

# ECAC Meeting

December 7, 2023





**New York State Early Childhood Committee Meeting**

**December 7, 2023**

**10:30am-3:30pm**

**Location: NYS Museum, 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
<b>Welcome &amp; Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Announcements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Newly Appointed Members: Erik Sweet, Kate McCormick</li> <li>○ Introduce Rob Gutierrez, ECAC Coordinator</li> <li>○ Meeting with the Governor’s Office</li> <li>○ Early Childhood Dashboard: New Additions- Cate Bohn</li> <li>○ Early Childhood Oral Health Summit Recap</li> <li>○ “Meeting the Needs of Early Intervention Eligible Children in Rural Areas of New York State” ADK Birth to Three Alliance- Bob Frawley</li> <li>○ NYAEYC Conference- Kristen Kerr</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Dona Anderson	10:30am-11:15am
<b>State Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Agency Updates</li> </ul>	Nora Yates Erik Sweet Ray Pierce	11:15am - 12:00pm
<b>Advocacy Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Advocacy Efforts</li> </ul>	Jenn O’Connor	12:00pm - 12:10pm
<b>ECAC Liaison Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong Starts Court Initiative</li> <li>• Child Care Availability Taskforce</li> </ul>	Beth Starks Dona Anderson	12:10pm – 12:30pm
<b>LUNCH BREAK (please network)</b>			12:30pm – 1:30pm
<b>ECAC Liaison Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher Certification Updates</li> </ul>	Kate McCormick	1:30pm -2pm
<b>Early Childhood Fiscal Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NY Early Childhood Fiscal Summit &amp; 2023 BUILD Conference Presentation</li> <li>• B-5 Fiscal Strategies Report</li> </ul>	Stephanie Woodard Bob Frawley & Jenn O’Connor	2:00pm - 3:00pm
<b>Committee/ Team Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Racial Equity Committee</li> <li>• Policy Committee</li> </ul>	Committee / Team Co-Leads	3:00pm -3:15pm
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next Steps</li> <li>• Closing Remarks</li> </ul>	Dona Anderson	3:15pm - 3:30pm

Next ECAC Membership Meeting is March 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 am - 3:30 pm at the Empire Plaza Meeting Rooms



# Newly Appointed ECAC Members

- **Erik Sweet**, NYS Education Department, Office of Early Learning
- **Kate McCormick**, New York State Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators
- New ECAC Nominees
  - Stephanie David, Common Ground Health,  
NYS Association for Infant Mental Health
  - Kelly Dodd, United Way of New York State

New CCF ECAC Administrative Assistant: Rob Gutierrez





# New York State Early Childhood Data Dashboard

Demographics

Child Care and Early Learning: Stats

Child Care and Early Learning: Workforce

Child Care and Early Learning: Workforce Demographics

QUALITYstarsNY Data Statewide

For more information about QUALITYStarsNY visit their website here: <https://qualitystarsny.org/>

\*High Quality programs are 3-5 Star Levels

“I love it and use it everyday in my work.”

## NY Early Childhood Data Dashboard

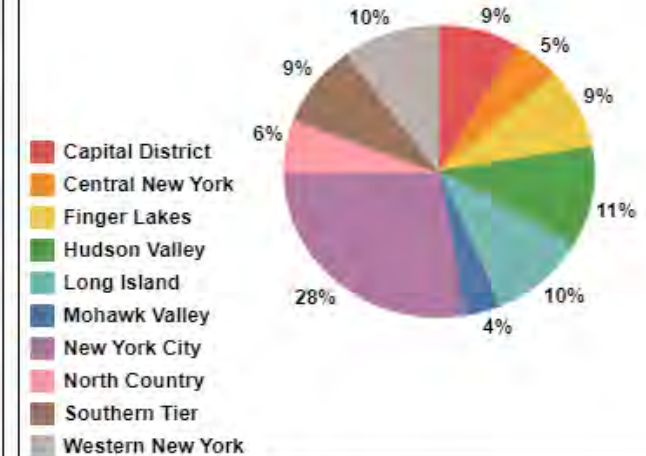
### Rated QUALITYStarsNY Programs in New York State by Region

Data Source Year: 2023

Region	Total Programs	High Quality Programs*	Pending Rating	Total Capacity
Capital District	136	42	66	6,301
Central New York	81	17	50	2,920
Finger Lakes	141	39	74	7,062
Hudson Valley	178	45	79	10,799
Long Island	163	40	82	9,570
Mohawk Valley	59	11	36	2,847
New York City	441	88	231	22,818
North Country	94	20	54	2,785
Southern Tier	146	39	83	5,146
Western New York	161	47	73	9,291
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>79,539</b>

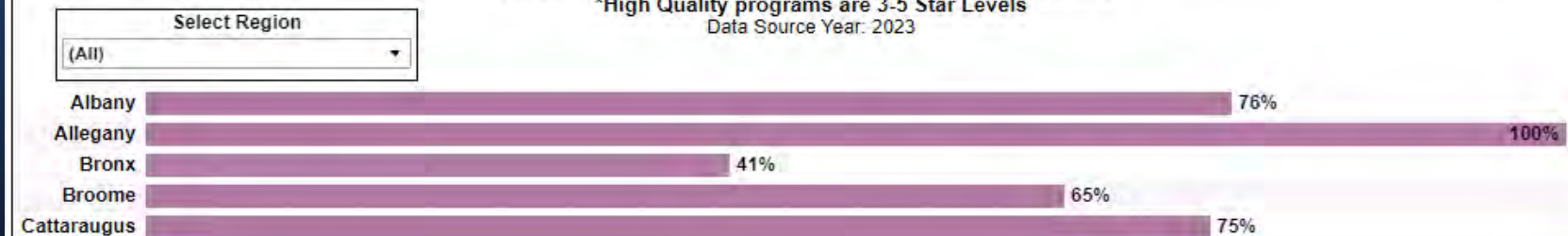
### Programs Participating in QUALITYStarsNY by Region

Data Source Year: 2023



### Percentage of Rated Programs That Are High Quality\*

\*High Quality programs are 3-5 Star Levels  
Data Source Year: 2023





# Early Childhood Oral Health Summit 2022 Recommendations and Progress

October 27, 2023

**Patricia E. Persell**, Early Childhood Policy Director, NYS Head Start  
Collaboration Director, Early Childhood Advisory Council Co-Chair, NYS  
Council on Children and Families

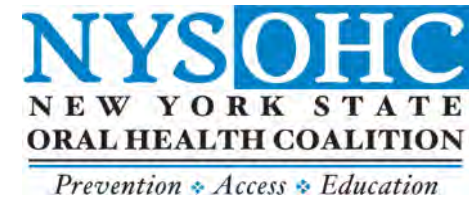
**Bridget Walsh**, Senior Policy Analyst  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy



# Early Childhood Oral Health Summit, Fall 2022

- 130 participants, health, early childhood, state and local government.
- Informative roundtables.
- Thoughtful table discussions produced policy content.







# Opportunities to act

Train educators  
and families

Find oral health  
champions

Build networks

Build  
relationships with  
primary care

Convene  
community  
conversations

Increase  
funding/improve  
reimbursement

More services for  
children and  
families

Advocacy



# Recommendations

## **Provide more technical assistance to programs and providers working with young children to help families improve early childhood oral health.**

Summit participants had a strong desire to learn more about oral health and improve the oral health of the children and families they serve. Many wanted informational and training resources to increase the oral health knowledge of their staff and the families in their programs. Participants wanted guidance on incorporating information into staff trainings, family services, curriculum, and case management.

## **Implement strategies to increase access to oral health services for children 0-age 5.**

Access to oral health preventive and treatment services is a continual concern for parents, educators, and health providers. The lack of providers who see young children was a top concern of Summit participants along with excessively long waiting times when a provider was available.



# Technical Assistance

- Provide training and education on oral health for the staff at programs working with young children and families and for primary care providers.
- Provide access to oral health materials for programs working with children and families and for primary care physicians.
- Ensure translation services are easily accessible to programs and families. Oral health training and education programs must be available in different languages.

