Letter to Governor Gavin Newsom
Copies: Speaker Anthony Rendon, President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, Ann O’Leary, Ben Chida

First and foremost, thank you for your leadership and thoughtful guidance during these challenging times.

The undersigned organizations – the California Cradle-to-Career Collaborative and the California Promise Neighborhoods Network, supported by the End Child Poverty Campaign, California Forward and StriveTogether – have been meeting since mid-January to align behind a single set of recommendations to help accelerate implementation of your administration’s Cradle-to-Career initiative, which we see as critical to the advancement of your CALIFORNIA FOR ALL Vision.

Having engaged in collaborative work for many years, it had been our intention to propose a competitive state grant program to help catalyze and accelerate the development of local Cradle-to-Career (C2C) networks to effectively link, align, and leverage the work of agencies from multiple sectors, institutions, and stakeholders in order to improve developmental and educational outcomes of California’s children and the development of our workforce. That was before COVID-19. Knowing the pandemic will impact state revenues and create a priority draw on state resources we are writing not to seek grant funds but to offer our assistance in this time of need.

Our C2C partnerships represent voluntarily created collective impact networks that have built the requisite backbone civic infrastructure, integrated data systems, and linked service delivery protocols to address the wide range of needs of those who are most in need in our local communities. That’s what we do day in and day out, and it’s that capacity that we are now applying to the multitude of issues that have been created by COVID-19. Specifically, we and our partners are focusing on identifying the pinch points created by the pandemic, developing solutions, assigning responsibility for implementation to members of our networks, and tracking efficacy through data systems. Some of the services we are providing to residents of our communities include:

- Convening virtual neighborhood and cross-sector partnership meetings;
- Connecting families to newly available emergency services;
- Delivering continuing education to children;
- Creating effective food service delivery for children in need;
- Providing child care services to families affected by the pandemic;
- Coordinating the work of volunteers, including home visitation; and
- Informing our elected leaders on the needs created by the pandemic.

As an example, Mission Promise Neighborhood (MPN), a collaborative of 15 agencies in San Francisco’s Mission District, is reaching out to nearly a thousand San Francisco Unified School District families in its
shared database to make sure they have access to the emergency benefits that local, state and federal authorities are putting into effect in response to COVID-19. MPN’s extensive neighborhood network provides residents with a direct line to elected officials to let them know what is needed during this crisis and provides government with an avenue to connect more of its most vulnerable community members to emergency services.

The Fresno Cradle-to-Career Partnership is leading work to coordinate communication throughout the community on available resources including food, childcare, continued learning at all grade levels and volunteer opportunities. The network is also activating a pipeline to move information about service delivery challenges occurring on the ground up to leaders, ensuring that needed policies and practices can be put in place.

In the rural community of Corning, CA, the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, a Promise Neighborhood grantee, is working with local school districts and licensed mental health providers to offer ongoing therapy services to preschool-to-high school students. These services are continuing even with school closures, in part, to help families cope with the COVID-19 outbreak; we believe, this effort is reducing future demands on medical resources.

The pandemic has accentuated the importance of creating robust C2C communities that enable us to provide continuity of services even when it is inadvisable for people to come together physically. When our state’s situation stabilizes, we will be proposing a plan to build and expand the California C2C network, not just to better align and leverage all components in the C2C continuum but to also strengthen the local integrated civic infrastructure required to cope with crises.

For now, we are writing to let you know you can count on us to be of assistance in any way you find helpful. We’ll keep you posted on our progress and would be happy to share with your administration the practices we are employing to maximize the efficient and effective deployment of resources in response to the crisis. Again, we deeply appreciate your leadership during these trying times.

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Promise Neighborhoods

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California Cradle to Career Collaborative

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California Forward

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StriveTogether

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End Child Poverty Campaign

**California Cradle to Career and Promise Neighborhoods Organizations**

Bright Futures for Monterey County  Chula Vista Promise Neighborhood
Cradle to Career Fresno County  Cradle to Career Sonoma County
Corning Promise Neighborhood  Hayward Promise Neighborhoods
Marin Promise Partnership  Mission Promise Neighborhood San Francisco
San Diego Promise Neighborhood  Stanislaus Cradle to Career Partnership
United Way of San Diego County