# A Stronger, More Ambitious Future for Child Care: A Policy Roadmap for Transforming our Nation's Child Care System Early Childhood Investigations Webinar December 16, 2020

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#### **Introduction to the Alliance for Early Success**

How We Work:

- Cultivate a network of state and national allies
- Curate/Broker TA and consultation with experts
- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning
- Grants

The Alliance for Early
Success is a national
nonprofit that works with
early childhood policy
advocates at the state level
to ensure that every child,
birth through eight, has an
equal opportunity to learn,
grow, and succeed.

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Starting early results in better outcomes. All children and families should have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Evidence should inform state policy choices.

Sound policy implementation requires smart funding.

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www.earlysuccess.org/childcareroadmap

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#### The Alliance Build Stronger Workgroup

#### State Allies

- Mindy Binderman, Georgia Early Education
   Alliance for Ready Students
   Titus DosRemedios, Strategies for Children
  (Massachusetts)
   Paula Drew, Wisconsin Early Childhood

- Paulo Drew, Wisconsin Early Childhood
  Association
   Matt Gillard, Michigan's Children
  Kathy Glazer, Virginia Early Childhood
  Foundation
   Dana Hepper, Children's Institute (Oregon)
   Betty Holcomb, Center for Children's Initiatives
  (New York)
   Jen Honwitz, Let's Grow Mid-(Vermont)
   Jen Honwitz, Let's Grow Mid Jen Honwitz, Let's

- Cynthia Rice, Advocates for Children of New Jersey
   Aly Richards, Let's Grow Kids (Vermont)
   Brian Schmidt, Kids Win Missouri
   Ruth Schmidt, Wisconsin Early Childhood
   Association
   Libbie Sonnier-Netto, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

## National Allies

- National Allies

   Shana Bartley, National Women's Law Center
  Cindy Cisneros, Committee for Economic
  Development
  Jessica Gillard, The Ounce of Prevention Fund
  Lauren Hogan, National Association for the
  Education of Young Children
  Caitlin McLean, Center for the Study of Child Care
  Employment
  Girace Recf. Committee for Economic
  Development
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  Many Beth Testa, Independent Consultant
  Margie Waller, The Ounce of Prevention Fund
  Catherine White, National Women's Law Center
  Anhely Williams, Center for the Study of Child Care
  Employment

#### The Roadmap to a Stronger Child Care System



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#### **Key Messages**

- The vulnerabilities of the child care system are results of policy and investment choices.
- Normalize pandemic-era policy changes
- "Child care is essential"... "Child care is a public good"... How do we go beyond the rhetoric?
- This is the time to plan for the future and think big.
- This is NOT the time to compromise on quality. But we need to advance quality by putting equity at the center.

"Only a crisis — actual or perceived — produces real change. When that crisis occurs, the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around. That, I believe, is our basic function: to develop alternatives to existing policies, to keep them alive and avaialible until the politically impossible becomes politically inevitable."

- Milton Friedman

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## **Building a Stronger Child Care System**

Bottom Line: Equitable, High-Quality Child Care as a Public Good

Building a stronger foundation for success

- Continue pandemic-era policy adaptations and changes
- Support home-based settings more intentionally (both FCC and FFN)
- Invest in provider support networks and data/business technology
- More use of contracts

Working towards more transformational change

- Move away from market rate and towards cost of quality care
- Revisit expectations about who should get public assistance –
  decouple from work and/or income; broaden eligibility; revisit
  conserved.
- Compensation and benefits for early childhood educators
- Advocate for revenue equitable, durable, stable, robust



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Connecting	with	Your	State'	s	Advoca	tes
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Find Alliance's state partners here: https://earlysuccess.org/our-allies/state-allies/



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# The Raising Child Care Fund:

# Building Muscle for a Movement

Rachel Schumacher Project Manager Raising Child Care Fund Mica Whitfield Georgia State Director 9to5, National Association of Working Women



### **How We Started**



ECFC, a collaborative of 40+ funders committed to:

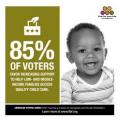
- Increasing effectiveness of philanthropic investment in systemic, equity-focused approaches to early childhood.
- Promoting federal, state, and local policies and practices that support young children, their families, and the early childhood community.

A Child Care Subcommittee began in 2017 to consider the following question:

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### If this is true...



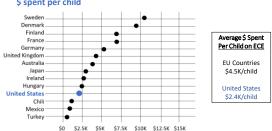


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## Why is this also true?

# Public Spending on Child Care & Early Childhood Education, \$ spent per child



Credit: Credit: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND Source: OECD Social Expenditure Database, Figures for 2013 or latest data available



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Our Goals





Effective coordination among grassroots and advocacy groups, community groups, parents, child care teachers, home-based child care providers, caregivers, and allies.



#### **Expand Equity**

Financial resources to secure increased and equitable access to quality child care, including through intentional strategies to reach and prioritize children and families most affected by injustice and inequity.

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**RCCF So Far** 





### **RCCF Grantees Take Action**



- Builto dase of partial and allies and allies Identify and nurture leaders Access elected officials and decision-makers



- Build strong coalitionsAlign goals and actions



- Expand resources available for child care
   Develop state vision and concrete ideas for more equitable access to quality child care

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## Centering Equity in a Crisis



Parent Voices CA and Child Care Law Center praise budget action to stabilize child care in California

Minnesota Governor Walz announces Peacetime Emergency **Grants for Child Care** 





New Mexico Launches Incentive Pay Program to Support Child Care Professionals

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- Listen to women
- · Focus on more rural areas of the state and home based child care providers, both licensed and kith and kin
- · Partner with state family child care association and networks
- Identity barriers to licensure and other policy challenges
- Build power and organize actions in Atlanta



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## Learn More

- $\bullet \ \underline{\text{https://www.ecfunders.org/the-raising-child-care-fund/}}\\$
- https://9to5.org/
- https://9to5.org/chapter/georgia/



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