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## A Position Statement of the California Community College Early Childhood Educator's in Support of the Stable and Consistent Funding of the Child Development Training Consortium and the California Early Childhood Mentor Program

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Adopted by the Executive Committee: September 23, 2010

Since 1982, **The Child Development Training Consortium (CDTC)** has supported the training of individuals entering the profession of early care and education and the professional development process of individuals already working in the field. This support is provided in partnership with the California Community College system to provide unit-bearing course work in traditional and non-traditional ways. Non-traditional approaches include off-campus locations, online courses, variable time segments, accelerated time frames, weekends and in languages other than English.

Funding opportunities are also provided to support educational needs at the local level such as reimbursing students for tuition and textbooks, establishing lending libraries, tutorial assistance and individual permit and course guidance. During the 2009-2010 academic year over 8,000 students at 103 community colleges received assistance. The CDTC also assists early childhood professionals in obtaining Child Development Permits through technical assistance and reimbursement of associated fees. In addition, CDTC also promotes partnerships between community colleges and 4-year colleges and universities through administrative support of the Curriculum Alignment Project (CAP) which streamlines the transfer path to a bachelors degree.

Since 1988, The **California Early Childhood Mentor Program (CECMP)** has complemented the efforts of CDTC by providing skilled and experienced early childhood teachers the opportunity to pass on what they know to the next generation of early childhood/child development professionals through the compensated mentoring of practicum/fieldwork students. This program greatly increases site placement opportunities for practicum/fieldwork students, compensates the Mentors and offers professional development opportunities for them. In 2009-2010 over two thousand early childhood practicum students were placed with almost 700 Mentor Teachers. New directors of early childhood/child development programs may also find an experienced and skilled director through CECMP to mentor their professional progress. Director Mentors are also compensated for their efforts and participate in professional development activities. Over one hundred Director Mentors provided services to an equal number of Early Childhood program directors.

The Early Learning Advisory Counsel's Federal Funding application submitted August 1, 2010 acknowledges the importance of these two programs in "providing early care and education personnel with preparation, training and professional development." Both the CDTC and CECMP are well

established and refined support programs and have also been strategic in implementing the state **Master Plan for Education**, supporting the distribution and training related to **The California Infant/Toddler and Preschool Learning and Development System** including the Program Guidelines, Development Foundations (age expectations), Curriculum Framework (curriculum and instruction), and The Desired Results System used to observe and assess children's learning. Stable and consistent funding for **The Child Development Training Consortium** and the **California Early Childhood Mentor Program**, two vital building blocks that support the education and professional development of those working in the field of early childhood/child development, is crucial to the efforts of the Early Learning Advisory Counsel and to the success of the California Master Plan of Education.

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