

July 2017

STRONG START

QUALITY MATTERS ... a STRONG START for kids

IN THIS ISSUE

Strong Start already has a website, Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn accounts - why a newsletter?

This quarterly round-up of activities, opportunities, and events is a resource for Strong Start members and friends who don't want to check in every day. It's also easily forwarded so if you know of anyone who might be interested in our efforts to support the County's young children and families - please send it on to them.



In our third issue, we'll cover the 2017-18 State Budget and the changes to early care and education it includes, Strong Start's advocacy day in Sacramento at the end of May and the fate of the legislation we discussed, and we'll demystify Pay For Success financing with an overview of the Federal Department of Education funded feasibility study underway between Santa Clara COE and Sunnyvale School District.

With summer in full swing, it's quiet on the events calendar although the quarter ends with the Pacific Oaks College Painting the Future Conference and the county-wide Early Learning Master Plan launch at the end of September.

Thanks for reading, and **thank you for everything you do for the children and families of Santa Clara County.**



Early Care and Education in the State Budget

Governor Brown signed the state budget on June 27th having made no line item changes to the deal passed by the legislature on June 15th. Early care and education items in the budget include (i) updating income eligibility requirements to use the most recent income data and ensuring 12-month continuous eligibility in care (\$25 million), (ii) expanding full-day State Preschool for nearly 3,000 more children (\$32 million), increasing reimbursement rates for State Preschool

and center-based child care providers (\$161 million), increasing the reimbursement rate for voucher-based (\$83 million) and license exempt (\$8 million) providers, and revising eligibility requirements to allow children with exceptional needs who do not meet income requirements to enroll in part-day State Preschool slots if all income-eligible children are served.

The most contentious topic in January's budget proposal was to exempt Local Educational Agencies providing State Preschool services from the provisions of Title 22 (that regulates facilities, health, safety and other aspects of the State Preschool program) because they already comply with Title 5 regulations governing schools' safety. The final budget requires the Legislative Analyst's Office to convene a stakeholder process and submit recommendations on health and safety regulations to the Legislature and the Departments of Education and Finance for final action before the end of the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Strong Start legislative advocacy day

On May 23, a delegation from Strong Start, and SCCOE's lobbyists from Capitol Advisors group, met with staff from Governor Brown's office, the Legislative Women's Caucus, Assemblymembers Berman, Kalra, and O'Donnell and gubernatorial candidate - and former State Superintendent of Public Instruction - Delaine Eastin.



During our meetings we had an opportunity to advocate for increased State support of early care and education in the 2017-18 budget, updating income eligibility guidelines and ensuring 12 month continuing eligibility, creating a funding system for special education preschool services, supporting better information sharing between public agencies across county lines, creating a 0-5 license option for providers, addressing the teacher shortage and attacking child poverty in our state.

Our exhaustive agenda, based on feedback from the coalition, was generally supported by the meeting attendees and was reflected in the subsequent state budget. Many of the specific bills we supported continue to make their way through the legislative process. The County and Strong Start continue to be recognised in Sacramento as leaders in early childhood and we look forward to providing you with additional updates on our legislative advocacy efforts in future editions of the newsletter.

SCCOE and Sunnyvale School District partner on a preschool Pay For Success project



At the end of the last calendar year, a collaboration between Strong Start partners Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) and Sunnyvale School District, and the research and evaluation consultants SRI International, and Third Sector Capital Partners, Inc., a non-profit advisory firm, was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to perform a feasibility study on using the Pay For Success financing model to expand access to quality preschool in Sunnyvale School District.

In the Pay For Success model, private funders supply upfront capital to a program provider to deliver services to a specific population. Those services are expected to result in beneficial outcomes for the recipients and savings to a public agency. If the program achieves predetermined outcomes, the agency repays the private funders - shifting the risk that a program won't work from the public to the private sector.

The grant funds will be used to support a rigorous evaluation of whether expansion of preschool services in Sunnyvale School District by SCCOE could be expected to result in sufficient benefit to the participating children, and sufficient downstream savings to the school district, to make the program financially viable. Additional Strong Start partners FIRST 5 Santa Clara County and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation are supporting this effort through their participation in the project advisory committee.

Pay For Success projects on homelessness and chronic mental health issues are already showing promising results in Santa Clara County. We're hopeful that the final report in February will suggest Pay For Success is a feasible means of expanding access to high quality early care and education programs in our community.

Upcoming Events

Things have been pretty quiet over the summer, but towards the end of September, Pacific Oaks College has their Painting the Future Conference. The launch event for the county-wide Early Learning Master Plan is also coming up at the end of September so look for your invitation.



» UPCOMING EVENTS

You can learn more about the events and register by using the [Strong Start Event Calendar](#).

www.strongstartsantaclara.org

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