

2018 GUBERNATORIAL FORUM

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA | JANUARY 25



CALIFORNIA'S LATINO CHILDREN

The Facts

In a statewide poll of Latino voters, **early childhood education ranked 2nd** among a litany of issues Latino voters believe the next governor should prioritize. Early childhood education ranked higher than healthcare, the environment, homelessness, public safety, and infrastructure. (Ranking 1st was grade schools and college education, but early childhood education **ranked 1st in intensity** among all issues).

93% of Latino voters say it is important for California's next Governor to support greater investment in programs that benefit our state's young children.

In California, there are nearly 3 million children under the age of 6 and **52% of those young kids Latino**. (SVCF analysis of ACS data, attached)

Of all California children under 6, 23% live in poverty. **Among all Latino children under 6, 31% live in poverty. And of all California children under 6 who live in poverty, 71% are Latinos.** (SVCF analysis of ACS data, attached)

25% of Latina mothers experience food insecurity during pregnancy ([Children Now](#))

Research proves that reading is fundamental to the success of young children in school and in life, but **half of Latino children are not read to on a daily basis.** ([Children Now](#))

Research also proves that reading by 3rd grade is critical to the success of students in K-12 and beyond. 3rd grade reading scores are predictive of high school graduation, and yet **9 out of 10 California's Latino students are not reading proficiently by third grade.** ([CDE](#))

For families with children, **child care is the second highest cost behind housing.** More than 20% of a family's income can be spent on child care. ([California Budget and Policy Center](#))

California has more than 58,000 childcare workers, and on average, **they make just \$27,000 per year.** The childcare workforce is overwhelmingly female (at least 92%) and at least 1 out of 4 childcare workers is Latina. ([The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment](#))

The **average cost of infant care is \$13,327** per year, as much as University of California tuition and fees of \$13,900 per year.

AND YET

- "During the recession the state cut early education by over \$1 billion, which amounted to almost 100,000 lost preschool seats. In recent budget years some of those cuts have been restored, but spending on early care is nowhere near 2008 levels when the budget was about \$3.2 billion." ([KPCC](#))
- In 2012, [Governor Brown proposed to eliminate transitional kindergarten](#), which now serves more than 75,000 4-year-olds.
- Additionally:
 - Approximately 86% of eligible babies and toddlers do not have access to public early childhood care and education programs.
 - 75% of families seeking licensed child care for infants and toddlers cannot find it.
 - Nearly 650,000 eligible children age 0 to 5 do not have access to publicly-funded early care and education programs.
- But research continues to show the benefits of investing in young children:
 - Healthy brain development provides the foundation children need to be successful. A baby's brain develops more than 1 million new neural connections per second in its first year, absorbing new knowledge like a sponge. **More than 90% of a child's brain capacity is developed by age 5.**
 - Children who receive quality early childhood care and education **outperform peers in math and English, and are more likely to attend college.**
 - Children who attend preschool have higher rates of employment and home ownership as adults. It is estimated that a 10% increase in preschool enrollment in Los Angeles alone would result in \$10.8 billion more dollars into the California economy.

About Choose Children 2018

Choose Children 2018 is a statewide campaign committed to ensuring California's next governor is a champion for young children who makes early childhood care and education more accessible, affordable, and of higher quality. This initiative is led by Silicon Valley Community Foundation's Center for Early Learning in partnership with community, business, philanthropic, and educational leaders throughout California. Learn more about Choose Children 2018 and findings from its recently conducted poll at www.choosechildren.org.

About Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Silicon Valley Community Foundation advances innovative philanthropic solutions to challenging problems. We engage donors and corporations from Silicon Valley, across the country and around the globe to make our region and world better for all. Our passion for helping people and organizations achieve their philanthropic dreams has created a global philanthropic enterprise committed to the belief that possibilities start here. Learn more at www.siliconvalleycf.org.