



Arizona Early Childhood
Funders Collaborative
An Initiative of Arizona Grantmakers Forum

FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

The Arizona Early Childhood Funders Collaborative is an action-oriented group of funders committed to improving state policy outcomes for children birth to eight. Formed in partnership with the Alliance for Early Success as part of its Philanthropy Engagement Project, the collaborative is an initiative of Arizona Grantmakers Forum.

MEMBERS

Collaborative members include:

Arizona Community Foundation
First Things First
Helios Education Foundation
The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation
Vitalyst Health Foundation
The Whiteman Foundation

The collaborative fund is invested with the Arizona Community Foundation.

PURPOSE & MISSION

The collaborative adopted operating guidelines in 2017 that include its mission statement:

The Arizona Early Childhood Funders Collaborative is dedicated to exchanging and linking ideas, knowledge, research and resources by focusing statewide attention on a seamless continuum of quality early childhood services that strengthen Arizona's young children, families and communities within the context of their cultures, values and beliefs.

The collaborative pursues its mission by engaging government, businesses, nonprofit organizations and philanthropic partners from within and outside of Arizona to bring additional knowledge and resources to its efforts.

KEY PARTNERS

The collaborative aims to align its policy priorities with those of the Arizona Early Childhood Alliance and strives to complement its work.

2017 ADVOCACY FOCUS

AzECFC prioritized children's health care in 2017 with outreach to Arizona's congressional delegation and an *Arizona Republic* editorial supporting passage of federal legislation to reauthorize full funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program.

2018 ADVOCACY FOCUS

In early 2018, AzECFC engaged the communications firm IWS Public Affairs to develop and execute a multimedia project aimed at increasing awareness about quality early child care among voters and candidates during the 2018 elections. [Born to Learn AZ](#) launched in October 2018, and delivered early childhood-education focused messages and data to stakeholders, influencers and legislative candidates via email, direct mail and social media through the November 6 election.

2019 ADVOCACY FOCUS

AzECFC monitored state legislation aimed at improving outcomes for young children, including HB 2125, which authorizes expenditure of \$56 million in federal child care funds. It also supported legislation to protect KidsCare health coverage for 35,000 children with a letter to lawmakers urging them to vote NO on any state budget that freezes enrollment in the program.

In March, the collaborative agreed to build on the success of Born to Learn AZ by continuing its partnership with IWS. Phase II of the project will increase awareness of the importance of early childhood education by leveraging business, teachers, parents and creative messaging and messengers.

To inform key messages, the collaborative engaged Moore Information to conduct a statewide public opinion poll. The June survey of likely Arizona voters found that 73% support the state investing in high-quality early childhood education opportunities for children from birth to five years old.