



Early Childhood Coordinating Council Priorities for 2020-2021

Presented to the Montgomery County Council
Health and Human Services Committee
November 18, 2020

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, 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. The ECCC will also take into consideration the action plan of the Montgomery County Early Care and Education Initiative and will align priorities accordingly.

Specifically, the ECCC will focus on the following for the 2020-2021 year:

Priority 1: Mental Health and Social/Emotional Well-being of children, families, and the early childhood workforce: Supporting the wellness of families and their children, as well as the early care and education workforce caring for and teaching young children.

- Public awareness of available resources regarding mental health and social-emotional well-being for children and families.
- Training and technical assistance provided on the Pyramid Model on social-emotional development of children for child care professionals.

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.
- Support the use of and make future recommendations for the Working Parents Assistance program to address the developing needs of families in the community.
- Continue to promote current and alternative pathways for early childhood credentials at Montgomery College and other higher education institutions.

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 a building a more comprehensive ECE system. Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF) will be a primary partner of the ECCC on advocacy.

- Partnering with Maryland Family Network and other organizations across the state on the Pritzker funded Building Better Beginnings prenatal through three project.
- Licensing regulations revisions, temporary and permanent.
- Training regulations revisions.