

Early Childhood Council of Kern (ECCK) 2024-2029 Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Foster collaboration with local early childhood education (ECE) groups/agencies serving Kern County communities to enhance the quality of learning experiences for children and families.

Strategies:

- a. Engage in outreach efforts by participating in agency/group meetings and delivering informative presentations
- b. Partner with Institutes of Higher Education to promote ECE opportunities for professional development and career growth
- c. Collaborate with organizations under the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Mixed Delivery umbrella to bolster services and opportunities for children and families
- d. Facilitate a participatory process to craft a comprehensive UPK Mixed Delivery Plan at the county level, meeting state grant requirements
- e. Provide support for community events organized by collaborative partners

Milestones:

- i. Establish an ECE collaborative
- ii. Develop a communication plan highlighting ECE program agencies' events and pertinent topics
- iii. Identify and offer support for 1-3 early care and education events hosted by partners, such as Read Across America

Goal 2: Support the growth and strengthening of the early care and education workforce

Strategies:

- a. Conduct an annual workforce survey to better understand the status of the current childcare workforce and publicize results
- b. Support and build awareness of professional development available for the early care and education workforce

- c. Identify and work to fill gaps in professional development by connecting with collaborative agencies

Milestones:

- i. Develop and conduct an annual workforce survey
- ii. Host a professional development opportunity for early care and education workforce annually

Goal 3: Coordinate, connect, and educate local leaders on issues affecting young children and their families.

Strategies:

- a. Clarify the charge and mission of the Council internally, identify priority issues, and develop talking points describing the Council's role and work and share with local leaders
- b. Update key messages as needed based on the results of the workforce survey (see Goal 2) and full community assessment
- c. Map, prioritize and educate local leaders and groups to identify and engage key issues affecting young children and families
- d. Invite local partners to share information about their work at council meetings, and invite local leaders and providers to join relevant council meetings

Milestones:

- i. Talking points about the charge and mission of the Council
- ii. Council members assigned as Ambassadors to key leaders or organizations
- iii. Presentations from local partners at the majority of Council meetings
- iv. Integrate survey results into key messages / talking points for local leaders