Early Childhood Success

Cities Making Way for Early Childhood



NLC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

CITIES STRONG TOGETHER

National League of Cities
Institute for Youth, Education, and Families



The National League of Cities (NLC) is the country's oldest and largest national organization representing the interests of cities.

NLC serves as a resource to and an advocate for the more than 19,000 cities, villages and towns it represents.

The Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute) is a special entity within NLC with over a decade of work working with elected officials to create strong early care and education systems.

Comprehensive, quality early learning results in better outcomes for children:



HIGHER ADULT EMPLOYMENT/ INCOME

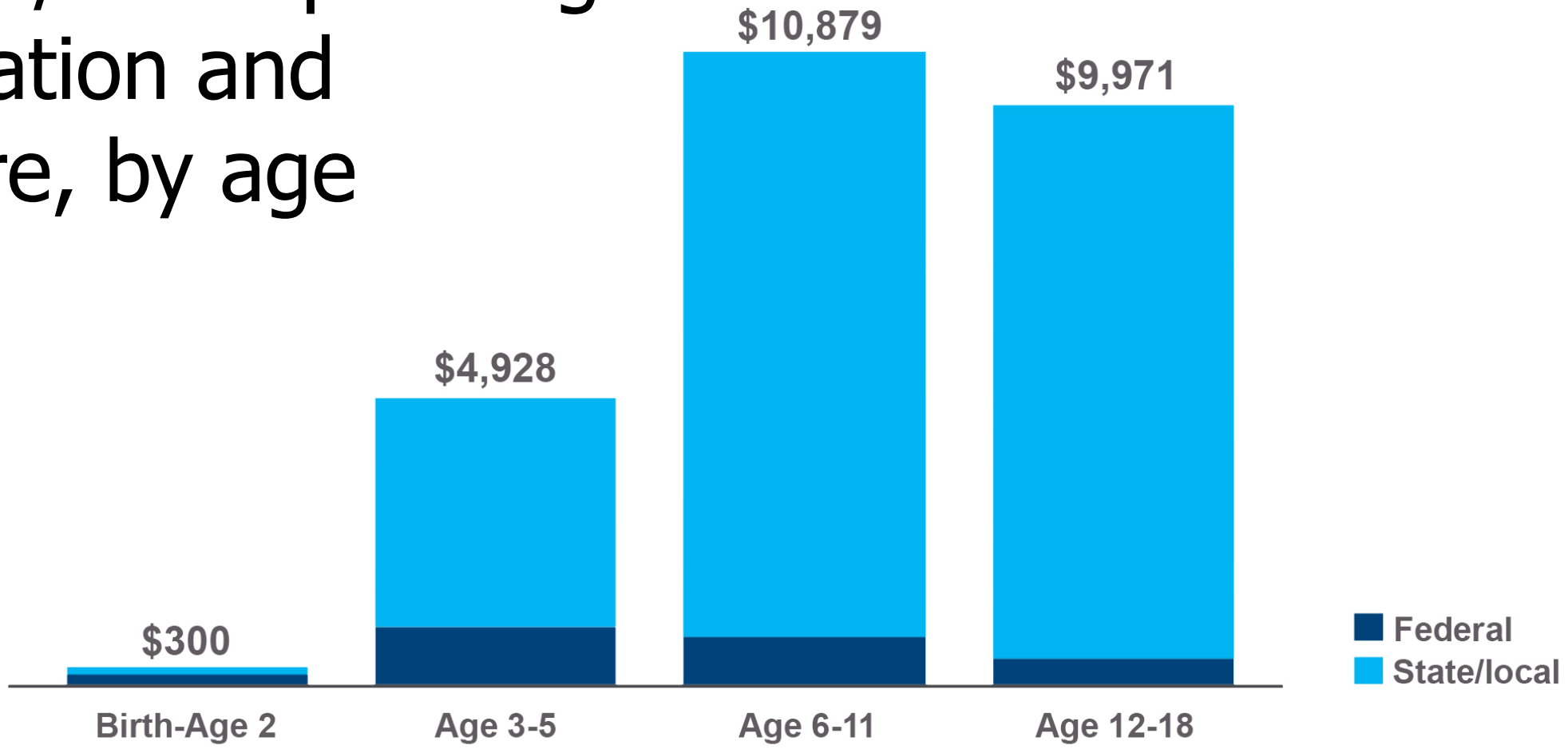


MORE EDUCATION



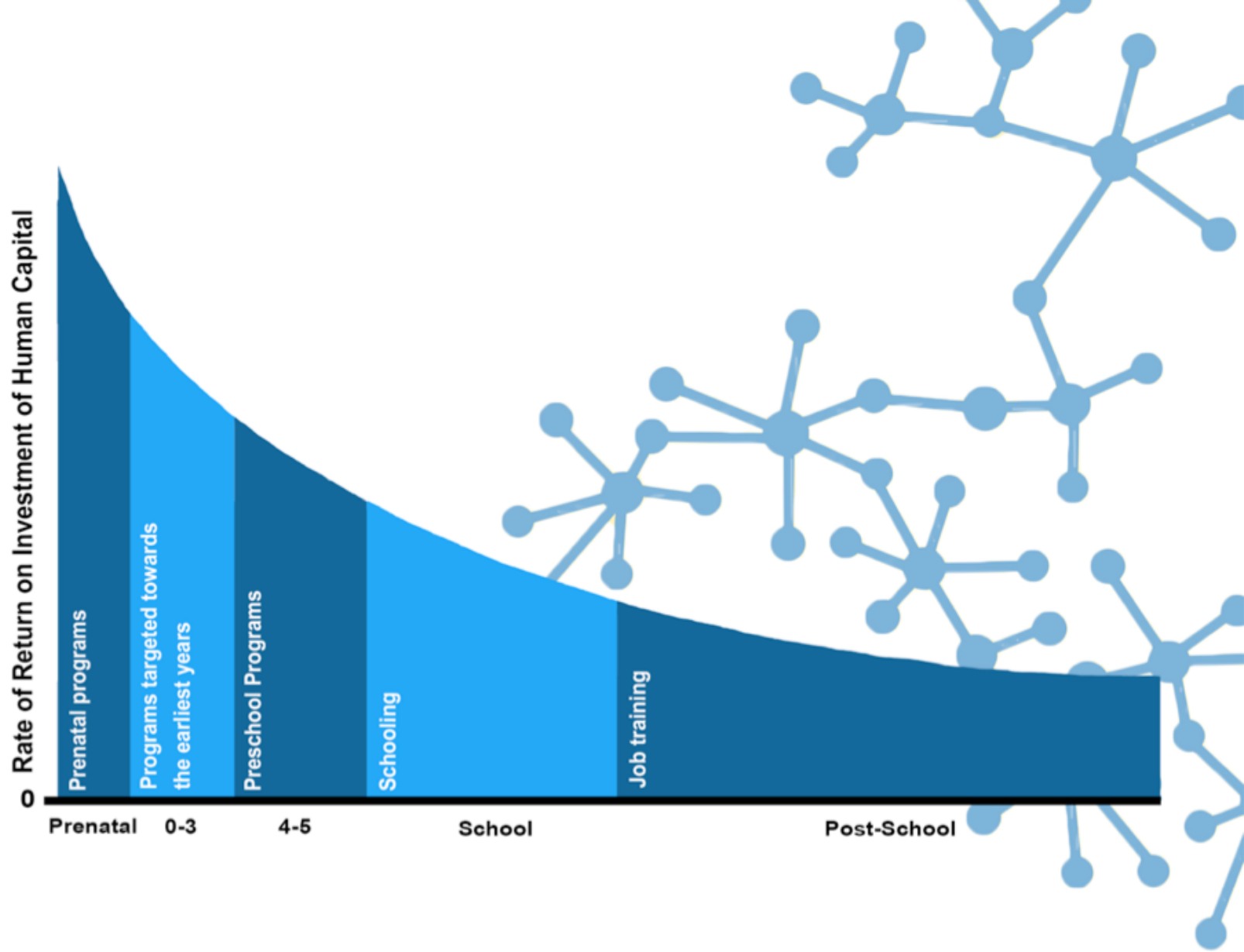
BETTER HEALTH

Estimated annual per child federal and state/local spending on education and early care, by age



Source: Edelstein et al. (2012); data is based on 2008 and 2011 expenditures

Investments in high-quality early childhood education drives a 13% per year return on investment.



