

Date of Hearing: March 24, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Alex Lee, Chair

AB 1969 (Bonta) – As Introduced February 13, 2026

SUBJECT: California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Services Grant Program

SUMMARY: Establishes the It Takes a Village Act and creates the California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Services Grant Program that funds place-based partnerships to coordinate cradle-to-career services, align community resources, and improve outcomes for children and families experiencing intergenerational poverty. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Establishes the It Takes a Village Act of 2026 and creates the California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Services Grant Program to be administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) or another department within the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS), as designated by the Secretary of CalHHS.
- 2) Specifies the purpose of the grant program is to reduce child poverty and advance economic mobility for children and families disproportionately affected by intergenerational poverty by supporting place-based partnerships that align services, address systemic barriers, and improve long-term outcomes through all of the following solutions:
 - a) Increase community health and safety;
 - b) Provide cradle-to-career access to high-quality education and care;
 - c) Connect residents to quality jobs and in-demand occupations;
 - d) Enable family-sustaining income and access to affordable high-quality housing, childcare, and health care, including reproductive, maternal, behavioral, and mental health care;
 - e) Provide high-quality support for high-need populations, such as children with disabilities, children experiencing disparity gaps in school performance based on income or racial or ethnic disaggregation, foster youth, child welfare, and justice-involved youth and young adults;
 - f) Connect individuals to state programs; and,
 - g) Leverage federal, local, and private funding for the place-based partnership.
- 3) Requires grants to be awarded to eligible entities that are place-based partnerships.
- 4) Declares legislative intent that programs in the continuum should improve academic achievement and equitable social outcomes, including improving outcomes of early development, child and youth social and health development, and college and career readiness, as well as build strong family and community supports to help families move out of poverty.

- 5) Requires CDSS, in consultation with the California Department of Education (CDE), to develop an application process for eligible entities to apply for the grants.
- 6) Requires CDSS to aim to achieve geographic equity by giving priority to applicants serving remote communities, including rural and tribal communities, through the selection process.
- 7) Requires CDSS, for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years, to competitively award grants to place-based partnerships across the state to be expended in accordance with the activities specified in 8) below.
- 8) Requires each implementation grant recipient under this program to use the grant funds for all of the following activities:
 - a) Regional or neighborhood partnership development, which may include all of the following:
 - i) Identifying a community lead organization and building local capacity;
 - ii) Convening partner organizations;
 - iii) Engaging community residents; and,
 - iv) Analyzing existing local data.
 - b) Plan development, which may include all of the following:
 - i) Solidifying partnerships;
 - ii) Conducting community asset mapping and a needs assessment;
 - iii) Engaging in community-driven planning and prioritization processes; and,
 - iv) Developing a plan to implement place-based solutions that address at least two of the purposes of the program listed under 2) above.
 - c) Implementation, which may include all of the following:
 - i) Launching the approved plan;
 - ii) Leveraging additional federal, state, local, or private funding streams;
 - iii) Conducting progress monitoring and continuous improvement activities;
 - iv) Engaging community residents on an ongoing basis;
 - v) Implementing the cradle-to-career services based on results of the needs analysis described in the application and plans to build system and organizational capacity; and,

