

LA's Workforce at the Crossroads Summit: The Essential Role of Early Care and Education and its Workforce

*October 14 & 15, 2015 | Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012*

The City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board and Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) are proud to present:

A Crossroads Summit focused on the critical connections between Early Care and Education and Los Angeles County's workforce.

The City of Los Angeles Workforce Development Board and Los Angeles Universal Preschool will host "LA's Workforce at the Crossroads: The Essential Role of Early Care and Education and Its Workforce" on October 14th and 15th, 2015. The Crossroads Summit will bring together leaders from the Workforce Development, Education, Government, Philanthropy and the Early Care and Education sectors, in order to create awareness, highlight areas of common interest, and build support for the Early Care and Education industry.

Early Care and Education is facing a crisis:

- There is an alarming shortage of qualified workers in the Early Care and Education field, and that number is projected to grow dramatically over the coming years.
- Thousands of parents across Los Angeles, especially the working poor, struggle to find quality care for their children because of the severe shortage of affordable, accessible high quality Early Care and Education programs.
- Early Care and Education is not prioritized as a sector within our Workforce Development, Education and Training systems. As a result, resources are not directed toward building and supporting its workforce.

Consider the following:

- Employment in Early Care and Education can provide opportunities and workplace experiences that lead to a range of viable career pathways for the emerging workforce.
- The incumbent Early Care and Education workforce needs adequate training and support in order to deliver high-quality services and sustain the long-term viability of the field.
- Working parents with young children need reliable, safe, high-quality Early Care and Education options in order to participate fully and productively in the workforce.
- Children who participate in quality Early Care and Education become more active learners, achieve better academic outcomes, and develop into more productive workers and citizens.

The demand for high-quality early care and education has been well-established:

- There are nearly 800,000 young children (birth to age 5) in LA County.
- Forty-seven percent of infants, 50% of toddlers, and 52% of school-age children live in households in which parents participate in the workforce.
- Licensed care facilities currently have the capacity to provide care for only 38% of the young children (birth to age 5) who need it.
- There is great variation in the quality of existing preschool care and education settings. While some programs are exemplary, others barely meet basic licensing requirements.
- The lack of accessible, quality Early Care and Education care strains working parents, particularly the working poor and middle class, and affects their ability to work and be productive on the job.

Early Care and Education represents a critical, viable and growing workforce sector:

- Across California, the Early Care and Education workforce serving children from birth through age 5 is comprised of nearly 130,000 individuals who work in licensed settings. An additional 50,000 caregivers are providing care in 'license-exempt' settings.
- In LA County, the Early Care and Education industry provides more than 65,000 jobs.
- Each Early Care and Education worker in LA County adds roughly \$33,000 of GDP per year to the economy.
- By 2022, the Early Care and Education workforce is expected to grow by 3.7%. The number of children is expected to grow by 5%. This discrepancy will create a shortage of roughly 8,500 workers.

LA's Workforce at the Crossroads represents a unique opportunity to engage Workforce, Education, and Early Care and Education experts in finding common ground and constructing achievable goals and strategies to meet the needs of the current workforce (working parents), the future workforce (young children), and the Early Care and Education workforce itself.

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