FAMILY STRENGTHENING

VISION: Enhance systems that support parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, and knowledge of parenting and child development.

POLICY GOALS:
• Expand access to evidence-based family strengthening programs, including voluntary home visiting, which optimize child development and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect.
• Increase and improve child and parental mental health and substance abuse awareness, diagnosis and treatment.
• Strengthen the social safety-net to ensure families are self-sufficient and can meet their basic economic needs, such as food, housing, child care, transportation and health care.

EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION

VISION: Build a family-centered system that supports all children at risk of developmental and behavioral delay.

POLICY GOALS:
• Ensure all children receive mandated developmental and behavioral screenings.
• Invest in and improve coordination across systems of care to efficiently connect young children to early intervention.
• Improve statewide data collection, sharing and reporting on key indicators of screening, assessment, referral and treatment.

ORAL HEALTH

VISION: Expand access to preventative and restorative oral health services and oral health education.

POLICY GOALS:
• Increase utilization of essential Medi-Cal dental services by young children.
• Expand the availability and geographic spread of pediatric oral health providers.
• Mobilize state support for innovative approaches that provide oral health services in alternative settings.

QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

VISION: Improve overall well-being and social-emotional and cognitive outcomes for all children from birth in order to achieve kindergarten readiness.

POLICY GOALS:
• Increase the quality and number of state-funded early learning slots for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
• Embed high-quality standards in all state-funded early learning programs and support state and local efforts to meet them.
• Strengthen the qualifications, compensation and stability of the early learning workforce.

SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY AND REACH

VISION: Ensure that California’s youngest children and their families thrive.

POLICY GOAL:
• Explore and advance opportunities to preserve and increase funding streams dedicated to early childhood, including Proposition 10 revenues.
• Improve state and county data systems to track children’s outcomes.