

Why New York should integrate data about services for young children



Better coordination can maximize investments in early childhood programs and services.

Access to a comprehensive, high-quality early childhood program sets children on a path for success and yields positive financial returns for society.

New York has long been a leader in providing high-quality early care and education. To make informed decisions about these investments and know what works, state policymakers need information about the services each child receives.

Linking data about early childhood will enable streamlined investments that prepare our children for the future.

Multiple governmental agencies collect information about early childhood education programs, staff and administrators, and the children and families they serve. But like pieces of an unfinished puzzle, many of these data sets are disconnected. An Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) fits the pieces together and helps decision-makers answer questions that cannot be answered by data from a single program alone. For example:

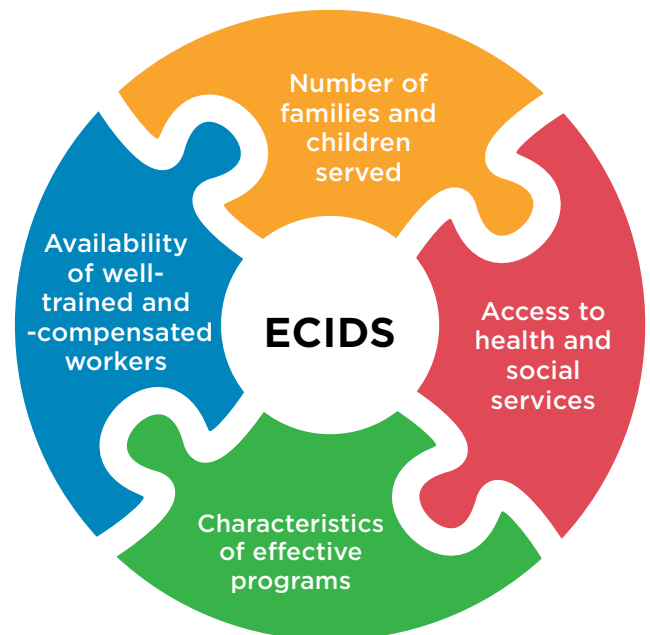
- How does enrollment in early care and education correspond with academic success?
- Which children and families are receiving necessary supportive health, social or educational services? Are we reaching all those in need?
- Which communities need more resources?

QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
PRODUCES LONG-TERM BENEFITS

- Cognitive skills
- Social-emotional skills
- Earnings
- Inequality

Source: www.heckmanequation.org

An ECIDS connects information to answer key policy questions.



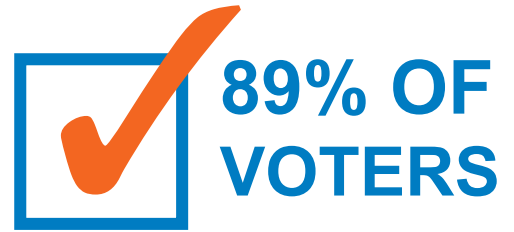
How an early childhood integrated data system can support New York's young children

1. Ensuring access to early care and education for all families

New York's leaders need information on which children—including children from migrant families and those who are homeless—are being served by state programs so they can ensure that all children get the support they need.

2. Helping all children achieve academic success

Do all children in New York start school healthy and ready to learn? Do teachers and administrators have the information they need to help kindergartners who enter school in need of additional support? An ECIDS can help policymakers identify and tailor services for diverse populations.



support making high-quality early care and education affordable for working families to give children a strong start.

Source: 2017 First Five Years Fund National Poll

In **North Carolina**, integrating early childhood data has allowed administrators to identify geographic areas where high-needs children may be eligible for public pre-K programs, but do not attend.

3. Building effective and responsive governmental services

Through the Lean Initiative, New York has already identified strategies to improve services and reduce costs for taxpayers. Establishing an ECIDS helps to ensure collaboration, streamlined services, and effective use of existing resources.

Minnesota's ECIDS connects preschool data to K-12 data. This can be used to assess school readiness per children's demographic characteristics, location, and experiences with early learning. Policymakers can use this information to target services for underserved populations.

Action steps for New York agencies

- ✓ Leverage existing efforts, such as the NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council (codified in Social Services Law Section 483-g) to convene stakeholders.
- ✓ Identify resources to facilitate the development of an ECIDS.

For more information about New York's early childhood integrated data system goals, please go to http://bit.ly/NY_ECIDS or contact ecac@ccf.ny.gov.