



Early Childhood Coordinating Council Priorities for 2019-2020

Presented to the Montgomery County Council
Health and Human Services Committee
October 10, 2019

The Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC) was established by Bill 13-15 and is Montgomery County's local version of the State of Maryland's Early Childhood Advisory Council. The ECCC monitors, advocates, and makes policy recommendations for the development of a comprehensive system of early care and education in Montgomery County that supports children entering school ready to learn.

The ECCC is comprised of a variety of stakeholders and professionals with expertise in the early childhood field including: County parents, business and foundation representatives, the medical community, child care providers, local early care and education associations representatives, MCPS staff and families, MSDE staff, Montgomery County Libraries and County Government representatives. Our collective knowledge and expertise about early care and education, the importance of school readiness, and the needs of children and families in Montgomery County allows the ECCC to examine, discuss, problem solve and provide a comprehensive perspective about early care and education to County officials.

Specifically, the ECCC will focus on the following for the 2019-2020 year:

Priority 1: Taking part in projects and initiatives of the Maryland State Department of Education ECE around licensing and regulations. In order to better inform the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) focus on quality in early childhood services, the ECCC will actively participate in and respond to invitations to roundtables, surveys, community feedback, public comment, and other activities in the following areas:

- Development of the MSDE Strategic Plan and other Preschool Development Grant Birth through 5 projects, inclusive of MD EXCELS quality improvements
- Licensing regulations revisions
- Child Care Scholarship program regulation revisions
- Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCPDF)
- Training regulations revisions

Priority 2: Coordinating with other early care and education groups at the local level to collaborate, align, and advance the work around each group's ECE priorities collectively. The work of the ECCC is aligned with the goals from the DHHS Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education 2017, and helps to inform the ECE priorities of the following partners:

- Community Action Board
- Commission on Child Care
- Montgomery County Early Care and Education Initiative
- Montgomery Moving Forward
- Montgomery County Public Schools communities

Priority 3: Fulfilling the 3 projects funded through the MSDE Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) for Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils:

- Marketing and outreach campaign
- Focus groups and information sharing with Reading Corner families at Montgomery College-Germantown
- "No Small Matter" screening for public awareness-building with legislators