

Vision: All California children, youth,
and their families thrive in safe, stable,
nurturing relationships and
environments

Partner Conferences: Save the Date

Center for Youth Wellness (CYW)
AWARENESS TO ACTION: 2016
Conference on Adverse Childhood
Experiences & Pediatric Symposium
October 19 -21, 2016
San Francisco, CA
[CYW ACEs Conference Details](#)

First 5 California 2016 Child Health,
Education, and Care Summit
November 8-10, 2016
Sacramento, CA
[First 5 Summit Information](#)

California Essentials (EfC) Updates

The CA EfC has been busy engaging in
multiple projects/activities:

The Shared Data and Outcomes
Workgroup has been working with
[Kidsdata.org](#) to embed three different
sources of childhood trauma and
resilience data into their website. The
Workgroup is also working to select
existing data indicators from Kidsdata.org
to create an Essentials for Childhood
Dashboard for use by our state, local, and
county partners.

The Programs and Systems Integration
Workgroup has decided to focus on
trauma-informed policy and practice
training in the child welfare domain.
Collaborative efforts are underway with
several initiatives and state/local agencies
to identify principles for engaging in
trauma-informed work that can be used
across multiple sectors.

For more information about Essentials
Workgroup activities, please contact:
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Policy Spotlight: Child & Family Wellbeing

The Public Policy Institute of California, an Essentials for Childhood partner, recently released a report showing how a social safety net helps to mitigate the effects of poverty. Using their more comprehensive California Poverty Measure, the child poverty rate in California for 2013 was nearly 24 percent, but would have been 38 percent without safety net resources such as CalFresh and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).¹ As suggested by our social determinants perspective, policy developments and investments in California can potentially mitigate poverty and improve the wellbeing of children and families across the state.

In the past year, several policy changes were passed by and/or implemented the State Legislature. Governor Brown recently signed the landmark Senate Bill (SB) 3 (Leno) that will incrementally raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2022. In April of 2016, the Governor also signed Assembly Bill (AB) 908 (Gomez) that expands paid family leave by increasing wage replacements to 60-70 percent, depending on income level. Raising wages and expanding paid family leave can help to alleviate poverty and allow for parents to take the time to care for family and/or bond with a new child.²

Recent research has also shown that the EITC has the potential to help reduce poverty and offset income inequality.³ Starting with the 2015 tax return season, California offers its own EITC to refund money to individuals and working families. However, the California Department of Finance has reported only half of the funds set aside for the EITC were used. This year lawmakers have set aside an extra \$2 million to fund outreach campaigns and to raise awareness of the credit. It is important to educate the public on the value of EITC and to promote how to take advantage of this existing policy tool.

The California State Legislature and Governor Brown recently approved the 2016-2017 state budget that adds money to counteract the impact of poverty by increasing funding for social safety net programs, housing developments, and higher education. The budget includes a repeal of the maximum family cap on the state's social welfare program, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), a policy that denied additional aid for any new child born while parents were receiving assistance. Furthermore, according to Early Edge California, the budget invests in "early education opportunities that help to stabilize California's early learning system for young children and the adults who educate and care for them."⁴ Essentially, the budget increases the subsidized child care rate, which may increase access to quality and affordable child care. The budget also increases funding for all-day state preschools, and adds about 9000 slots to increase access for low-income working families. These changes reflect the longtime work of advocates and policymakers in the community who seek to make California a better and more equitable place for all.

1. [PPIC Child Poverty in California](#)
2. [MDH White Paper on Income and Health](#)
3. [Poverty and Child Development: A Longitudinal Study of the Impact of the EITC](#)
4. [Early Edge California Legislature Approves ECE Budget](#)

California Essentials (EfC) Updates Cont.

A new ACEs fact sheet, based on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) ACEs module for California, will be released in July and made available to EfC partners. Julia Wei, former Cal-EIS fellow, authored the fact sheet as part of her fellowship.

The Community Engagement and Public Awareness Workgroup continues to support the distribution and screening of Raising of America. CDSS OCAP, EfC co-backbone partner, recently hosted a screening of Raising of America to all CDSS employees, and is providing all new technical assistance providers with copies of the DVD, and discussion guides to use in staff trainings and educational presentations.

OCAP has announced their new Parent Leadership, Strategies, Innovative Partnerships, and Community in Unity grantees. For more information, please visit: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/ocap/>

The CDPH backbone team sent out an evaluation survey to the full Leadership Action Team (LAT). The results highlight areas of strength and challenges for the EfC Initiative, and will be shared with the Steering Committee to assist with quality improvement and further engagement of the LAT in our common agenda.

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[CA Essentials Webpage](#)



Community Spotlight: Building Resilience to Trauma

Strategies Central Region training and technical assistance provider, Interface Children & Family Services, funded by the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention (CDSS/OCAP), recently hosted a successful convening on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Building Resilience to Trauma on May 17, 2016, in Modesto, CA. The convening featured notable speakers including Elaine Miller-Karas, Executive Director of the Trauma Resource Center, Carol Redding, ACE Study Fellow, and Jane Ellen Stevens, Founder of ACEs Connection and ACEs Too High. Stan Risen, the CEO of Stanislaus County, also spoke on the importance of prevention work in his community and highlighted local successes and challenges in engaging in Strengthening Families work.

Strategies Central Region has maintained a strong relationship with Stanislaus County to help bridge networks and provide trainings on various topics. This convening was an avenue to provide the community with more information on trauma-informed care and building resilience to trauma. There was a Steering Committee that worked to help identify speakers, find a location, and plan the event over the course of a few months. This hard work and planning resulted in a very informative event.

The Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) of Stanislaus County has also been active in community efforts surrounding trauma, child wellbeing, and implementing Strengthening Families. The Stanislaus CAPC has been training service providers throughout the county, and has been working to map services through the Five Protective Factors lens: parental resilience; social connections; knowledge of parenting and child development; concrete support in times of need; and social and emotional competence of children.

Success stories from the local Stanislaus Family Resource Centers (FRC) are shared below:

A father and two children were referred to the Hughson FRC for parenting/parent-teen conflict by Child Welfare Services. In one meeting, when the case manager applauded the father's success, the client stated, "If you were to ask me three years ago that I was going to be off the drugs and making clean money, I would have laughed in your face. I never thought that I would be getting out of that lifestyle, but I am motivated to continue to achieve my goals for my kid's sake. I could not have done this without the help of the Hughson Family Resource Center."

When "Maria" first came to Center for Human Services Patterson FRC, she had lost custody of her six children and was three months pregnant with another child. Maria became very engaged in a variety of groups at FRC, and her husband began to participate in groups with their child. As Maria developed social connections with other women, she created a strong system of support, and was able to return to court to regain custody of her children. Maria's transformation from a shy mother to a woman who found her community voice showcases her strength and resiliency.



Above: *Building Resilience to Trauma* event on May 17, 2016, in Modesto, CA