

The Problem

Early childhood experiences shape future quality of life, including health, economic, emotional, physical and social outcomes. Responsive, nurturing relationships in safe, engaging environments in the earliest years (starting prenatally) are at the foundation of healthy development. Investments, policies and practices that optimize child development are well known, but a gap remains between what we know and what we do. In addition, institutionalized barriers like income and educational inequities, school and neighborhood segregation, and racism, contribute to scores of children not receiving necessary support for achieving their optimal health. This leads to increases in healthcare, education and economic costs for children and families, diminishes parental productivity, and reduces a child's ability to reach full developmental potential.

What is Being Done?

In 2016, the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA/MCHB) launched an effort to identify ways to improve early childhood systems, resources and coordination across sectors so that all children can achieve optimal and equitable early childhood developmental health outcomes. From this, the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (ECCS CoIIN) was created. This multiyear initiative will inform and contribute to this national effort, as well as advance state and local early childhood system coordination efforts.

Twelve states and their 28 communities are participating in the ECCS CoIIN, led by the National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ). Using NICHQ's change approach, which leverages collaboration, innovation and quality improvement methodology, these states and their communities will implement a series of evidence-based solutions and use data to track results.



What Strategies Are Being Used?

To reach its **aim of improving the developmental skills of 3-year-old children by 25 percent from current levels**, NICHQ and ECCS CoIIN partners have developed a change strategy with five evidence-based primary drivers:



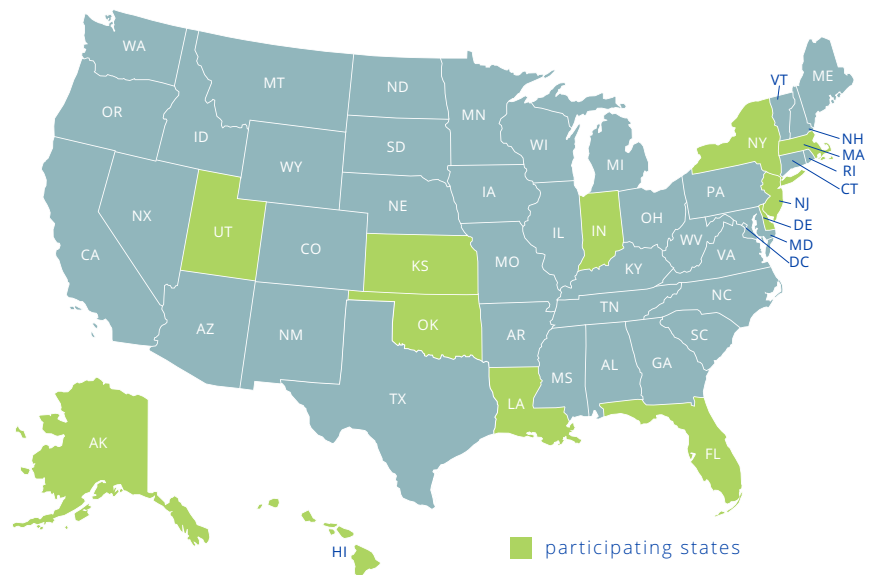
Common Agenda and Collaborative Learning

The ECCS CoIIN aim and common agenda is to ensure that children reach their developmental potential and are ready to thrive in kindergarten. Through virtual and in-person meetings, and with the help of content experts and improvement advisors, state and community teams participating in ECCS CoIIN engage in cross-state collaborative learning, and apply innovation and quality improvement methods. This process enables states and communities to identify and implement innovative practices to advance their action plans to improve early childhood systems.

Continuous Communication

Teams are provided technical assistance and an online collaborative workplace (NICHQ's Collaboratory) to promote continuous communication, and a data dashboard to capture shared measures and track progress toward the common agenda.

The 12 states include:
Alaska, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii,
Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana,
Massachusetts, New Jersey,
New York, Oklahoma and Utah.



ECCS CoIIN brings together an array of partners including ZERO to THREE; Applied Engineering Management Corporation; Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs; the Institute for Healthcare Improvement; as well as federal agencies and individual experts.

To learn more, contact us at ECCSCoIIN@nichq.org,
or visit www.nichq.org/ECCSCoIIN

