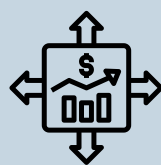


2023 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MAJOR WINS



\$750M in new funding for child care and early learning programs including \$252M for early learning scholarships and \$197.5M for the child care assistance program.



Development of permanent child tax credit, estimated to cut child poverty in MN by one-third totaling \$794M.



Creation of child care retention payments and transition payments providing direct funds to child care and early learning programs at \$359M.



15 1:1 Meetings with Legislators

33 Letters of Support Submitted

6 testimonials supported in committee

4 coalitions supported and engaged

Start Early Legislative Priorities:

The Start Early Funders Coalition will lead the 2023 legislative session with a racial equity lens on all public policies. We prioritize policies that will benefit low-income children, rural children and families as well as Black, Indigenous and children of color and their families; and the programs that serve them.

Community Wellness & Mental Health Supports

- Support the mental wellbeing of children, families and early care and education professionals with early childhood mental health consultation, increased resources for community mental health services and sustainable investment in the Community Solutions Fund.
- Increase funding for access to targeted home visiting programs.

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 long-term solutions to support compensation and retention practices.
- Increase support and resources for Family, Friend and Neighbor Care (FFN) through professional development opportunities and access to other supports.

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 by a dedicated revenue stream is essential to support an economically viable early childhood ecosystem.

Family Finance & State Innovation

- Infrastructure investment
- Innovative business solutions
- Paid Family and Medical Leave

Session Highlights:

- Significant package to increase Access to Child Care and Early learning:
 - Early Learning Scholarships - \$252M
 - CCAP Rate Increase - \$197.5M
 - Voluntary PreK Expansion - \$50M
- Support for early care and education professionals and the workforce:
 - Great Start Compensation Support Transition Grants - \$358M
 - FFN Support - \$6M
 - Grow Your Own Program - \$5M
 - REETAIN Grants - \$3.9M
 - Creation of new State Department of Children, Youth and Families
- Family Finance & State Innovation:
 - Child Tax Credit \$794M
 - 12 Weeks Paid Family & Medical Leave
 - Child Care Facilities - \$2.9M
- Community Wellness & Mental Health Supports
 - Expanded support for infant and early childhood mental health consultation - \$2.4M
 - Community Solutions Fund Grant Program - \$6M
- Family Home Visiting and Doula Services
 - Home Visiting and Parent Child+ expansion - \$5.8M
 - Increased doula reimbursement rates and expands visit totals
 - Expands access for Medicaid billing for doula care
- Continuous eligibility for Medical Assistance for young children
 - 72 months of continuous eligibility for Medical Assistance, children 0-6
 - 12 months of continuous eligibility for Medical Assistance, children 6-21