# Increase Access

- Increase funding for school-based programs, mobile dental services, tele-dental service and for assessments and education in homes.
- Reimburse community health workers and community dental health coordinators to provide oral health education and care coordination.
- Leverage reimbursement options to drive medical-dental integration.
- Identify changes to laws to increase access to varnish.
- Ensure that all families have dental insurance & understand how to use benefits.
- Help with transportation for dental appointments.

# Action Items

- Increase state funding to the NYSDOH for technical assistance on early childhood oral health.
- Create an online library of oral health materials and training programs.
- Create an oral health training plan for providers and programs working with young children.
- Enact a law that would allow additional providers to administer fluoride varnish and allow parents to apply fluoride varnish under instruction.
- Implement Medicaid reimbursement for oral health preventive services such as risk assessment, education, and case management.
- Submit a federal waiver to provide continuous eligibility for Medicaid/Child Health Plus until age six.



# Work to Date on Summit Recommendations:

- Developing the resource library.
- Fluoride Varnish paper and bill.
- Conversations with Medicaid on continuous eligibility.
- Recommendations sent to the Governor on funding for technical assistance, training and expanded programs.



PREVIEW

# NYS Early Childhood Oral Health



## NYS Early Childhood Oral Health Otter

Oral health resources for early childhood teachers, parents, health providers, and anyone would like to learn more about early childhood oral health.



Parents



Teachers

Teachers and providers of care and early learning can find resources for children. [State Through 3 years old](#) [Support children's oral health](#)

# Recommendations

**Increase Oral Health Technical Assistance** (\$TBD): New York should provide more training and education, including access to oral health materials, to staff in programs working directly with children (child care, preschool, early intervention, home visiting, primary care providers). Guidance on how to create an oral health training program for direct service providers should also be created. New York should also consider legislation to allow additional providers to administer fluoride varnish and allow parents to apply fluoride varnish under instruction.

**Improve Access to Oral Health Services** (\$TBD): Increased funding is needed for school-based programs, mobile dental services, tele-dental services, and to support the provision of assessments and education in homes and reimbursement for the provision of oral health education and care coordination by community health workers and community dental health coordinators. New York should also ensure that oral health interpretation services are easily accessible to programs and families. Finally, New York should ensure that all families have dental insurance and understand how to use those benefits.

# Report

[Oral Health | SCAANY](#)

## Improving the Oral Health of Young Children in New York: Recommendations from the NYS Early Childhood Oral Health Summit



**Bob Frawley,**  
Early Childhood  
Consultant

Meeting the Needs  
of Early  
Intervention Eligible  
Children  
In Rural Areas of  
New York State



ADIRONDACK  
BIRTH TO THREE  
ALLIANCE





New York Association for the Education of Young Children



**SAVE THE DATE**

2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
MAY 16 - 18 | TURNING STONE RESORT





# State Agency Updates

NYS Office of Children and  
Family Services

NYS Education Department

NYS Department of Health



**Office of Children  
and Family Services**

# **Division of Child Care Services ECAC Update**

**December 7, 2023**

# Agenda

- Child Care Assistance Program Updates
- Impact Project: Collaboration with Tribal Nations
- Workforce Ad Campaign
- Workforce Grant Updates

# Child Care Assistance Program Update

# 2023 Regulation Changes

## New Regulations Effective 10/1/2023

← → ↻ [ocfs.ny.gov/main/legal/regulatory/pc/](https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/legal/regulatory/pc/)

### Legislation and Regulations

#### Notice of Emergency Adoption and Proposed Rulemaking – Amendments to Parts 404 and 415 of 18 NYCRR – Expansion of Eligibility for Child Care Assistance Program

- [Notice of Emergency Adoption that amends Part 404 and 415 of Title 18 NYCRR](#) 
  - [Word](#)  | [PDF](#)  - Summary of Substance
  - [Word](#)  | [PDF](#)  - Regulatory Amendments
  - [Word](#)  | [PDF](#)  - Job Impact Statement
  - [Word](#)  | [PDF](#)  - Rural Area Flexibility Analysis
  - [Word](#)  | [PDF](#)  - Regulatory Flexibility Analysis
  - [Word](#)  | [PDF](#)  - Regulatory Impact Statement





# 2023 Regulation Changes

- Eligibility raised to 85% State Median Income (SMI)
  - NYSCCBG and Title XX
- Family Share capped at 1% of family income over 100% State Income Standard(SIS)/Federal Poverty Level(FPL)
  - Immediate implementation
  - Must send individual notices when changing from a higher family share

Family Size	*Annual Income Limit
1	\$51,610.13
2	\$67,490.17
3	\$83,370.21
4	\$99,250.25
5	\$115,130.29
6	\$131,010.33



# 2023 Regulation Changes continued

- Absences mandatory up to 80 per SFY
  - Covers 80 absences per child, per provider, per state fiscal year
  - Districts no longer have the option to limit absences to less than 80
  - Allows additional absence days due to extenuating circumstances- the district must submit waiver and these would be approved on a case-by-case basis
- Program Closures mandatory up to 20 per SFY
  - Applies to Licensed, Registered, NYC Permitted Group Day Care (Article 47) and Legally Exempt Group Programs
  - State, Federal, religious or cultural holidays
  - Extenuating circumstances beyond provider's control
  - This is a maximum, not a guarantee



# 2023 Regulation Changes continued

## Changes to local priorities and set-asides

- Set-asides and local priorities removed
- Category One-guaranteed cases
- Category Two-all prior eligibility categories (those cases that used to be included in Category Two and Three) must be served if funds are available
- Changes to Category Two eligibility criteria
  - New: A family in need of child care services without regard to income when a child has been placed in foster care and is residing in the home with a certified or approved foster parent
  - Changed: Additional activities removed from families experiencing homelessness



# 2023 Regulation Changes continued

- Federal priorities
  1. Families experiencing homelessness
  2. Families with very low income (Family income up to 300% SIS, not to exceed 85% SMI)
  3. Families who have a child(ren) with special needs
- State priorities
  1. Engaged in work between 300% SIS and 85% SMI
  2. Child in need of CCAP has open child protective case or a preventive services case with a CPS component
  3. Foster child in the home with a certified or approved foster parent
  4. Teenage parent who needs child care to attend high school or an equivalency program
  5. Receiving services for domestic violence or is participating in a screening/assessment for services
  6. Participating in an approved substance abuse treatment program or is participating in a screening/assessment to determine the need for treatment



# 2023 Regulation Changes continued

- **Waiting lists**
  - Districts should only be establishing a waiting list when funding is limited to the point that cases cannot be opened for the required 12-months
  - Must determine eligibility prior to placing on list
- **When funding becomes available districts must open cases as follows:**
  - Federal priorities in order listed in regulation first
  - State priorities in the order listed in regulation
  - All others based on time on waiting list



# 2023 Regulation Changes continued

- Program Integrity

Providers who are not in compliance with applicable regulations may not receive payments for child care assistance:

- A district may disallow payment when a provider is determined ineligible to receive child care assistance payment(s) after an administrative action, as set forth in 18 NYCRR section 415.4(h).
- Additionally, when a final determination has been made that a provider has submitted false claims, the district may disqualify the provider from receiving payment and/or require a repayment plan to recoup the overpayment.





# 2023 Regulation Changes continued

- **Fast-Track (Adjunctive) Eligibility**
  - HEAP or SNAP determination made within 6 months of CCAP determination
  - Financial eligibility only, must document all other eligibility criteria
  - Families must complete application and provide gross monthly income for family share calculation
  - Additional programs to be added
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) received by a minor in the CCSU is excluded from family income calculation



# 2023 Regulation Changes continued

- Presumptive/Preliminary Eligibility
  - Districts may opt in their CFSP to provide child care assistance during the eligibility determination period for families in need of child care services
  - Upon approval of the application, NYSCCBG funds can be used to reimburse the amount spent on child care services during the period prior to approval of the application/ if the family is found ineligible, NYSCCBG funds cannot be used, and the district must use local funds for the preliminary eligibility period.
  - The family must complete an application, provide documentation of family income and work schedule, if applicable, and proof of satisfactory immigration status for the child(ren) in need of child care assistance.



