

INVESTING IN CHILD CARE INFRASTRUCTURE

» EXPAND THE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL INFRASTRUCTURE (R&R) TO EXTEND COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

California's Resource & Referral Agency (R&R) helps families find child care and counsels families on how to find the care best suited for them. The state's R&R network:

- Coaches child care providers
- Educates and engages with the community
- Provides data on the child data on the child care system
- Helps recruit new providers
- Administers child care providers state wide

The state of California should consider expanding the R&R network capacity for disaster readiness, such as the case of the pandemic. R&Rs can update community members, expand references for mental trauma and hospitals, and connect families and children with social services. Additionally, investing in R&R's capacity to refer families in need to Child Welfare Agencies and Foster Family Agencies for emergency situations is critical for children with limited recourses.

The R&R network should also work to accommodate the ever-growing needs of immigrant families, especially in LA County, by providing language translators and resources for legal recourse.



» FAMILY WORK SCHEDULES IN CALIFORNIA ARE JUST AS DIVERSE AS OUR POPULATION

LA county alone is home to one of the most diverse regions in the world. Because of this variety, the ECE system must be equipped to provide an expanded mixed delivery system. ECE programs should be modernized to meet the needs of diverse children and families where jobs for caregivers often do not match the traditional 9-5 working schedule. For parents to work, they need child care options that are flexible and convenient for families, and that meet their individual needs. Family work schedules in California are just as diverse as our population.

Broadly, the ideal mixed delivery system should offer a variety of services in different settings. Investing in a high-quality mixed delivery system allows for more parent and child choices. Additionally, prioritizing dual language learners is critical for families across the state. In many instances, English is not the native tongue for families in need of child care. In these cases, students are not only trying to learn a second language but are doing so in conjunction with regular class sessions. Expanding the multilanguage curriculum to support a multilingual system to meet the unique needs of a diverse community, and a system consisting of a wide range of care and settings to accommodate children of all cognitive abilities and with special needs, is the type of mixed delivery options that families need today.

