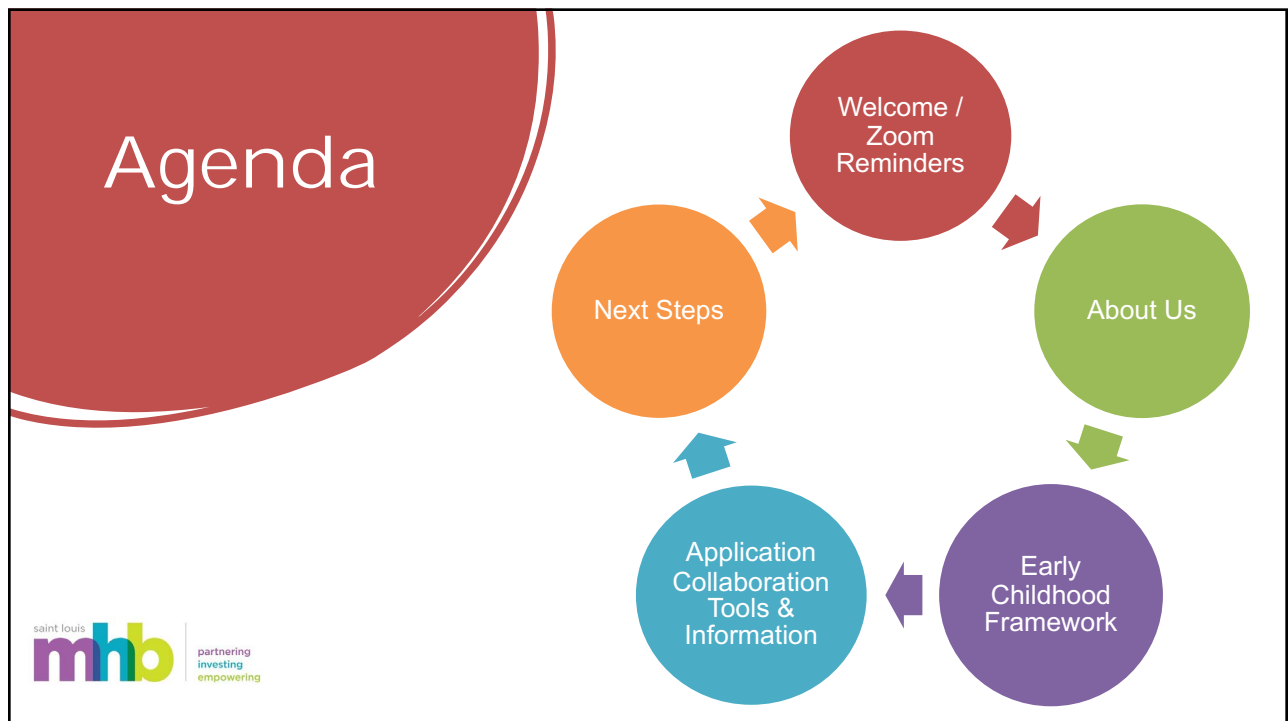




# CCSF: Early Childhood Framework Overview

MHB Early Childhood Funding (FY23-25) Community Meeting  
November 3, 2021

1



2

## About Us

**Board of Trustees**

- LINDA CRAVSON, Chair
- TERRILL CARTER, Vice Chair
- DOMINA SCHMITT, Secretary/Treasurer
- MARYLOU CALZABETTA, Board Member
- MARGUERITE BRANDELOUS, Board Member
- CAROLYN JACKSON, Board Member
- JULIA LOPEZ, Board Member
- PHIL MINDEN, Board Member
- CASANDRA PRINCE, Board Member
- ROBERT FORBES, Board Member
- CARLA ROSE, Board Member
- YUSUF KOCOM, Board Member

**Staff Members**

- CASANDRA RAUFMAN, Executive Director
- SERENA MUHAMMAD, Deputy Director
- KIRSTIN COVART, Director of Outreach Services
- SUE CULLI, Digital Director
- TOM OILES, Director of Operations
- KESHIA HAIR, Early Childhood Project Coordinator
- SUSAN KABAT, Coordinator
- MARY ANN HERR, Project Director, System of Care
- JESSICA MEYERS, Program Director, Violence Prevention/Outreach
- LISA POTTS, Senior Project Director
- KATE BITT, Accountant

Our vision is to invest in high-quality programs that are effective and lead to real improvement in the well-being of those served AND strengthening an integrated system of social, behavioral and physical health services to build an equitable, thriving community.

