

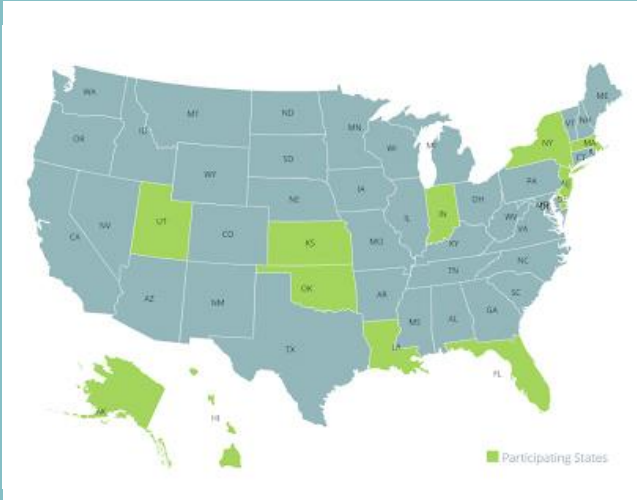
# STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT ALL YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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

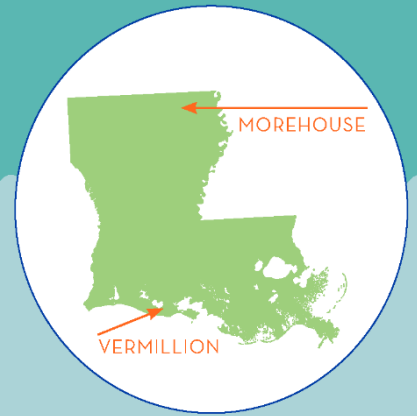
How: Involve family members from the start as experts and equal partners in co-design processes, programs and services that support and promote child developmental health.



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# EARLY CHILDHOOD IN LOUISIANA



## Key Wins:

- **Screening Expansion** Strategies in both local communities (Federally Qualified Health Centers, in-home child care, Vermillion Parish School Board, community events)
- **Developmental Promotion Initiatives** vis [Vroom](#) Surround Strategy, Little Free Libraries, [Reach Out and Read](#), Community Development Corners, Facebook Story time/book giveaways.



## CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS

### Promoting & Supporting Early Childhood Development

#### STATE LEVEL

##### State Improvement Grantee (SIG)

- In 2019, the Bureau of Family Health (BFH) added an Early Childhood Health Systems Strategy Manager position to the Bureau. The Early Childhood Health Systems Strategy Manager leads the state's cross-sector Young Child Wellness Council, which created three focused committees in 2019 that align with the ECCS work-plan:
  - Early Identification (developmental screening)
  - Early Childhood Information Data System (ECIDS), and
  - Family Engagement.
- The strategy manager is also leading the work of the 2020 Early Childhood Risk and Reach Report for Louisiana. The SIG collaborated with the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE)/Louisiana Children's Policy Institute on the Pritzker Prenatal-to-Age-Three Planning Grant and successfully completed an award application to implement the co-created early childhood policy agenda.

##### VROOM State Profile

- By using the [Vroom](#) Surround Strategy, the team's reach to families increased seven-fold during the grant period and sessions doubled on the Vroom app. Strategies used for dissemination Vroom include tip cards mailed with birth certificates and Vroom flyers and information shared by the team's parent advocate.
- Utilized innovative ways to meet families' needs through [Vroom](#) by text and Vroom print cards for families who do not have access to internet or mobile data.

#### LOCAL COMMUNITY – VERMILION

- Vermilion Parish School Board (VPSB) Referral Clinic implemented the Ages & Stages Questionnaire, tracking developmental delays and

services that three-year-old children received. Data analysis showed that approximately 50% of the children screened had a developmental concern requiring further follow-up or a full developmental evaluation and referral for services.

- The VPSB, ECCS SIG, and Local Communities collaborated on a Pre-K-4 teacher training series on early childhood development to support the Second Step® social-emotional curriculum that VPSB implemented in 2018 throughout all PreK-3 and 4 classrooms.

#### LOCAL COMMUNITY – MOREHOUSE

A strong coalition of partners was formed to create a cross-sector approach to systems building, developmental health and promotion, and early literacy. Partners and parents have played a key role in sharing the same message across agencies, ensuring referrals and follow up, and improving access to local supports and resources.

- Built a new data system and screening policy in the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) including the Ages & Stages Questionnaires®, Third Edition (ASQ®-3) and the Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional, Second Edition (ASQ®:SE-2) for use at targeted well visits, "Reach Out and Read" program, social-emotional and developmental goals with families, shared data with local Head Start and waiting room education.
- Established a Vroom initiative to support universal developmental promotion and address social determinants of health. Partners include Wal-Mart, Health Unit, libraries, hospitals, health care providers, childcare, Head Start, Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home visiting (MIECHV), Early Intervention, the Mayor's office, apartment complexes, and churches.
- Launched an Early Literacy effort that resulted in 10 Little Free Libraries located parish-wide, five developmental/literacy corners placed, and more than 3,000 books placed in children's hands.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS

### Infrastructure, Improvement, and Sustainability

- Leveraged partnerships with LDOE partners to train and initiate ASQ-3 screenings in child care and family child care homes. Ensured new seats allocated by the Preschool Development Grant included a screening component required to improve family's access to both quality child care and screenings and referrals.
- Partnered with Early Intervention to ensure that all sources of referrals including child care, health care, families, and Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) agencies were trained and supported on referral and follow up. Tracked referral sources and results to determine how we can better ensure access and receipt of services.

## FAMILY LEADERSHIP

- The Vermilion parent advocate successfully reached caregivers by providing families with various options to learn about and access Vroom. The team's parent advocate was strategically placed in the local family clinic where families receive a variety of services such as immunizations or WIC.
- Since COVID-19, the local community lead and parent advocate expanded partnerships to distribute developmental promotion and books to young families through pandemic support activities, more than 375 parents and caregivers have been reached.

#### LOCAL COMMUNITY – VERMILION

- Vermilion Parish School Board developed an Early Childhood Blueprint 2020

## POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The State Bureau of Family Health (BFH) secured the following policy successes:



- The Title V team developed a Family Engagement State Performance Measure for the 2021-2025 Block Grant State Action Plan.
- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)/Parents As Teachers (PAT) home visiting programs implemented the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT) screenings for all children served through the home visiting program. Home visiting programs now conduct ASQ-3 and MCHAT screenings and provide families with developmental coaching and support.
- Developmental Screening (DS) was selected as an incentivized Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measure for the next round of Louisiana Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO) contracts.
- The Developmental Screening coordinator is collaborating with the LDOE on updates for their Developmental Screening Guidebook, updating the provider Care Coordination Toolkit in 2020, and developing a virtual DS toolkit to support providers with implementing or improving existing DS services.
- The Developmental Screening team developed resource guides for each Louisiana Department of Health region, including information on family wellness-related screens, autism spectrum, general and social-emotional development.

#### LOCAL COMMUNITY – MOREHOUSE

- Morehouse Early Intervention (Early Steps) provides monthly data to the ECCS Local Community team (data sharing agreement in place)

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