Early Learning Challenge Collaborative
a partnership between BUILD and First Five Years Fund
Toward Better Policy for Early Care and Education in the United States

Speakers: Louise Stoney and Anne Mitchell, Alliance for Early Childhood Finance

Moderator: Tammy Mann, The Campagna Center
Policy makers and voters increasingly agree that…

High Quality Early Care and Education is Essential
ECE Has Multiple Sub-Systems (or “silos”)

Silos typically have their own:
• Standards
• Procedures
• Forms
• Rate Policies, etc.
And each silo fights for its own $$
Put Child Development First

- use a common administrative and monitoring process -- rules, policies, procedures and forms -- regardless of program auspice, type or funding stream.
- When funds for direct services are limited target high-quality services for vulnerable children ways that promote continuity and serve all children in the same family.
One Example of *Putting Children First*

Minnesota School Readiness Connections Pilot

– Selected providers
– Higher Quality Standards (QRIS)
– Waive rules re absence days and care authorization
– Higher reimbursement
Build a Standards-Based System

• Establish a QRIS inclusive of all formal ECE.
• Continuously improve their QRIS; the threshold quality level for programs and for practitioners rises over time.
• Require that service providers receiving public funds participate in the QRIS. The number and proportion of vulnerable children accessing high-quality programs rises over time.
• Set aside a portion of all ECE funding to support the infrastructure investments needed to maintain a standards-based system.
Standards-based ECE System

*State Examples*

- Montana and Ohio
- Delaware, Minnesota and Pennsylvania
- Arizona, New York and Rhode Island
A Standards-Based ECE System Design

Quality Early Care & Education System

Planning/Oversight
1. Review, revise, evaluate, update QRIS standards
2. Create policies to enable all T/TA goals by various entities to focus on QRIS
3. Create data systems & planning tools focused on QRIS
4. Establish goals/benchmarks and track progress
5. Encourage: funding links to QRIS shared budgeting/rate-setting strategies, coordinated RFPs, etc.

Financing Linked to Standards For programs, practitioners & consumers
(CCDF, Head Start, School Readiness, United Way, MELF, tax credits, parent fees, etc.)

Support/Infrastructure to Meet Standards
Programs: Technical Assistance & Support Practitioners: Professional Development (based on MN Parent Aware)

Monitoring & Accountability (to ensure compliance with standards) for Programs & Practitioners

Engagement & Outreach (Selling the Vision) for Programs, Practitioners, & Consumers

Family, Friend & Neighbor Providers (Regulation Exempt)
Can choose to enter above system, via Support/Infrastructure "door"
Or can choose to remain outside the system -- with private fees and/or CCAP subsidies at the basic rate
Would be a site for home-visiting services for targeted children (in addition to the child’s home)

Additional Supports for Parents
Playgroups, Parent Ed (ECFE)
Home visiting/Family Resource Centers
Early Screening
Workforce Reforms (part-time jobs, flexible schedules, etc.)
Paid Family Leave and other supports…

Early Learning Challenge Collaborative: a partnership between BUILD and First Five Years Fund
Early Learning Challenge Collaborative: a partnership between BUILD and First Five Years Fund

Share Costs to Improve Fiscal Efficiency

• Make shared ECE financing a goal and establish agreements to work together to align program and fiscal requirements
• Model the cost of quality standards at each level of your QRIS
• Explore a range of public payment policies, informed by cost modeling, that encourage layered funding
• Help build the capacity of ECE service providers to tap multiple funding streams and attain the scale needed for efficient delivery of high-quality services.
Shared ECE Finance can be portable and direct

Total ECE Program Revenue

linked to standards

- Portable Subsidy & Tuition
  (CCDF, TANF, private scholarships, tax credits, parent fees, and more…)

- Direct Program Support
  (Head Start, PreK, ECE quality grants, TEACH, and more…)

Early Learning Challenge Collaborative: a partnership between BUILD and First Five Years Fund
Early Learning Challenge Collaborative: a partnership between BUILD and First Five Years Fund

**Department of Education**
- Pre-K funding
- Early Intervention
- Professional Licensing
- Early Childhood Food and Nutrition Programs
  
  *All linked to standards*

**Department of Human Services**
- Tiered Reimbursement Rates for child care
- Training and quality grants
  
  *linked to standards*

**Department of Tax and Finance**
- Higher Dependent Care Tax Credit
- ECE Occupational Tax Credit
- Other business or individual tax benefits
  
