

# 2024 Public Policy Agenda

The Start Early Funders Coalition will lead the 2024 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.



## **Child Care and Early Learning Family Affordability and Accessibility**

- Advocate for significant investment in child care and early learning affordability to move towards Federal Standard definition of 7% affordability for families.
- Support funding and technical assistance strategies to strengthen the child care and early learning business model sustainability.



## **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.
- Support increased funding and 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 short and long-term solutions to support compensation and retentions practices.
- Support increased funding and resources for Family, Friend and Neighbor Care (FFN) through professional development opportunities and access to other supports.



## **State & Federal Early Childhood Policy**

- Monitor federal policies impacting lives of young children and families across Minnesota.
- Monitor implementation of state programs and the development of the Department of Children, Youth and Families.
- Monitor diversified funding streams and investments in Minnesota's early childhood system.