



July 1st, 2021

Following Governor Newsom's agreement on key items to the state budget, Tamika Farr, the CEO of Pathways LA, released the following statement:

"I applaud Governor Newsom and the state legislature on the final agreement of the Budget Act of 2021 as it relates to Early Childhood Education (ECE). The inclusion of substantive investments in the ECE infrastructure, including rate increases for child care providers and expanding child care access by more than 200,000 slots in subsidized care will provide much-needed relief to vulnerable families and child care providers across the state.

The proposed \$262.6 billion in total spending will help our state recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the sizeable investment toward the state's General Fund reserves will help address other key areas of the ECE industry. Specifically, I support the additional funds for the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children, investments in Early Care Infrastructure Block Grants, and money for Early Learning and Care Workforce Development Block Grants.

I am also encouraged by the agreement between the legislature and the Governor's staff on implementing a Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) system. However, I am concerned about the specifics of the rollout of UTK and call on the Governor and legislature to ensure that all 4-year-olds receive the specific care and access to learning environments they need to thrive, and to work with privately owned care centers to help with the UTK rollout. Equally important to secure is underscoring the importance of a mixed delivery system that includes allowing parents the right to choose what type of program best fits them and their child.

Pathways LA and communities across California agree that strong Early Care and investments in education are critical to creating healthy families and a thriving economy. But more work is needed to repair a fractured ECE system. To ensure talented, high-quality care, child care providers must be compensated equitably, beyond the current rate increases in the budget. The state must continue to prioritize the child care industry moving forward and ensure that all children, regardless of socio-economic status or ability, have access to high quality child care."

About Pathways LA

Pathways LA is committed to the healthy development and school readiness of young children from disadvantaged communities. Driven by data and innovation, our experts support the continuum of care that includes parents, childcare providers, community partners, and policymakers. Learn more at:

<https://pathwaysla.org/>

For questions or to arrange an interview with Tamika Farr, please contact: Jennifer Dekel, Jennifer@miller-ink.com or Emily Kopsick, emily.kopsick@miller-ink.com