

2022 Public Policy Agenda

The **Start Early Funders Coalition** will lead the 2022 legislative session with a racial equity lens on all endorsed public policies. We prioritize policies that will benefit low-income children and families as well as Black, Indigenous and children of color and their families; and the programs that serve them.



Early Care & Education Professionals and the Workforce

- Support policies that improve recruiting and retaining early care and education professionals through improved compensation, benefits, professional development resources and other short and long-term solutions to support compensation and retentions practices.
- Increase support and resources for Family, Friend and Neighbor Care (FFN) through professional development opportunities and access to other supports including COVID-19 related resources and technology needs.



Department of Early Childhood

- Form a new Department of Early Learning/Early Childhood to streamline and consolidate early childhood services, programming, and funding. This department will create accountability and attention for all early childhood programs.



Community Wellness & Mental Health Supports

- Support the mental wellbeing of children, families and early care and education professionals by increasing resources and improved access to community-advised, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed care.



Infrastructure Investment

- Increase investment to develop new early childhood facilities and expansion or improvement of current early childhood facilities.



Comprehensive Package to Increase Access to Early Care and Education

- Provide consistent and dedicated funds to support a robust early childhood system that gives children and families access to a continuum of high-quality early care and education programs. A broad range of program types supported with prioritized state and federal funding is required to support an economically sustainable early childhood ecosystem and for our state's economic recovery.

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| • Federal Funding and State Compliance | • Parent Aware |
| • Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) | • Home Visiting |
| • Early Learning Scholarships | • Kindergarten Entry Profile |