



# 4C'S OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

SERVING CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS SINCE 1972

Winter

Newsletter

2012

## Cutting Children's Programs: A Losing Budget Strategy



If Governor Jerry Brown's proposal for the state's 2012-13 budget is adopted, low- and moderate-income children and their families will continue to suffer the greatest impact of California's ongoing budget crisis. Proposed cuts focus on child care and CalWORKs — both already deeply cut in recent years.

### Child Care

- Subsidies would go to 62,000 fewer children.
- The maximum income for receiving child care subsidies would be reduced. For a family of three, for example, the "ceiling," now \$42,216 a year, would be \$37,060.
- Rates paid to child care providers would be lowered. Some would have to go out of business or stop taking subsidized children.
- Families receiving subsidies would have to meet welfare "work participation" requirements (20 hours a week with children under 6, 30 hours a week with children over 6) — despite a state unemployment rate of over 11%.
- Transitional kindergarten would be eliminated.

These cuts are on top of the 114,762 child care spaces eliminated since 2008.

In addition, many families would be plunged deeper into poverty by further cuts in CalWORKs, after an 8% drop in benefit levels last summer. Grants would be cut in families where only the children are on CalWORKs, and the CalWORKs lifetime limit would be reduced from 4 to 2 years. Families still on CalWORKs would suffer more penalties if parents could not meet work-participation requirements.

These cuts are not only unfair — taking the most from those who have the least — but self-defeating. Poverty is the single biggest risk factor for children, contributing to social, educational, emotional, and behavioral problems. High-quality early care and education saves the state more than it costs, by reducing the need for spending on special education, health and mental-health care, criminal justice, and welfare.

Why is the California budget in crisis when our state is among the wealthiest economies on earth? Where is all the money?

According to the California Budget Project (CBP):

- The average middle-income Californian now receives almost 15% less income, adjusted for inflation, than in 1987, while the top 1%, on average, receive 50% more.
- Many large and profitable California-based companies pay little or nothing in income taxes, because so many loopholes are written into the tax laws.
- Wealthy individuals and corporations now pay a smaller share of their income in state taxes than they did a generation ago.

Many Californians favor tapping into the wealth of the 1% rather than cutting more vital services. When Congressman Pete Stark's office recently polled his district's residents, 88% said they favored "asking wealthy Americans to pay their fair share in taxes."

For now, vulnerable families face another tough fight in Sacramento. But Parent Voices, the whole child care community, and our legislative champions have been effective in heading off many past attempts to resolve the state budget crisis by jeopardizing the future of our children and our communities.

**Information is Power!** Learn about the state budget process and join with others to make real change in a training program hosted by Parent Voices Southern Alameda County. Starts in February! For information contact [jennifer@parentvoices.org](mailto:jennifer@parentvoices.org) or call 510-584-3115.

**Community Child Care Council  
(4C's) of Alameda County**

**4C's FREMONT OFFICE**

*(In Fremont Family Resource Center)*  
39155 Liberty Street, D410  
Fremont, CA 94538  
(510) 713-2557

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Monday – Thursday

*CalWORKS/CalLearn/Respite  
Child Care Referrals  
Child Care Food Program*

**4C's HAYWARD OFFICES**

**Main Office**

22351 City Center Dr.  
Hayward, CA 94541  
(510) 582-2182

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Monday – Thursday

9:00 a.m. – Noon  
Friday

*Administration  
Child Care Referrals  
Child Care Food Program*

**CalWORKS Child Care**

(510) 584 – 3101

**Eden Multi-Service Center**

24100 Amador St., Room 175  
Hayward, CA 94544

(510) 670-6000 Ex. 52279

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Monday – Thursday

*CalWORKS  
Child Care Referrals*

**4C's OAKLAND OFFICES**

**Oakland Office**

8105 Edgewater Dr., Suite 270  
Oakland, CA 94621

(510) 383-3582

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Monday – Thursday

9:00 a.m. – Noon  
Friday

*Child Care Payment Programs*

**Bright Future**

**Early Learning Center**

1515 Clay St., Suite 146  
Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 835-4012

7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

4C's Newsletter is published quarterly by  
Community Child Care Council (4C's) of  
Alameda County. For reprint permission,  
email us at [info@4c-alameda.org](mailto:info@4c-alameda.org).

**Visit our Website**

[www.4c-alameda.org](http://www.4c-alameda.org)

4C's United Way Donor Option # 3426

**Dear Friends,**

During the last few months we have all watched the rise of the “Occupy” movement across this country. The movement has defined a key issue: roughly 1% of the population owns most of the wealth; the rest are experiencing unemployment, declining incomes, crushing debt and a crumbling safety net.

Past people’s movements have won important changes: civil rights legislation, important new social programs, an end to the Vietnam war — and greater access to child care!

Our agency has its roots in the social movements of the 1960s and 70s. 4C’s was founded in 1972 by community activists who wanted to make sure that families and children had access to affordable, quality child care. As we begin our 40th year in 2012, we pay homage to the leaders who envisioned and worked to create a community that cares about children and families.

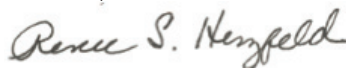
Two visionary child care leaders in the Bay Area retired at the end of 2011 — Patty Siegel, head of the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, and Arlyce Currie of BANANAS Resource and Referral Agency in Oakland. Patty and Arlyce were courageous pioneers in our field and we owe a lot to their trail-blazing accomplishments.