# Where to Find More information:

## Please visit our web site:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/ccap/>

- Administrative Directive:  
[23-OCFS-ADM-18](#): 2023 Changes to Child Care Assistance Regulations:  
Parts 404 and 415
- Regulations (415 And 404)
- Dear Provider Letter
- Public comment period
  - Scheduled to be published in State Register on October 18, 2023
  - Closes December 18, 2023

[https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/legal/regulatory/pc/  
regcomments@ocfs.ny.gov](https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/legal/regulatory/pc/regcomments@ocfs.ny.gov)



# Allocations

## 2024 LCM- 23-OCFS-LCM-12-R2 - New York State Child Care Block Grant Allocations April 1, 2023-September 30, 2024

- LCM with 18mo allocations initially released on June 30, 2023 with over \$1B in funding available for families
- LCM was revised October 16, 2023
- LCM was revised and reissued on October 16, 2023, to reflect the addition of \$32M, which has been added to the allocations for the period April 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.
- This LCM was previously revised and reissued on August 18, 2023, to reflect the addition of \$18.9M to the allocations for the period April 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.



# Allocations

- Current methodology
  - The initial allocation methodology for this fiscal term was based solely on each LDSS's proportionate share of the block grant funds as determined by the average level of annual child care claims for the past three years, FFY 2019-20 through FFY 2021-22.
- Allocation increases are based on actual claiming trends for FFY 23 and FFY 24
  - It is important that all claiming is up to date
- FFY 25 allocations will be issued after the budget is enacted and will be based on claiming

# Allocations- INF

- Informational Letter released 11/29/23
- Describing the current methodology for CCAP allocations
  - The initial allocation methodology for this fiscal term was based solely on each LDSS's proportionate share of the block grant funds as determined by the average level of annual child care claims for the past three years, FFY 2019-20 through FFY 2021-22.
- Allocation increases are based on actual claiming trends for FFY 23 and FFY 24
- FFY 25 allocations will be issued after the budget is enacted and will be based on claiming

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/2023/inf/23-OCFS-INF-11.pdf>





# Tribal Nations Impact Project

# Strengthening Relationships Between Tribal Nations That Share Borders With NYS & OCFS

On April 12, 2021, we started to focus on the investment in self-education, working with the State Capacity Building Center, learning some of the foundational history of the Tribes that border New York State and having on-going communication with people directly from the Tribal Territory.



# Some Important Thoughts....

This Impact Team was developed from a desire to get actual input on the CCDF plan and allow for professional development for both the Tribal Nations and OCFS.

Please note, licensing Tribal Nations child care programs can mean licensed by the Tribal Nation or OCFS. There is no goal for the Tribal Nations to be licensed by OCFS, only if the Tribal Nations are interested in becoming licensed. Our goal is to work together, communicate and develop sustainable working partnerships.

# Who's Involved?

- NYS OCFS Management Team
- The Impact Team
- Seneca Nation
- Shinnecock Nation
- Akwesasne Nation
- ACF (Administration for Children and Families)
- State Capacity Building Center
- Tribal Childcare Capacity Building Center



# Impact Team Members

Bi-weekly meetings:

- Heather LaForme – OCFS Native American Affairs
- Veronica Treadwell – OCFS Native American Affairs
- Sarah Beyer-Ellis – Office of Child Welfare and Community Services
- Susan Forcucci – OCFS Buffalo Regional Office
- Crystal Chiappone – OCFS Buffalo Regional Office
- Robin Beller – OCFS Long Island Regional Office



## Biweekly Meetings

- Impact Team
- ACF
- State Capacity Building Center

## Monthly Management Meetings

- NYS OCFS Management
- Impact Team
- ACF
- State Capacity Building Center
- Tribal Childcare Capacity Building Center

## Quarterly Meetings with Tribal Nations

- NYS OCFS Management
- Impact Team
- Seneca Nation
- Shinnecock Nation
- Akwesasne Nation
- ACF
- State Capacity Building Center
- Tribal Childcare Capacity Building Center



# Work completed and ongoing

Increase communication and information sharing between all tribal nations and NYS OCFS

Increase awareness of history and context as it relates to working together with Tribal Nations

Promote training opportunities for Licensing Staff and Tribal Nations

Have an in-person presence to gather information and share ideas when opportunities are available





# Sept 2023 In Person Meetings

## Day 1

September 2023

Meeting on the Shinnecock Territory

1. History and Culture Education
2. Tour of the Shinnecock Territory
3. Facilitated Roundtable Discussions
  1. Training
  2. Licensing questions/clarifications
  3. CCDF Funds

## Day 2

September 2023

Meeting at the Long Island Regional Office

1. Reflection of day before and future goal setting for our ongoing work
2. Full plan on moving ahead in the upcoming year
3. Continuous discussion on how to continue to nurture the current relationships and help them grow



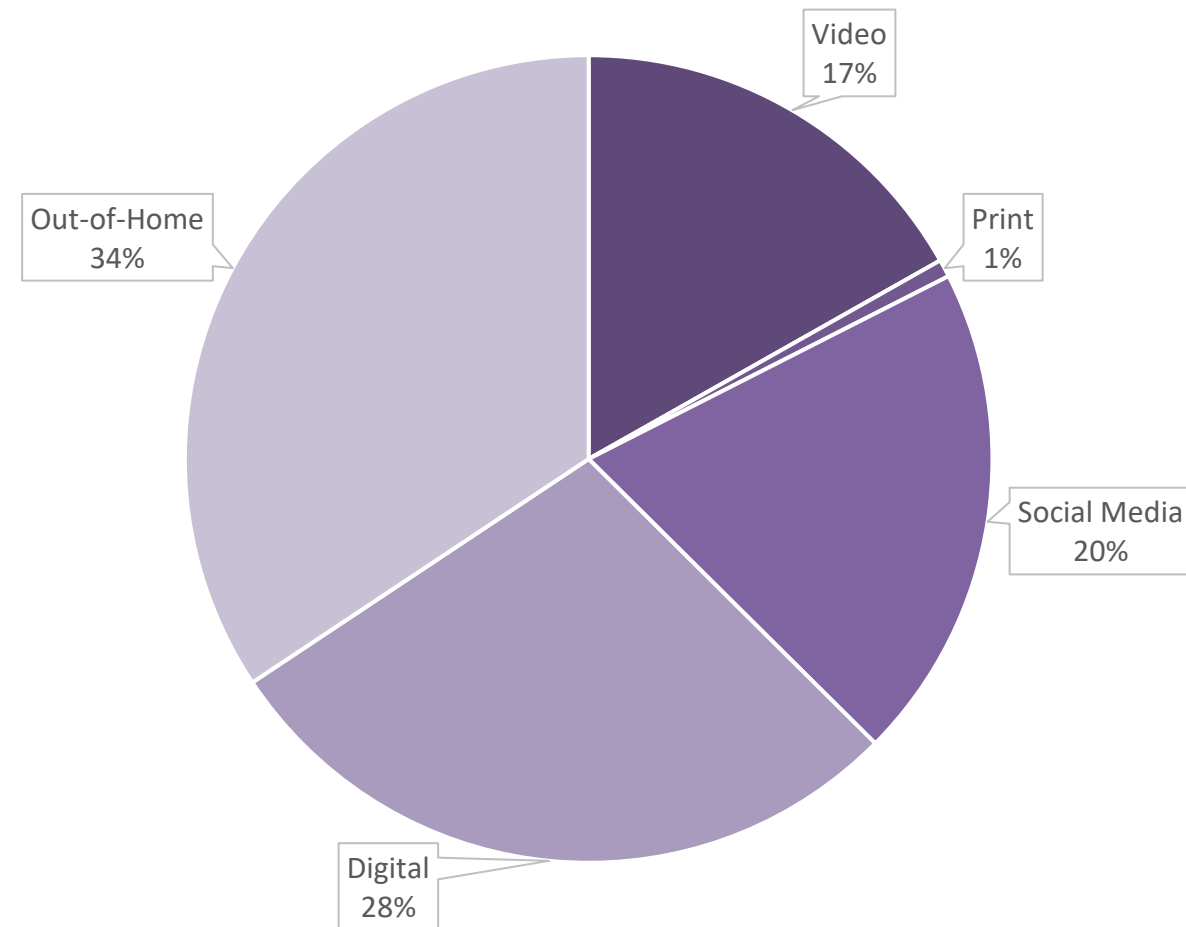
# Workforce Ad Campaign

# Workforce Ad Campaign Results Overview

- Across all media channels:
  - 87 million impressions
  - 5.8 million video views, and
  - 189k clicks to the landing page