  *All linked to standards*

**Judiciary/ Court Administration**
- Funds for child care centers at the courts or delinquency prevention
  
  *linked to standards*

**Quasi-Public Construction Authority**
- Funds for construction of ECE facilities
  
  *linked to standards*

**Head Start**
- Agreement with Federal Regional Office to create administrative/fiscal *links to common standards*

**Private Sector**
- Agreements with United Way, community foundations, etc. to *link $ to common standards*

**Higher Education**
- Campus-based child care programs
- Practitioner education
  
  *All linked to standards*

**Department of Health**
- Health & Safety training
- Healthy Child Care America TA and supports
  
  *All linked to standards*

**Learning Guidelines**
- Outcomes for Children

**Standards for Programs**

**Standards for Practitioners**

**QRIS Standards**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Portable Incentives</th>
<th>Direct Incentives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start with Stars</td>
<td>Apply for QRS &amp; complete requirements (e.g. Health &amp; Safety checklist)</td>
<td>Child care subsidy (CCDF/TANF) at basic rate</td>
<td>Start with STARS grant - one time only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State child care tax credit at basic rate</td>
<td>TEACH and CADFP available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Access to T/TA -- prioritized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Links to family support and/or home visiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR 1 - Attained</td>
<td>Meets STAR 1 Standards or in a points system has sufficient points for Star 1</td>
<td>Child care subsidy at Star 1 level (tiered bonus)</td>
<td>STARS Support Grant - available for 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State child care tax credit at basic + .25</td>
<td>TEACH, CACFP, T/TA, family support links same as Start with Stars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Early Childhood MH Consultation available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Health Consultation available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR 2 - Attained</td>
<td>Meets STAR 2 Standards or in points system has sufficient points for star 2</td>
<td>Child care subsidy at Star 2 level (tiered bonus)</td>
<td>STARS Support Grant - available for 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Private scholarships/grants at Star 2 level</td>
<td>Ed &amp; Retention Award (or practitioner tax credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State child care tax credit at basic + .50</td>
<td>Campus-based child care funds @ Star 2 level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>refundable practitioner tax credit at base level (or Ed &amp; Ret grants)</td>
<td>TEACH prioritized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CACFP, T/TA, family support links same as Star One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Early Childhood MH &amp; Health consultation prioritized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR 3 - Attained</td>
<td>Meets STAR 3 Standards or in points system has sufficient points for star 3</td>
<td>Child care subsidy at Star 3 level (tiered bonus)</td>
<td>STARS Support Grant – ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Private scholarships/grants at Star 3 level</td>
<td>Ed &amp; Retention Award (or practitioner tax credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State child care tax credit at basic + .75</td>
<td>Campus-based child care funds @ Star 3 level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>refundable practitioner tax credit at 1.5 of base level (or Ed &amp; Ret grants)</td>
<td>TEACH &amp; CACFP same as Star Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Training and TA available, as needed &amp; appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Title IV-B - priority placement for protective/preventive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Family support available &amp; aligned with IV-B cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Early Childhood MH Consul aligned with IV-B Health Consultation prioritized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&amp; aligned with IV-B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Priority placement for children with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR 4 - Attained</td>
<td>Meets STAR 4 Standards/points or National Accreditation or Head Start (licensed integrated model)</td>
<td>Child care subsidy at Star 4 level (tiered bonus)</td>
<td>STARS Support Grant - ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Private scholarships/grants at Star 4 level</td>
<td>Ed &amp; Retention Award (or practitioner tax credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State child care tax credit x 2 (double benefit)</td>
<td>Campus-based child care funds @ Star 4 level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>refundable practitioner tax credit at 2x base level (or Ed &amp; Ret grants)</td>
<td>Eligible for Head Start and/or State Pre-K Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TEACH, CACFP, T/TA, Title IV-B, Family Support, MH &amp; Health Consultation same as Star Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Priority placement for children with disabilities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Layering Portable & Direct Subsidies

Center with 10% Subsidy Enrollment  Center with 85% Subsidy Enrollment
Examples of Cost Sharing

Each example shares costs in a different way, but all are linked to QRIS/aligned standards

• Pennsylvania
• District of Columbia
• Louisiana
• Maine
Share Data to Drive Quality

• Develop data systems capable of uniquely identifying ECE programs, practitioners, and the children they serve

• Use a comprehensive, non-duplicated data set to drive ECE planning, policy, quality improvement and fund distribution
Success Stories

Colorado
Connecticut
Illinois
Maryland
Missouri
Nevada
New York
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
For more information:

www.earlychildhoodfinance.org