Montgomery County Early Care and Education Strategic Plan 2017
Investments in Our Future
Priorities FY 2017 & FY 2018 – Updated April 2018

GOALS	Goal Responsibility
GOAL 1: High Quality from Birth in all Settings • **Analysis of level of effort specific to supporting programs with Maryland EXCELS advancement; addition of training and technical assistance specific to supporting programs with Maryland EXCELS advancement (S1)** ECS/R&R as part of the CCRC Network has a specific charge to support State quality initiatives. Each R&R sets specific benchmarks to work towards each year. This is ongoing work for the R&R and details are reflected in the R&R *At A Glance* document and the MCCR&RC Reports each year.	ECS/R&R
• **Identification of existing birth to five model programs and potential model programs to examine best practice in Early Childhood in the County (S3)** The Planning Specialist participated in informational meetings with the Policy Officer and representatives of County agencies and community providers of ECE services in order to compile summaries of programs and services as well as data on program participants and outcomes. During FY18 ECS Management is examining resources needed for ECS programs that serve both child care providers and families. ECS Management is using existing data through customer service and family surveys to do a trend analysis of where there are unmet needs. ECS programs will collect new customer service information from surveys in late spring 2018. The R&R is engaged in a Community Review process that will provide a report near the end of the summer in FY19.	ECS/ Management Team, ECEPO/Planning Specialist
• **Montgomery County Council Education and HHS Committees' request for PreK expansion options and costs of funding full-day prekindergarten for four-year-olds in a mixed delivery system (S4)** The Policy Officer facilitated a PreK expansion research group from September 2017 through March 2018; the report on program option and recommendations was submitted to the Joint Committee on April 2, 2018.	ECEPO/Policy Officer
GOAL 2: Affordable, Accessible Early Care and Education for all Children • **Implementation of Quality of Care Cost Modeling Study (S5)** The selected offeror for the Quality of Care Cost Modeling Study will begin the project in April 2018, and will provide a completed report in June 2018.	ECEPO/Planning Specialist

• **Increase funding for WPA to eliminate waitlist before engaging in other strategies (S6)** Additional funds for WPA were provided by the County Council for FY18; an analysis of voucher usage will be conducted at the end of FY18.	County Executive and County Council
• **Establish, where possible, a common application process for DHHS Child Care in Public Space (CCIPS) and the County Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF) Before-and-After child care program (S9)** DHHS and CUPF staff have agreed to coordinate a pilot for the 2018-2019 school year on a re-bid process in one school where there exists both a DHHS CCIPS program and a CUPF Before and After School Program.	ECS/CCIPS
An analysis of public and commercial space that could be used for child care will be conducted in coordination with PreK expansion options.	DGS, DHHS, MCPS
GOAL 3: An Educated, Diverse, Well-Compensated Early Childhood Workforce • **Tracking of Family Child Care (FCC) and center-based providers advancing on Maryland Early Childhood Credential (S10)** ECS/R&R as part of the CCRC Network has a specific charge to support State quality initiatives. Each R&R sets specific benchmarks to work towards each year. This is ongoing work for the R&R and details are reflected in the R&R *At A Glance* document and the MCCR&RC Reports each year.	ECS/R&R
• **Financial assistance to defray cost of ECE professional development and higher education (S10)** An increase of $50,000 was provided in FY18 by the Council to the scholarships available to ECE providers through the R&R.	County Executive and County Council
• **Continue Montgomery County's work and engagement with the Washington Region Early Care and Education Workforce Network and the National Academies on strategies for shared competencies, career pathways, and compensation across the region (S11, S12)** Continue Montgomery County's work and engagement with the Washington Region Early Care and Education Workforce Network and the National Academies on strategies for shared competencies, career pathways, and compensation across the region.	ECS/ Administrator and R&R Manager, Montgomery College

The R&R Manager and ECS Administrator participate in the Network, along with representatives from Montgomery College, in order to remain informed on Early Care and Education Workforce Regional Efforts and contribute to regional efforts on the development of a competency framework. The ECS Administrator is on the Core Team and the Steering Committee and participates fully in the development of the Network activities as the Montgomery County representative for Maryland. • **Fund outreach and capacity-building strategy, and implement an initiative in multiple languages to support those in the community interested in becoming a part of the licensed state child care system(S13)** Continue ongoing work of the full set of services of the R&R and the work of Council Bill 13-15 and the Quality Enhancement Initiative including outreach to prospective child care providers on registered/licensed care and for parents on choosing licensed, quality care. This work includes the translation of outreach materials into multiple languages.	ECS/R&R
GOAL 4: Transitions and Continuity Across Ages and Settings • **Continue the coordination between MCPS and child care programs, led by the ECCC, on smooth transitions to Kindergarten (S14)** The first transition coordination forum for child care providers and MCPS teachers was in Dec 2016, with two additional meetings in 2017. A form for providers to complete for each child as part of their transition packet to MCPS has been develop with input from the provider community and is being vetted by MCPS for distribution.	Child Care Providers, ECCC, ECS R&R, MCPS
GOAL 5: Leadership and Financing • **Achieve full membership/representation on the ECCC; examine budget needs for ECCC (S16)** Representatives for the identified stakeholders in the ECCC have been recruited and vacancies have been filled at two points in 2017. • **Ensure that the policy and program offices are adequately staffed and have sufficient authority to operationalize the full plan. (S17)** The ECS Management Team began work in April 2017 to examine the structure of roles and positions within the ECS division. This work resulted in an in-house *Structure Roadmap* completed in January 2018 that outlines	County Executive, County Council, ECEPO/Policy Officer ECS/Management Team

a 3-year plan regarding management and roles within ECS to build the capacity of the division to serve the public and the in-house development of teams across ECS to build upon the strengths and knowledge within the division. Additionally, ECS has developed a refreshed logo for the division and is working on marketing the services in ECS as one division to be more accessible to resident of the County. • **Continue work with MMF to align efforts of the strategic plan and MMF Call to Action for Early Care and Education (S18)** DHHS staff participate in the MMF Leadership and ECE Expert Advisory Group for MMF. DHHS has signed on in support of the MMF ECE Call to Action.	DHHS/CYF