- vi) Continuously evaluating the success of the program and improving the program based on data and outcomes.
- 9) Requires grant recipients developing new or expanded longitudinal data systems to coordinate and align their data collection and reporting with the Cradle-to-Career Data System.
- 10) Requires CDSS to establish performance standards to measure progress on indicators and results relevant to the evaluation of the grant program.
- 11) Requires CDE, in consultation with CDSS, to establish a core set of academic results and indicators by which the grant recipients will be measured.
- 12) Requires CDSS to establish a core set of family and community support results and indicators by which the grant recipient will be measured. Requires a grant recipient to choose to measure and report on two or more family and community support results and indicators.
- 13) Requires CDSS, in consultation with CDE, to also establish at least two indicators related to health, social and emotional development, mental health, and wellness. Authorizes a grant recipient to choose to report on additional social or socioemotional indicators, drawn from either of the following:
 - a) Existing surveys, including the California Healthy Kids Survey or the YouthTruth Student Survey; or,
 - b) Other sources, as determined by the eligible entity and their partner agencies.
- 14) Authorizes CDSS to establish other engagement, academic, and social indicators.
- 15) Requires each grant recipient to prepare and submit an annual report to CDSS that includes both of the following:
 - a) Information about the number and percentage of children, family members, and community members in the area served by the place-based partnerships who are served by the grant recipient, including a description of the number and percentage of children accessing each of the pipeline services and the number of family and community members served by each program; and,
 - b) Disaggregated data at population and program levels related to the grant recipient's programs' success in annual growth along program and project indicators. To the extent feasible, data should be disaggregated by all of the following:
 - i) Gender;
 - ii) Major racial and ethnic groups;
 - iii) English proficiency status;
 - iv) Migrant status;

- v) Disability status;
 - vi) Economic disadvantage status;
 - vii) Information relating to the performance metrics; and,
 - viii) Other indicators that may be required by CDSS.
- 16) Authorizes CDSS, in consultation with CDE, to establish an appropriate method, process, and structure for grant management, fiscal accountability, payments to grant recipients, and technical assistance and supports for grant recipients that ensure transparency and accountability in the use of state funds. Authorizes CDSS to, at its discretion, contract with one or more entities, including, but not limited to, community development financial intermediaries, state financial entities, or other community-based organizations, for these purposes.
- 17) Exempts, notwithstanding any other law, and to the extent permitted by federal law, funds utilized by grant recipients to provide guaranteed income payments pursuant to this chapter to not be considered as income or assets when determining eligibility and benefit amount for any means-tested program, including, but not limited to, CalWORKs, CalFresh, General Assistance, Medi-Cal, Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment, Adoption Assistance Program, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants, and any scholarships for public colleges and universities, including, but not limited to, Cal Grant awards, Chafee grant awards, Middle Class Scholarship Program awards, California College Promise Grants, California State University Educational Opportunity Program grants, Community College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services grants, and grants from the University of California, upon approval by the Regents of the University of California, or California State University.
- 18) Authorizes CDSS, notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure, in consultation with CDE, to implement, interpret, or make specific this grant program without taking any regulatory action.
- 19) Exempts contracts or grants awarded pursuant to this grant program from the personal services contracting requirements, as specified.
- 20) Exempts contracts or grants awarded pursuant to this grant program from the Public Contract Code and the State Contracting Manual and are not subject to the approval of the California Department of General Services.
- 21) Requires implementation of this grant program to be subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute for the purposes of this program.
- 22) Defines the following:
- a) “Cradle-to-career” means a system of integrated services that begins before birth and leads to appropriate postsecondary success, including academic, occupational, and independent living, that benefits the individual and community as a whole;

- b) “Eligible entity” includes all of the following:
- i) A nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and that has a strong demonstrated financial record evidencing compliance; A nonprofit organization may be a faith-based organization, to the extent permitted by law;
 - ii) A public or nonprofit institution of higher education;
 - iii) An Indian tribe or tribal organization;
 - iv) Requires an eligible entity to work in partnership with at least one local educational agency and one social service agency located within the area served by the place-based partnerships; and,
 - v) Authorizes an eligible entity to also work with one or more of the following entities located within the area served by the place-based partnerships: a local government agency; health organizations; or, another eligible entity.
- c) “Grant program” means the California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Services Grant Program;
- d) “Neighborhood partnership” includes nonprofit and faith-based networks that serve geographically defined areas or neighborhoods based on the level of distress in that area as set by indicators of need. The application may propose to serve multiple, noncontiguous areas. Services provided by these networks may include food, housing assistance, access to benefits, mental health, job training, legal services, financial literacy, early childhood development, parenting support, after school enhanced learning, and youth empowerment;
- e) “Place-based partnership” includes neighborhood partnerships and regional partnerships; and,
- f) “Regional partnership” supports multiple populations in neighborhoods, cities, counties, and regions by addressing root cause factors behind poverty, institutional misalignment, and opportunities for meaningful community engagement necessary to ensure that equitable outcomes are achieved at scale. These partnerships seek systems change and community engagement, develop evidence-based strategies, and, where strategies prove successful, promote adoption in the full region.

