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Date: May 20, 2008

To: All California Department of Education, Child Development Division Contractors serving Kern County

From: Kern County Child Care Council - Early Care & Education Retention Project

RE: Anticipated changes to the AB 212 Project for fiscal year 2008-2009

Greetings Everyone,

This letter is to provide information regarding the current status of the AB 212 Project (Kern County Early Care & Education Retention Project) for the 2008-2009 year. As you may be aware, it is anticipated that there will be a lengthy delay in an approved State budget for California this summer. This delay will in turn delay a contract for services between the Child Care Council and the Department of Education for the AB 212 Project. The Council will not be able to release an application for stipends until a fully executed contract has been received.

In addition, this Project is slated for a significant budget cut - currently estimated to be 25.9% or approximately \$125,000 less than we have historically received. Due to both of these challenges, it is projected that the plan for the Kern County Early Care & Education Retention Project will be modified for the 2008-2009 year. These modifications may include:

- One application phase rather than two application phases
- Application release will probably be in January 2009 rather than September
- In addition to the standard eligibility requirements, all individuals must have completed a minimum of four (4) hours of professional growth activities or have taken at least two (2) units in an eligible course between April 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008 to be eligible for a stipend.

Please share this information with your staff so all will understand why the delay and change in the Project is happening. Feel free to give the Council office a call if you have any questions about this or any other project coordinated by the Council. This may prove to be a lean year - however the Council is ready to make the best of it!

Sincerely,

Tammy Burns  
Kern County Child Care Council