

***“We oppose the Governor’s Child Care Realignment proposal because we believe in a statewide early care and educational development system administered by the California Department of Education that delivers optimal school readiness for California’s neediest children.”***

### ***Outreach***

In January 2003, Governor Gray Davis proposed to realign California’s Child Care and Development System transferring services from the State Department of Education to local governments. This outreach & media kit has been developed to provide a clear, concise picture of the local impacts of this realignment and to assist communities in facilitating local conversations. For any questions regarding these documents please contact Edward Condon (916) 444-7760 or Kathi Walker (530) 295-2312.

### ***Contents of Kit***

- Child Care Realignment Fact Sheet
- Child Care Realignment Impact Overview
- Child Care Realignment Impact Report

### ***How to use this Kit***

This kit is to be used with parents, community members and local governmental entities. The following are suggested activities to be used within you community.

#### ***Parents***

Parents can use this kit to begin discussions using existing forms of communication in the community. These forums can include program policy, classroom and parent meetings. Suggested activities include placing the item on the agenda for the next meeting or publishing the report in parent newsletters.

#### ***Community Members***

Community Members can use this kit to increase the community knowledge on specific fact and potential consequences of the purposed realignment of child care and development. These conversations can include: co-workers, administrators, community partners, social service providers, public school personnel, employers, organized labor, and child advocates. Through conversations in the community, a baseline of information can be laid underscoring how minimum standards would be jeopardized and the impact on quality as it relates to teacher preparation and infant/toddler programs.

#### ***Local Government Officials***

Conversations with local government officials will convey clear consistent facts regarding the impact of realignment from a unified voice to be used to inform local decision makers. Meetings can be arranged with officials to discuss the local impacts of child care realignment and lay groundwork for future communication. Included in these conversation might be: Board of Supervisors, Superintendent of Schools, Department of Social Services, City Council Members, County Administrative Officer, Community College Administrators, and Economic Development Coordinators.

## **Child Care Realignment Fact Sheet**

### ***Summary of Overall Realignment Proposal***

- In his 2003-2004 budget, the Governor proposed transferring over \$8 billion of state programs to counties and raising funds for these programs through several tax increases.
- The realignment proposal covers a variety of state programs, including most state child care and development programs, Medi-Cal, in-home supportive services, child welfare, foster care and food stamps.
- The \$8 billion-plus in tax increases proposed by the Governor to fund realignment include (a) a one percent increase in sales tax; (b) increased tax rates for high-income tax brackets; and (c) a \$1.10 per pack cigarette tax.
- The realigned programs would no longer be funded through the General Fund. The revenue increases would become part of a special fund for realigned programs.
- After the first year, counties would have discretion to spend these revenues on *any* realigned program, rather than having a set level guaranteed for each program as in the first year.
- Issues to be addressed in a trailer bill include issues relating to revenue allocation, application of State and federal requirements, allowing counties to shift funds among programs and the nature of continuing State oversight of realigned programs.

### **Summary of Realignment Proposal Regarding Child Care and Development**

#### ***Generally***

Transfers responsibility for most state child care and development programs from CDE to the counties.

#### ***Impacted Programs***

- The child care subsidy programs subject to realignment are:
  - General Child Care and Development
  - Alternative Payment
  - CalWORKs Stage 2
  - CalWORKs Stage 3
  - Migrant Child Care
  - Latchkey
  - Campus Child Care and Development
  - Handicapped program

- Child care support services subject to realignment include:
  - Resource and Referral
  - Local Planning Councils
  - Community College professional development programs
  - Mentor teacher programs
  - Statewide infant-toddler program support and resources
  - CARES and other quality improvement programs
  
- The following programs would not be subject to realignment, with CDE maintaining responsibility:
  - State Preschool
  - After School Education and Safety Program

*Funding Issues*

- Of the overall \$8 billion realignment proposal, approximately \$1 billion relates to child care. In the first year, counties would receive \$1.031 billion out of the new revenues for child care programs.
  
- Counties also would receive nearly \$900 million in *federal* child care funding for these programs.
  
- Spending for realigned child care programs would no longer be subject to Proposition 98 protections.

*Infrastructure and Standards*

- Curtails CDE staff and infrastructure that provide oversight, monitoring and central data collection.
  
- Counties would set program rules relating to eligibility, family fees, and provider reimbursement.
  
- Unclear if state program standards, such as high quality standards through Title V, will continue to apply.

Sources: Governor's Budget Summary 2003-04: Preserving Critical Programs: Building Upon the Success of the 1991 State-Local Program Realignment; Legislative Analyst's Office, 2003-04: Overview of the Governor's Budget.