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April 2022

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Subject: The 2022-23 State Budget and Investments in Child Care and Development Facilities Infrastructure

On behalf of *Build Up California* and the undersigned members and partners, we urge the legislature to build upon its investment in the *Child Care and Development Infrastructure Grant Program* by **investing \$300 million, one-time funding** as part of the 22-23 Budget. The physical space of facilities is a core component of quality, accessible child care. Funding for facilities would support Early Care and Education (ECE) programs to operate in safe and healthy spaces and ensure grants are available to reach communities and providers with the greatest need.

[Build Up California](#) is a statewide network dedicated to the equitable sustainability, improvement, and expansion of ECE facilities. Launched in 2020, we advocate and promote community education to ensure children can learn and grow in safe and healthy environments while their parents work. We want to thank Assemblymember Lisa Calderon for championing this ask in the Assembly and this ask is also supported by our fellow members of the [Early Care and Education \(ECE\) Coalition](#) as part of additional investments to strengthen and expand a comprehensive child care system that is accessible, affordable, equitable, meets families' needs, and pays providers a fair wage.

In 2021, California allocated \$250 million for the *Grant Program* and the *Grant Program* is being managed by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). CDSS is currently administering

EARLY LEARNING FACILITIES

\$100 million in grants for minor renovations and repairs to address issues related to health and safety, licensing, the COVID-19 pandemic, or disasters. **CDSS received over 5,000 grant applications, totaling over \$300 million for the available \$100 million in grants for minor renovations and repairs.** Additionally, CDSS will administer \$150 million in grants for new construction and major renovation of child care facilities. Our coalition expects the field to respond at the same level for the \$150 million in grants for new construction and major renovation.

By providing the requested \$300 million, funding can be made accessible for thousands of providers, including those in *rural and tribal communities*, and meet the needs throughout the state effectively and sustainably. Providers throughout the state need access to funding for [climate resilience and wildfire-related repair and renovation projects](#), including, for example, Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) equipment, air-filtration systems, solar panels, and adequate outdoor learning structures. Child care providers are facing similar circumstances as K-12 schools and universities that the Governor proposed to receive climate-resilient infrastructure funding in his proposed 2022-23 budget. Public investment in facilities infrastructure is key to programs' capacity to provide quality services and adequately support economically insecure families and children.

Targeted resources are also needed for **Technical Assistance (T.A.)** and communities that need extra support to build capacity because they are **child care deserts**. Whether home- or center-based, all providers throughout the state have unique needs when facing facilities funding concerns. For example, some may only need support to apply for grant funds, while others may need additional T.A. in their projects' pre-development or start-up phases. Some may have large projects with a gap in funding that needs to be filled, while others have repair projects that could be considered a licensing violation. No one provider or their needs are the same, but all should have equal access to funding support from the state of California.

The Fact Sheet about this request is enclosed, including background on this issue. Please don't hesitate to contact us at info@buildupca.org for any additional information needed. We hope to count on your support for these ECE infrastructure elements that are crucial for a successful and sustainable reopening and rebuilding of our field to benefit families, children, and the economic vitality of our state.

Thank you for your consideration, commitment, and collaboration on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

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Build Up California Partners

Cc:

Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon

Senator Melissa Melendez, Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 on Health and Human Services

Senator Richard Pan, Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 on Health and Human Services

Assemblymember Steven Choi, Assembly Subcommittee 2 on Education Finance

Assemblymember Alex Lee, Assembly Subcommittee 2 on Education Finance

Assemblymember Jose Medina, Assembly Subcommittee 2 on Education Finance

Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell, Assembly Subcommittee 2 on Education Finance

Assemblymember Eloise Gomez Reyes, Assembly Subcommittee 2 on Education Finance

Assemblymember Marie Waldron, Assembly Subcommittee 2 on Education Finance

Assemblymember Vince Fong, Republican Alternative, Assembly Subcommittee 2 on Education Finance

Elisa Wynne, Early Childhood Education Consultant, Senate Budget Committee

Erin Gabel, K-12 and Early Childhood Education Consultant, Assembly Subcommittee 2 on Education Finance