



## CEO Statement on FY 2023-24 Budget



Thank you, Governor Newsom, Senator Pro Tem Atkins, and Assembly Speaker Emeritus Rendon for passing an early care and education budget that prioritizes the needs of our children—our community’s most vulnerable residents—and their families. A huge thank you to the Women’s Legislative Caucus, who have been unwavering in their advocacy around the reimbursement rate and parent fee schedule!

These historic wins were made possible by unprecedented unity and partnership between Early Care and Education collaborators.

This budget will make child care more affordable for families on our subsidy program. This is an essential first step; however, it is imperative that the state continue to move towards a rate reimbursement policy that covers the true cost of providing child care.

Waiving family fees during the pandemic provided a lifeline for many of the families Child Action serves. Thank you for permanently reforming that archaic parent fee structure! The new schedule ensures that no family who earns below 75% of the State Median Income (SMI) will pay a family fee; while families who do earn above 75% of the SMI will pay no more than 1% of their income in family fees.

We appreciate the Legislature’s and Administration’s acknowledgment of the essential work Child Action does in the community. Our agency, like other Resource and Referral Networks along with Alternative Payment Programs, has been operating on a very lean structure since the Great Recession. Thank you for including one-time dollars for our subsidy program and maintaining the increase in funding to the Resource and Referral contract. These dollars can help us support more families and child care providers in Sacramento County.

These budgetary provisions move our child care subsidy program in a direction where we can begin to operate the way this program was intended—a means of helping families move towards self-sufficiency. Justice Thurgood Marshall said it best, *“None of us has gotten where we are solely by pulling ourselves up from our bootstraps. We got here because somebody bent down and helped us.”*

As we look towards Fiscal Year 2024-25, Child Action, Inc. looks forward to actively engaging in discussions on rate reform to ensure that the needs of Sacramento County’s child care providers are shared with policymakers. We also hope to continue sharing how policies can be changed to better serve the needs of our families into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adonai Mack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.