Early Childhood is Infrastructure

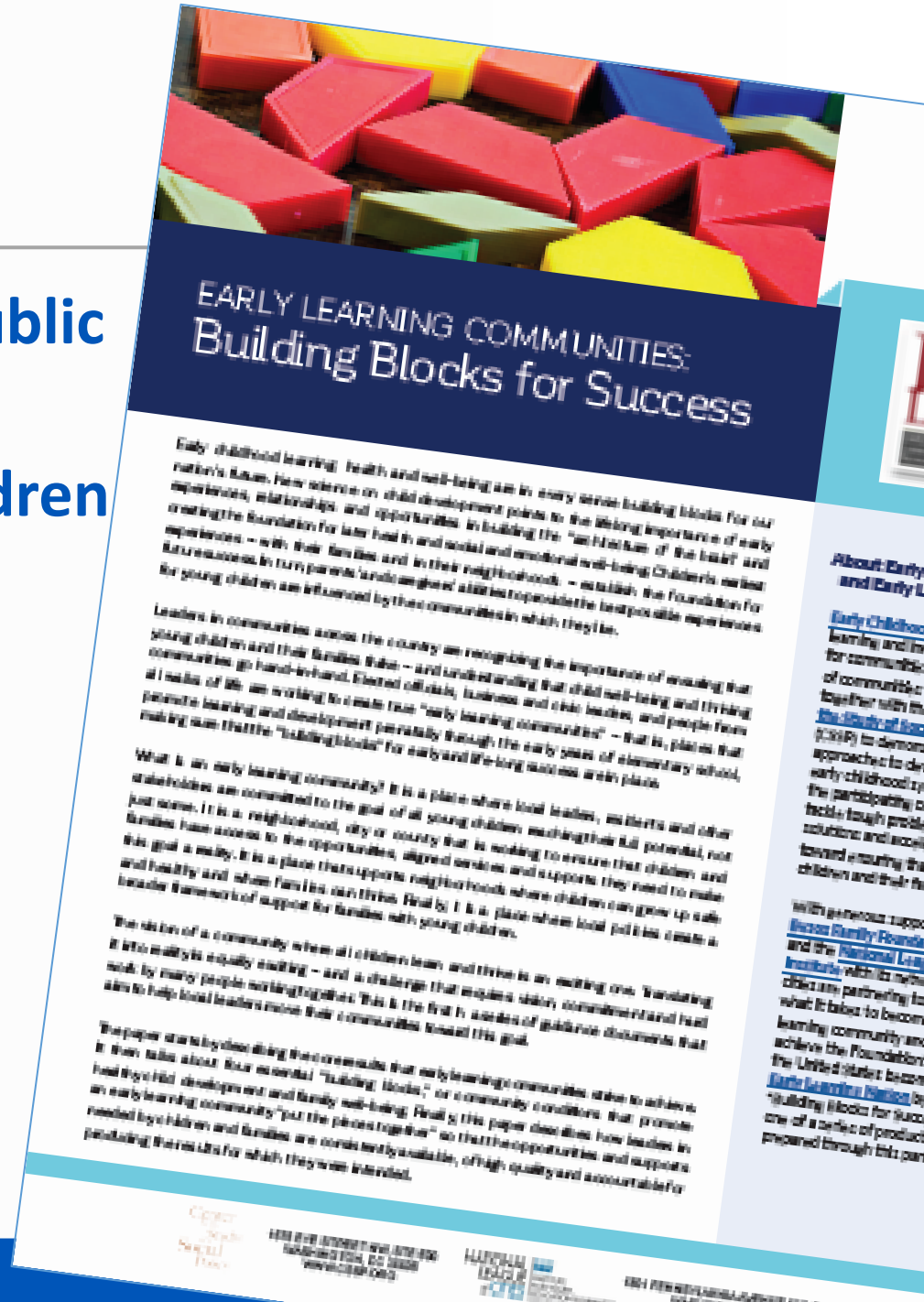


Building Blocks of Early Learning Communities

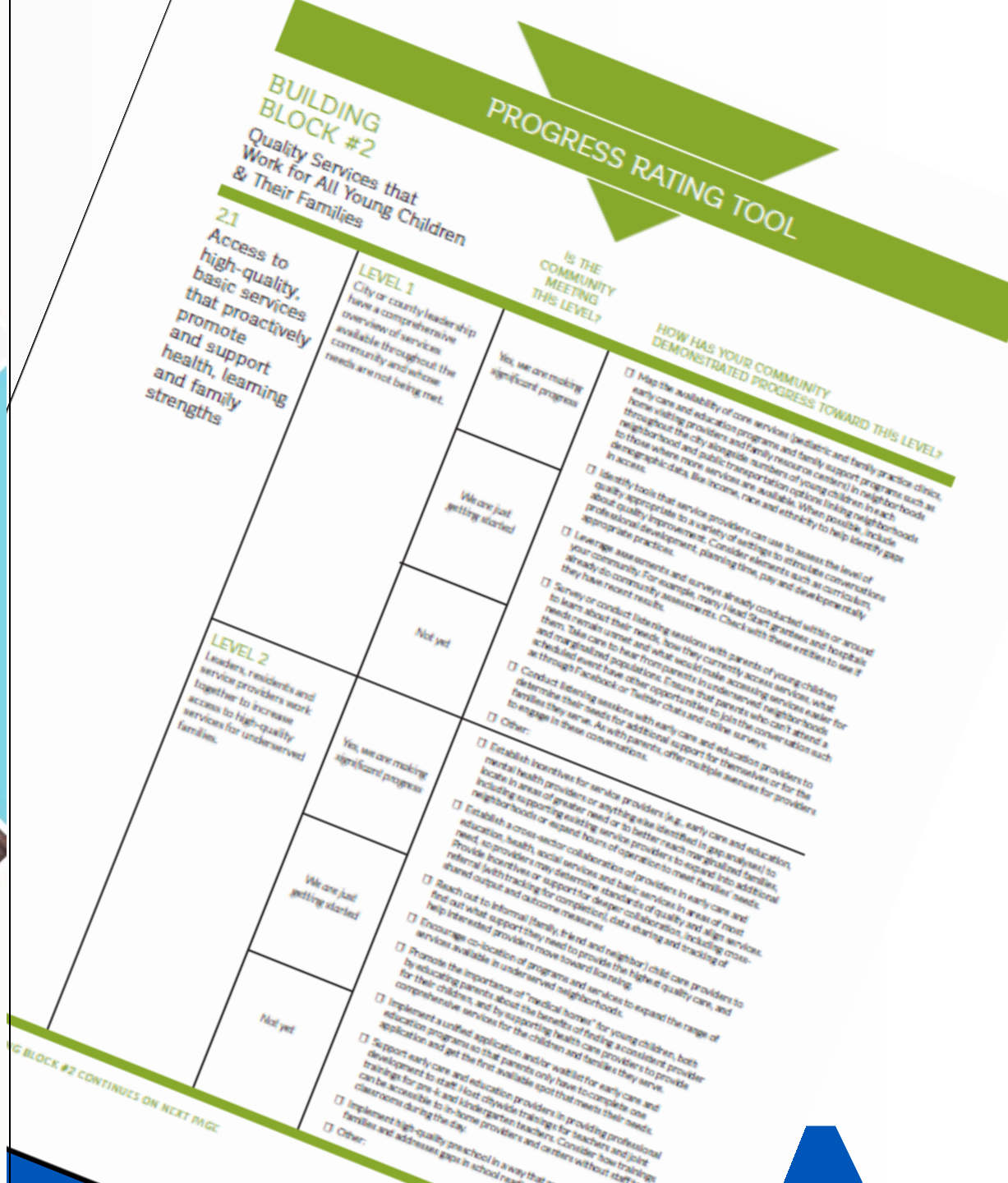
1. **Community leadership, commitment and public will to make early childhood a priority**
2. **Quality services that work for all young children and their families**
3. **Neighborhoods where families can thrive**
4. **Policies that support and are responsive to families**

