

New York State ECAC Strategic Plan, April 1, 2016

Focus Area: Strong Families
Goal: All families of young children are supported in their parenting and have the knowledge, skills, confidence, and resources they need to raise their children in healthy and nurturing environments.
Objective 1: Focus state efforts on effectively engaging and increasing parent voice in state policies and programs.
A. Priority Action: Promote parent voice and effective culturally competent family engagement strategies in all early childhood programs and services.
Strategy 1: Develop a guidance document to promote parent voice and family engagement.
Strategy 2: Support the development of a statewide campaign to promote family supports and services that incorporate the core principles of parental resilience and enhancing protective factors as a framework for all health, education, and human service programs.
Strategy 3: Support early education programs, including those participating in QUALITYstarsNY, in engaging and empowering parents/caregivers and support positive parenting practices that enhance early learning.
Objective 2: Increase opportunities for all families to gain the knowledge, skills, confidence, and social supports needed to nurture the health, safety, and positive development of children.
B. Priority Action: Support work to increase the availability and quality of parenting education and other resources for parents.
Strategy 1: Identify and promote cross-systems models to support and increase the awareness of the importance and the availability of parenting education programs across the state.
Strategy 2: Promote state and community level efforts to support parents in developing the knowledge and skills they need to raise healthy children.
Strategy 3: Promote existing positive parenting materials such as the NY Parent Guide and many more.
Objective 3: Increase the proportion of vulnerable/at risk families (e.g., homeless families, families with children with special needs, children exposed to trauma or violence) that are identified and provided with needed supports and services.
C. Priority Action: Direct attention to the challenges that vulnerable/at risk families face as well as identify and develop potential strategies that introduce greater safety, opportunity, and stability.
Strategy 1: Use ECAC quarterly meetings and website as a vehicle to educate members and others to illuminate issues that vulnerable/at risk families face as well as successful models for addressing those issues.
Strategy 2: Develop a statewide system to identify and provide vulnerable families with evidenced-based, comprehensive home visiting services.

*A “parent” may include a mother or father (through birth, adoption, or foster care), a grandparent, partner, family friend, aunt or uncle with parenting responsibilities.

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Focus Area: HEALTHY CHILDREN

Goal: All young children are healthy and thriving, and have access to comprehensive health care services.

Objective 1: Promote optimal health and development in all domains, including social-emotional development, for all young children.

D. Priority Action: Promote strategies to support implementation of universal developmental screening and referral in primary care and early care settings. **Increase the number of children 0-5 who receive appropriate developmental screening and referral in NY.**

Strategy 1: Recommend and actively participate in key strategic/stakeholder meetings to promote Medicaid and other health policy vehicles to support universal developmental screening in primary care settings that align with Bright Futures.

Strategy 2: With Birth to Five, Watch Me Thrive to promote “celebration of milestones” and positive parenting as key areas for parent education within primary care and early care settings.

Strategy 3: Support the OMH and ECCS’s Healthy Steps program to enhance developmental screenings at the 17 sites across the state.

E. Priority Action: Promote strategies to support implementation of universal maternal depression screening in primary care. **Increase early identification, prevention and intervention strategies for maternal depression in NY.**

Strategy 1: Recommend and actively participate in key strategic/stakeholder meetings to promote Medicaid and other health policy vehicles to support developmental screenings.

Strategy 2: Recommend and actively participate in key strategic/stakeholder meetings to promote Medicaid and other health policy vehicles to support universal maternal depression screening.

Strategy 3: Promote co-located behavioral health strategies to support maternal depression treatment within primary care.

F. Priority Action: Serve as experts and champions to advance access to comprehensive health care services that align with Bright Futures/ AAP best practices and recommendations across early childhood systems. **Increase public and private partnerships throughout NYS that advance key outcomes for young children and address social determinants of health.**

Strategy 1: In partnership with the Early Intervention Coordinating Council, use ECAC website to disseminate final guidance to the field on best practices for meeting the social emotional development needs of young children and their families.

