

Early Childhood Systems Collective Impact Project

What is the opportunity?

Leaders across federal agencies, including the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, and Agriculture, have identified a shared vision for improving health and well-being outcomes for young children and their families. Yet long-standing barriers at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels impede the development of coordinated, comprehensive early childhood systems.

This project will help to re-envision a truly coordinated approach to program implementation designed to advance equitable early childhood and family well-being outcomes. Findings aim to:

- Facilitate integration of services and improve program efficiency and effectiveness
- Streamline program eligibility and support enrollment into services
- Enhance comparability, consistency, and standardization of assessment, measures, and metrics across programs
- Reduce systemic barriers to services
- Enable deeper understanding of factors that support family resiliency and well-being

What will the project accomplish?

By September 2022, this project will develop recommendations to improve—and tools to support—alignment, coordination, and equity across federal programs that serve expectant parents, children ages 0–8, and their families.

Recommendations will focus on:

- Potential changes to federal statutes, regulations, and guidance around five key program elements—eligibility criteria, needs assessments, outcomes and performance measures, well-being metrics, and equity
- Potential changes that states, tribes, and localities can implement within current federal requirements and guidance

Tools will include:

- Catalog of federal statutes, regulation, and guidance to understand program requirements around the five key program elements
- Crosswalk of program requirements around the five key program elements that highlight areas of alignment and misalignment
- Tools to support federal staff and technical assistance providers in coordinating across early childhood programs at the state, tribal, and local levels
- Tools to support state, tribal, and local program leaders in coordinating across early childhood programs

What is the anticipated long-term impact?

- Enact recommendations that improve the collective impact of early childhood federal programs
- Increase coordination and alignment of programs at federal, state, tribal, and local levels
- Ensure improved and equitable child and family health, development, and well-being outcomes

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, in collaboration with the Health Services & Resources Administration, has contracted with Mathematica and their partner, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, to carry out the project.

Five key program elements for alignment and coordination



This project reflects a comprehensive and multigenerational vision of the early childhood system