Infrastructure:

- Effective leadership, Sustainable financial backing, Use of data to drive change, Support for service providers




Early Learning Community
Action Guide
Center for the Study of Social Policy
NLC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES
INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH, EDUCATION, AND FAMILIES


PROGRESS RATING TOOL
BUILDING BLOCK #2
Quality Services that Work for All Young Children & Their Families
21
Access to high-quality, basic services that proactively promote and support health, learning and family strengths
LEVEL 1
City or county leadership have a comprehensive overview of services available throughout the community and whose needs are not being met.
LEVEL 2
Leaders, residents and service providers work together to increase access to high-quality services for underserved families.
IS THE COMMUNITY MEETING THIS LEVEL?
Yes, we are making significant progress
We are just getting started
Not yet
HOW HAS YOUR COMMUNITY DEMONSTRATED PROGRESS TOWARD THIS LEVEL?
Map the availability of core services (pediatric and family practice clinics, early care and education programs and family support programs such as home visiting providers and family resource centers) in neighborhoods throughout the city alongside numbers of young children in each neighborhood and public transportation options linking neighborhoods to those where more services are available. When possible, include demographic data, like income, race and ethnicity to help identify gaps in access.
Identify tools that service providers can use to assess the level of quality appropriate to a variety of settings to stimulate conversations about quality improvement. Consider elements such as curriculum, professional development, planning time, play and developmentally appropriate practices.
Leverage assessments and surveys already conducted within or around your community. For example, many Head Start grantees and hospitals already do community assessments. Check with these entities to see if they have recent results.
Survey or conduct listening sessions with parents of young children to learn about their needs, how they currently access services, what needs remain unmet and what would make accessing services easier for them. Take care to hear from parents in underserved neighborhoods and marginalized populations. Ensure that parents who can't attend a scheduled event have other opportunities to join the conversation such as through Facebook or Twitter chats and online surveys.
Conduct listening sessions with early care and education providers to determine their needs for additional support for themselves or for the families they serve. As with parents, offer multiple avenues for providers to engage in these conversations.
Other:
Establish incentives for service providers (e.g., early care and education, mental health providers or anything else identified in gap analyses) to locate in areas of greater need or to better reach marginalized families, including supporting existing service providers to expand hours of operation to meet families' needs.
Establish a cross-sector collaboration of providers in early care and education, health, social services and basic services in areas of most need, so providers may determine standards of quality and align services. Provide incentives or support for deeper collaboration, including cross-referral (with tracking for completion), data sharing and tracking of shared output and outcome measures.
Reach out to informal (family, friend and neighbor) child care providers to find out what support they need to provide the highest quality care, and help interested providers move toward licensing.
Encourage co-location of programs and services to expand the range of services available in underserved neighborhoods.
Promote the importance of "medical homes" for young children, both by educating parents about the benefits of finding a consistent provider for their children, and by supporting health care providers to provide comprehensive services for the children and families they serve.
Implement a unified application and/or waitlist for early care and education programs so that parents only have to complete one application and get the first available spot that meets their needs.
Support early care and education providers in providing professional development to staff. Host citywide trainings for teachers and joint trainings for pre-k and kindergarten teachers. Consider how trainings can be accessible to in-home providers and centers without staff or classrooms during the day.
Implement high-quality preschool in a way that meets the needs of families and addresses gaps in school readiness.
Other:
BLOCK #2 CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

Emerging Early Childhood Trends in Cities

1. Shift to Systems Building
2. Framing around Infrastructure
3. Aligning with Future of Work
4. Focusing on PN-3
5. Local/State/Regional Collaborations
6. Align Efforts and Resources to Improve Outcomes and Well-Being

Adapted from: Polis,S and Lim,NZ (2017). *Community Benefit - the Dots*, Health Progress, January-February 2017. Catholic Health Association of America

Communities Are Key



NLC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

CITIES STRONG TOGETHER