EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINAITNG COUNCIL

Top Policy Priorities
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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.

2021-2022 ECCC Top Priorities

The Early Childhood Coordinating Council will advance its mission in FY 22 through a focus on the following priorities:

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

- Increase public awareness of available resources regarding mental health and social-emotional well-being for children and families.
- Advocate for increased opportunities for training and technical assistance to child care professionals on social-emotional development to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic.
- Support the implementation of a public awareness campaign specifically focused on parents and caregivers.

Priority 2: Child Care Sustainability and Systems: Integrating 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.

- Develop actionable recommendations that focus on the direct support of child care programs to aid in the industry's recovery from the economic and enrollment effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Support the development of a local "LOCATE" service to increase community members' knowledge about child care options, improve access, and connect families with available child care providers.
- Continue to promote current and alternative pathways for early childhood credentials at Montgomery College and other higher education institutions.
- Provide recommendations and advocate for increased compensation for early childhood educators to create a more sustainable workforce.

Priority 3: Advocacy: Focusing on communication with MSDE, as well as allowing the ECCC to shift its areas of focus to address a broad range of topics and needs as they come up throughout the year. This will also allow the ECCC to support different groups, projects, and initiatives in the service of building a more comprehensive ECE system. Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF) will be a primary partner of the ECCC on advocacy.

- Partner with Maryland Family Network and other organizations across the state on the Pritzker funded [Building Better Beginnings (B3)](#) prenatal through age three project.
- Advocate for a competency credential and career ladder to allow for more providers to participate in PreK for All as proposed by Kirwan.
- Address licensing regulations revisions, temporary and permanent.
- Advocate for training for regulations revisions.
- Advocate for an equity focus within the early care and education workforce and the children and families served including an intentional focus on engaging families from across the socioeconomic spectrum as well as members from underrepresented communities including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.