

# Hope starts HERE

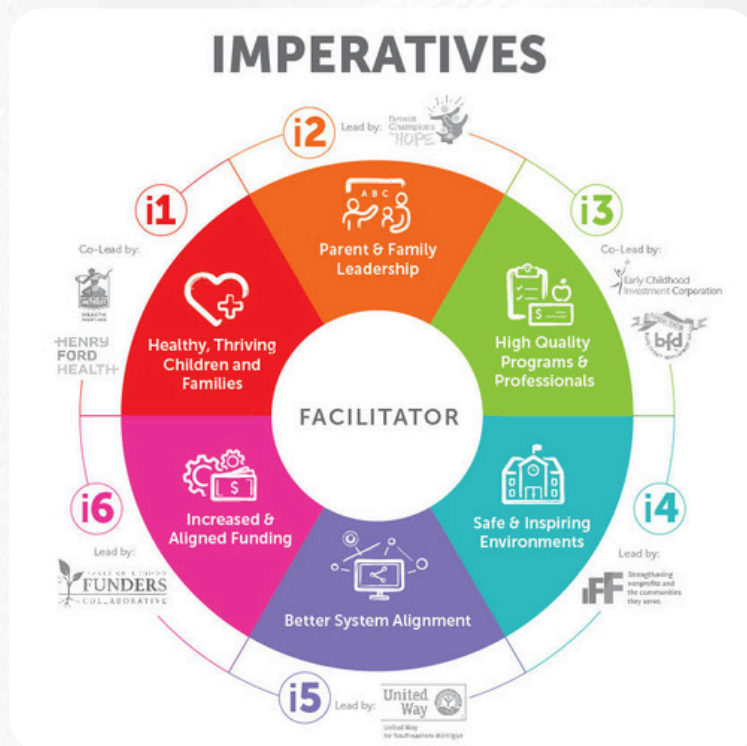
## DETROIT'S EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERSHIP

### WHO IS HOPE STARTS HERE

Hope Starts Here is a collective of organizations in Detroit that are singularly focused on putting Detroit's children and families first. We are a committed collective that is directly informed by our community, we have supported children and families across the city since 2017 through activities such as hosting community input sessions, expanding zoning options for child care programs in Detroit, and actively ensuring state and federal dollars are implemented to support Detroit child care providers, families, and children.

### OUR IMPERATIVES

Hope Starts Here's work is guided by six imperatives, led or co-led by a local Detroit-based organization. Each imperative focuses on one of the following: Healthier Families, Parent Leadership, High-Quality Programs, Safe Environments Enhanced System Alignment, and Sustainable Funding.



### BILLS OF INTEREST

- **HB 4055** - Provides child tax credit
- **HB 4056** - Creates child care savings program
- **HB 4057** - Deducts contributions to a child care savings account
- **HB 4058** - Provides exemption for certain baby and toddler items
- **HB 4059** - Provides exemption for certain baby and toddler items

# 2025 STATE PRIORITIES

Hope Starts Here has identified three key policies that we strongly believe, if implemented by the State Legislature, could be transformative for children, families, and early care and education providers. These priorities are driven by the needs we have heard directly in our own community and are reflective of Michigan's statewide challenges. We would appreciate any opportunity to share more about their impact and serve as a resource for any questions you may have about Detroit's children, families, and caregivers.

## 1. Implement Categorical Eligibility for Early Educators for the Child Development and Care (CDC) Scholarship

This policy ask aims to establish early educators as categorically eligible for the Michigan CDC scholarship, informally referred to as a subsidy. The policy recognizes the unique challenge faced by early educators whose low wages make them struggle to afford quality child care for their family. Successfully implemented in Kentucky in 2022, this policy would be particularly impactful for home-based early educators who are unable to receive reimbursements for care provided in their program for their related children.

## 2. Raise Child Care Scholarship Reimbursement Rates

This policy ask aims to align the CDC scholarship payment rates with the true-cost of providing high-quality care finding from the Prenatal-to-five Fiscal Strategies analysis in Michigan. The ask also aims to continue the COVID-19 era practice of reimbursing providers for CDC scholarship children based on enrollment rather than attendance. This practice provides greater financial stability to child care providers whose operational costs remain largely consistent even when an enrolled child is absent.

## 3. Adopt a State Child Tax Credit:

This policy ask aims to adopt a statewide child tax credit, a critical tool to support the financial stability of families and caregivers, while decreasing overall child poverty. Following the temporary expansion of the Federal Child Tax Credit expansion in 2021, Michigan experienced an estimated 46.9% decrease in child poverty, from 11.8% to 6.3%. The tax credit helps caregivers cover essential expenses, such as housing, food, healthcare, and education, enhancing the quality of life for families across the state, and those with low to moderate incomes. By supporting the financial stability of families and caregivers, direct impacts will be seen in the health and educational outcomes of all children across Michigan.

## CONTACT US

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