23) Makes the following findings and declarations:

- a) Children and families thrive when communities coordinate the resources and supports they need from birth through adulthood. In California’s diverse society where the persistently high cost of living, including housing, transportation, and food, threatens family stability, the Legislature intends to ensure that children and families, particularly those in economically disadvantaged communities, have equitable access to high-quality education, health care, stable and affordable housing, and other supports that promote well-being, advance economic mobility, and interrupt cycles of intergenerational poverty;

- b) Despite large statewide investments in education, health, social services, and other programs directed at children and their families, California faces persistently high rates of child poverty and educational achievement gaps across the state. Cash payments, food assistance, and crucial services do not reach many children and families who are most in need because of significant access barriers that are often due to inequitable systemic barriers, and when provided, the services are fragmented and offered through organizationally siloed programs without attention to improving those equitable systems;
- c) A proven solution to this problem is to invest in place-based initiatives that: are equity focused; are data driven and have the capacity to identify the highest needs within the most economically disadvantaged neighborhoods or regions; have the resources and trusted relationships within the communities to align, coordinate, leverage, and enhance services provided by state and local government, community-based organizations, nonprofits, businesses, and other entities active in the local community toward equitable outcomes; and identify systems' needs, work with partners to address systemic needs, and measure systemic improvements;
- d) Both neighborhood-based and regional place-based partnerships that align and coordinate services and systems have demonstrated significant positive outcomes and strong returns on investment in the communities they serve. Neighborhood-focused partnerships, such as federal Promise Neighborhoods, have driven substantial improvements in health care access, kindergarten readiness, literacy and mathematics achievement, high school graduation, college and career readiness, child welfare and juvenile justice outcomes, and overall family stability. A recent analysis by RTI International found a \$3.97 societal return for every \$1.00 invested in these programs. Similarly, regional partnerships have contributed to narrowing achievement gaps and enhancing a broad spectrum of outcomes, from preterm birth rates and early childcare quality to early grade reading, middle grade mathematics, high school graduation, and postsecondary completion. Together, these neighborhood and regional strategies illustrate the power of coordinated, place-based approaches to generate meaningful, lasting benefits for children, families, and communities;
- e) This collaborative approach ensures that a continuum of services reach children in communities where they are needed the most. This is especially important in communities experiencing high levels of homelessness. Neighborhood and regional partnerships can coordinate efforts among government agencies and other local organizations to ensure that those experiencing homelessness, or are at risk of becoming homeless, have full access to all programs and services to which they are entitled; and,
- f) States legislative intent that the vital contributions provided by these community-based and regional networks be brought to scale, so that all children and families have the opportunities and continuum of services needed to break the cycle of poverty.

EXISTING LAW:

State law:

- 1) Establishes the Department of Community Services and Development within CalHHS to employ public and private sector resources to carry out the state's antipoverty and community services programs. (Government Code [GOV] § 12085 *et seq.*)
- 2) Provides that although California has reached historical levels of economic well-being, poverty continues to affect a substantial number of residents and establishes state policy to provide services and activities that address the causes of poverty, particularly in communities where poverty is most acute. (GOV § 12085(a)(1))
- 3) Establishes state policy to assist low-income individuals, including homeless individuals and families, migrants, and the elderly poor, in securing and retaining employment, attaining an adequate education, making better use of available income, and obtaining and maintaining adequate housing and a suitable living environment. (GOV § 12085(a)(1))
- 4) Establishes state policy to assist low-income individuals by providing emergency assistance to meet urgent needs such as health services, nutritious food, housing, and employment-related support; coordinating linkages among governmental and social services programs to improve service delivery; and encouraging involvement of private-sector entities in efforts to reduce poverty. (GOV § 12085(a)(2))
- 5) Establishes the California Cradle-to-Career (C2C) Data Systems Act, which expresses legislative intent to build a data system that services students and families by identifying and tracking predictive indicators to enable parents, teachers, health and human services providers, and policymakers to provide appropriate interventions and supports to address disparities in opportunities and improve outcomes for all students. (Education Code Section [EDC] § 10850 *et seq.*)
- 6) Establishes the California Community Schools Partnership Act, which establishes grants for local educational agencies to implement the community school model, which coordinates education, health and social services through partnerships among schools, community-based organizations, and local agencies to support students and families in a specific community. (EDC § 8900)

