

ECAC Meeting

March 21, 2024



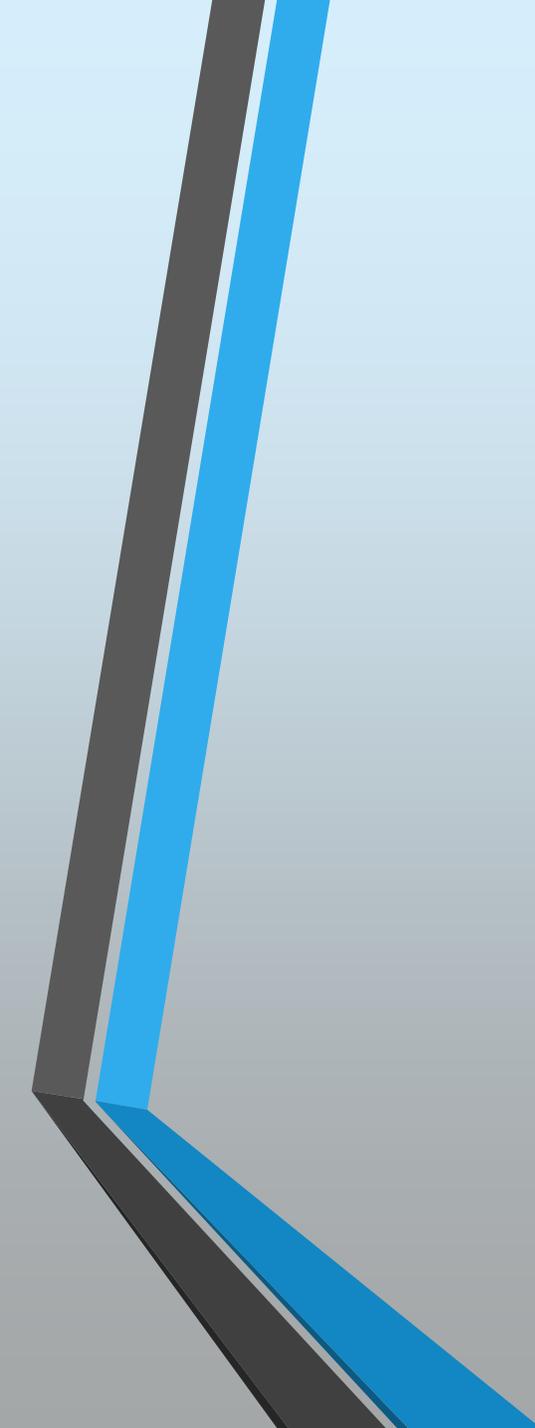


New York State
Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting
 March 21st, 2024 10:30am-3:30pm

Location: Empire State Plaza, Meeting Rooms 2-3 Albany, NY

Vision: All young children are healthy, learning, and thriving in families that are supported by a full complement of services and resources essential for successful development

Agenda Item	Topic	Presenters	Time
Welcome & Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Introductions o New ECAC Member Nominee: Kelly Escobar, Robinhood Foundation o Kindergarten Transition Forum, June 11th in NYC- Nancy Hampton o Head Start Expansion Grant- Carolyn Wiggins o Early Head Start Access Grant- Carolyn Wiggins, Patty Persell o Albany City Fluoridation- Stephanie Woodard 	Dona Anderson Patty Persell	10:30am-11am
Governor's Early Childhood Budget Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Updates from the Assistant Secretaries to the Governor for Human Services and Mental Hygiene 	Emily Meyer Alyson Tarek	11am-11:15am
CPRAC Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council 	Alyson Tarek	11:15am – 11:30am
State Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Agency Updates 	Suzanne Bolling Ray Pierce	11:30am – 12:00pm
Advocacy Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Advocacy Efforts • United Way of Central New York • NYS United Teachers 	Jenn O'Connor Laurie Black Phil Cleary	12pm – 12:15pm
LUNCH BREAK (please network)			12:15pm – 1:15pm
ECAC Committee Recommendation Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial Equity • Policy 	Committee Co-Leads	1:15pm-2:15pm
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and Community Resources • Data (optional) 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce • Fiscal (optional) 		
NY CCDF Plan Development 2025-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on NY Child Care and Development Fund • Group Discussions 	Nora Yates	2:15pm-3:15pm
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps • Closing Remarks 	Dona Anderson Patty Persell	3:15pm - 3:30pm



Introductions

- ✓ Name
- ✓ Agency you are representing
- ✓ Something you are looking forward to

