

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA
CALIFORNIA

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is a member organization comprised of police chiefs, sheriffs, district attorneys, and violence survivors protecting public safety by promoting solutions that steer kids away from crime.

2021-2022 Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Budget and Legislative Policy Agenda

Expanded Learning Programs

Expanded Learning (After School) programs serve as an essential resource for school-aged youth by creating safe spaces, fostering connections, preventing juvenile crime, and improving academic performance. Our Fight Crime: Invest in Kids law enforcement members know that California's afterschool programs positively engage young people by connecting them to their community and caring adults, keeping them safe, and building their academic, social, and emotional skills.

During COVID, expanded learning programs have played an essential role in supporting kids and families by providing academic support and access to online learning as well as providing essential care for children while their parents work.

Budget Investments:

To ensure expanded learning programs and their workforce stand ready to meet the urgent student and family needs and support longer-term recovery efforts, as a member of the California Afterschool Advocacy Alliance, we support its ask to the Legislature to provide a minimum of $25 million for a COLA to state-funded expanded learning programs, such as After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs.

State Legislation:

AB 1112 (Carrillo) - Before and After School Programs: Maximum Grant Amounts

- *What the bill does:* The bill would remove maximum grant amounts and require the California Department of Education (CDE) to determine the grant amounts and how much programs receive per child within the total budget amount set by the Legislature. It would require the CDE to develop a procedure to determine regional rates for programs as well as change the way rates are set by prioritizing support for students and families that need it the most through a data and stakeholder driven process, rather than having the same rate no matter where the program operates.

- *Why it matters:* Expanded learning programs help reduce crime, improve student behavior, boost academic performance, and increase graduation rates. However not every child has the ability to reap the benefits of high-quality expanded learning programming. In California, over 2.4 million students are waiting to enroll in afterschool. For our state to take juvenile crime seriously and set students on the right track in life, it is critical that we invest in these high-quality programs.

Early Childhood Care & Education

Access to high-quality early education is critical to our next generation's future success. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is committed to strengthening California's early childhood education system because law enforcement leaders know that one of the best ways to prepare kids for school, improve graduation rates, and keep them on a path towards success involves making sure they have a strong foundation in their earliest years.

Budget Investments:

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is part of the California Early Childhood Education Coalition and supports the coalition's state budget requests that include increasing provider reimbursement rates, increased investments in subsidized child care, waiving copayments or fees for low income families in childcare, and investing in technology.

State Legislation:

AB 92 (Reyes) - Preschool & Development Services: Family Fees

- *What the bill does:* This bill would create an equitable sliding scale for child care family fees that will alleviate the burden on working families struggling to pay for child care and early childhood education services.

- *Why it matters:* The lack of reliable child care for working parents of young children, up to age 3, could come to $6.8 to $9.1 billion in annual costs in lost earnings, productivity, and revenue for California.

SB 246 (Leyva) - Early Childhood Education: Reimbursement Rates

- *What the bill does:* This bill would establish a single regionalized state reimbursement rate system—The Child Care Stabilization Formula—for child care, preschool, and early learning services.

- *Why it matters:* California's current bifurcated rate system and low reimbursement rates make it harder to fund and deliver high-quality child care. A single state reimbursement rate system would increase teacher compensation, move toward adequately funding early child care programs, and contribute to increasing high-quality care.

SB 50 (Limón) - Strengthening the 0-5 ECE System

- *What the bill does:* This bill would strengthen and streamline the early learning and care system by, among other things, opening the State Preschool Program (CSPP) to serve children 0-5, expand eligibility for subsidized child care & preschool to more families, and allow unhoused families and families with variable work schedules to better access child care.

- *Why it matters:* Quality early learning experiences during the earliest years help set children on a path to thrive in school and life while supporting working parents.

COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

Council for a Strong America unites organizations of powerful community leaders from business, law enforcement and retired military who advocate for cradle to career policies and investments to foster the next generation's growth and success in school, work, and life.