Strategy 2: In partnership with the Council on Children and Families disseminate work through a consortium with pediatricians to inform families of available sessions and other resources. Educate pediatricians about statewide Pyramid Model training on social emotional development as well as advance the NYS Association of Infant Mental Health endorsement system.

Strategy 3: Promote health and safety in early care settings through on-going input on the Child Care Health Consultation Curriculum/ECCS Activities.

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Focus Area: Early Learning	
Goal: All young children will be successful in school and life.	
Objective 1: Align the current diverse set of early care and education programs and services to become a unified and integrated system for children from birth to age 8.	
G. Priority Action:	Provide guidance for aligning all New York Prekindergarten Programs into a single full-day program that ensures adequate funding for classrooms operated by school districts and community-based program providers.
H. Priority Action:	Support OCFS in the development of the new Child Care and Development Fund plan and provide guidance to the state in the plan's implementation.
I. Priority Action	Promote the use of New York's Early Learning Framework (i.e., Core Body of Knowledge, Early Learning Guidelines, QUALITYstarsNY, and Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core) in all settings serving children birth through age 8 and at all levels of the system (e.g., professional preparation, professional development, service delivery, etc.) to ensure high quality, developmentally appropriate early learning programs.
Strategy 1: Develop and implement processes to track, analyze and report dissemination and use of Early Learning Framework publications.	
Strategy 2: Reinforce the New York State Core Body of Knowledge as the foundation for early childhood professional development.	
Objective 2: Increase the knowledge and competencies of the early care and education workforce.	
J. Priority Action:	Promote NY Works for Children as the states workforce system, a unified competency-based professional development system for the early care and education workforce.
Strategy 1: Consider strategies to make findings of the Higher Education Inventory actionable.	
Strategy 2: Review the Core Body of Knowledge to determine whether the following topics are covered adequately: professional preparation and development programs effectively prepare early childhood practitioners to meet the needs of children and families at risk. (e.g. those experiencing homelessness, domestic violence and other trauma) and make recommendations for revisions.	
Objective 3: Make recommendations to establish recruitment and retention strategies to ensure New York has the early childhood workforce necessary to implement a high quality early learning system.	
Strategy 1: Promote Aspire, New York's workforce development data system which collects data on the qualifications and professional development of the early care and education workforce.	
Strategy 2: Work through Aspire to determine a baseline of salaries and wages by running a report on current data available. Consider sending a message to all Aspire participants to request that they complete the compensation questions in order to strengthen the data available.	
Objective 4: Support the developmentally appropriate practice in programs birth through grade 2.	
K. Priority Action:	Support the development of strategies to align P-3 development and learning standards (ELGs, PreK Foundation, and K-3 Learning Standards) with developmentally appropriate curricula and assessment.
L. Priority Action:	Support the development of strategies to align P-3 development and learning standards (ELGs, PreK Foundation, and K-3

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Learning Standards) with developmentally appropriate curricula and assessment.

M. Priority Action: Reinforce the use of the Pyramid Model in providing appropriate guidance and professional development to staff, in educating and supporting families, and in collaborations with community partners, with the goal of reducing the number of children who are suspended or expelled from early childhood programs.

Strategy 1: Disseminate research on best practices to school and program leadership to reduce number of suspensions and expulsions.

Strategy 2: Provide materials and resources to program staff with the same goal.

