

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

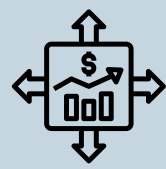
## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



\$500K in new funding for child development associate credentialing coursework and \$1.125M for child care improvement grant program



Funding allocated for a weighted risk system for licensed child care licensing violations



Funding for the transition and implementation of the Department of Children Youth and Families



- ✓ Advocacy for Children Day rally w/350+ attendees
- ✓ Over 100 meetings with elected officials
- ✓ 8 Letters of support submitted
- ✓ 10 Legislator child care testimonials recorded and shared
- ✓ 5 coalitions and working groups supported and engaged

### Start Early Legislative Priorities:

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.

### Session Highlights:

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

- Great Start Scholarship payment policy changes
- Policy changes to allow advanced payment of child tax credit
- \$1M for tax credit outreach grants
- Voluntary Pre-K policy changes:
- Teacher licensure requirements added
- \$33M for additional Voluntary Pre-K seats
- \$228K for weighted risk system for licensed child care
- \$550K support for relative caregiver grants (child welfare)
- \$500K for the Kids on Campus initiative to grow partnerships between college campuses and Head Start

#### State & Federal Early Childhood Policy

- Funding allocated to the Department of Children, Youth and Families transition
- \$10M for SSIS modernization
- Supreme Court Council on Child Protection and Maltreatment Prevention

#### Community Wellness & Mental Health Supports

- Expansion of Voluntary Pre-K inclusion for children whose parents are in substance abuse or mental health treatment programs
- DCYF Department leader to coordinate mental health services and outcomes for children with disabilities between DCYF, HHS, and related agencies
- \$150k for Pregnant and Parenting Homeless Youth Study

#### Early Care & Education Professionals and the Workforce

- \$1.125M for child care improvement grant program
- \$350K for the Office of the Ombudsperson for Family Child Care Providers
- Policy changes to allow child care providers to develop immunization policy
- \$500k for professional development for child care provider associate credential coursework