Most popular on Facebook and Instagram



# Awareness: Out-of-Home

- Delivered approximately 30 million impressions through the following approaches:
  - Urban Panels across New York City
  - Bus sides in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Rochester, Westchester, Nassau, Erie, Niagara and Onondaga Counties
  - Roadside Billboards in Albany, Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse and the Hudson Valley
  - Digital screens in retail locations across the state



# Workforce Grant Update

# Workforce Retention Grant Update

- Application launched on 7/27 and closed on 9/15
- Over 85% of all eligible providers applied for the WRG!
- Over 11,500 applications approved, 6,500 FCC providers
- Estimated funding of \$326M to be disbursed
- To see the list of approved applications (as of 11/16/23), please visit: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/grants/workforce-grant/assets/docs/WRG-Approved-Applications.pdf>
- Doubled the recruitment amount for providers than originally announced!





# State Agency Updates

NYS Office of Children and  
Family Services

NYS Education Department

NYS Department of Health



# Office of Early Learning: Update to the ECAC on 12/7/23



- **Erik Sweet, Executive Director  
NYSED Office of Early Learning  
([erik.sweet@nysed.gov](mailto:erik.sweet@nysed.gov)); 518-474-5807**



- State PreK Expansion Grant RFP: \$50 million dollars. [RFP posted](#)
- 2023-2024 Webinar series: Play-based learning and instruction; collaboration for UPK; and social-emotional learning
- *Navigating PreK Day 2024*: May 2, 2024 at the NYS Museum, for UPK administrators and program leads. [Registration is now open for Navigating PreK Day 2024.](#)
- Submit a P-3 program feature to highlight your best practices in our P-3 newsletter! Send to [oe1@nysed.gov](mailto:oe1@nysed.gov)
- New Science (Science Everywhere!), Literacy, Math, and Cultural Education guidance forthcoming in 2024



**NYSED's  
Office of Early Learning  
(518) 474-5807  
[oelel@nysed.gov](mailto:oelel@nysed.gov)**

**<http://www.nysed.gov/early-learning>**

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# State Agency Updates

NYS Office of Children and  
Family Services

NYS Education Department

NYS Department of Health





# Early Childhood Advocacy Efforts



The Honorable Kathleen C. Hochul  
NYS Capital Building  
Albany, New York 12224

December XXX, 2023

Dear Governor Hochul:

Raising New York<sup>1</sup> is a cross-sector, statewide coalition of parent, early childhood, education, civil rights, business, and health organizations dedicated to advocating for policies and system changes that will benefit families of young children, with a focus on improving outcomes for low-income households, children of color, and those in other underserved groups.

Over the past few years, New York has invested in several initiatives that support families with children under age five, particularly families in low-income households and families of color, including: expanding the Child Tax Credit to families with children under age four; expanding access to child care up to 85% of the State Median Income (SMI); and expanding access to certain home visiting programs. These investments are critical, but more remains to be done.

As the State prepares for 2024, the Raising New York coalition is prioritizing recommendations that expand access to high-quality, affordable child care to *all* families, in part by strengthening the child care workforce; reducing child poverty through equitable systems, policies, and programs; and increasing access to high-quality health and developmental care for all young children and mothers.

We write to collectively ask you to consider these priorities in your 2024 Executive Budget.

**Invest in the child care workforce.** While the last few years have seen the State invest federal, temporary pandemic relief funding in the expansion of access to child care and the short-term stabilization of programs, there has not been an effort to support the workforce in a sustainable way. In order to sustainably stabilize the sector, New York should:



# Invest in the Child Care Workforce

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While the last few years have seen the State invest federal, temporary pandemic relief funding in the expansion of access to child care and the short-term stabilization of programs, there has not been an effort to support the workforce in a sustainable way. In order to sustainably stabilize the sector, New York should:

- Create a permanent state child care fund to increase licensed and registered child care provider compensation, while also increasing rates for legally-exempt child care providers to 75% of the family child care rate and to 85% for providers who are eligible for the enhanced rate, thereby supporting more home-based programs;
- Increase investment in the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) agencies that provide vital services such as program referrals, professional development, and technical assistance to families, child care providers, and businesses;
- Create a sustainable true cost of high-quality care reimbursement model that includes a livable wage and benefits for the early care workforce;
- Increase investment in the Early Childhood Career Centers in the State's 10 economic development regions to support and expand innovative, equity-focused recruitment and retention; and support early childhood scholarships, particularly those that support non-traditional students.

*Resources: [ESCCC](#), [PDI](#)*



# Continue to Expand Access to Child Care

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New York State has seen an unprecedented influx of migrants and asylum seekers, most of whom cannot work without child care. New York should:

- Expand access to child care assistance for *all young children*, regardless of immigration status, via state general funds.

*Resource:* [ESCCC](#)





# Invest in Programs/ Infrastructure that Accelerate Poverty Reduction

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When the federal government expanded the Child Tax Credit during the pandemic (2021), the child poverty rate fell to a historic low of 5.2%. When that expansion ended, the rate dramatically increased to 12.4%. Child tax credits work. New York should:

- Expand existing tax credits—specifically the Empire State Child Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)—so that they reach more families, while also increasing the value of the credits so they truly have an impact on family well-being.

*Resource: [NY Can End Poverty](#)*



# Ensure all Children have Access to Early Intervention

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Families, especially in rural and under-resourced areas, have a difficult time obtaining EI services during the critical early years of brain development. Without these essential services, children often struggle to learn all the skills needed for success in school and beyond. New York should:

- Provide an 11% increase in reimbursement rates for all EI services delivered in person; this would be the first increase in reimbursement rates in over 20 years;
- Reform the methodology for EI reimbursement rates to accurately reflect the true cost of care for evaluations, services, and service coordination; and
- Create a student loan forgiveness program to attract new providers and support therapists who provide services in high-need areas.

*Resource: [Kids Can't Wait](#)*




# Ensure all Children have Access to Home Visiting

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While we aim for the North Star of universally-offered home visiting, we must expand existing programs so that families who desire ongoing services have access to those services. New York should:

- Increase appropriated funding for both Parent Child+ and the Nurse-Family Partnership program is critically important; and
- Maintain the current funding level of Healthy Families NY, which is now active in every county in the State.