New ECAC Nominee

Kelly Escobar, Robinhood Foundation



JUNE 11, 2024
**NYC KINDERGARTEN
TRANSITION FORUM**

(in-person)

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Jacob K. Javits Federal Building

Head Start Regional Office
26 Federal Plaza, 6th Floor
NY, NY 10278



**Council on Children
and Families**



Partners include: NYS Head Start Association,
Office of Head Start, NYS Education Department

Questions: please email Nancy Hampton
Nancy.Hampton@ccf.ny.gov

Head Start News

Head Start, Early Head Start, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Federal EXPANSION opportunity

Funding Number HHS-2024-ACF-OHS-HP-0157

Version: Synopsis 1

Posted Date: Mar 14, 2024

Last Updated Date: Mar 14, 2024

Original Closing Date for Applications: May 14, 2024 Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time on the listed application due date.

Current Closing Date for Applications: May 14, 2024 Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time on the listed application due date.

Archive Date: Jun 13, 2024

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$102,127,361

Award Ceiling: \$20,509,347

Award Floor: \$750,000

Zero to Three Early Head Start Access Grant

**NYS Head Start Association & NYS Head Start Collaboration Office
Won the \$200,000 grant to expand access to Early Head Start in NY!**

April 2024 – June 2025

Pam Maxstadt will be the lead consultant on this project. She will be reaching out to the ECAC members for possible focus group ideas and input.

Fort George Community Services, Inc.



HS
EHS - CCP
EHS CENTER BASE
HOME BASE
EHS-FDC



**CHILDREN & FAMILIES
ARE WELCOME**

Preparing your child **EARLY** so they can have a **Head Start** in school

There are five essential domains in the Early Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework:

- Social and emotional development,
- Physical development and health,
- Cognition and general knowledge,
- Language development and literacy, and
- Approaches to learning.

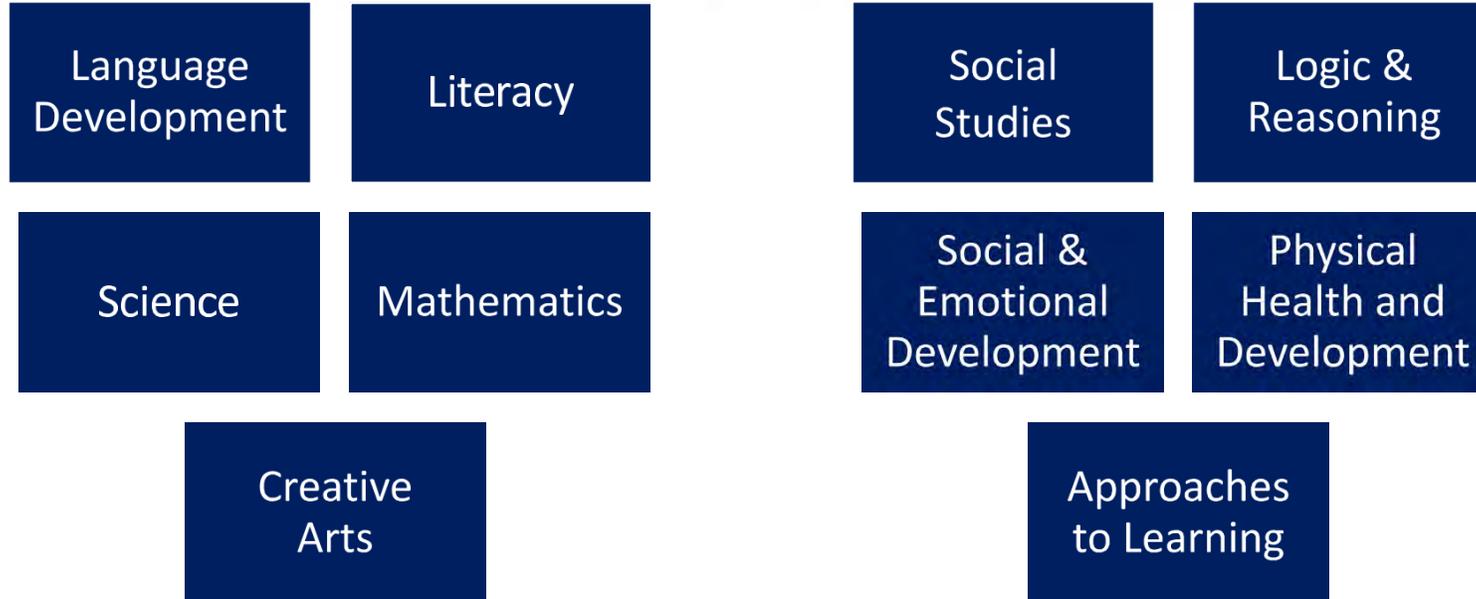
Learning and development in these five essential domains is holistic and integrated. Families are the most important people in their child's life.