MHB administers two St. Louis City dedicated property taxes:

- **The Community Mental Health Fund** (est. 1994)
- **The Community Children’s Services Fund** (est. 2004 / Prop R expansion in 2020)

MHB also secures additional resources (ex. federal grants, foundations, etc.) for:

- **Strategic Initiatives**

[stlmhb.com](http://stlmhb.com)

3

## Early Childhood Framework Development

July: Early Childhood (EC) Survey

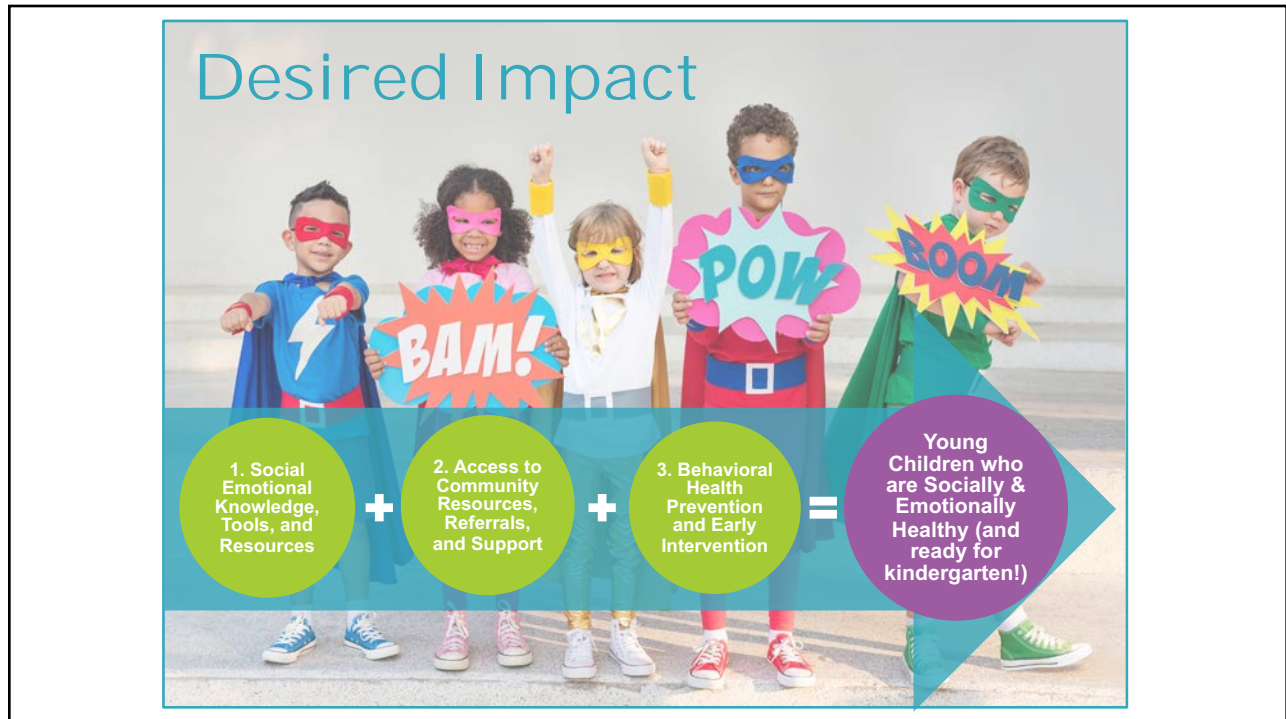
August: EC Focus Groups/Listening Sessions

August - October: Community Advisory Committee Meetings

October: MHB Board of Trustees approved the EC Framework

November: EC Framework Community Meetings

4



5

# Caregiver Defined

**Caregiver:** Anyone who is responsible for the care and development of a child. This is inclusive of both:

- Daily Caregivers:** Teachers, neighbors, family friends, babysitters, etc.

