



Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Impact Project

Overview

Background: According to the 2020 Zero to Three State of Babies, Florida is doing worse than the national average on indicators such as the lower percentages of babies who received developmental screening and babies who receive IDEA Part C services. According to this data, only 16% of Florida's infants and toddler received developmental screening and only 7% are receiving IDEA Part C early intervention services. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is committed to assisting states and territories in their efforts to build and implement comprehensive statewide systems in early childhood that support family and community approaches to promote positive early development and early school success for young children.

Purpose: The purpose of the Florida ECCS Impact Project is to enhance early childhood systems building and demonstrate improved outcomes in population-based children's developmental health and family well-being indicators using a Collaborative, Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN) approach. An additional goal of the Florida ECCS Impact Project is the development of collective impact expertise, operationalization of racial equity, and implementation and sustainability of efforts at the state, county and community levels.

Aim: The overall aim of the ECCS Impact Project is that by 2021, communities participating in the ECCS Impact CoIIN will show a 25 percent increase from baseline in age appropriate developmental skills of their community's three-year-old children.

Award: Florida is one of 12 states awarded the five-year ECCS Impact grant by HRSA. The Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc. (FAHSC), the nonprofit organization administering the Florida Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) initiative for the state, will oversee the successful implementation of the ECCS Impact grant. This project builds on current state efforts and partnerships to improve the developmental health of young children and family well-being in high-need communities with a focus on racial equity. To build on the work of the Florida ECCS Impact Project, additional funding and support is being provided through Nemours Children's Health System to implement Project HOPE (Harnessing Opportunity for Positive, Equitable Early Childhood Development). Project HOPE is designed to generate progress toward equitable outcomes for young children and their families by building the capacity of local communities and state leaders to prevent social adversities in early childhood and promote child wellbeing.

Sites: Taking on United Childhood Challenges Harmoniously (TOUCCH) in Miami and Champions for Children (CFC) in Tampa are the two Florida place-based communities participating in the national ECCS Impact CoIIN. TOUCCH's work is focused in Liberty City and Overtown, two high-need, predominantly African-American communities in Northwest Miami. TOUCCH is a grassroots organization that was founded by residents, business owners, parents and grandparents to advocate and empower early care

and education centers, their educators, directors and owners in under-resourced communities to ensure high quality early care and education for all children. CFC is focusing their ECCS improvement efforts in the Town and Country neighborhood, a largely Spanish-speaking community in Northwestern Hillsborough County. CFC works to positively impact the lives of children and their families across the Tampa Bay area through empowering programs that instill their hope in the future. CFC's ECCS work is partnered with the Growing up Great (GUG) program, a family support program in Town and Country that is aimed at improving parent engagement and children's school readiness and success.

Data: Using NICHQ's change approach, which leverages collaboration, innovation and quality improvement methodology, each ECCS state and their communities will implement a series of evidence-based solutions and use data to track results. To reach its aim of improving the developmental skills of 3-year-old children by 25 percent from current levels, Florida ECCS has adapted NICHQ's change strategy with six primary drivers:

1. Family Partnership
2. Universal Developmental Promotion
3. Social Determinants of Health
4. Coordinated Systems
5. Policy
6. Social-Emotional Well-Being

Additional Funding: In January 2019, additional funding and support was provided by Nemours Children's Health System to implement Project HOPE (Harnessing Opportunity for Positive, Equitable Early Childhood Development) and build on the work of the Florida ECCS Impact Project. Project HOPE is designed to generate progress toward equitable outcomes for young children (prenatal to age five) and their families by building the capacity of local communities and state leaders to prevent social adversities in early childhood and promote child wellbeing. Project HOPE is fully aligned with Florida ECCS and leverages its resources, such as its state advisory group, which is comprised of state and community-level stakeholders.

Project HOPE builds upon previous efforts to promote equity and reduce disparities among young children through a partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County and the Parramore Heritage community in Orlando, Florida. Parramore Heritage is Orlando's highest poverty neighborhood and home to Parramore Kids Zone (PKZ), a Florida Children's Initiative whose mission is to level the playing field for Parramore's children, equipping them to become successful, healthy, well-educated adults. PKZ accomplishes this by investing in things that make a difference in children's lives – such as quality early childhood education, after school programs, and programs that build family economic success.

The additional funding from Project HOPE has allowed Florida ECCS to enhance its work by adopting a racial equity lens, amplifying community voice and building the leadership capacity of parents, expanding the ECCS state advisory group to include four additional place-based communities, identifying early childhood policy priorities and ways to strategically communicate them to policymakers, promoting social-emotional development, and providing funding and support to place-based communities to engage parents and conduct community health events for families with young children.