

Policy Focus Areas: Early Matters Fresno Plan

The Early Matters Fresno policy agenda guides and prioritizes cross-sector policies and programs to promote prosperity, including mental and physical wellness, living wage jobs, system coordination, and neighborhood development and improvement.

Sustainability of Early Care and Education Investments

- Advocate for public policies and funding that increase workforce compensation, promote professional development, and support the recruitment of qualified Early Care and Education Professionals.

Optimize Family Supports Sector Coordination & Data Sharing

- Support alignment of funding across sectors to ease access to public services and increase care coordination.
- Act locally and statewide to align funding (current & new) to fully implement the Community Information Exchange to support data sharing across collaborative partners.
- Support place-based, community-driven collaborative efforts that respond to basic needs and increase parent engagement and peer support.

Increase Access to Quality Maternal and Child Health Care & Development

- Champion the adoption of Medicaid's group prenatal care reimbursement at adequate levels.
- Support policy implementation incentives for health providers and their partners to achieve a minimum of three developmental screenings by age three and refer families to needed specialists. This includes screening compensation for those conducting the screenings or assisting parents to conduct the screening.
- Advocate for higher Medicaid reimbursement rates for Community Health Workers and Doulas.
- Support the development of evidence-based home visitor Medicaid reimbursement legislation for current allowable activities such as Community Health Worker navigation work, Adverse Childhood experience screenings, and developmental screenings.