Federal law:

- 7) Establishes the Promise Neighborhood Program, which provides grants to nonprofit organizations, tribal organizations, or institutions of higher education, which, together with partners, develop and implement plans to significantly improve outcomes of children living in a given neighborhood. (20 United States Code 7274)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown, this bill has not been analyzed by a fiscal committee.

COMMENTS:

Background: *Poverty in California.* Despite California's large economy and substantial public investments in programs that support families, many children continue to experience poverty or

economic hardship. According to the August 2025 Public Policy Institute of California fact sheet, *Poverty in California*,¹ the state's poverty rate increased from 15.2% in 2022 to 16.9% in 2023 under the California Poverty Measure, which accounts for the regional cost of living and the effects of safety-net programs. This represents approximately 6.4 million Californians living below the poverty level. Child poverty rose to 17.6% in 2023, returning to roughly its pre-COVID-19 pandemic level after temporary relief programs expired.

Economic hardship affects an even larger share of the state's population when including those living near poverty. In 2023, about 34.8% of Californians, about 13.2 million people, lived in poverty or near poverty, defined as having resources below 150% of the poverty line. A significant share of residents also experience deep poverty, meaning they have less than half the resources needed to meet basic needs such as housing, food, and utilities.

Poverty in California is not evenly distributed across the population. Latino Californians experience the highest poverty rate at approximately 21% and represent about half (50.6%) of Californians living in poverty, despite making up about 40.7% of the population. Other groups also experience disproportionate poverty rates, including Black Californians (17.5%) and Asian American and Pacific Islander residents (15.6%), compared to 12.8% among white residents. Poverty rates are also higher among immigrant communities and individuals with lower levels of education. Foreign-born Californians have a poverty rate of roughly 21.9%, compared to 14.8% for United States-born residents, and poverty among undocumented immigrants is estimated at 36%. Educational attainment is also strongly linked to economic stability: about 28.7% of adults without a high school diploma live in poverty, compared to 7.6% of college graduates.

Research shows that poverty can significantly affect children's development and long-term outcomes. Children growing up in low-income households are more likely to experience unstable housing, food insecurity, and limited access to quality early learning opportunities and healthcare, which shape early development.² Economic hardship can also increase stress within families, affecting children's social-emotional development, cognitive growth, and school readiness. These early disparities can contribute to differences in academic achievement, educational attainment, health outcomes and lifetime earnings. Conversely, safety net programs play a significant role in reducing poverty. In 2023, programs such as CalFresh, tax credits, housing subsidies, and school meals kept an estimated 2.6 million Californians, including about one million children, out of poverty.

Fragmentation of Public Benefits. California administers numerous public programs that support the health, education, and economic stability of children and families, including CalFresh, Medi-Cal, housing assistance, subsidized childcare, workforce supports, and cash-aid. While these programs play an important role in reducing poverty, they are administered across multiple federal, state, and local agencies with distinct eligibility rules, application processes, reporting requirements, and delivery systems. As a result, families often must navigate multiple systems to access the full range of services for which they may qualify.

