K-Ready Priorities

Healthy Beginnings

Significant Disparities in health and education access and utilization of services as well as outcomes for families with young children.

Limited Awareness of Importance of Early Childhood Development, what children need, and how to give all children a strong start.

High-quality Care & Education

Lack of Alignment on Kindergarten Ready Definition Programs, teacher training, student assessments, and quality standards are inconsistent and do not always align with a working definition of "Kindergarten Ready" that is developmentally and culturally appropriate.

Insufficient Capacity and Teacher Shortages in ECE are a critical concern since the pandemic, especially in low-income neighborhoods.

Inadequate Funding for ECE means that most families can't afford ECE for their children and most ECE teachers do not earn a living wage.

Supported Families

Lack of Resources and Tools to Address Widespread Trauma to help children build resiliency and critical socio-emotional and coping skills.

Struggling Families Many families with young children are struggling and need support, especially those with women heads of households where almost a third are below 100% of poverty.

K-Ready COMMUNITY
A Voice for Children

Vision
We are a community united and committed to making early childhood a top priority.

Mission
To build a better system of care and education for early childhood so EVERY child has a strong start and a bright future

Plan of Action

Healthy Beginnings

Home visitation and support for maternal and infant well-being

Integrated system of care, navigation, and follow thru

Information campaigns for parents and leaders on importance of early years

High-quality Care & Education

Standard working definition of Kindergarten Ready with developmentally and culturally appropriate assessments, programs, and training

Funding policies and braided funding strategies to drive quality and address resource gaps

Early learning workforce college and career pathways, wages, and compensation

Supported Families

Resources and training to address trauma and mental health (resiliency training, Circle of Security)

Business engagement and childcare policies (e.g. Bosses for Babies campaign)

Neighborhood access to family supports (community centers, schools, churches)

Foundational Systems

Structure and supports for ECE provider industry and capacity

Integrated early childhood data systems, research, and metrics

Alliance-building and advocacy for early childhood policies