and Staff Implications:**

The Every Child Counts strategic plan for 2005-2009 has allocated \$250,000 for the Early Care and Education planning process. Every Child Counts and Planning Council staff will take the lead in organizing the process with strong support of the County Office of Education.