*Resource: [Home is Where the Start Is](#)*



# Ensure all Children have Access to Infant and Maternal Health Care

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New York has recently implemented several initiatives that should improve maternal and infant health outcomes, such as increasing access to postpartum coverage to one year and expanding Medicaid coverage of doula services. Additional steps should include:

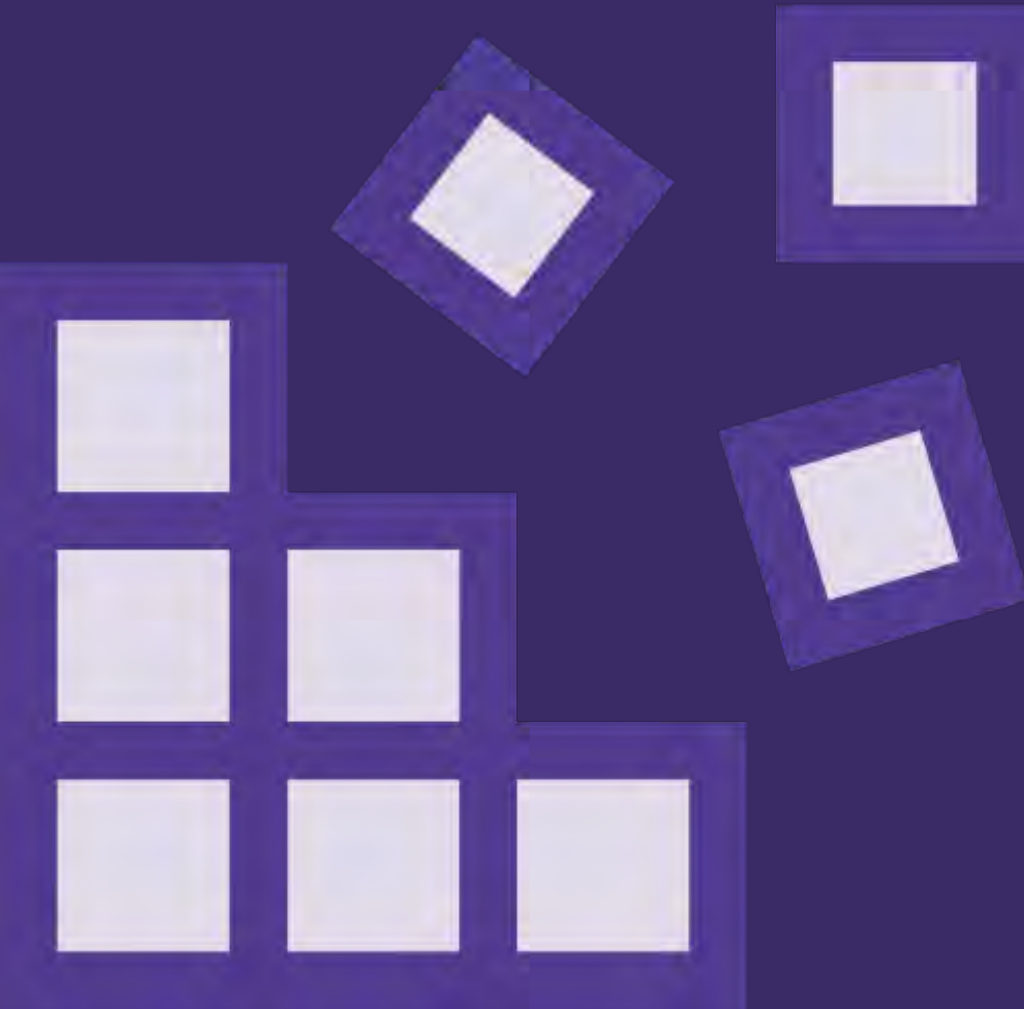
- Instituting multi-year continuous Medicaid eligibility for children ages 0-6, to ensure that all eligible children have access to ongoing medical care that will support a critical time of growth and development;
- Incentivizing autoenrollment of the primary caregiver and baby on the same health plan in order to remove barriers to access that often impact vulnerable families the most; and
- Ensuring that families continue to have access to comprehensive, family-centered, primary prevention services, the State should maintain current funding for Help Me Grow.

*Resources: [Help Me Grow](#), [Children's VBP Workgroup Letter](#)*



# STRONG STARTS COURT INITIATIVE

A Project of the Center for Justice  
Innovation



# THE STRONG STARTS DIFFERENCE

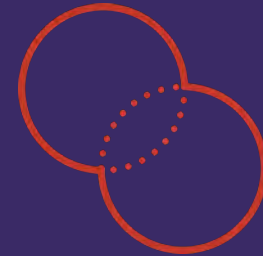
Strong Starts promotes the well-being of the youngest, system-involved children and their families so that the court becomes a catalyst for positive change and impact.



Increase knowledge and integration of best practices of infant mental health into all aspects of Family Court by system professionals.



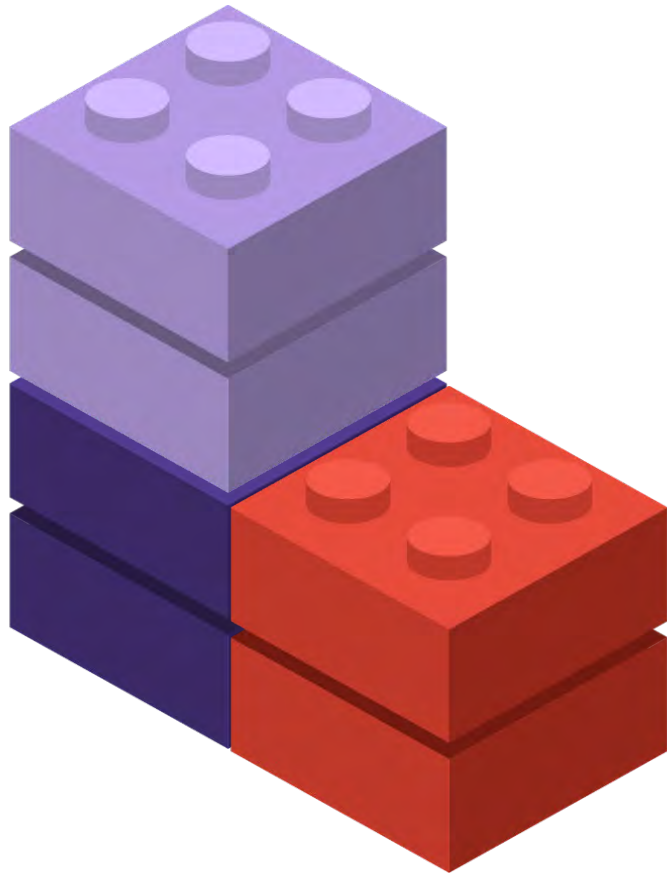
Mobilize cross-systems collaboration to improve systems' responses to court-involved young children and families and strategies to prevent child neglect and abuse.



Provide timely, appropriate, and targeted preventive and intervention services to children and families.

# STRONG STARTS DEVELOPMENT

History and Statewide Expansion



2015

Piloted in Bronx Family Court

2016

Expanded to Queens Family Court

2018

Expanded to Staten Island Family Court

2021

Expanded to Brooklyn Family Court

2022

Expanded to Manhattan and Westchester Family Courts

2023

Planning stages in Erie Family Court

# WHY INFANTS AND TODDLERS?

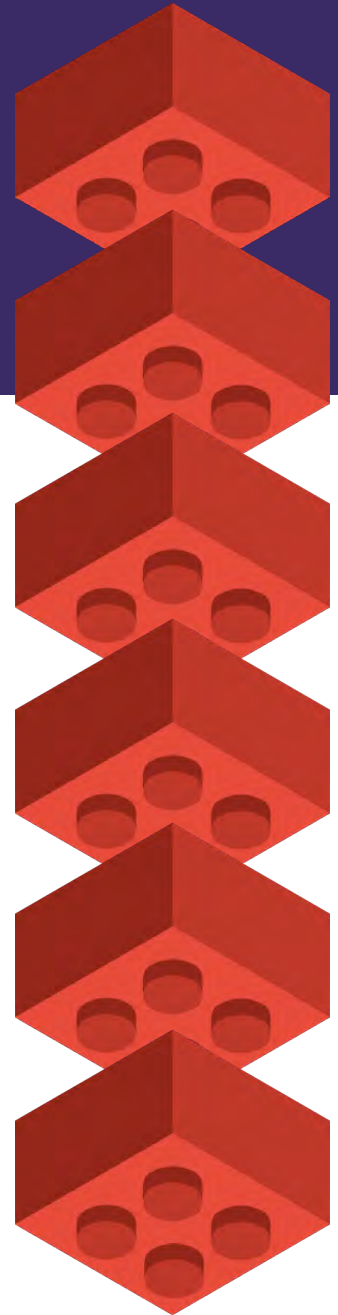


14,500 babies, statewide, on Family Court dockets

Disproportional representation in child welfare system

Critical stages of development

Lack of specialized knowledge in early childhood development







# THE MODEL

Dedicated Family Court  
Judge

Infant Mental Health  
Specialist

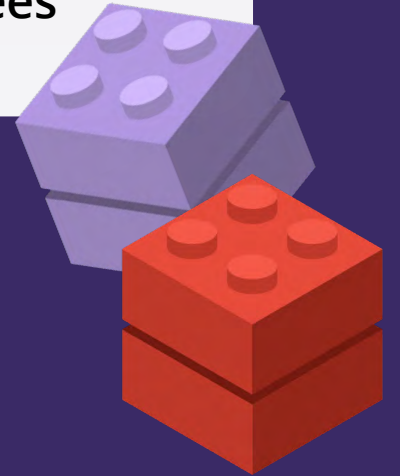
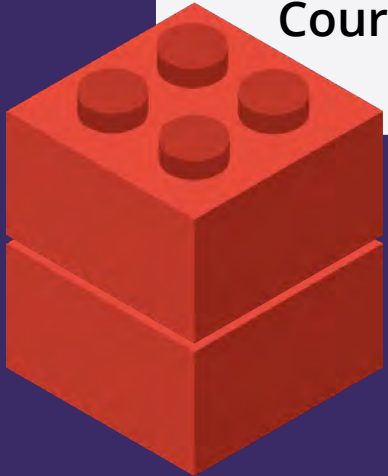
Clinical Screening and  
Assessment