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Focus Area: Coordinated and Responsive Systems
Goal: Public and private sectors that serve young children and their families are committed to collecting and utilizing data to inform decisions, developing a sustainable infrastructure and a fully-trained, properly-compensated, and well-supported workforce, and establishing policies for accountable approaches that promote healthy children, strong families, and early learning.
Objective 1: Maintain ECAC as a public-private body to provide strategic direction to the State of New York, the Governor and the Commissioners of the Health, Education and Human Services agencies on early childhood issues, and to assist public and private entities seeking to improve early childhood systems and services.
N. Priority Action: Promote the ECAC as a strong state-level interagency group responsible for supporting the coordinated planning and provision of comprehensive services for young children and their families.
Strategy 1: Identify and address opportunities across state agencies for supporting a more coordinated and responsive system of supports and services for young children and their families.
Strategy 2: Provide models of collaboration among public and private agencies and institutions, helping to support coordinated and responsive systems (i.e., QUALITYstarsNY, Aspire, health promotion, behavioral health).
Strategy 3: Use the ECAC website to disseminate information on and encourage public investment at the federal, state, and local level in evidence-based strategies for addressing the needs of families with young children.
Objective 2: Increase public-private investments in early childhood and blend these investments with existing resources to maximize impact.
O. Priority Action: Identify models of early childhood program funding to increase access to early childhood services and improve the planning, coordination, and quality of the early childhood services system.
Strategy 1: Analyze the effectiveness of the <i>Early Childhood Fiscal Model</i> as a tool to support the development of program capacity and make recommendations on future directions.
Strategy 2: Collect and share innovative strategies for financing early childhood services.
Strategy 3: Provide guidance to the field on how to maximize existing funding to improve the quality and increase accessibility to high quality early childhood services.
Strategy 4: Analyze benefits and challenges of aligning all New York Prekindergarten Programs into a single full-day program that ensures adequate funding for classrooms operated by school districts and community-based program providers.
Strategy 5: Support early childhood programs to operate as successful small businesses.
Strategy 6: Engage CCR&Rs and other community-based organizations that can support best business practices for small organizations.
Strategy 7: Identify opportunities to increase compensation for the early childhood field.
P. Priority Action: Develop and implement a public engagement campaign to inform and obtain the support of leaders and the general public for early childhood initiatives.
Strategy 1: Develop a business leader advisory group to support the ECAC's efforts to meet the needs of young children and their families.

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<p>Objective 3: Promote policies and statutes that ensure a coordinated and responsive continuum of high quality services that support early learning, healthy children, and strong families.</p>
<p>Q. Priority Action: Promote a New York State birth to age eight agenda to ensure a continuum of high-quality services that supports early learning, healthy children, strong families, and coordinated and responsive systems.</p>
<p>Strategy 1: Promote training for all professionals who come into contact with young children and their families on children’s health, learning, cultural competency, homelessness, parenting, and social-emotional development.</p>
<p>Strategy 2: Increase awareness of all child-serving professionals of the community resources available for children and families.</p>
<p>R. Priority Action: Implement strategies to address racial equity in the design and implementation of programs and services for young children and their families.</p>
<p>S. Priority Action: Identify strategies that support young children experiencing homelessness throughout the ECAC plan.</p>
<p>Objective 4: Advocate for and support the development of an early childhood integrated data system to track child outcomes and improve the state’s capacity to manage the early childhood services system.</p>
<p>T. Priority Action: Develop a comprehensive plan for informing and gaining the support of state governmental leaders on the reasons for and benefits of developing an integrated early childhood data system including information on other states efforts to establish integrated early childhood data systems.</p>
<p>Strategy 1: Develop informational materials on early childhood integrated data systems.</p>
<p>Strategy 2: Conduct a series of informational meetings with staff of the Governor’s Office, Division of the Budget, Office of Information and Technology Services, and the State Education Department, Department of Health, and the Office of Children and Family Services to gain support for developing an early childhood integrated data system.</p>
<p>Strategy 3: Develop a series of data reports on a limited set of early childhood health and development key indicators to track progress toward accomplishing plan objectives and strategies and to encourage the development of a comprehensive, coordinated data system.</p>
<p>Objective 5: Explore ways the state can promote and support community efforts to build coalitions, collect data, and implement effective strategies for early childhood system building that includes parents and families.</p>
<p>U. Priority Action: Identify and promote community-based initiatives designed to benefit young children and their families.</p>
<p>Strategy 1: Conduct a series of community meetings across the state to discuss the work of the ECAC, local efforts to improve services for young children and their families, and how the ECAC can support those efforts.</p>
<p>Strategy 2: Develop recommendations for how the state could better support community-based early childhood systems building initiatives designed to improve services for young children and their families.</p>
<p>Strategy 3: Develop strategies for increasing community awareness of the importance of early learning opportunities and for taking responsibility to increase those opportunities within their community (e.g., libraries, parks, museums, pediatrician offices, etc.).</p>