



# Learning Begins at Birth

## Supporting Early Childhood Education in Los Angeles County



LOS ANGELES PRESCHOOL ADVOCACY INITIATIVE®

### Closing L.A. County's Early Education Gap

Children in early learning programs are less likely to be put in special education or held back in school and are more likely to complete high school and attend college. Yet, more than 40,000 L.A. County children do not have access to quality early childhood education (ECE) programs.

The California Community Foundation (CCF) has championed ECE in Los Angeles County, investing nearly \$7 million over the past seven years. CCF's strategies include:

**School Readiness:** Preparing young children for K-12

**Parent Engagement:** Parent leadership development and skill building

**Los Angeles Preschool Advocacy Initiative (LAPAI) Coalition:** Convening stakeholders on ECE policy change and advocacy

**ECE Public Policy and Advocacy:** Grantmaking supporting advocacy and organizing for ECE at the state and local levels

**Program Related Investments:** Partnership with First 5 LA addressing systemic cash-flow issues among L.A. County ECE providers



### Spotlight on the LAPAI Coalition

In 2007 CCF partnered with the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to launch the Los Angeles Preschool Advocacy Initiative Coalition, a cross-sector group of partners ranging from early childhood education providers to nonprofits, advocacy organizations and business groups. The Coalition's goal is to increase access to high-quality ECE programs for children in underserved communities in L.A. County. LAPAI engages with the community as a:

**Local Watchdog:** Ensuring dollars allocated to ECE facilities in prior bond measures are used for their dedicated purposes. In 2011, LAPAI was awarded a seat on LAUSD's bond oversight committee.

**Policy Advocate:** Strengthening the network of ECE advocates at the state and county levels, supporting statewide reinvestments in ECE, ensuring districts employ Local Control Funding Formula funds for ECE, supporting county-wide funding mechanisms to increase investment in ECE and engaging in state and federal policy advocacy around ECE.

### LAPAI Coalition Members

- |                                      |   |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Advancement Project                  | L.A. County Office of Education           | Early Edge California                           | LAUP                                    |
| Asian & Pacific Islanders            | L.A. County Child Care Planning Committee | L.A. County Policy Roundtable for Children      | Children Now                            |
| California Action Network            | L.A. Chamber of Commerce                  | Long Beach Day Nursery                          | Mar Vista Family Center                 |
| California Community Foundation      | First 5 LA                                | Low Income Investment Fund                      | Mexican American Opportunity Foundation |
| California Strategies                | Jumpstart                                 | Long Beach Early Childhood Investment Committee | Proyecto Pastoral                       |
| Child Development Consortium of L.A. | Families in Schools                       | LAUSD   | Public Counsel Law Center               |
|                                      |   |   | Zero to Three                           |

For more on the LAPAI Coalition and CCF's investments in early childhood education, contact Rosie Arroyo, program officer for civic engagement, at [rarroyo@calfund.org](mailto:rarroyo@calfund.org), Peter Rivera, senior program officer for education, at [privera@calfund.org](mailto:privera@calfund.org) or call (213) 413-4130. Visit [calfund.org/lapai](http://calfund.org/lapai)