Mission Statement



To Provide a quality comprehensive family-focused child development program to eligible children and their families in Washington Heights, West Harlem, Hamilton Heights and The Bronx. To enable families and children to focus on positive family child outcomes to be successful life long learners.

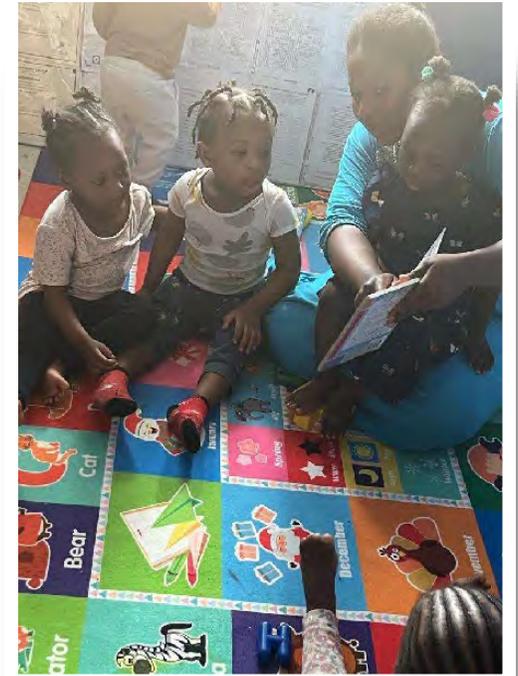
Head Start / Early Head Start Implements a Comprehensive Child Development Program Leading to Positive Outcomes in the Following Areas:



