

## **Eighteen Organizations Respond**

*“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.”*

### **Reports Endorsed by:**

**California Alternative Payment Program Association  
California Association for the Education of Young Children  
California Association for Family Child Care  
California Child Care Coordinators Association  
California Community Colleges Early Childhood Educators  
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles County  
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network  
California Child Development Administrators Association  
California Head Start Association  
Child Care Law Center  
California Child Development Coalition  
Child Development Policy Institute  
Child Development Policy Institute Education Fund  
Children’s Advocacy Institute  
Children Now  
Fight Crime Invest In Kids  
Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
Professional Association for Childhood Education**



443,000

CHILDREN  
AT  
RISK

## ***Governor's Proposed Realignment of Child Care and Development: At What Cost?***

A proposal has been made by Governor Davis to realign all child care and development (early care and education) programs starting fiscal year 2003-2004. Realignment results in transferring the administration of all child care and development programs (with the exception of State Preschool and After School Programs) to counties. The statewide system serving the State's poorest children, which is administered by the California Department of Education (CDE), will be eliminated and 58 separate new county-run systems will have to be developed. We believe realignment will have severe negative consequences for California's children and families.

### **Realignment...**

#### **Adversely affects 281,000 families and 443,000 children receiving state-subsidized child care and development**

- Research shows the critical role early care and education plays in school success. Research also shows that the outcomes are even more dramatic with the poorest children. To make sure California's children are ready to succeed in school, we need a system that is linked to education. With realignment, a statewide infrastructure that supports high quality child care and development will be disrupted. 153,000 low-income children may lose services on July 1, 2003. These children attend Child Care and Development Center Programs, where Title 5 Education regulations must be met that ensure high quality child care and development. These are the same standards required of State Preschool Programs.
- The statewide infrastructure that provides uniform standards, regulation, and data collection will be eliminated and replaced with 58 different county-run programs with their own standards and requirements. The result is twofold. First, child care and development funds could be redirected to other children and adult entitlement programs. Second, families that move from one county to another will not have a statewide system to assist them with the transition and ensure their continued child care and development.

#### **Puts child care and development funding at risk and increases bureaucracy**

- Currently CDE administers child care programs at 0.6 percent of program costs. The development of 58 new county administration structures, will increase administrative costs significantly, which is inconsistent with the Governor's stated goal of reducing bureaucracy and administrative costs.
- No firewalls are proposed to protect child care and development from the rising costs of child and adult entitlement programs.
- Child care and development in the Department of Education is significantly different from other social service programs proposed for realignment and has no local county infrastructure to support this program.

### **Conflicts with the approved Master Plan for Education**

- Realignment contradicts the recommendations of the recent Master Plan for Education, which recognizes the value of infant, toddler and preschool programs in continuum with K-12 education. Instead of leaving child care and development in the hands of education agencies, it gives responsibility for educational achievement to county administrative offices and/or social services departments that have no experience with education programs.
- Scores reveal that only 45 percent of California's 4<sup>th</sup> graders are basic readers according to a recent National Assessment of Educational Progress. With the number of children 0-4 years expected to grow by 37.1 percent in the next 20 years, the number of children who must be prepared for school success continues to grow.

### **Jeopardizes Federal Funding**

- Federal law requires states to report detailed information on families receiving federally subsidized child care each month. Failure to report this data will place up to \$10 million at risk, annually.
- Federal law, under Child Care Development Fund Block Grants (CCDF), requires states to meet matching requirements. Failure of counties to meet these requirements will jeopardize federal funds.

These are only some of the questions and issues raised by the proposed realignment. A more comprehensive ***“Impact of Realignment Report,”*** which is attached to this overview, provides a more in-depth account of the consequences of the proposed realignment.

We urge you to think carefully before taking any action that could jeopardize the future of California's poorest, most vulnerable children.

Rev. 2/13/03

