

OUTCOME	BIPOC children are prepared for kindergarten and school readiness gaps are closed.
STRATEGY	Increase access to high-quality early childhood educational experiences for BIPOC children to support school readiness.

LEVERS	RELATED APPROACHES
 DATA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map availability and quality of early childhood programs in communities of color and target investments to address gaps in quality and access. • Partner with early childhood coalitions/providers and school districts to increase the use of common readiness assessments that measure school readiness. Advocate for adoption of statewide readiness assessments.
 LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with entrepreneurship programs (business development, networking) that aid women of color to start, expand, and sustain informal childcare programs, especially during economic downturns and other crisis. This may include removing barriers to funding, providing relevant training and professional development that help providers scale their businesses, and help identify and apply for loans and grants. • Advocate for continued/increased state and local investments in quality early childhood programs, especially those based in low-income communities and neighborhoods.
 POLICY AND ADVOCACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for increased state subsidies for families that increase the affordability of childcare, early childhood, and Pre-K programs serving 0-5 years old. • Advocate for continued/increased state and local investments in quality early childhood programs, especially those based in low-income communities and neighborhoods. • Advocate for increased pay equity and enhanced benefits for early childhood workers (e.g., healthcare, retirement, and opportunities for continued education). • Advocate for state quality ratings and improvement systems (QRIS) to ensure equitable opportunities for informal childcare programs to improve their ratings by removing barriers.
 FUNDRAISING, RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND GRANTMAKING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in training and professional development for early childhood educators across diverse settings (e.g., family/friend/neighbor care, childcare, Pre-K); including training on implicit bias and cultural competency. • Invest in early literacy programs (0-5 years) that provide access to books in the home and family resources that support early language development. • Provide equitable access to resources to parents, caregivers, and families, especially those that are low-income, to help them navigate early childhood systems by building awareness in quality care and Pre-K.
 COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND ENGAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage families of young children (0-5 years), especially in low-income neighborhoods, to understand how ongoing barriers limit access to quality childcare, early childhood, and Pre-K programs. • Connect families and caregivers to each other, to create networks of information and support. • Use this information to inform state-level policy development and advocacy strategies.
 COMMUNICATIONS AND AWARENESS BUILDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with United Way affinity groups (African American, Women Leaders, Young Leaders) to launch awareness campaigns to increase community understanding of the importance of early childhood programs, highlighting gaps in access based on neighborhood, affordability, uneven quality, etc. • Frame access to early childhood programs essential to children's success and an opportunity remove existing barriers to ensure all children have an opportunity to a better start in life.