AND

- Primary Caregiver(s):** Parents, relatives, adoptive parents, foster parents, etc. (inclusive of all traditional and non-traditional family structures)

6



## Who? - Early Childhood Participant Population

---

Young children ages 0-5 living in the city of St. Louis receiving early childhood care in a center or home OR who are being cared for at home (not currently in out-of-home care)

- Many of whom live in neighborhoods in which families may struggle to afford early childhood care and/or
- Not enough providers of subsidized care/care overall exist

7

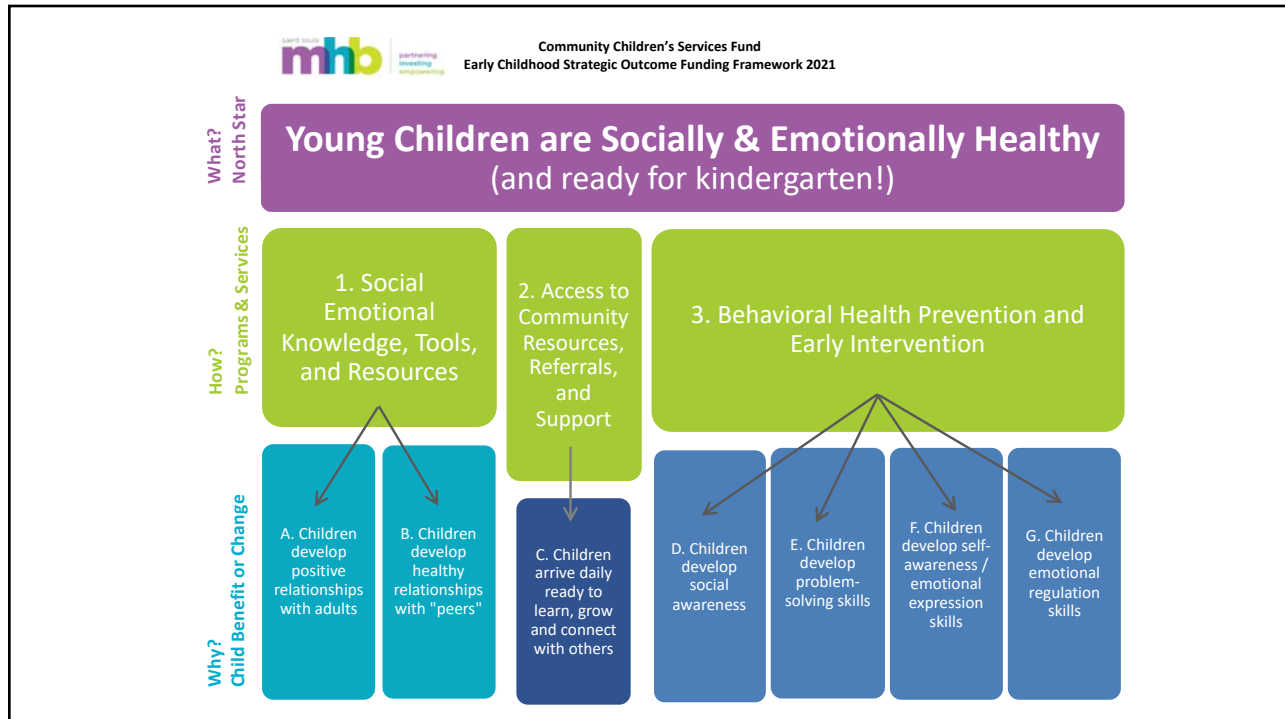


## Early Childhood Framework Assumptions


---

1. **Caregivers in Early Childhood** play a significant role in laying the foundation for young children to develop socialization, communication, critical thinking, focus, self-control, and self-motivation skills, all of which are necessary for success in school and life.
2. **Social Emotional Development** is critical in helping young children understand and manage their emotions, feel and show empathy toward others, establish healthy relationships, set positive goals, and make responsible decisions. It also leads to fewer behavioral problems, less emotional distress, more positive social behavior, and improved future academic success.
3. **Access to Community Resources, Referrals, and Support** is vital in ensuring the well-being of families and thus essential for children to feel safe, secure, and arrive each day ready to connect, learn, and grow.
4. **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** can have lasting, negative effects on a child's health, well-being, and future opportunities. Creating and sustaining safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments can prevent ACEs and help all children reach their fullest potential.
5. **Behavioral Health Prevention and Early Intervention** are not only more impactful and cost-effective during the early years they can change a child's developmental path and improve outcomes for children, families, and communities.

8



9


 Early Childhood Funding Focus

---

**1. Collaborative and Impactful**

- **Partnership.** All applicants must partner with home/center providers and proposals designed together to ensure the program/services proposed meet the needs of the early childhood community.
- **Feedback-Learning.** An annual survey/evaluation will be implemented by MHB or another 3<sup>rd</sup> party to be completed by participants/caregivers about funded programs. Feedback will be provided to funded partners as a tool for learning, reflection, and growth/improvement.