This year some of the gains of our child care movement are again being threatened. After several years of cuts, Governor Brown’s budget proposal would take child care subsidies from an additional 62,000 children, cut already rock-bottom payments to child care providers, and restrict access to child care for thousands of families.

2011 was one of the most challenging years in our agency’s history, with the cumulative effects of budget cuts taking their toll. At the end of the year came some good news - Hayward was one of five communities in the country to receive a federal Promise Neighborhood implementation grant. As members of the Hayward Promise Neighborhood Partnership, we look forward to working with our dedicated partners to make a significant difference in the lives of the children and residents of the Jackson Triangle community.

And, as we begin a new year, we are thankful for the opportunity to partner with all of you. As one of our favorite expressions from the '60s goes: Keep the faith, baby!

Be Well,



**Renee S. Herzfeld**

*Executive Director*



October 2011



Occupy Wallstreet - October 2011



Patty Siegel



Martin Luther King Jr. and civil rights marchers - 1965

## Health and Safety Training for Child Care Providers

4C's offers Infant & Child CPR/First Aid and Preventative Health Practices training designed especially for child care providers. The training meets licensing requirements and is appropriate for first timers, renewals, center staff, family child care providers and assistants. To register, go to 4C's website - [www.4c-alameda.org](http://www.4c-alameda.org). Click on the Health and Safety training link, download the registration form, and follow instructions for mailing the form and payment to 4C's. Classes available in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

## Support Available for Family Child Care Providers

If you are a current provider, or someone who wants to become a provider, living in Castro Valley, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, or Union City, 4C's can offer you free classes, materials, and individualized support. We also provide reimbursement for licensing and for the purchase of child care supplies. Classes and support are available in English, Spanish, and Chinese. Space is limited so call soon to register with Pam Buckholz, Provider Services Coordinator, at 510-584-3114. This program is generously supported with CDBG funds from Alameda County and the cities of Fremont and Hayward.

## Workshops and Training at 4C's

### Child Care Business Practices

In tough economic times it is especially important to implement wise business practices. 4C's has training coming up in early 2012:

- Business of Family Child Care – a series that includes Contracts and Policies, Recordkeeping and Taxes, and Health and Safety procedures
- Social Networking as a Marketing Tool - information on using social media, including Facebook, You Tube, and Yelp, to help market your child care program

### Infant/Toddler Caregiving Practices

Our youngest children have very specific needs as they grow and develop. Come and learn about various ways to support this development:

- Watch the movie BABIES and join a lively discussion in three languages on childrearing practices around the world and within our own cultural experiences.
- Listen to local author/expert Janet Gonzalez-Mena explain what infants and toddlers need most from their caregivers.
- Attend a workshop on Hot Topics for Toddlers. Learn new strategies for biting, toilet learning, separation anxiety and other typical developmental milestones.

## FREE Tax Preparation at 4C's

For the eleventh year, 4C's of Alameda County's Hayward Office will be a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. Trained volunteers will prepare and file taxes for persons/households earning less than \$49,000 in 2010. You may also be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other credits which can result in more money in your pocket.

**WHERE:** 4C's of Alameda County  
22351 City Center Drive, Hayward CA 94541

**WHEN:** January 11, 2012 to April 11, 2012  
Wednesdays 5:00 - 9:00 pm

Walk-in only; no appointments

For information about what to bring with you to 4C's, call 510-690-2141.



## 4C's on Facebook

You'll find training updates, resources, news and more.



[facebook.com/4csofAlameda](https://facebook.com/4csofAlameda)  
Come "Like" us today



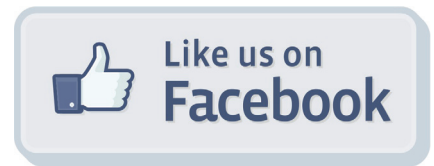
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 (4C's) of Alameda County  
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 Hayward, CA



### Save the Trees!

If you would like to receive 4C's newsletter electronically, go to [www.4c-alameda.org/e-signup](http://www.4c-alameda.org/e-signup) and sign up for an e-subscription.



[facebook.com/4csofAlameda](https://facebook.com/4csofAlameda)

## BE A SUPPORTER OF 4C'S OF ALAMEDA COUNTY!

Since 1972, 4C's is a nonprofit family resource agency dedicated to strengthening children, families and child care providers in Alameda County. Your tax-deductible contribution will:

- Help provide child care and parenting resources for families. • Support training for child care providers.
- Ensure community outreach and education on child care issues.

### Ways you can help!

**Make a donation:** Your tax-deductible contribution helps us to help others. Please mail the donation form below to 22351 City Center Drive, Hayward, CA 94541 or go to [www.4c-alameda.org](http://www.4c-alameda.org) to donate securely online.

**Volunteer Your Time:** You can help with events or provide special support. Contact Erika McIntosh at 510-584-3113 or [erikam@4c-alameda.org](mailto:erikam@4c-alameda.org).

**Vehicle Donation:** Your retired vehicle may be a valuable contribution to our programs and provide you with a tax deduction as well. Call 1-800-320-0476 and tell them you want to donate a car for 4C's of Alameda County.

**Get a SHARES Card:** Whenever you shop at Lucky, FoodMax, Save Mart or S-Mart, 4C's will receive up to 3% back. Contact Lori DeWolf at 510-690-2150 or [lolid@4c-alameda.org](mailto:lolid@4c-alameda.org) to request your SHARES Card.

**YES, I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO 4C'S.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you! Your support is appreciated by all of us at 4C's of Alameda County.