Head Start



EHS / CCP



EHS / CENTER BASE



Home Base



EHS / FDC

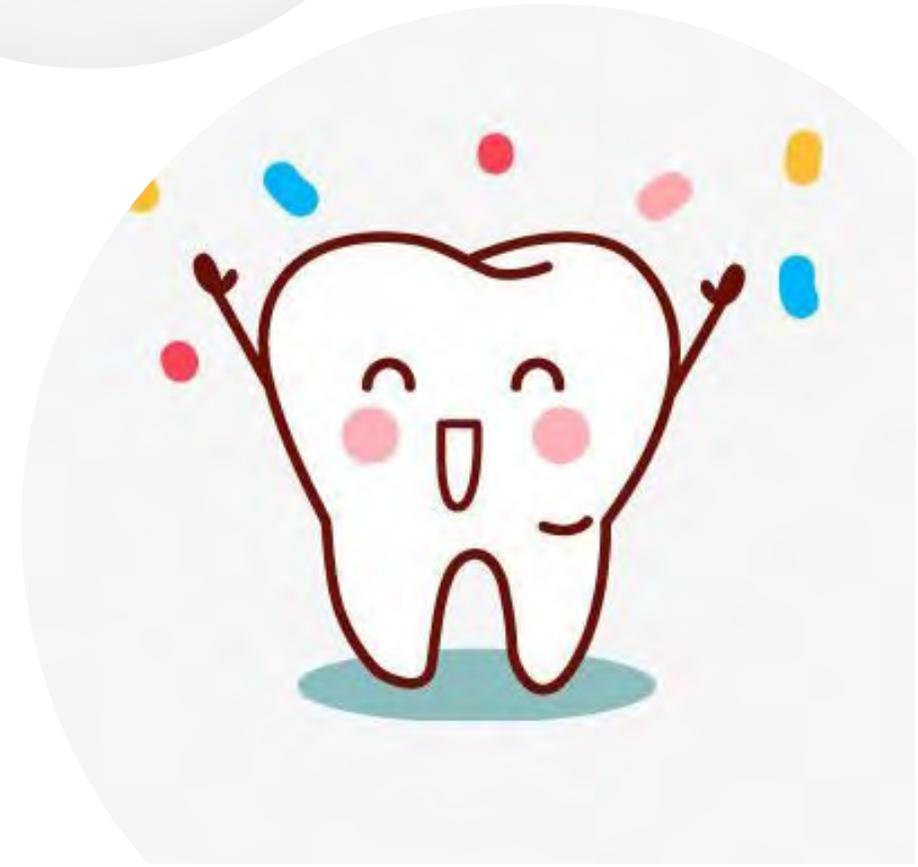


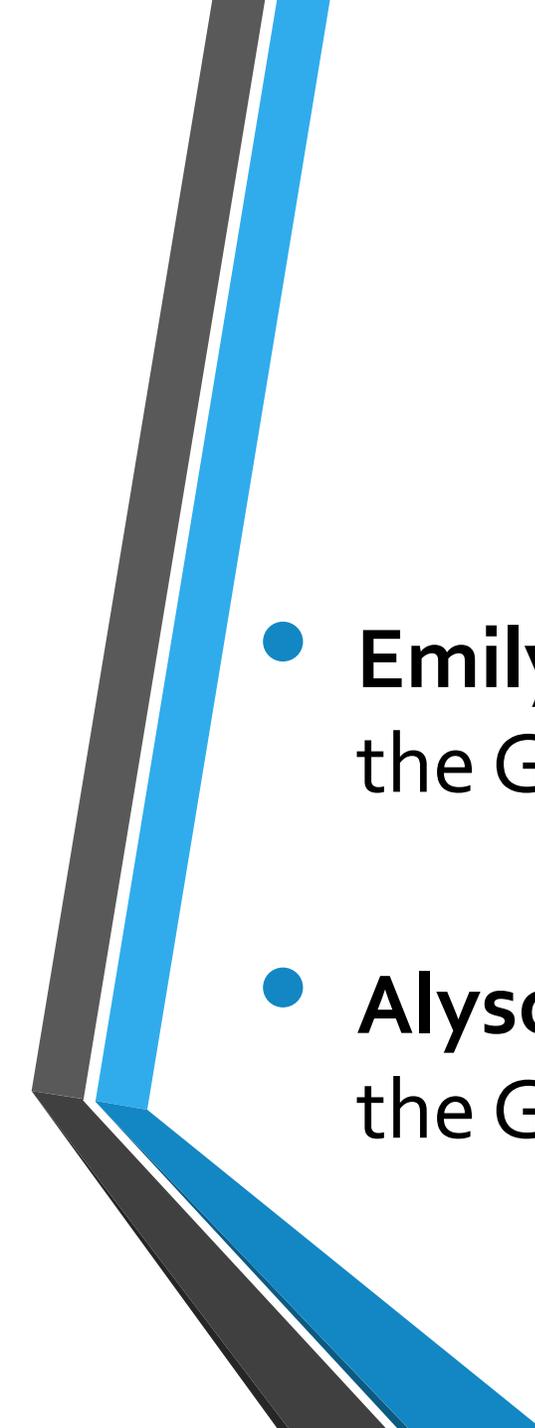
Questions & Answers



Albany City Fluoridation

Stephanie Woodard,
NYS Council on Children
and Families





Executive Early Childhood Budget Update

- **Emily Meyer**, Executive Chamber, Assistant Secretary to the Governor for Human Services & Mental Hygiene
- **Alyson Tarek**, Executive Chamber, Assistant Secretary to the Governor for Human Services & Mental Hygiene