**2. Equitable, Accessible, and Inclusive**

- **Barriers.** Funded programs must address barriers to participation (ex. childcare, food, transportation, etc.).
- **Caregiver Participation.** Programs centering caregiver involvement and engagement will be prioritized.
- **Critical Connections.** Applications should highlight and address the school-family-child connection and a two-generation approach.

10



## Early Childhood Funding Focus

### 3. Stable and Sustainable

- **Foundational Services.** Social Emotional Knowledge, Tools, and Resources (i.e. social emotional curriculum and assessment) will be funded for 3 years + 3 additional years without full application if the funded project is in good standing. Why?
  - These foundational services would create a gap if discontinued after 3 years
  - Staff turnover requires ongoing training
  - Access to these foundational services supports quality early childhood services/early intervention
  - Additional years of funding will allow MHB to track important outcomes over longer periods of time

### 4. Flexible and Responsive


- **Flexible Funding.** Programs will be funded using a 75/25 approach (approx. \$1,750,000 annually set aside for 3-year competitive grants and approx. \$575,000 set aside annually for rolling applications to be funded in a separate process for newly identified gaps/needs. Why?
  - Investing in a prevention/early intervention assessment approach will uncover needs that may exist but are currently unavailable (ex. long waitlists) and/or are missing (i.e. services not available until age 6 and need to be established for ages 0-5).

11



## Early Childhood Funding Next Steps


12



## Early Childhood Funding General Timeline

When?	What?
Nov-Dec 2021	Non-profit organizations and center/home providers collaborate around project design
Nov-Dec 2021	Keshia Hair "office hours" Thursday's 9am-11am AND 1pm-3pm (11/18, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16) SIGN UP AT - <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/9apqYMW5J2">https://forms.office.com/r/9apqYMW5J2</a>
January 2022	Phase 1: Request for proposals announced
February 2022	Applicants submit proposals / Proposals reviewed / Most applicants invited to Phase 2
March 2022	Phase 2: Applicants receive MHB Technical Assistance with project budget / logic model
April 2022	Applicants submit budget and logic model / Budget and logic model reviewed
May 2022	MHB Board of Trustees make final funding decisions / Applicants notified
June 2022	Contracting begins
July 2022	Funded projects begin