Monthly Clinical and  
Court Conferences

Network of Specialized  
Community Service  
Providers

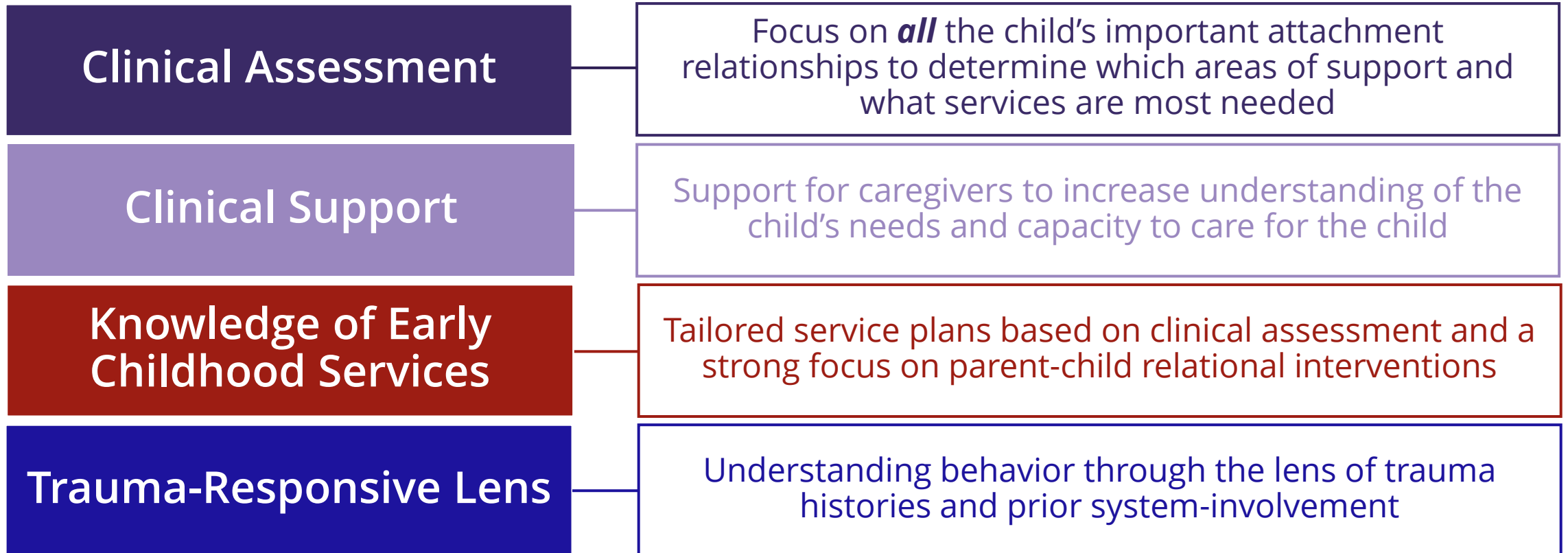
County-based Steering  
Committees

Education on Early  
Childhood Development  
and Infant Mental Health



# THE MODEL IN PRACTICE

## The Primary Intervention: The Infant Mental Health Specialist



# THE MODEL IN PRACTICE

## A Different Approach to Court Practice

### Clinical Conferences

- Direct interface between legal counsel and service providers
- Inclusion of parents and all other caregivers
- Problem-solving around barriers



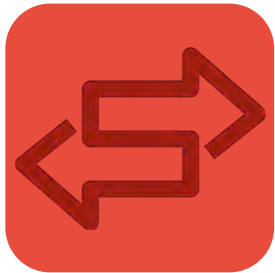
**Court Reports**

### Court Conferences

- Strong Starts Judge
- Calendared monthly
- More efficiency during hearing

# THE MODEL IN PRACTICE

## Bringing a Clinical Component to Court



### Information-Sharing

Better understanding, for both the court and clinical providers, of expectations on both sides



### Network of Community Providers

Cultivation of network of specialized early childhood and infant mental health community-service providers



### Steering Committees

Space for court and community providers to actively problem-solve around current issues in their county



### Resource Scanning

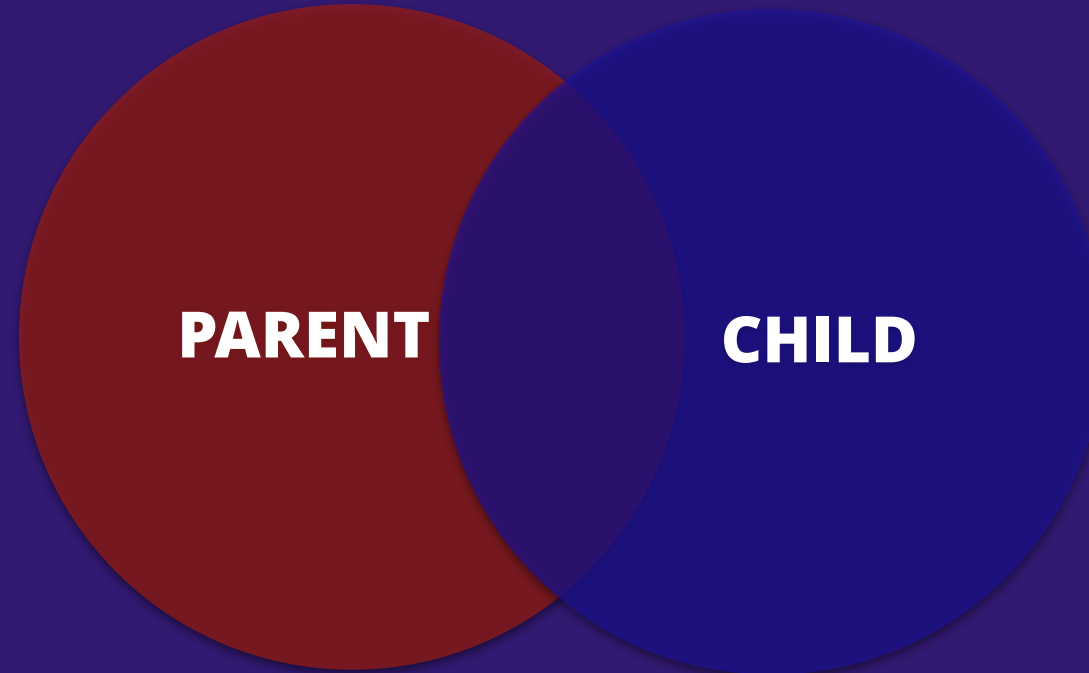
Ongoing community surveys in each county to locate resources and services for children and families

## Parent Interventions

- Mental Health Treatment
- Substance Use Treatment
- Intimate Partner/ Domestic Violence
- Evidence-based parenting groups
- Co-Parenting
- Employment/education
- Healthcare
- Housing

