

## 2023 POLICY AGENDA

For nearly 50 years, Child Care Resource & Referral agencies have served as trusted partners in communities throughout California. Through the Great Recession, multiple natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and now easing our way into a new way of life, R&R agencies remain vital in supporting families and child care providers to ensure families can work or attend school.

### Fully Fund Child Care Resource and Referral Services

R&R agencies have been the heart of child care in their local communities for nearly 50 years. R&Rs received a \$10 million statewide increase in their contracts in FY22 and FY23 to sustain the services the community has come to rely on and to recruit and retain the qualified staff necessary to meet the needs of children, families, and child care providers. R&Rs had not received any significant increase in funding since 1990, putting their vital services at risk without the ongoing commitment of funds. R&Rs are critical components of the early childhood infrastructure and child care workforce support.

#### 1 Resource & Referral Funding

In 2021, for the first time since 1990, R&Rs received increased funding. The \$10 million statewide increase in their contracts in FY22 and FY23 allowed R&Rs to be crucial partners in providing the child care community with pandemic support in order to sustain the nurturing quality care the community has come to rely on. A \$25 million increase to the Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP) from FY22-FY23, allowed R&Rs the staffing and resources to help prevent a significant decline in child care supply. They worked passionately to recruit, retain and train a qualified workforce necessary to meet the current needs of children and families.

#### 2 Rate Reform and Compensation

Families need access to the full range of child care options to meet their needs, no matter the age of their child(ren). This access must include non-traditional hours of care that a significant portion of California's families require and care that is linguistically and culturally affirming. Without reform to our subsidized child care system and an increase to the child care workforce compensation, families will not have the access they need and want.

#### 3 Mixed Delivery

Children thrive in environments where they are nurtured, safe, healthy, stimulated and have adequate nutrition and space to grow. Those environments are at home, with a caretaker, a child care provider, family member, school or community. A supportive system for families needs to start where they are. Families have children of varying ages, and various work schedules. A mixed delivery early care and learning system ensures families have available options that meet their needs.

#### 4 Whole Child and Family

The California Child Care Resource & Referral Network supports policies that are informed by the families and providers R&Rs serve, that uplift the whole child and family, such as:

ASSET BUILDING | FOOD SECURITY | ANTI-RACIST AWARENESS | INCOME SUPPORTS

For questions or more information contact: Keisha Nzewi, Director of Public Policy, [knzewi@rrnetwork.org](mailto:knzewi@rrnetwork.org)