13



## Funding Targets: Programs & Services

1. **Social Emotional Development Knowledge, Tools, and Resources**
  - **Home/Classroom Management Curriculum** (Implement and sustain a social emotional development approach for home/center providers - ex. Conscious Discipline)
  - **Social Emotional Developmental Screening and Assessment Training and Referral** (Implement a training and referral process for home/center providers - ex. Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional or ASQ-SE)
2. **Access to Community Resources, Referrals, and Support**
  - **Family Support Partner(s)** (Peer mentor(s) with lived experience (shared by multiple providers) help caregivers access resources, social supports, and navigate parenting strengthening family and child well-being)
3. **Behavioral Health Prevention and Early Intervention**
  - **Therapeutic Intervention/Prevention Services** (Parenting groups, early childhood groups, individual/family therapy, psychological evaluations, etc.)
  - **Home Visiting Screening Support** (Social emotional developmental screening training for home visiting programs to implement an assessment and referral process for children 0-5, primarily focusing those cared for at home/not in out-of-home care)

14

How + Why  
= Impact

---

(Outcome  
Indicators)





15


How + Why  
= Impact  
(Outcome  
Indicators)

**1. Social Emotional Knowledge, Tools, and Resources**

**A. Children develop positive relationships with adults:** Child develops expectations of consistent, positive interactions through secure relationships with familiar adults (0-2). Child engages in and maintains positive relationships and interactions with adults (3-5).

*Note: Specific outcome indicators with (ages 0-2) and (ages 3-5) are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcome Framework: Birth to Age Five Social and Emotional Development domain.*

**B. Children develop healthy relationships with "peers":** Child shows interest in, interacts with, and develops personal relationships with other children (0-2). Child engages in cooperative play with other children (3-5).



16



How + Why  
= Impact  
(Outcome  
Indicators)



## 2. Access to Community Resources, Referrals, and Support

**C. Children arrive daily ready to learn, grow and connect with others:** Caregivers navigate systems more effectively, learn from the experiences of others, feel less alone, and/or gain new ideas and information (This support helps caregivers meet children's needs more efficiently and with greater confidence).

*Note: This is the only indicator not connected to the Head Start Framework. It is connected to SAMHSA's Family, Parent and Caregiver Peer Support in Behavioral Health model.*

17

How + Why  
= Impact  
(Outcome  
Indicators)



## 3. Behavioral Health Prevention and Early Intervention Services

**D. Children develop social awareness:** Child recognizes and interprets emotions of others with the support of familiar adults (0-2). Child expresses care and concern toward others (3-5).

**E. Children develop problem-solving skills:** Child imitates and engages in play with other children (0-2). Child uses basic problem-solving skills to resolve conflicts with other children (3-5).

**F. Children develop self-awareness / emotional expression skills:** Child learns to express a range of emotions (0-2). Child expresses a broad range of emotions and recognizes these emotions in self and others (3-5)

**G. Children develop emotional regulation skills:** Child manages emotions with the support of familiar adults (0-2). Child recognizes self as a unique individual having own abilities, characteristics, emotions, and interests (3-5).

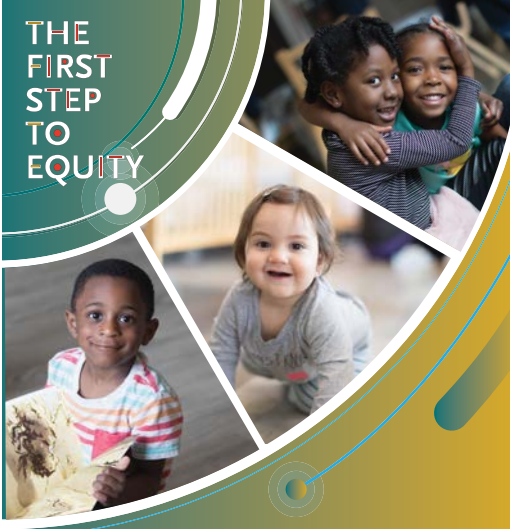
18

# The First Step to Equity: Building a Better Future for Early Childhood Education


- The First Step to Equity: Building a Better Future for Early Childhood Education in St. Louis examines access to quality early childhood education programs, identifies gaps in service, and pinpoints other early childhood education infrastructure needs in the St. Louis region (upcoming slides 20-22 connected to slide 7).
- <https://iff.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-First-Step-to-Equity-STL-ECE-Detailed-Methodology.pdf>



