

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL**

November 26, 2024

**Expanding the Early Care and Education High Road Training Partnership Program in the County of Los Angeles**

The Board of Supervisors and the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) have invested \$23 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars in High Road Training Partnership (H RTP) programs that increase access to family-supporting career pathways for underserved populations while also strengthening key regional industries. All H RTPs advance equity, job quality, and sustainability as outcomes of interest. The first ARPA-funded H RTPs in film and digital media launched in March 2022, followed by construction in October 2022, and early care and education (ECE) in April 2024, with additional sectors slated to start in the coming year.

DEO has partnered with the Department of Public Health (DPH)'s Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE), the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and the Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) to implement the Registered ECE Assistant Teacher Apprenticeship program (Program). This Program currently serves 90 apprentices with cohorts underway or launching at Pierce College, West Los Angeles College, and College of the Canyons. Employers at LACOE and

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Volunteers of America Head Start programs are committed hiring partners for assistant teachers after the completion of their two-year programming.

Los Angeles County (County) is experiencing persistent teacher shortages, with early education facing the greatest impacts. Currently, there is only enough licensed child care capacity to serve 7% of working families in the County. The two-year Program provides a career pathway to residents both interested in and seeking work in the early education sector. This Program combines tuition-free classroom instruction resulting in a Child Development Associate Credential, along with paid work-based learning, which is subsidized by DEO in partnership with child care agencies. Following completion of the Program, the goal is for participants to continue employment with the agencies where they completed on-the-job training or with other partner agencies.

There is now an opportunity to expand this Program through an investment in partnership with DPH's OAECE, which is critical given the waiting lists for current cohorts. For several years, DPH's OAECE has led Workforce Pathways LA, a program that increases the qualifications of the ECE workforce. The program is funded by the Quality Counts California – Workforce Pathways (QCC-WP) grant from the California Department of Social Services. Based on the legacy of the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program (Assembly Bill 212), Workforce Pathways LA is a comprehensive workforce development model that supports early educators along the career lattice. Workforce Pathways grant funding can be used to support ECE apprenticeships like the ECE HRTP.

Recently, DPH's OAECE's QCC-WP grant award has increased, providing an opportunity to expand the ECE HRTP led by DEO. To maximize public investments in the ECE HRTP, DPH's OAECE will collaborate with DEO to infuse \$1.365 million of QCC-WP funding into DEO's existing ECE apprenticeship program. This investment will enable DEO and its partners to support an additional 65 apprentices while enhancing services to all 90 current program participants, including case management services; the provision of laptops, books, and supplies; covering permitting fees; increasing the amount of paid work experience hours and providing additional coursework. DEO is targeting recruitment to enroll residents from each Supervisorial District and ultimately provide Countywide ECE jobs and child care services. The QCC-WP funding must be expended by May 31,

2025. To meet this timeline, DEO needs delegated authority to execute contract amendments with LACOE and CCRC.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), or designee, to execute amendments with the Los Angeles County Office of Education and Child Care Resource Center for the following purposes:
  - a. Add new, relevant or updated Federal, State and/or County terms to the Scope of Work and/or Agreement; and
  - b. Increase or decrease the funds authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act Agreement with Quality Counts California – Workforce Pathways funds from the Department of Public Health that may exceed 10% of the contract amount based on the availability of funding and/or based on the Subrecipient’s performance provided that: (a) total allocation does not exceed available funding; and (b) DEO obtains County Counsel approval as to form of the amendment.

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