



About the Alliance

The [Alliance for Early Success](#) is a catalyst for bringing state, national, and funding partners together to improve state policies for children, starting at birth and continuing through age eight. As an alliance of partners, we strive to advance state policies that lead to improved health, family, and learning outcomes for young children. We create and enhance partnerships by convening leaders in new and innovative ways, with the goal of achieving results faster and better than anyone could do alone. Our investors include: Buffett Early Childhood Fund, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Irving Harris Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Heising-Simons Foundation, George Kaiser Family Foundation, JB and MK Pritzker Family Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation and one anonymous donor. We work with others through aligned funding to accomplish shared goals.

Strategic Areas of Investment

We invest in three areas to support better policies, smarter funding, and, ultimately, better outcomes for young children.

- **Advocacy** to strengthen traditional child advocacy organizations and cultivate non-traditional children’s champions such as business and civic leaders, law enforcement, and retired military personnel.
- **Policymaker leadership** to inform policy and budget actions by governors, legislators, chief education officers, and state administrators.
- **Knowledge and research** to serve as a base for effective advocacy through unified and effective messages, user-friendly information, policy analyses and monitoring, and information sharing.

Alliance partners vary in size, location, expertise, but all share the goal of improving state policies for vulnerable young children and their families. Some partners receive financial grants. All partners receive supports in the form of technical assistance, peer networking, and rapid response. Partners include state advocacy organizations, business support organizations, research organizations, and state government support organizations. All Alliance partners:

- Focus on the policy areas in the Birth Through Eight State Policy Framework;
- Work in partnership with a network of state and national organizations;
- Share policy goals, successes, and lessons learned with other Alliance partners;
- Attend the annual Partner Summit, and other topical meetings of interest.

Hallmarks of Our Work

Partnerships. The Alliance is grounded in partnerships, recognizing that we are stronger and better together. During Alliance meetings and over the course of a year, we build bridges across sectors, make networking a priority, and purposefully connect information seekers with experts who are creating knowledge and peers who are putting it into action. Rather than individual grants for solo work, we do coordinated grant-making where state and national partners identify who they will work with to enhance their individual areas of expertise. Then we connect people in and across states, and across national expert organizations, to advance policy priorities. We also partner with organizations and funders doing related work to leverage innovative ideas and ensure resources are spent wisely.

National Technical Assistance (TA) Network. The Alliance curates a network of national organizations and individuals with expertise in early childhood. Our grants enhance or sustain organizational capacity, allowing experts to develop and maintain their expertise, and share it with state and national partners. The tools, databases, and reports that partners create are available for anyone advancing early childhood policies.

Rapid Response. The Alliance activates its network of experts and calls on others as needed through Rapid Response (RR). RR is immediate support that helps seize an unforeseen policy and funding opportunity, or fend off an unexpected crisis. All National TA Network grants set aside a portion for RR activities, and funds are set aside to bring in additional experts when needed. The majority of RR goes to support Alliance state partners, but RR funds can be used in any state where an immediate response can have a significant impact. RR allows the Alliance to provide flexible support, in real time, in a way that traditional funders often cannot.

A Birth Through Eight State Policy Framework

All Alliance activities and investments are strategically guided by our [Birth Through Age Eight State Policy Framework](#). Three policy priority areas are essential for the healthy growth and development of young children: health, family support, and learning. These are grounded on a foundation of standards, assessment, and accountability. The Framework presents evidence-based and best practice policy options. Two reports by Child Trends provide the research for each so everyone can feel confident that supporting these policies leads to good results. States determine which options to pursue based on their political, social, and economic conditions at any given point in time. The Framework is a roadmap for advancing state early childhood policies, based on a long history of work in the field and the input of more than 150 experts including early childhood advocates; business and civic leaders; experts in education, health, and family support; researchers; policymakers; and foundation officers.

The Future

The Alliance is available to work with any state interested in policy issues consistent with our Framework. Together, we can strengthen advocacy, improve state policies, and achieve better outcomes for vulnerable young children and families. To learn more, visit us at:

www.earlysuccess.org.

