



EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL

FY 23 Top Policy Priorities (Amended 3/15/23)

The Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC) was established by Bill 13-15 and is Montgomery County's local Early Childhood Advisory Council for the State of Maryland. The ECCC monitors, advocates, and makes policy recommendations for the development of a comprehensive system of early care and education (ECE) 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, child care providers, local ECE associations' representatives, a pediatric representative, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff, Montgomery County Libraries and County Government representatives. Our collective knowledge and expertise about ECE, 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.

2022-2023 ECCC Top Priorities

The Early Childhood Coordinating Council will advance its mission in FY 23 through a focus on the following priorities:

Priority 1: Mental Health and Social/Emotional Well-being of children, families, and the early childhood workforce

- Recommend and support the development of a mapping tool that identifies available resources regarding mental health and emotional well-being for children and families.
- Recommend specifics for a public awareness campaign through use of the mapping tool.
- Advocate for increased opportunities and access to ongoing, high-quality job embedded professional development for child care professionals to help support the social-emotional development of children in early care environments.

Priority 2: Child Care Sustainability and Systems: Supporting the integration of a broad approach to the sustainability of child care as an industry, as a workforce, and as a provider of enriching and educational experiences for young children.

Focus on the broad approach to sustainability of the early care and education system by providing recommendations on the following issues:

- Continue to promote current and alternative pathways for the ECE workforce, specifically surrounding credentialing requirements outlined in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future
- Provide recommendations and advocate for increased compensation for early childhood educators to recruit and retain a more sustainable workforce
- Establish ways to promote the changes in systems (e.g., the increase in child care subsidy rates) to assure diverse communities are aware of resources and services
- Advocate for policies, processes and adequate funding that effectively put in place ECE systems/supports that assures high quality services are equitably available to our community

Priority 3: Integrate coordinated efforts of the Children's Opportunity Alliance, Early Childhood Coordinating Council and Commission on Child Care to assure that all stakeholders are achieving or making progress towards the goal of systems building

- Define the role of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council and the Children's Opportunity Alliance
- Identify the overlap of work within Early Childhood Coordinating Council , Commission on Child Care and the Children's Opportunity Alliance
- Develop landscape on roles and responsibilities of early care and education work
- Support the development of a shared services network where child care providers can access services and supplies at a no-fee or reduced fee cost (in ECEI Action Plan)
- Advocate for changes to the credentialing requirements in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future to allow more educators and child care programs to participate in the Pre-K programs