A STATE OF EMERGENCY

In California there are approximately 600,000 children living in poverty ages 0-5. Of those, only 38% of three and four year olds have access to Head Start. And only 4% of children younger than three have access to Early Head Start.

CALIFORNIA’s MINIMUM WAGE

FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME IN CALIFORNIA

REQUEST: INCREASE INCOME THRESHOLDS

Increase the income limits for Head Start and Early Head Start eligibility, which could be accomplished through the following:

• Congressional changes to the Head Start Act, allowing California a higher income level
• Grant California a waiver similar to Hawaii and Alaska; this would increase the limits for Head Start and Early Head Start eligibility and give more families access to child care
• In California, the minimum wage

$15,080

And is set to increase by 30% in 2021

$22,880

Californian earnings are disproportionate to Federal levels

In 2018, the

$61,739

$25,100

$45,760

Median Family Income in California

Maximum Income to Qualify for Head Start

California income for a household with two full-time minimum wage earners

FAMILY CHALLENGES

By keeping the income limit at a low level, for both Federal and State programs, families are faced with the following barriers and choices:

• Inability to access Head Start and Early Head Start services
• Withdraw from the workforce because they can’t afford child care
• Stay under-employed in order to remain eligible for child care subsidy
• Placing children in unsafe and inadequate child care options

REQUEST: INCREASE INCOME THRESHOLDS

Increase the income limits for Head Start and Early Head Start eligibility, which could be accomplished through the following:

• Congressional changes to the Head Start Act, allowing California a higher income level
• Grant California a waiver similar to Hawaii and Alaska; this would increase the limits for Head Start and Early Head Start eligibility and give more families access to child care