

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 specific strategies to increase respectful, responsive language access in engaging families.
Strategy 2: Develop responses specifically designed to address the needs of newer immigrant and migrant families.
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: Increase the awareness of the importance and the availability of parenting education programs across the state.
Strategy 2: Support the completion of the development and begin dissemination of the “ <i>New Parent Kit</i> .”
Strategy 3: Increase accessibility of information that supports positive parenting practices, early learning, and healthy development through the development of www.nysparentguide.org .
Strategy 4: Develop and implement an outreach strategy that promotes parental understanding of child development and QUALITYstarsNY.
Strategy 5: 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.
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: Support the public agencies and private non-profit partners committed to home visiting to develop a system for providing comprehensive home visiting services for vulnerable expectant and new families.
Strategy 1: Promote a system of universal family screening and expand assessment activities to identify families in need of additional supports and services at the earliest possible point.

New York State ECAC Strategic Plan, April 1, 2016

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 support the implementation of evidence-based strategies to increase developmental screening and referral in primary care settings.

Strategy 2: 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.

Strategy 3: Promote celebration of milestones and positive parenting as key areas for parent education within primary care and early care settings.

Strategy 4: Recommend and engage in stakeholder meetings to advance the policy directives in support of developmental screening in early care settings.

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 support the development of evidence-based strategies to increase maternal depression screening and referral in primary care settings.

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, develop and disseminate 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 of Children and Families advance the 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.

New York State ECAC Strategic Plan, April 1, 2016

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: Analyze benefits and challenges 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: Establish the child care system as foundational and integral to a high quality early learning system starting at birth.
Strategy 1: Support OCFS in the development and implementation of the new Child Care and Development Fund plan.
Strategy 2: Develop a more coherent statewide structure for the child care subsidy system that promotes greater efficiency, accessibility, and quality.
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 a comprehensive plan to increase the integration of support services into early childhood education programs.
Objective 2: Increase the knowledge and competencies of the early care and education workforce.
J. Priority Action: Develop a unified competency-based professional development system for the early care and education workforce.
Strategy 1: Develop and establish policies that leverage the use of New York’s workforce development data system to collect data on the qualifications and professional development of the early care and education workforce.
Strategy 2: Build accountability and quality into leadership development and pre- and in-service teacher preparation/education.
Strategy 3: Establish the New York State Core Body of Knowledge as the foundation for early childhood professional development.
Strategy 4: Ensure 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).
Objective 3: Establish recruitment and retention strategies to ensure New York has the early childhood workforce necessary to implement a high quality early learning system.
Objective 4: Support the developmentally appropriate practice in programs birth through grade 2.
K. Priority Action: Develop and recommend 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: Transitions from early learning programs to kindergarten - Support all school districts and early childhood settings in building stronger transition practices, with particular emphasis on transition to kindergarten.
M. Develop and disseminate guidance to programs to reduce the number of children who are suspended or expelled from early childhood programs.

New York State ECAC Strategic Plan, April 1, 2016

by providing appropriate guidance and professional development to staff, educating and supporting families and collaborating with community partners.

Objective 5: Increase the ability of communities to effectively respond to the needs of young children and their families.

N. Priority Action: 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.).

Strategy 1: Through participation in QUALITYstarsNY, support programs in engaging and empowering parents/caregivers and support positive parenting practices that enhance early learning.

Strategy 2: 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.

New York State ECAC Strategic Plan, April 1, 2016

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.
O. 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.
P. Priority Action: Maximize early childhood program funding in order to increase access to early childhood services and improve the planning, coordination, and quality of the early childhood services system.
Strategy 1: Increase use of the <i>Early Childhood Fiscal Model</i> to serve as an analytical tool for developing a financing plan for early childhood programs and services.
Strategy 2: Develop 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: Identify CCR&Rs and other community-based organizations that can support best business practices for small organizations.
Strategy 7: Address opportunities to increase compensation for the early childhood field.
Q. 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.

New York State ECAC Strategic Plan, April 1, 2016

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.
R. Priority Action: Develop and 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.
Strategy 1: Develop and 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.
Strategy 2: Increase awareness of all child-serving professionals of the community resources available for children and families.
S. Priority Action: Develop and implement strategies to address racial equity in the design and implementation of programs and services for young children and their families.
T. Priority Action: Develop a set of strategies to support young children experiencing homelessness throughout the ECAC plan.
Objective 5: Advocate for/support the development of a coordinated, comprehensive, cross-program data system to track child outcomes and improve the state’s capacity to manage the early childhood services system.
U. Priority Action: Develop a framework for data collection that will promote strategies to support agencies working together on data collection; define a strategy on how to use the data, and identify what is important to collect regarding data, i.e., key indicators.
Strategy 1: 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.
Strategy 2: Prepare a request to the Governor to establish a commission to create a coordinated cross-agency data system.
Objective 6: To work to engage more closely with /connect to local leaders to support comprehensive community planning and learn more from local efforts.
V. Priority Action: Identify and promote community-based initiatives designed to benefit young children and their families.
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.
Strategy 2: Provide support to statewide initiatives designed to support communities in developing and implementing strategies to improve services for young children and their families.