



## Children's Health and Child Care Initiative for Alameda County

### What is this initiative?

This initiative is critical for Alameda County children, particularly kids from low-income families who desperately need access to high quality health and child care. If placed on the ballot and approved by voters, this initiative will generate \$150 million annually to expand access to free and low-cost health and child care through Children's Hospital Oakland and numerous child care providers across the county.

### Why is this important?

Research shows that 90% of a child's brain development occurs before age five. All of our children need a strong start in life. This measure will ensure:

- All Alameda County families – regardless of income – have access to high quality child care.
- All child care providers, who often don't make enough money to pay rent in Alameda County, are paid at least \$15 an hour so that we can attract and retain the best people to care for our kids.
- That Children's Hospital Oakland – Alameda County's Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center – continues to provide world-class care for all children in Alameda County.
- Children's Hospital Oakland continues to provide critical care to all local families – including those who need it most but cannot afford to pay.

### When will be this be on the ballot?

Health and child care advocates are collecting signatures NOW to get this important initiative on the March 2020 ballot. We will know by November 1, 2019 if they are successful in gathering those signatures. If so, this will be on the March 2020 ballot and all Alameda County voters will be asked to weigh in on whether to support this initiative.



Learn more at [care4ourkids.org](http://care4ourkids.org)



# Fact Sheet

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### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why is this Alameda County Health and Child Care Initiative needed?

The children of Alameda County are our future and will provide the leadership, creativity, and productivity to strengthen and sustain the quality of life in our county. Passage of this initiative is critical for our children, families, health and child care providers, and our economy.

#### Why is it important for our children?

This initiative would provide high quality child care and preschool, both critical to child brain development in the first 5 years of life and success in kindergarten and school.

Only 31% of our county's children with working parents have access to this critical early education.

All children deserve access to top-notch health care. Children's Hospital Oakland is a Level One Trauma center, and this initiative will help to ensure access for all kids – including kids from low-income families – to such designated trauma centers.

#### Why is it important for our families and parents?

Professional, affordable, quality care supports the ability of parents and guardians to learn and earn.

Access to high-quality health and trauma care for children when they are sick, injured, and in emergency situations, helps them grow into healthy and successful adults.

Hundreds of children and their families within the growing homeless population in Alameda County cannot access quality child care, preschool, and early education services — this initiative would help to fix that.

#### Why is it important for our child care providers?

This initiative will help to ensure that child care providers make at least \$15 an hour so that we can attract and retain the best people to work with our children.

Learn more at [care4ourkids.org](https://care4ourkids.org)

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