NYS Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council Update

Alyson Tarek, Executive Chamber, State Operations

State Agency Updates

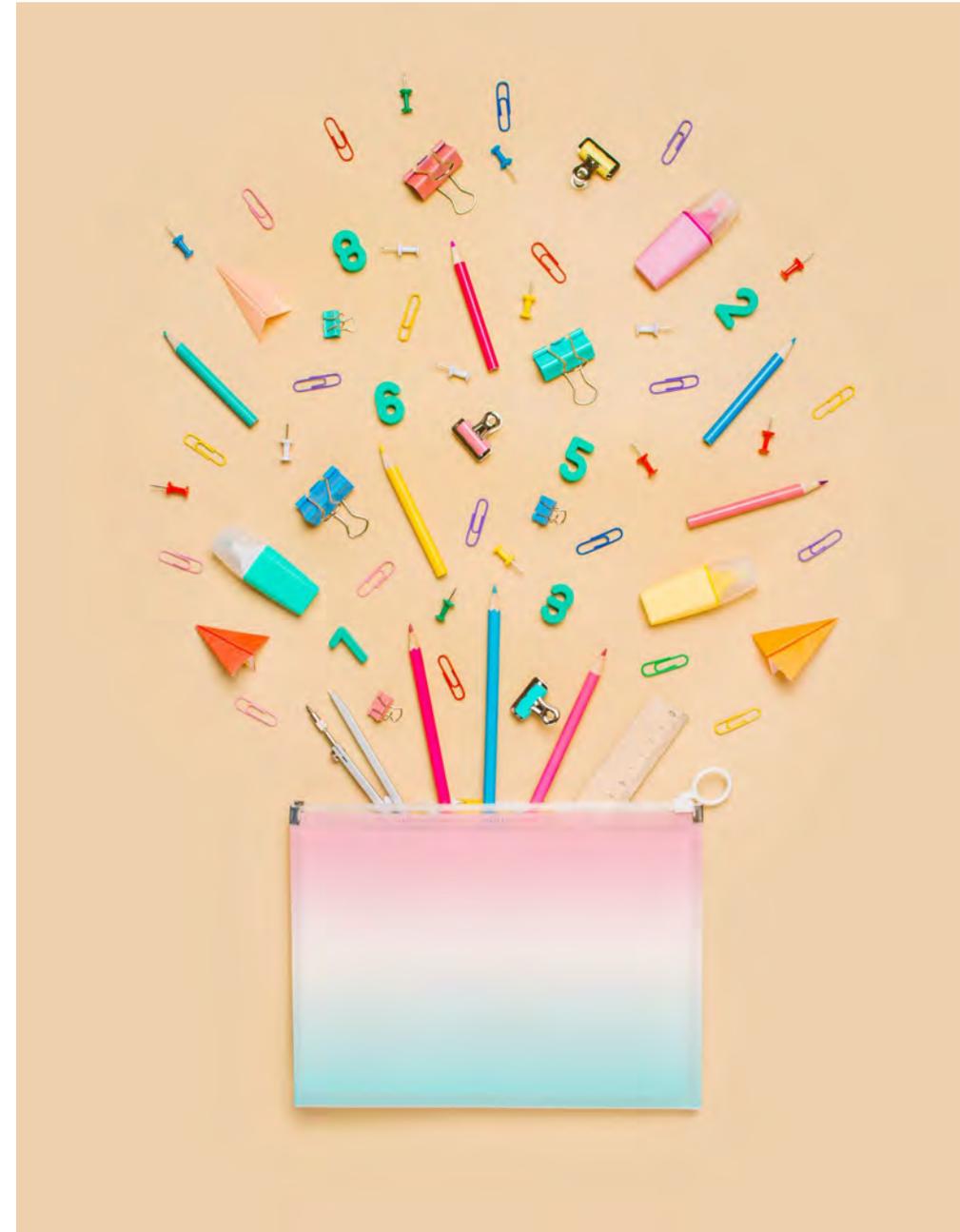
NYS Education Department

NYS Department of Health

Preschool Special Education

2024-2025 Administrative Funding Request

- Preschool Evaluations – NYSED will request growth commensurate with increases in Early Intervention Rates
- NYSED will request funding parity for preschool special class, preschool special class in an integrated setting, and special education itinerant services for the 2024-25 school year
- NYSED will continue to request \$8 million for excessive teacher turnover prevention funds
- NYSED will request flexibility to provide up to three years of tuition rate growth in issued interim rates
- Tuition Methodology Redesign – Executive Budget provides funding to extend the study timeline from July 2025 to July 2027



