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REACH ASHLAND YOUTH CENTER [www.REACHASHLAND.org](http://www.REACHASHLAND.org)  
A project operated by Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

## **Early Head Start Grant Awarded to Serve Infants and Toddlers in Central and Eastern Alameda County including the REACH Ashland Youth Center**

**May 19, 2015 (San Leandro, CA)** – The Community Association for Preschool Education (CAPE, Inc.), was awarded a \$1.2 million dollar grant for 5 years from the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Children, Youth and Families, to partner with programs including Kidango and The REACH Ashland Youth Center. The funding will serve 89 children through partnerships including Kidango's programming to enhance positive developmental outcomes of social competencies and school readiness while incorporating best practices in education, health, nutrition, parent involvement, mental health, and disability services.

"Twelve years ago, the youth who advocated for the REACH Ashland Youth Center, all knew a parenting teen or were raised by a teen Mom, envisioned a facility that included a licensed childcare center that would provide quality care for the children of young parents. Their vision has now come full circle!" said Pedro Naranjo, Executive Director, REACH Ashland Youth Center.

"Community data indicates a significant and critical need for additional resources for infants and toddlers and their families in this area of the county. CAPE is delighted to have the opportunity to provide these services and to partner with such great programs," said Rosemary Almand, Executive Director of CAPE, Inc.

Central and Eastern Alameda County are racially and ethnically diverse and while hundreds of Alameda County infants and toddlers are eligible for Early Head Start programs, services in the Central and Eastern part of the county have not been available. Kidango's Rishi Babbar added, "After many years of cuts to child development programs we are heartened to see growth again, especially in programs serving infants and toddlers. Kidango is confident that we will be able to make a real difference in providing access to early care and education services for low-income families with the greatest need."

"I congratulate the Community Association for Preschool Education, Kidango, and REACH Ashland Youth Center on receiving this federal grant that will enable them to serve more children and families in Alameda County," said Congressman Eric Swalwell. "This funding will go a long way to increase opportunities for youth in our community."

Operating hours will be Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. and REACH members 24 years old and under will have priority. The Early Head Start program accepts children from birth to 30 months. Anticipated opening for the center is scheduled for early August 2015.

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The REACH ASHLAND Youth Center is an initiative of Alameda County Board of Supervisor Nate Miley's Eden Area Livability Initiative (EALI) A Video of the Child Development Center, watch the virtual tour of The NEST <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dzxsdzis6K4>

CAPE, Inc. provides Head Start, Early Head Start and State Preschool Program services to the Tri-Valley communities of Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin and through this grant award is now expanding Early Head Start services to Central Alameda County. CAPE, Inc. also provides Mental Health Services in Eastern, Central and Southern Alameda County.

Kidango's mission is to inspire children for academic success, to empower families to achieve their goals, and to strengthen our highly diverse community in a sustainable manner.