This fragmentation creates significant barriers for families, particularly those with limited time, transportation, language access, or familiarity with government systems.³ Families may be

¹ <https://www.ppic.org/publication/poverty-in-california/>

² <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12448094/>

³ <https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.20231394>

required to submit multiple applications, provide duplicative documentation, and interact with different agencies to receive benefits. These administrative burdens can result in eligible families not enrolling in programs, delays in receiving assistance, or interruptions in benefits. Fragmentation also limits coordination among providers making it more difficult to align services, share information, and address the interconnected needs of children and families.

Place-Based Partnerships. In response to these challenges, place-based initiatives have emerged as a strategy to improve outcomes for children and families by coordinating services within specific neighborhoods or regions. These partnerships bring together schools, health providers, social service agencies, community-based organizations, and local governments to align resources, identify service gaps, and implement community-driven solutions.

Place-based partnerships generally operate at two levels. Neighborhood partnerships focus on defined geographic areas and coordinate services such as food and housing assistance, early childhood programs, parenting supports, and job training. In contrast, regional partnerships operate across broader areas, such as multiple cities or counties, and focus on aligning systems and resources to improve outcomes at scale. A central feature of these models is the integration of services across the cradle-to-career continuum,⁴ connecting families to supports such as early learning, healthcare, housing, and workforce development through coordinated, data-driven strategies.

Federal Promise Neighborhoods. Evidence from similar initiatives suggests that coordinated, place-based approaches can improve outcomes for children and families. One example is the federally funded Promise Neighborhoods program,⁵ launched by the United States Department of Education in 2010 to support cradle-to-career services in high-poverty communities. The program provides competitive planning and implementation grants to nonprofit organizations, higher education institutions, and tribal entities to coordinate education, health, and social services in distressed neighborhoods.

Since its launch, the program has awarded 46 applicants across at least 30 states and tribal lands. California currently has ten Promise Neighborhood sites located in San Francisco's Mission District, Oakland, Hayward, Los Angeles, Chula Vista, San Diego, Corning, and Klamath River. After federal funding for the program sunset, the Budget Act of 2022 provided a one-time \$12 million appropriation to CDSS to prevent the closure of four existing sites.

Promise Neighborhoods have reported measurable successes. The Mission Promise Neighborhood reported serving more than 32,000 individuals connecting residents to jobs, healthcare, and legal services, while increasing graduation rates and kindergarten readiness among participating children. Similarly, the Chula Vista Promise Neighborhood reported improvements in math proficiency and reductions in chronic absenteeism among participating students.

California's Existing Efforts to Improve Service Coordination. California has undertaken several initiatives in recent years to improve coordination across programs serving children and families. One key example is the C2C Data System, authorized in 2019 and established in statute through AB 132 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 144, Statutes of 2021. C2C is a statewide longitudinal

⁴ <https://www.strivetogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Place-Based-Partnership-Toolkit.pdf>

⁵ <https://promiseneighborhoods.ed.gov/>

data system that links existing data across education, workforce, and related systems to provide information that supports student success, informs policymaking, and identifies disparities in outcomes.

The state has also invested in community schools, which operate as neighborhood hubs that integrate education with health, social, and family supports. The California Community Schools Partnership Program, established in 2021, includes \$4.1 billion to expand this model statewide by providing grants to local educational agencies to develop partnerships with community organizations and service providers. Early findings from a December 2025 evaluation report show reductions in chronic absenteeism, increases in credit accrual, and improvements in student outcomes associated with stronger family engagement and community partnerships.⁶ The Governor's January 2026-27 budget proposes \$1 billion in ongoing Proposition 98 funding to sustain the existing 2,500 schools that already received one-time funding and expand the model to 3,700 new schools.

Despite these efforts, challenges remain in coordinating services across systems. Differences in program eligibility rules, administrative structures, and funding streams still create barriers to effective collaboration.⁷ *This bill* seeks to address child poverty by establishing the California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Service Grant Program to support place-based partnerships that align services and resources in communities with high levels of need. The grant program aims to strengthen coordination across education, health, workforce, housing, and social service systems, improve access to supports, and promote data-informed decision-making to improve outcomes for children and families.