State Agency Updates

NYS Education Department

NYS Department of Health

Early Childhood Advocacy Efforts

Jenn O'Connor

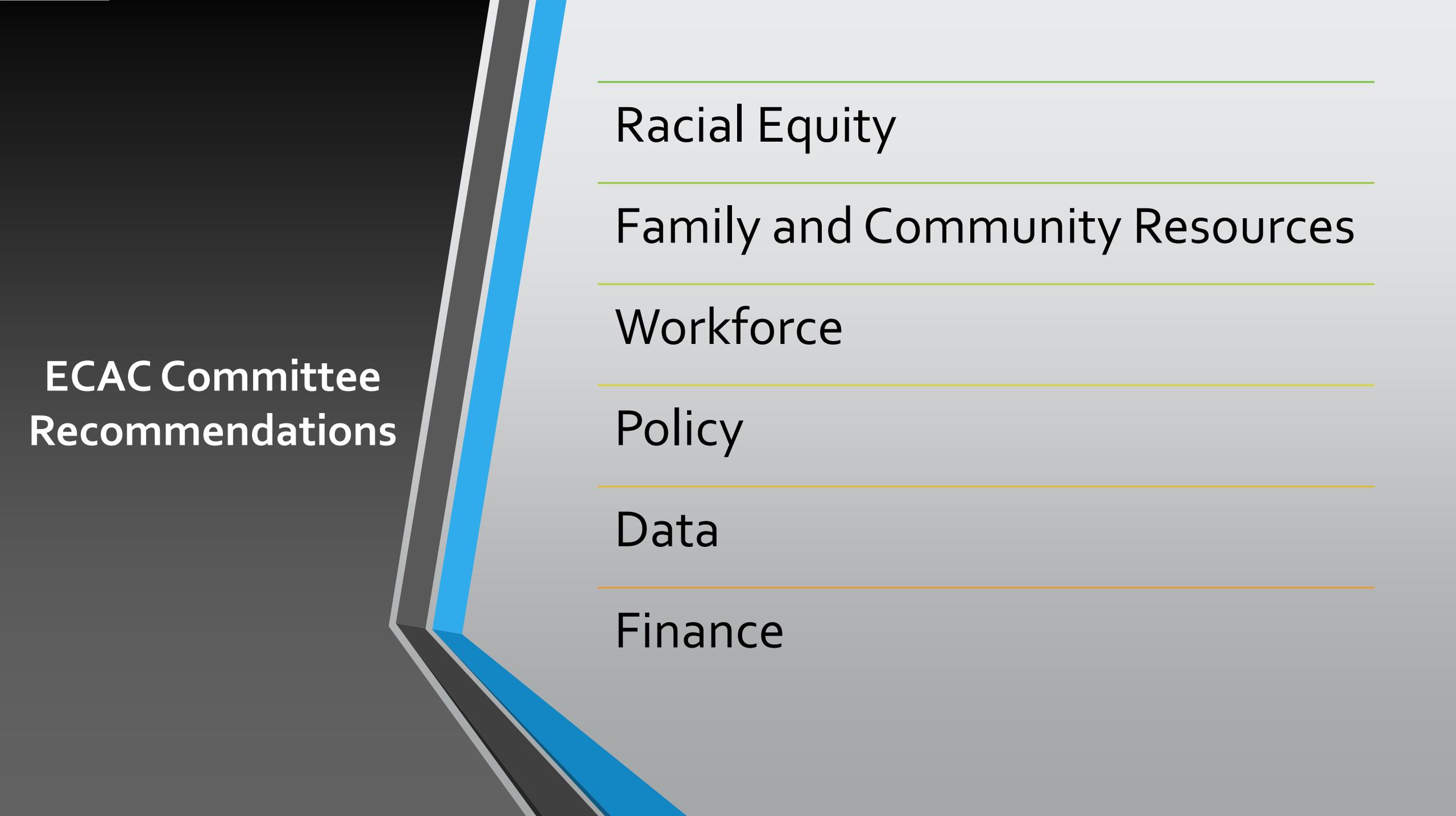
- Invest in the child care sector
- Invest in programs/ infrastructure that accelerate poverty reduction
- Ensure that all children have access to Early Intervention (EI)
- Ensure that all children have access to home visiting
- Ensure that all children have access to infant and maternal health care



ECAC Meeting

March 21, 2024





**ECAC Committee
Recommendations**

Racial Equity

Family and Community Resources

Workforce

Policy

Data

Finance



Racial Equity Committee

Family & Community Resource Committee

Belief Statements

- The parent voice is critical to our understanding and, ultimately, the successful outcomes of policy changes.
- Parents are an integral part of the design, work, and structure, not just reviewers of plans/documents already established or those just impacted by policies without involvement.
- Integration of parent voice across state agencies/committees is necessary.

Recommendations

1. To reinvigorate the current Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to ensure that parent voices are infused in all decisions the ECAC makes.
2. To sustain the PAC through state funding that will cover costs to manage and administer the PAC, including a reimbursement model for participating parent members.

Process

Hire a consultant to lay the groundwork for invigorating the PAC.

The consultant, with support from ECAC, would:

- Provide the history/background/purpose and role of the current PAC to ECAC members
- Share parent engagement best practices, citing examples of other similar state/ECAC PACs
- Research and choose a parent engagement readiness assessment

Process Continued

- ECAC members complete the assessment to determine our current readiness and preparation for active parent engagement
- The consultant will use the results of the readiness assessment to help the ECAC
 - Determine where we are now
 - What steps we can take to embrace active parent engagement
 - Assist in making any necessary changes in the format and structure of the PAC



Workforce Committee

ECAC Policy Committee

- **Initial Recommendations related to Early Intervention/Preschool Special Education:**

1. Request to add the evaluation to preschool special education reimbursement to 4410 legislation; currently preschool special education reimbursement does not include the evaluation.
2. *Not necessarily policy related, but the outcome of this study could result in recommended law changes:* Conduct a study on the parent choice clause of 4410 NYSED Law (parent choice in selecting evaluator).
3. Include in policy a requirement to have bi-lingual staff/providers in NYS/explore incentives to do so.

