

# 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

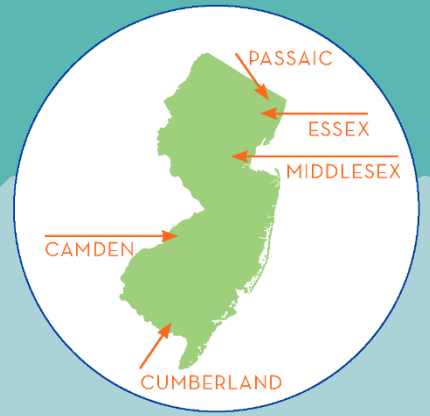
How: Involve family members from the start as experts and equal partners in co-design processes, programs and services that support and promote child developmental health.



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# EARLY CHILDHOOD IN NEW JERSEY



## CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS

Promoting & Supporting Early Childhood Development

### DEVELOPMENTAL HEALTH COORDINATION

- Expanded staffing with CI system – EC Specialist (child development and infant mental health background)
- CRRs expanded developmental health awareness community-based activities, such as Books, Balls, & Blocks (re-strategizing approach due to COVID)
- Developed manuals and training for EC Specialist and CRRs

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS

Infrastructure, Improvement, and Sustainability



### COLLECTIVE IMPACT

- Held Infant Child Health Committee (IHC) and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Evaluation Meetings
- Convened cross-sector stakeholders to discuss shared vision and mutually reinforcing activities
- Created Strategic Plans for each meeting: IHC – Universal Development health and systems infrastructure, CQI – shared measures and key drivers for CI infrastructure
- Creating a Culture of CQI across Collective Impact system

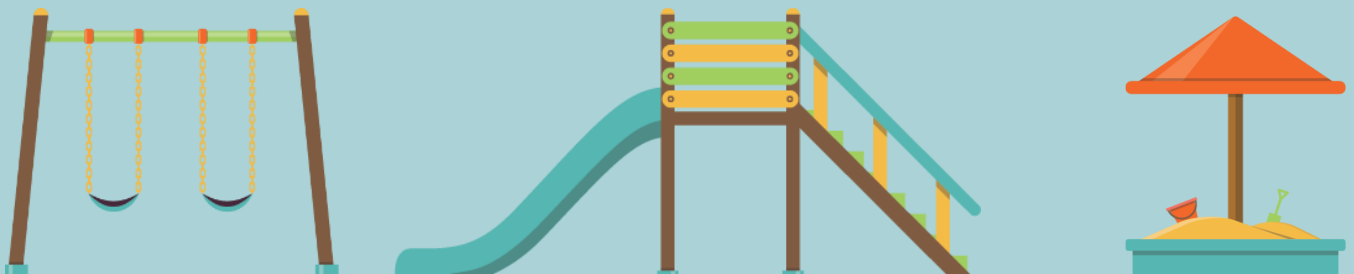
### DATA SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

- Implemented ASQ Family Access Portal – Universal Development screening
- Single Point of Entry and Client Tracking System (SPECT) – Child Profile



## FAMILY LEADERSHIP

- Adopted Parent Engagement Continuum – Transitional, Transactional, and Transformational
- Implemented State Parent Lead Training Model with State Parent Leader and Community-Based Parent Leaders
- Held Learn the Signs. Act Early. (LTSAE) Parent Champion Trainings
- Transformation Leadership engagement: Co-trainings, Parent Panel, HMG Forum Committee, Speaking Engagement Delaware Parent Leader Graduation, AMCHP Award, AMCHP Leadership Training, NJ LEND Leadership Training



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