



February 24, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Senate President pro-Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Kidango Recommendations on the 2025-26 Budget

Dear Governor Newsom, Senate Pro-Tem McGuire, Assembly Speaker Rivas,

I am writing on behalf of Kidango and the 5,000+ families and children we serve. Kidango is an early learning nonprofit committed to setting every child on a path to thrive in kindergarten and in life. As such, we remain concerned that over 2 million families in California do not have access to childcare simply because the infrastructure doesn't exist. Like many providers and centers across the state, Kidango is facing mounting pressures on its workforce and classrooms.

Kidango's priority is to ensure that every dollar provided by the state is used to support children and families and keep early learning and care settings open because we know a lack of childcare hinders:

- 1). A family's economic mobility.
- 2). Children's brain development.

Kidango is committed to designing and moving forward policy solutions that uplift the voices and perspectives of families and early learning professionals. As the state continues the forward progress of addressing the goals and budget needs for our youngest children and their families, Kidango urges California to prioritize:

- **Removing barriers for children and families to access early care and learning by advancing AB 753 (Garcia) that will provide a workforce pathway for early childhood education (ECE) teachers and ease the licensing process for facilities that serve infants and toddlers.**
- **Implementing a cost-based rate system that reimburses ECE providers the true cost of care of a child's authorized enrollment based on Federal requirements, and allocates ongoing funding for the new rate system.**
- **Prioritizing the release of additional ECE spaces per the 2020-21 budget.**
- **Ensuring ECE programs receive dedicated funding and support to recover from the LA wildfires. Funding and support should be equitably distributed to ensure LA's most vulnerable communities can rebuild and thrive.**

It is essential that these provisions are included as California moves forward on creating a system where each and every child—especially those children who have historically been

excluded or marginalized—are centered in decisions about how we allocate funding and how we design high-quality early learning environments that meet the unique needs of each child.

We urge your careful consideration of our request to include the previous items in the 2025-26 budget. It is imperative to honor the promises laid out in the California Master Plan for Early Learning and Care if we want to achieve transformative changes for children, families, and the ECE workforce.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have and/or provide additional information. Our point of contact is Maeva Marc, Vice-President of Advocacy & Policy, mmarc@kidango.org, 510-480-8458.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Moore".

Scott Moore
Chief Executive Officer
Kidango

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maéva Marc".

Maéva Marc
Vice-President of Advocacy & Policy
Kidango