## THE FIRST STEP TO EQUITY

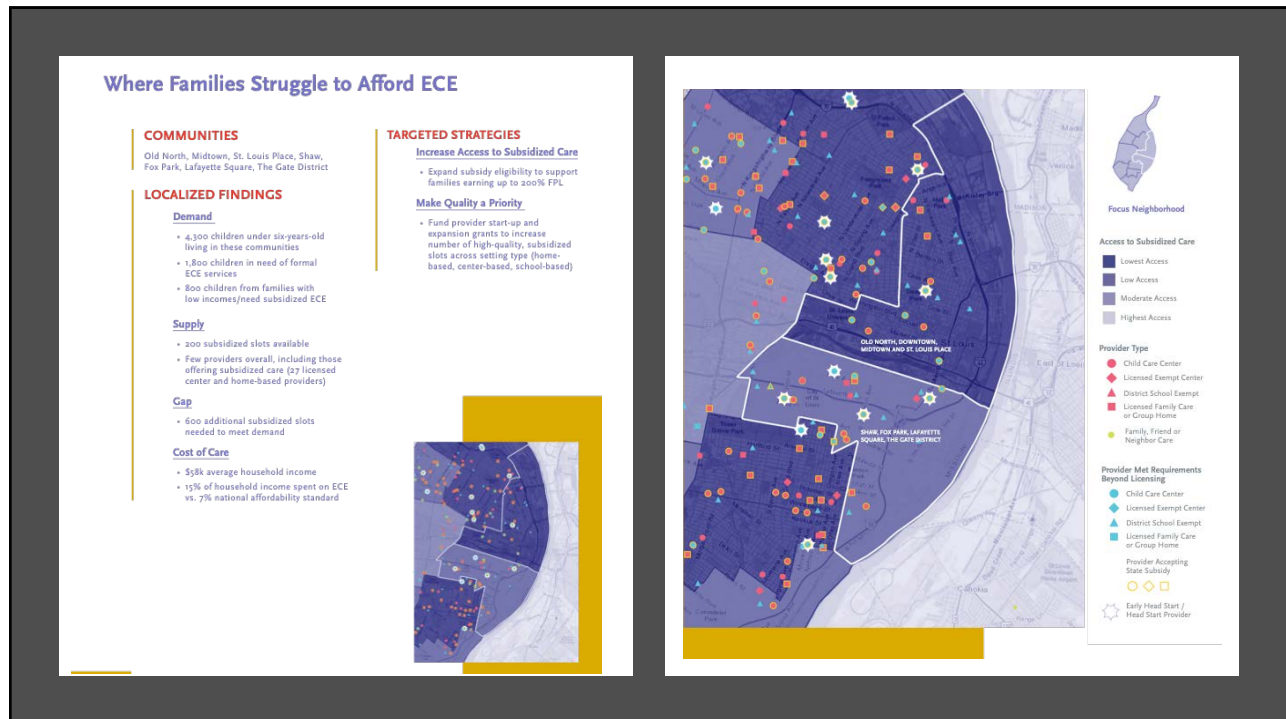


DETAILED METHODOLOGY

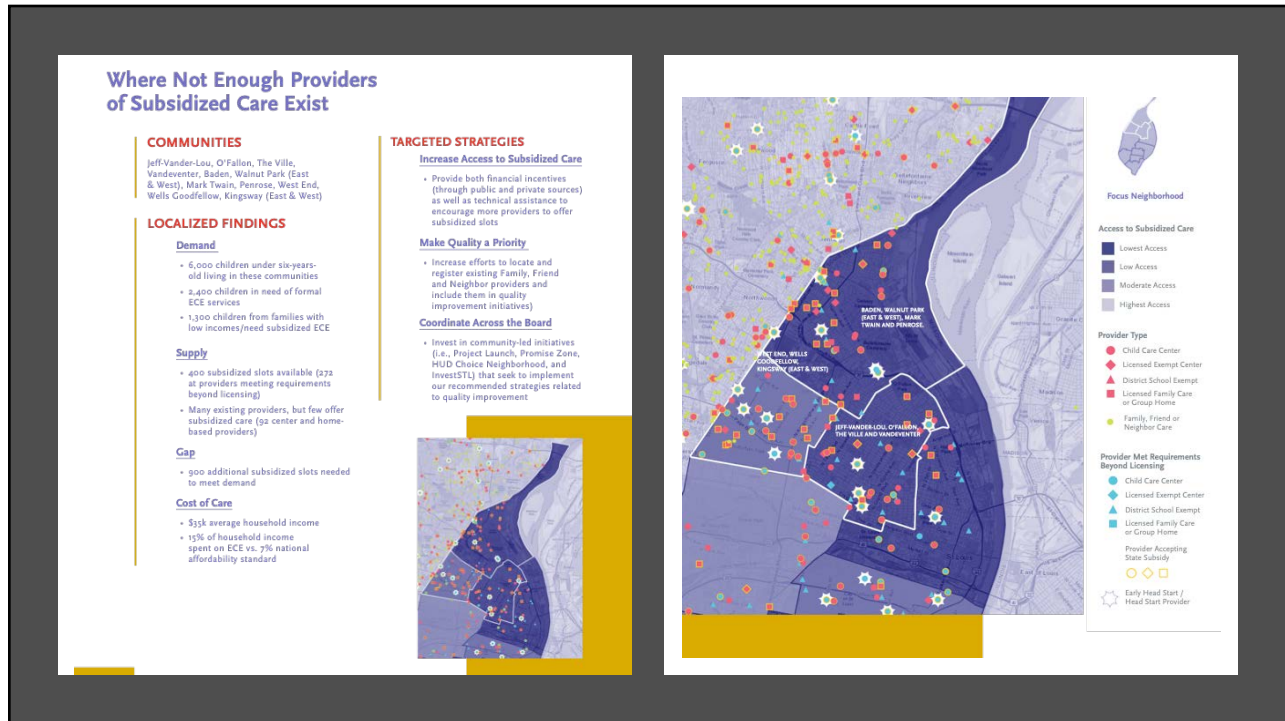


Building a Better Future Through Early Childhood Education in St. Louis

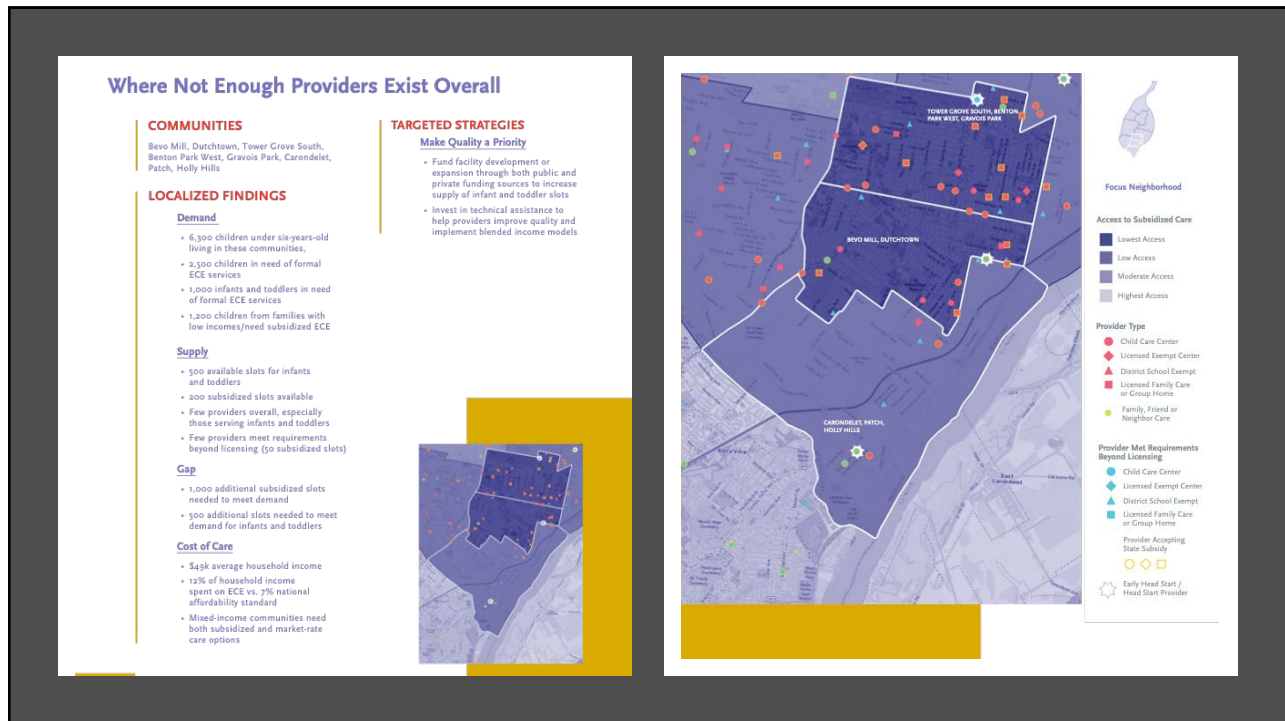
19



20



21



22

## Applicant (Non-Profit Organization) Responsibility

---

- 1. Coordinate with home/small center providers in November/December
- 2. Complete the application in January



## Home/Center Provider Responsibility

---

- 1. Coordinate with non-profit organizations in November/December
- 2. Complete the letter in January



<p>Home Business/Center Name Address City, Zip code</p> <p>Date</p> <p>Cassandra Kaufman Executive Director Saint Louis Mental Health Board 333 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200 St. Louis, MO 63103</p> <p>Dear Ms. Kaufman:</p> <p>As the Owner/Center Director of [Home Business/Center Name], I am pleased to provide a letter of support for [Organization Name]. I have been meeting and collaborating with this nonprofit organization regarding providing the [Project Name] project to be provided at our home/center sometime between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 for children in our care between the ages of 0 to 5.