## Child Interventions

- Early Intervention
- Early Head Start
- Developmental Therapies
- Pediatric Specialties
- Home Visiting Programs
- Childcare/Early Learning Centers
- Health Care
- Crisis Nursery



## Parent-Child Interventions

- Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)
- GABI
- CPP Preventive Services
- Home visiting programs
- Mother-child groups
- Family therapy
- Parent Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT)
- Power of Two
- Therapeutic Visitation

# THE MODEL IN PRACTICE

Impacting Practice and  
Policy through Education



## Areas of Training Offered to Child Welfare Community

Early Adversity  
and Trauma

Attachment  
Theory and  
Research

Supporting  
System-  
Involved  
Parents

Early Childhood  
Education

Prenatal and  
Maternal  
Mental Health

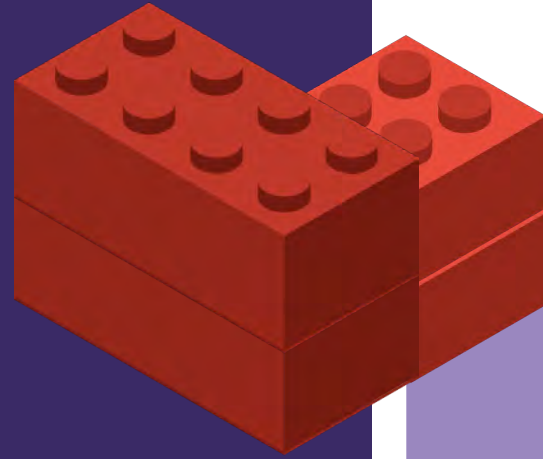
Domestic  
Violence

Developmental  
Screenings

Substance-use  
Disorders

Science of Early  
Childhood  
Development

# IMPACT AND OUTCOMES



Improved family well-being



Program participants felt respected and heard



Increased fairness throughout the court process



Reduced likelihood of future abuse and neglect petitions



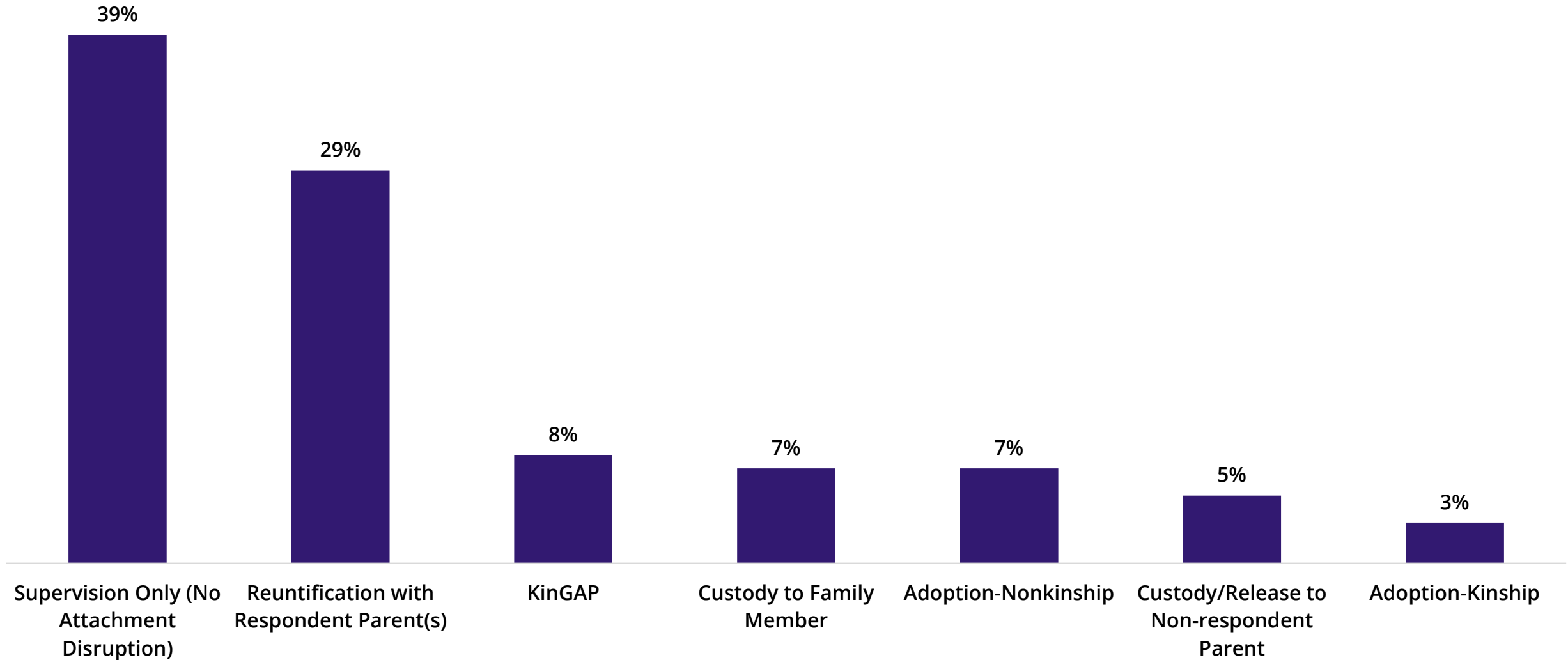
Impacted judge and attorney practice

**262 Children Served**

**800+ Child Welfare Professionals Trained**



# Permanency Outcomes for Strong Starts Children with Closed Cases (n=158)





# QUESTIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, contact us at [strongstarts@innovatingjustice.org](mailto:strongstarts@innovatingjustice.org)  
or anyone on our Strong Starts Team.

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# ECAC Meeting

December 7, 2023



Summary of Proposed Changes to

# NYS Teacher Certification

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Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department  
SUNY Cortland

President, NYS Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators



SUNY CORTLAND  
CHILDHOOD/EARLY  
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

# Proposed Changes to NYS Teacher Certification

## Summary:

- Certification examinations
- Additional certifications
- TA certifications
- Professional certificate requirements
- Transitional certificates
- Administrator certificates

## Acronyms:

- EPP – educator preparation program
- IHE – institution of higher education
- NYSED – New York State Education Department
- NYSTCE – New York State Teacher Certification Examinations
- SDL – school district leader
- SBL – school building leader
- TA – teaching assistant



# Change in Certification Examinations

- **Current policy:** Certificate applicants are required to take the NYSTCE test(s) in the subject area of the certificate
- **Proposed change:** Also allow “an acceptable certification test in the subject area as determined by NYSED” (e.g., Praxis, MTEL)
- **Rationale:** Potentially remove a barrier for candidates who complete a comparable EPP in another state and have already taken and passed an acceptable test





# Change in Requirements for Additional Certificate

- **Current policy:** 30 semester hours and a student teaching experience in the additional certificate area
- **Proposed change:** Reduction of hours from 30 to 18 in the additional subject area content core requirement; no longer require student teaching experience in additional certificate area
- **Rationale:** Change is based on STEM certifications and now will be applied to “most certification areas”; potential to reduce cost and time it takes candidates to obtain an additional certificate

# Change in Teaching Assistant (TA) Certificates

- **Current policy:** Three levels of TA certificates - I, II, III
- **Proposed change:** Create a streamlined Initial/Professional TA certificate; identified specifications for the new Professional TA certificate; allow experience to count towards student teaching in Professional TA cert; create an Initial Reissuance process for Initial TA cert to be continuously renewable; create registration requirements for IHEs to create TA programs
- **Rationale:** Change will create an intentional pathway for TAs to become teachers; alleviate challenges with expired TA certs; expand registered TA programs



# Changes in Professional Teacher Certificate

- **Current policy:** Master's degree required to move from Initial to Professional certificate
- **Proposed change:** Add additional pathways to securing a professional certificate to now include National Board certification in the subject area of the certificate sought OR graduate level courses and/or NYSED-approved credentials that total 450 clock hours – credentials could be issued by a NYS school district, BOCES, or IHE
- **Rationale:** Alleviate barriers to obtaining a master's degree and improve likelihood of teachers progressing to Professional certificate

