



BRINGING UP CALIFORNIA

Racial Justice for Children,
Families, and Communities



Bringing Up California (formerly Whole Child Equity Partnership) is a coalition of advocates, community organizers, and service providers united in a commitment to transform California into the best state to have, raise, and be a child. Joining hand-in-hand with families, we can realize California's promise of a healthy, hopeful, and equitable future for birthing people, babies, toddlers, and young children.

We envision a society rooted in racial and economic justice where all children are embraced, valued, and cared for, and where every child has access to systems and services that promote their health, well-being, and the life opportunities that enable them to thrive.

Our Goals

- **California families have the social support to enable the early learning and development of their infants, babies, and toddlers.**
- **California families have access to navigation and peer support to guide them to needed economic, social-emotional, and developmental services in their communities that are culturally resonant.**
- **California birthing people receive high-quality and culturally affirming prenatal care, birthing and parenting supports, and postpartum care to support the healthy birth and development of their infants, babies, and toddlers.**
- **All families with young children have affordable, reliable, and high quality health coverage and care.**
- **California families have the necessary financial resources and social supports to ensure the healthy development of their infants, babies, and toddlers.**

Childcare Policy Priorities

Priority #1: Establish and maintain welcoming and safe early learning and care environments for infants, babies, and toddlers.

- a. Advance pro-Black policies and practices.
- b. Protect immigrant young children and their families.
- c. Promote culturally and linguistically affirming care, services, and supports.

Priority #2: Fortify the early learning workforce by funding and implementing the "True Cost of Care" that ensures child care providers are adequately resourced and supported.

- a. Ensure California advances its commitment to implement and fund the new alternative rate methodology for subsidized child care.
- b. Establish equitable training and professional development opportunities for providers across the mixed delivery system aligned with the True Cost of Care.

Healthcare Policy Priorities

Priority #1: Advocate for the defense of Medi-Cal to ensure California's birthing families and families with children from prenatal to age three receive the necessary support they need.

- a. Engage our community networks for opportunities around advocacy, organizing, and engagement to protect Medi-Cal gains related to health-related social needs.
- b. Support legislation around a rate increase for the Community Health Worker Services Medi-Cal benefit and monitoring/reporting on the benefit's implementation.
- c. Protect coverage for all who call California home.

Priority #2: Strengthen comprehensive care models for family centered wellness and dyadic support.

- a. Promote safe spaces and wellness hub models, alternative options to statewide labor and delivery center closures, and health care outside of clinic walls, including efforts to strengthen midwifery and birth center access.
- b. Monitor and strengthen Birthing Care Pathway (BCP) implementation of benefits, community supports, and awareness building.
- c. Protect Title V funds to strengthen CA's community-based systems of care for families of young children and birthing people.
- d. Identify systems of integration for mental health supports and early screenings.

Economic Security Policy Priorities

Priority #1: Strengthen advancement and monitor implementation of policies related to racial wealth gaps.

- a. Expand and increase investment in child tax credits, guaranteed income, and other cash supports.
- b. Advocate for wealth and asset-building programs like baby bonds and child savings accounts.

Priority #2: Support a robust safety net and advance efforts to close racial income gaps.

- a. Identify and support housing and disaster relief initiatives.

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The coalition is co-chaired by The Children's Partnership and Catalyst California. Steering Committee Members include the following organizations: **A Black Education Network, Black Californians United for ECE, California Black Women's Health Project, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, Californians for Justice, California Pre-Term Birth Initiative, Center for District Innovation and Leadership, End Child Poverty CA/GRACE, Families in Schools, First 5 Association, First 5 LA, First 5 Center for Children's Policy, InnerCity Struggle, San Diego Community Birth Center, SEIU and Ventures.**

Contact bringingupca@childrenspartnership.org for more information about our work, policy priorities, and how to get involved.