

STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT ALL YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network

WHY DO WE NEED STRONGER EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS?



Research clearly demonstrates responsive, nurturing relationships in safe, engaging environments throughout the earliest years of life (starting prenatally) are at the foundation of healthy development and lifelong success. An early childhood comprehensive system is defined as an organized, purposeful partnership of interrelated and interdependent agencies/organizations, representing health, mental health, social services, families and caregivers, and early childhood education, collaboratively coordinating effective systems of care for children from birth to kindergarten entry.



WHAT IS THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS COLLABORATIVE IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION NETWORK?



The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN) is a strategic effort to identify ways to accelerate improvement in early childhood systems, resources and coordination across sectors so that all children can achieve optimal and equitable early childhood developmental health outcomes. In partnership with the ECCS CoIIN Coordinating Center, 12 states and 28 local communities work to both improve systems, processes, structures and norms and generate innovative solutions. The ECCS CoIIN initiative is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and informs and contributes to this national effort, as well as advances state and local early childhood system coordination efforts.



WHAT APPROACHES ARE BEING UTILIZED IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS COLLABORATIVE IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION NETWORK TO STRENGTHEN EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS?

Develop and maintain partnerships and network

How: Expand the breadth of partners working to advance collaboration, foster effective collaborations, and promote contribution and impact towards a common vision of optimizing child developmental health

Provide backbone support & mechanisms for connections and communication between State and community

How: Provide state-level support to community leaders and organizations to innovate, test and spread improvements resulting in a more efficient and coordinated system that supports optimal child development

Implement capacity building efforts to promote and support early childhood

How: Use national resources, like the CDC's milestone tracker mobile app, to engage families and communities about child developmental health, the importance of developmental screening, and ways to support their optimal development

Create early childhood systems infrastructure, improvement and sustainability

How: Improve processes between, and across, early childhood providers to allow for seamless connection to services and optimal coordination that support the healthy development of all children

Advance policies and mobilize funding to sustain systems improvement

How: Work with community partners to identify the trainings and resources needed to develop and implement policies that will solidify, institutionalize and formalize responsive early childhood systems

Strengthen family partnerships

How: Involve family members from the start as experts and equal partners in co-design processes, programs and services that support and promote child developmental health.

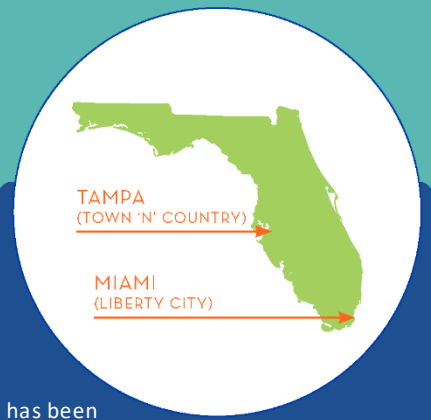


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EARLY CHILDHOOD IN FLORIDA

The Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions (FAHSC) is the recipient for the [Florida Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact Grant](#) to strengthen coordination of developmental screening and early learning programs in Miami (Liberty City) and Tampa (Town 'n' Country). The project builds on current state efforts and partnerships to improve the developmental health of young children and family well-being in high-need neighborhoods through the Florida Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), Florida Help Me Grow, Local Early Learning Coalitions, and Early Head Start, Title V, federal and state Healthy Start, Early Steps (IDEA, Part C), community residents, and funders.



Key Wins:

- Florida has been able to position themselves as leaders in this space through work at the state level and in partnership with place-based communities in promoting social-emotional health, racial and ethnic equity, and parent engagement. Because of this success, they were awarded a [Project HOPE \(Harnessing Opportunity for Positive, Equitable Early Childhood Development\)](#) grant from [Nemours Children's Health System](#), which has allowed them to leverage funding and support to build upon this work. Together, these two initiatives have allowed Florida to expand their early childhood system, thereby supporting more children and families.
- For the two place-based communities in 2019, 85% of parents or other primary caregivers reported improved social supports. Further, 81% were connected to one or more services that address social determinants of health. These results demonstrate that families are being connected to formal and informal supports and services that promote child development and family well-being.

CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS

Promoting & Supporting Early Childhood Development

STATE LEVEL

- Adoption of a racial and ethnic equity lens to improvement efforts at the state and local levels
- Coordination with Part C early intervention, [Help Me Grow Florida](#) and Florida Office of Early Learning
- Partnership with Florida Office of Early Learning on their efforts to develop a racial equity agenda and train early learning professionals throughout the state on racial equity
- Creation of work groups within Advisory Group to focus on early childhood policy, data integration, and promoting social-emotional development
- Expansion of ECCS Advisory Group to include four additional local communities throughout the state with a focus on early childhood

EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS

Infrastructure, Improvement, and Sustainability



LOCAL COMMUNITY – MIAMI, LIBERTY CITY

- First community to implement the Clinton Foundation's [Talking is Teaching: Read, Talk Sing](#) Community Campaign and use parents as "Trusted Messengers" to educate other parents in meaningful interactions with their young children
- Partnered with [Help Me Grow Florida](#) and other early childhood partners to implement [Books, Balls, & Blocks](#) community events to provide developmental screening for children in Liberty City and connect parents with community supports a focus on early childhood

LOCAL COMMUNITY - TAMPA

- Dramatically increased participation in Developmental Playgroups through engagement and trust-building efforts
- Developed a [Circle of Security](#) group for fathers and male caregivers in Town 'n' Country, a primarily Spanish-speaking community, to strengthen parent and child attachment



FAMILY LEADERSHIP

Awarded five parent leaders across the state the opportunity to attend Phases 1 and 2 of the [Community Organizing and Family Issues \(COFI\) Parent Leader Training](#) in order to build their leadership capacity and amplify community voice

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- Florida ECCS has identified the following early childhood policy priorities:
 - Broad-based education on anti-racism for anyone working with families
 - Building the capacity of community partners to engage with parents/families in equitable ways and engage fathers and male caregivers
 - Graduated subsidy decreases with wages increases to address fiscal cliffs
 - Putting a cap on rent and rental increases
 - Higher subsidy rates for infant and toddler care
 - Extend pregnancy Medicaid to 12 months post-partum
 - Parent mental health and depression screening



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