



The Voice for Early Childhood

A CALL TO ACTION

Summary of 2018 Annual Report
of the Maine Children's Growth Council

The Council's Vision

All Maine children and their families are healthy, learning and thriving, now and in the future.

The Framework's Guiding Principles

- Consider the whole child
- Involve communities and families as equal partners
- Respect diversity and uniqueness of children and their families
- Reduce barriers to collaboration and coordination
- Encourage Public-private partnerships
- Focus on quality
- Hold ourselves accountable
- Sustain a unified early childhood system

The Framework's Five Goals and Strategies

GOAL ONE: Promote Health of Children and Families and Reduce Exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- Support research and education to promote public policy development (substance use treatment, ACEs).
- Support universal home visiting, prenatal to age 5 and ensure that it follows all children including those in adoption, foster and kinship care.
- Promote opportunities for mental and behavioral screening for development delays (Help Me Grow), social determinants of health, and family protective factors.
- Enhance public education of the root causes and stigma, 2-1-1 wrap-around supports, Help Me Grow, childbirth education classes and substance use disorders (SUD) awareness.

GOAL TWO: Foster Strong, Stable Families and Communities

- Support strengthening the delivery of programs and services that maintain family stability, including evidence-based family support programs and peer-to-peer opportunities.
- Promote cross-sector partnerships to support comprehensive needs of families.
- Promote “No Wrong Door” for families to access services.
- Collect data on unmet needs, such as flex funds for families and respite care options.

GOAL THREE: Encourage Effective Positive Learning Experiences

- Ensure enough basic safe child care for each community through:
 - * Increasing availability of all forms of local childcare
 - * Increasing public awareness of parental options for childcare
 - * Increasing state-funded subsidies
 - * Increasing outreach to parents with newborns
 - * Ensuring tiered reimbursement
 - * Supporting tax deductions
 - * Enhancing social and emotional supports
 - * Furthering strategies to identify special needs and service referrals
- Increase access to Head Start, with strategies to identify special needs and service referrals.
- Increase public Pre-K.
- Facilitate the expansion of voluntary Early Childhood Consultation Programs.

GOAL FOUR: Build a Stable Early Care and Education Workforce

- Increase compensation and benefits for early care workers by increasing child care subsidy levels and exploring scholarships and loan payment forgiveness options with educational institutions.
- Support the education, technical assistance and training needs of early care and education personnel, by expanding options for professional development and training, and access to grants and other funding sources for providers and supplementing payroll.
- Increase the reach of the Maine Roads to Quality (MRTQ) Professional Development Network (PDN) and connect this strategy to Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).

GOAL FIVE: Measure and Evaluate Progress

- Develop system measures for early childhood system, inventory currently available measurements, review other states’ measurements, and improve the quality of government oversight.
- Identify structural gaps and work with state agencies to develop data compatibility.
- Explore the option of unifying all relevant early childhood programs and to the extent possible, unifying funding sources (excluding all child welfare) under one department.
- Track and report measurements; report results biannually.
- Reconvene the Commissioner-level Children’s Cabinet (or similar inter-departmental group) to implement cross-department strategies to reduce silos.

For more information and to view the full report, visit www.maineecgc.org