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ECIC Hosts First "Michigan Early Childhood Challenge"
Stakeholders voted on policy recommendations for Governor's early childhood agenda.

LANSING- The Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) today hosted the first "Michigan Early Childhood Challenge" to prepare recommendations for the states first, consensus early childhood policy agenda for young children. The ECIC was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the National Governor's Association to support a Governor's Summit on Early Childhood.

The Michigan Early Childhood Challenge convened stakeholder groups covering: early care and education, special needs, social and emotional health, family support and parenting education and pediatric and family health, and reviewed policy papers and developed a list of two recommendations based on the priorities for their group.

The stakeholder groups consisted of members from the ECIC external advisory board committees, parents and members from the business, health care and education community. The collective group then met to vote on all the recommendations and prioritized ten recommendations based on the impact for at-risk children and on the level of do ability. The report will be presented to the Governor and the legislature upon completion.

"It is critical to the success of all of Michigan's children that we set priorities and develop a state action plan for early childhood. We will present recommendations that will help prepare our youngest learners for school and life," said Judy Y. Samelson, CEO of the ECIC.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm provided remarks at the event and encouraged the members of the stakeholder groups to consider what Michigan must do in several key areas to improve the quality of early childhood education and prepare Michigan's children for school. The areas included access to learning opportunities, accountability, local investment and assuring a healthy foundation.

The Governor also pledged her support to Ready Kids 2020, an effort to commit people to support ensuring all children arrive to school healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life by 2020.

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