- **More conversation needed on:**

- Incentivizing full-time employment and benefits; a concept of sponsor agencies (school districts employing EI providers so they could have benefits, waged controlled a different way).
 - It is unclear whether this would be allowable as school district contracted services have restrictions under certain circumstances (more research is needed about how the proposal would be structured and whether it is allowable see: [Frequently Asked Questions Related to Contracts for Instruction \(FAQs\) | Office of Counsel \(nysed.gov\)](#))

ECAC Policy Committee

- Problem Statement for Universal Home Visiting:
 - *Though there is demonstrated progress with implementation of universal pilots throughout the State, the reach of programs is limited on a regional/population-level basis. There is need for intentional coordination, dedicated funding, and greater visibility about the benefits of universally-offered home visiting on a statewide scale.*
- Additional discussions needed before formal recommendation ready.



**Office of Children
and Family Services**

New York State Child Care and Development Fund Plan FFY 2025-2027

**Overview of Plan Development for ECAC
March 21, 2024**

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014

- Reauthorized the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) through FFY 2020
- Passed in Congress on November 7, 2014, and was signed into law by President Obama on November 19, 2014
- CCDF regulations were issued September 30, 2016, **and updated on February 28, 2024**
- CCDF is an \$8.02 billion block grant to states and is one of four funding sources of CCDBG
- In 2023, NYS's CCDF allocation was \$582 million out of a total child care budget of over \$1 billion



What are the goals of the CCDF?

- Promote parental choice
- Assist states in delivering high-quality, early child care
- Raise standards for health and safety
- Increase the number of low-income children in high-quality child care settings

Overview of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan

- The CCDF Plan is an agreement between the Lead Agency and the Federal Government as how CCDF programs will be administered
- Lead Agency in New York State is OCFS
- 3-year plan: FFY 2025-2027 (for the period October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2027)

Final Rule issued Feb. 28, effective 4/30/24

- Recent final rule issued 2/28 updated requirements for Lead Agencies in implementing CCDF
- Final Rule requires significant changes in payment practices
- Final Rule requires use of some contracts to increase supply for key populations (I/T, children with disabilities)
- OCFS is waiting for guidance on how the 25-27 CCDF Plan should address items included in the Final Rule



CCDF 2025-2027 Plan Timeline

- Final Template to be issued by Office of Child Care this Spring
- New York's draft Plan will be posted on the OCFS website late April:
<http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/stateplan/default.asp>
- Public hearings will be held virtually early May (*tentative*)
- Public comments integrated into draft Plan
- Deadline for the FY 2025–2027 CCDF Plan is **July 1, 2024**
- Plan will be effective October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027



Sections of the Plan

1. CCDF Program Administration
- 2. Child and Family Eligibility and Enrollment and Continuity of Care**
3. Child Care Affordability
- 4. Parental Choice, Equal Access, Payment Rates, and Payment Practices**
5. Health and Safety of Child Care Settings
- 6. Support for a Skilled, Qualified, and Compensated Child Care Workforce**
7. Quality Improvement Activities
8. Lead Agency Coordination and Partnerships to Support Service Delivery
- 9. Family Outreach and Consumer Education**
10. Program Integrity and Accountability

Sections of the Plan (cont'd)

Section 2

Child and Family Eligibility and Enrollment and Continuity of Care

- Stable and reliable child care arrangements facilitate job stability for parents and healthy development of children. Lead Agencies must give priority for child care assistance to children with special needs, families with very low incomes, and children experiencing homelessness.

Section 4

Parental Choice , Equal Access, Payment Rates, and Payment Practices

- Core purposes of CCDF are to provide participating parents choice in their child care arrangements and provide their children with equal access to child care compared to those children not participating in CCDF
- Successful supply-building strategies also work to ensure equal access



Sections of the Plan (cont'd)

Section 6

Support for a Skilled, Qualified, and Compensated Child Care Workforce

Child care health and safety standards and enforcement practices are essential to protect the health and safety of children while out of their parents' care.

Section 9

Family Outreach and Consumer Education

Consumer education requirements in CCDF are an integral part of facilitating parental choice in child care arrangements, supporting parents as child care consumers who need information to make informed choices regarding the services that best suit their family's needs.