</p> <p><b>About Us:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Our home/center is in the _____ neighborhood.</li> <li>2. We have _____ staff now and _____ when fully staffed.</li> <li>3. We care for _____ children now and _____ children when full.</li> <li>4. I am a _____ (home-based or center-based) provider.</li> </ol> <p><b>About the Partnership:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I understand that the project will provide the following services to our home/center _____</li> <li>2. Through this project our children, families, and/or teachers, will benefit because they will gain _____</li> <li>3. We will provide this organization with appropriate space for program activities at our home/center and access to children who will be participating in the project, at a time we both agree.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. The organization has agreed to let us know if anything changes with the project or agreed upon schedule.</li> <li>5. We also agree to complete the <u>anonymous</u> email survey sent to us by MHB once per year and we will also ask other adults involved in the project (teachers and parents/caregivers) to complete the survey about the funded program. <i>"Anonymous feedback will be provided to funded partners as a tool for learning, reflection, growth, and project improvement."</i></li> </ol> <p>I understand that I may contact Kristin Cowart, Director of Children's Services at the St. Louis Mental Health Board, via e-mail at <a href="mailto:kcowart@stlmhb.com">kcowart@stlmhb.com</a> or via phone at (314) 535-6984 x21 at any time if I have concerns about this project, and that my concerns will be addressed in a confidential and time-sensitive manner.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Electronic Signature</p> <p>[Name] [Title - if applicable] [Name of Home Business/Center]</p>
---	--

25

# Thank You!

## Contact Us

Kristin Cowart  
Director of Children's Services  
[kcowart@stlmhb.com](mailto:kcowart@stlmhb.com)

Keshia Hair  
Early Childhood Project  
Coordinator  
[khair@stlmhb.com](mailto:khair@stlmhb.com)



26