# Changes in Transitional Certificates

- **Current policy:** Transitional B and G pathways lead to a master's degree
- **Proposed change:** Create a new “Transitional Teacher” certificate and development of “alternative-joint provider” programs in which joint providers (e.g., IHEs, school districts, BOCES or other non-profit professional education orgs) would co-design an EPP – these new programs would not lead to degree and do not require specific number of credit hours, but would lead to Initial certification
- **Rationale:** Attract a new population to the teaching profession and reduce costs

# Changes in Administrator Certificates


- **Current policy:** Two administrator certificates – SBL and SDL Initial and Professional certificates
- **Proposed change:** Create a single certificate titled “Professional Administrator” certificate to replace SBL/SDL certificates
- **Rationale:** A single certificate would optimize flexibility for positions and create pathways to district level positions; reduce confusion between SDL and SBL certificates




# Early Childhood Education Financing & Business Summit

October 17, 2023





Early Childhood  
Education  
Financing &  
Business Summit  
October 17, 2023

- Understanding the need for ECEs to sustain their businesses
  - Working together for a better understanding of how investments can be made to ECEs
  - Sharing financing strategies that can support ECEs
  - Developing strong business knowledge to ECEs for a stronger business
- 

# Business Training and Support





# Business Development Resources

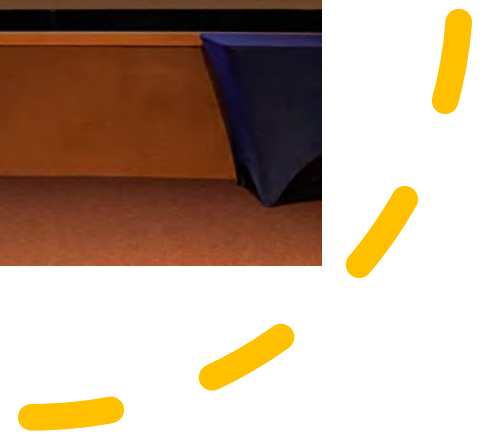


# Michigan's Employer Roadmap

## THE CHILD CARE DOMINO EFFECT

- Extreme low wages for childcare workers
- Childcare worker shortage
- Childcare centers close
- Fewer childcare spots available for working families
- Millions of women drop out of the workforce
- Labor shortage nationwide
- Businesses can't grow & economic growth stalls
- Hard fought economic gains for women slide back
- Dire consequences to vulnerable children

Erie County Executive Office





# Engaging Rural Early Childhood Educators





**The ECE Business  
Collaboratory**

# 2023 BUILD CONFERENCE



A Framework and Strategies  
for Promoting Equitable  
Access to Early Care and  
Education: Examples from  
the Field

This session will support  
participants in understanding and...

Visit

## PRESENTERS



Alex DuBois

Business and Community Engagement  
Manager, Zero to Five Montana



Caitlin Jensen

Executive Director, Zero to Five Montana



Stephanie Woodard

Senior Fiscal Policy Analyst, New York  
State Council on Children and Family  
Services (CCF)



Taijha Harden

Child Care Systems Coordinator, First  
Children's Finance





# Next Steps





The Education Trust–New York

# Cost Model Presentation to the ECAC



December 7, 2023

# Cost Estimation Model

- Data is more or less complete! Includes:
  - High-quality child care cost model
  - Home visiting cost model
  - Fiscal map of all early childhood pgms
- Currently turning each report into a shorter Exec Summary
- Meeting with trusted partners to discuss findings/timeframe/messaging
- Official release after 1<sup>st</sup> of the year
- Ultimate goal: Commitment from policy makers to implement a data-driven, multi-year pathway to fully funded high-quality early childhood system across New York State





# Child Care

- Impetus: Price vs Cost vs True Cost of Quality
- Findings:
  - Current subsidy rates are insufficient to cover the cost of quality.
  - Insufficient revenues keep workforce wages low and limit provider quality.





# Home Visiting

- Impetus: Price vs Cost vs True Cost
- Recommendations:
  - Set home visiting contract rates based on true cost, with compensation included at a living wage floor.
  - Increase capacity of home visiting services for identified populations, to ensure intensive home visiting aligned with family need is accessible.
  - Develop a plan for a universal touch home visiting model.



# Fiscal Map

- Biggest take-away: NYS spends \$23.9B across programs that support young children and their families.
- However... total funding specifically for ECE and family support is only \$5.26B.
- Principles:
  - Ensure that public financial investments in early childhood programs cover the costs of high-quality programming.
  - Reduce systemic barriers to access and increase availability of services for families with children under five-years-old and.
  - Create a long-term implementation plan that will strengthen the infrastructure for an equitable, universal, high-quality early childhood system.





**SUMMER - RECS SHARED WITH CHAMBER**

**JUNE**

If approved, recommendation goes to the Governor



Committee Idea Generation

**JUNE - SEPTEMBER**



Full ECAC reviews ideas

**SEPTEMBER**

Refine Recommendations



**MARCH - MAY**

**RECOMMENDATION PROCESS:  
HOW AN IDEA BECOMES A RECOMMENDATION**



If idea is approved, committee begins to work to develop the recommendation

**SEPTEMBER - MARCH**

Committees present recommendation to the Full ECAC



**APRIL - NYS BUDGET**

**MARCH**

Co-Leads present work to the Steering Committee

**DECEMBER**



**JANUARY - STATE OF THE STATE**

Month	Activity	Notes	Group Involved	Questions/Ideas
<b>June</b>				
6/12/2023	Committee Meeting - Family and Community Resources		Committee 2	
6/15/2023	<a href="#">June ECAC Meeting</a>	Approve 2023 recommendations	Full ECAC membership	
	Collect information about ECAC membership on other task forces		Co-Chairs of the ECAC	
	Final review of recommendations/Prioritization of Recs to send to Gov's office		Full ECAC membership	Does it matter how man recs are forwarded to the governor's office?
	Idea development and prioritization using the action planning document		Committees	
	Recommendations sent to Governor's office		Co-Chairs of the ECAC	
<b>July &amp; August</b>				
	Recommendations sent to Chamber		Co-Chairs of the ECAC	
	Recommendations to be edited/adapted as needed with new information			Who is responsible for this?
	Assess what other task forces are prioritizing and working on and share with the full ECAC		Committees	Is there an online way for the ECAC to do this? How often should this happen?
<b>September</b>				
9/7/2023	Steering Committee Meeting		Steering Committee	
9/14/2023	Send ideas to full ECAC for Review	Ensure committee members have a week to review	Full ECAC membership	
9/21/2023	<a href="#">September ECAC Meeting</a>	Review committee "ideas". Use idea screen to create conversation and seek input	<a href="#">Full ECAC membership</a>	
	Idea review		ECAC full membership	
	If there are concerns with the idea, it goes back to the committee to be refined		Committees	
	If the full ECAC approves, the committee can begin to develop the idea into a recommendation		Committees	
	Committees to connect with each other to support recommendation development		Committees	
	Committees to request information from the Data and Finance Teams		Committees	
<b>November</b>				
	Committees to seek input from other Committees			is this possible with no standing meeting?

December				
11/30/2023	Steering Committee Meeting	Co-leads share developing recs to Steering Committee	Steering Committee	
12/7/2023	December ECAC Meeting		Full ECAC membership	
		Could have guest speakers		Maybe: QSNY, Parent Child+, ECLC other statewide ECAC members' orgs
January 2024				
	State of the State		Governor's Office	
March				
	Steering Committee Meeting			
	March ECAC Meeting	Committees to present recommendations for feedback to the full ECAC	Full ECAC membership	
	Committees present recommendations; seek input and answer questions		Full ECAC membership	
April				
	State Budget Passes		Governor's Office	
March - May				
	Recommendations refinement process		Committees	
	Seek parent input		Committees	
June 2024				
	Steering Committee Meeting			
	June ECAC Meeting	Review final recommendations for approval		
	Review final recommendations for approval			



## ECAC Committee Updates

- 1: Racial Equity
  - 2: Family and Community Resources
  - 3: Workforce
  - 4: Policy
  - 5: Data and Finance
- 