

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Fellowship

- **Project:** The JP Early Childhood Fellowship will increase the training, compensation, and retention of early childhood educators by incentivizing and supporting the completion of their associate or bachelor's degree in early childhood education (ECE). These jobs are currently dominated by women, primarily BIPOC, living at or below the poverty line. Through investing in the professionalization of ECE teachers, we directly impact their economic mobility and the school readiness of the children they support.
- **The Challenge:** Mothers, especially young BIPOC single mothers, have borne the brunt of the childcare crisis, with 1.7 million single mother college students having no access to affordable, high-quality childcare. Unfortunately, the quality of early care and education a child receives is directly linked to the education, turnover rate, and compensation of early educators—all impacting a child's school readiness.
- **The Opportunity:** Research has found that children enrolled in high-quality ECE programs the first three years of life are more likely to enter school on grade level—a critical metric for high school completion. Increased funding, training, and compensation in the ECE field will serve as a vital economic mobility lever while professionalizing the field and increasing the number of high-quality childcare options for poor families.