A strong social safety net is a vital tool for reducing hardship and lifting children out of poverty. Budget cuts have weakened California’s safety net, and recent years’ cuts have reduced funding for the state’s child care and development system.

Due to state budget cuts, funding for subsidized child care and the state preschool program is $1.1 billion below the pre-recession level, after adjusting for inflation. This is despite the state’s improved fiscal outlook and the modest increase in funding for child care and preschool that was included in the 2014-15 budget.

Decreased funding reduces families’ access to care. Without access to affordable child care, many families face difficult choices about where to leave their children as well as how to balance the cost of care with other necessities such as rent and groceries.

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Support for Child Care and Preschool Is $1.1 Billion Below 2007-08, Even With the Recent Funding Increase
Total Funding for Subsidized Child Care and Preschool Slots in California, Inflation-Adjusted