2.4 Child and Family Eligibility and Enrollment and Continuity of Care:

- Coordinate with programs operating on federal, state and local level.
- Focus on vulnerable populations including children who are:
 - homeless,
 - In foster care
 - have special needs or disabilities,
 - other priority areas identified in federal and state statutes



4.5.3 Parental Choice, Equal Access, Payment Rates, and Payment Practices

- Address shortages of high-quality care that meet parents' needs and preferences
- Strategies for increasing supply and improving quality of child care services
 - Underserved areas
 - Infant and toddler
 - Children with disabilities
- Strategies for prioritizing access to high-quality care in areas that have significant concentrations of poverty

6. Support for a Skilled, Qualified, and Compensated Child Care Workforce

6.1.1: How to assess and improve the compensation of the childcare workforce including increasing wages, bonuses and stipends Address shortages of high-quality care that meet parents' needs and preferences

6.1.5 Other strategies for strengthening providers' business management practices

6.2 Professional Development Framework: framework for training, PD and post-secondary education

Early Learning Guidelines and Core Body of Knowledge



9. Family Outreach and Consumer Education

9.3.4: How to make information available to parents, providers, and the general public on research and best practices concerning children's development

- OCFS and CCF websites
- All ECAC state agency and partner websites
- CCR&R on local resources

9.4.1 Disseminate information on developmental screenings

Builds On ECAC “Products”

- Early Learning Standards
- Core Body of Knowledge
- Pyramid Model

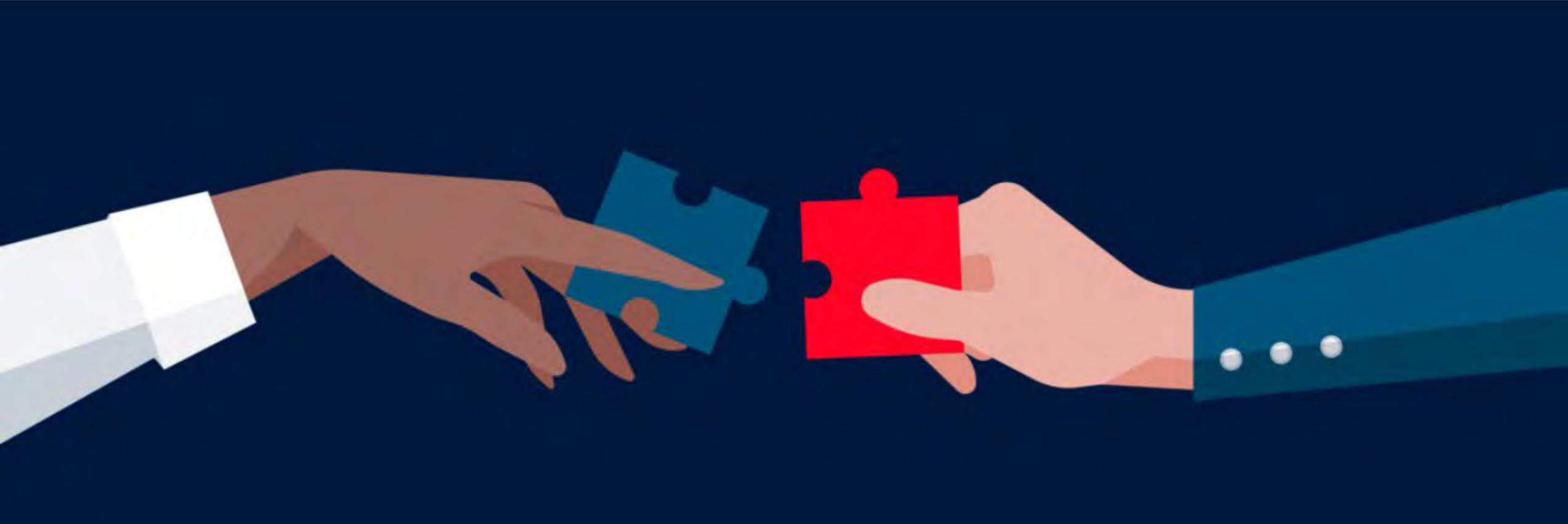


Coordinate With All ECAC Members, Including...

- Council on Children & Families
- Early Care & Learning Council
- New York Association for the Education of Young Children
- New York State Department of Health
- New York State Education Department
- Professional Development Institute
- QUALITYstarsNY



The Value of Partnership



Thank you

ECAC Next Steps

Next ECAC Meetings

June 6th

10:30a-3:30p

The New York State Museum

222 Madison Avenue

Albany, NY 12230

September 26th

10:30a-3:30p

The Empire State Plaza

100 S Mall Arterial

Albany, NY 12242

December 12th

10:30a-3:30p

The Empire State Plaza

100 S Mall Arterial

Albany, NY 12242