Governor's Veto Message. This bill is substantially similar to AB 1321 (Bonta) of 2023, which was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file, and AB 2517 (Bonta) of 2022, which was vetoed by Governor Newsom. The Governor's veto message stated:

"The bill would, subject to an appropriation, establish a new grant program under which grants would be awarded on a competitive basis to Promise Neighborhoods (PNs) served by the federal program or other eligible entities to either implement a comprehensive, integrated continuum of cradle-to-career solutions at the neighborhood level or support the civic infrastructure and the backbones of cradle-to-career networks that support their network partners to accomplish systems change.

"The author's goal of ensuring coordinated investments in services and supports to achieve better outcomes for children and families throughout their lives is laudable, and I note that the 2022 Budget Act includes \$12 million one-time General Fund to support specified PNs in California. However, there would be substantial costs to administer AB 2517 in addition to tens of millions of dollars in grant funding that would be necessary, neither of which are accounted for in the budget.

"With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending

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<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cde.ca.gov%2Fci%2Fgs%2Fhs%2Fdocuments%2Fccspp25legreport.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

⁷ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666535222000611>

that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

“The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process.”

To address Governor Newsom’s concerns stated above, the Author is requesting \$200 million in one-time funding in the 2026-27 budget to sustain and expand California’s Promise Neighborhoods and regional partnerships. Additionally, the Author notes that while Promise Neighborhoods have historically been eligible for federal funding, that funding may no longer be reliable under the current Administration. For example, according to the Author, Hayward Promise Neighborhood has reportedly had its federal funding frozen.

Author’s Statement: According to the Author, “A strong understanding of the community and regional context, as well the effective coordination of services and supports aligned with the needs of the community, are essential to achieving better outcomes for children and families at every stage of life – from cradle to career.

“Over the last 10 years, Promise Neighborhoods, Cradle to Career (C2C) networks, and similar entities have worked in disadvantaged communities. Utilizing a place-based, equity-focused approach, these networks coordinate services and supports across the public and private sectors and collect and share data to maximize the efficiency and efficacy of programming. Areas where these networks have operated have seen substantial improvements in healthcare access, literacy, and college and career readiness, as well as reduced child welfare and juvenile justice involvement. To scale these proven cradle to career solutions, the state must invest in the “It Takes A Village” strategy.

“[This bill] will establish a California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Services grant program to fund the implementation of new, and strengthen existing, neighborhood and regional cradle to career (C2C) networks. By ensuring coordinated investments in services and supports, this bill will expand California’s capacity to challenge poverty, address disparities, and provide support for children and their families from cradle to career.”

Equity Implications: By supporting place-based partnerships that coordinate education, health, social services, and workforce supports, *this bill* may help improve access to services for children and families who often face barriers navigating fragmented systems. *This bill* may also help address disparities in outcomes experienced by certain populations, including children in low-income households, immigrant families, and communities of color that have historically faced higher rates of poverty and reduced access to services.

Policy Considerations: *This bill* limits eligibility for nonprofit organizations to those recognized as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). While this aligns with federal standards, it may exclude certain organizations that are exempt from state income taxation under Revenue and Taxation Code Section 23701d but may not hold federal 501(c)(3) status, which could restrict participation by locally based organizations that may play a key role in place-based partnerships.

Should this bill move forward, the Author may wish to consider expanding the definition of “nonprofit organization” to also include entities that are exempt from taxation under applicable state law.

By prioritizing data collection and disaggregation by demographic indicators, *this bill* may provide better information about disparities in outcomes and access to services. However, *this bill* authorizes the collection and reporting of disaggregated demographic data, including English proficiency status, migrant status, and other indicators determined by CDSS. Without clear parameters regarding how these data may be used, stored, or shared, some communities, particularly immigrant and mixed-status families, may have concerns about providing sensitive information, which could affect participation in programs and services.

Should this bill move forward, the Author may wish to consider striking provisions that authorize the collection and reporting of English proficiency status, migrant status and other unspecified demographic indicators determined by CDSS.

