



FY23 Policy Priorities

1. Child Care

- Maximize Investments: Continue to maximize the historic federal investment in child care in FY23 and prioritize funds to sustain and continue to expand both eligibility and provider rates in the future.
- Provider Payments: Pay child care business owners based on eligible child enrollment rather than attendance and do so prospectively before services are rendered.
- Remove Barriers to Access: Eliminate requirement that families initiate child support cases against a non-custodial parent to be eligible for child care subsidy.

2. Home Visiting

- Equity: Implement policies that allow flexibility across programs that support an equitable approach to serve families that address racial, health and geographic disparities.
- Maintain & Expand: Support continuation of all state General fund and School Aid dollars for evidence-based home visiting programs and necessary infrastructure to ensure quality.
- Maximize: Every available dollar for home visiting including state and federal sources.

3. Support Cross-Sector Workforce Strategies

- Workforce Data: Comprehensively collect and make public data on the early childhood workforce across sectors—both public and private settings. The data should include wages, benefits, professional development opportunities, and qualifications as they relate to salary and be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, geography, and type of setting.
- Compensation: Develop a strategy to improve compensation for the early childhood workforce, including phasing in wage increases that are based on a salary schedule that reflects the true cost of care—based on regularly updated cost-of-care analyses.
- Growth: Opportunities for professional development, education, training and credentialing to support existing workforce, and career pathways.
- Equity: Implement recommendations to require implicit bias training for the entire early childhood workforce.

4. Medicaid

- Leverage Funds: Use Medicaid to cover the cost of doulas and support responsive models of prenatal care such as free-standing birthing centers and Centering Pregnancy.
- Medicaid Postpartum Extension: 1) Maintain funding 2) Monitor implementation under Medicaid policy and 3) Move statutory change.

5. Expand state investment in Early On

6. Support universal screenings and referrals

- Timely Developmental Screenings: Ensure that children have a developmental screening at 9, 18 and 30 months of age, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

7. Invest in complete, equitable data systems