While *this bill* authorizes grant recipients to collect and share program data with CDSS to support the evaluation of the grant program, it does not currently specify clear safeguards to limit how the data may be used, retained, or shared. Without explicitly providing parameters governing consent, data use and protections against secondary uses, there is a risk that information collected for program evaluation purposes could be used in ways not originally intended or shared without adequate privacy protections.

Should this bill move forward, the Author may wish to consider establishing clearer data privacy and consent requirements.

Proposed Committee Amendments: The Committee proposes amendments to address policy considerations stated above to do the following:

- Add state tax-exempt status to the definition of “nonprofit organization,” in addition to the federal 501(c)(3) status.
- Strike provisions authorizing the collection and reporting of English proficiency status, migrant status, and other indicators determined by CDSS as part of the program’s required data collection for evaluative purposes.
- Require program participants to provide separate and distinct consent before any data may be shared with CDSS for purposes of evaluating the grant program.
- Prohibit the inclusion of personally identifiable information in any data shared with CDSS.
- Require that all shared data be subject to applicable state and federal privacy laws.
- Prohibit the collection of additional data elements that significantly differ from those authorized in the bill without prior legislative approval.
- Require CDSS to enforce data privacy and protection policies for all grant recipients.

Arguments in Support: According to California Cradle to Career Coalition and End Child Poverty California powered by GRACE, “Communities across the state are urgently seeking stronger local coordination and more effective delivery of social benefits, particularly amid increasing federal instability. This proven model implements state priorities at the neighborhood level, strengthening access to essential benefits, and building long-term economic mobility. This framework provides the collective-impact infrastructure necessary to protect children and families from the consequences of federal actions, including nearly 1 million CalFresh households losing food benefits, 1.5 million to 2 million Medi-cal households losing access to healthcare, and heightened pressures on immigrant communities.”

Arguments in Opposition: None on file.

RELATED OR PRIOR LEGISLATION:

AB 2092 (Bonta) of the current legislative session, establishes the Early Childhood Integrated Data System under CDSS to link data across programs serving children from birth five years of age and connect to the C2C and authorizes CDSS to collect and share limited early childhood program data to improve access, coordination, equity, and outcomes for children and families, among other things. *AB 2092 is set to be heard in the Assembly Human Services Committee on March 24, 2026.*

AB 1321 (Bonta) of 2023, was substantially similar to this bill. *AB 1321 was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

AB 2517 (Bonta) of 2022, was substantially similar to this bill. *AB 2571 was vetoed by Governor Newsom.*

AB 132 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 144, Statutes of 2021, establishes the C2C to link data on student progress through education, workforce training, employment, health and social services; establishes a governing board comprised of 21 members; and, establishes the Office of Cradle-to-Career Data within Government Operations Agency until July 1, 2026, among other things.

AB 932 (Levine) of 2021, would have established the Cradle-to-Career Grant Program to administer public and private funds to address child poverty and achievement gaps in California children. *AB 932 was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.*

SB 686 (Allen) of 2019, would have enacted the California Promise Neighborhoods Act of 2019, which would have provided grants, administered by CDE, to implement a comprehensive integrated continuum of cradle-to-college-to-career solutions, including academic, health, and social programs. *AB 686 was set to be heard in the Assembly Education Committee, but the hearing was canceled at the request of the Author.*

AB 2555 (Calderon) of 2014, would have required the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in collaboration with various other state agencies and private organizations, to develop a five-year plan for expanding Cradle-to-Career initiatives in California. *AB 2555 was set to be heard in the Assembly Higher Education Committee, but the hearing was canceled at the request of the Author.*

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

GRACE Inc (Sponsor)
4Cs of Alameda County
Courage California
Eden Area Communities Collaborative
Eden Area Regional Occupational Program
Eden Area Rop
First 5 Alameda County
LA Familia Counseling Service
Marin Promise Partnership
Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA)

Opposition

None on file.

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