

# Put MA Kids First

*The Coalition to Promote Quality Early Ed and Out-of-School Time*

## Coalition Members

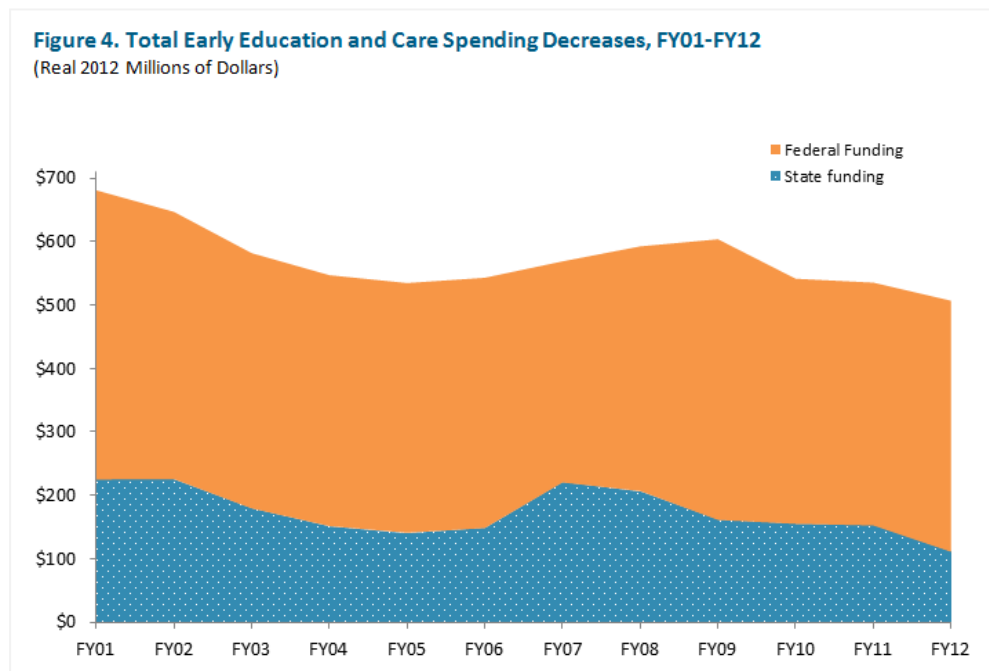
- Action for Boston Community Development
- Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs
- American Association of University Women
- Bay State Child Care Food Program
- BOSTnet
- Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester
- Cape Cod Child Development
- Catholic Charities Boston
- Child Care Resources/Children's Aid and Family Services - Seven Hills Foundation
- Child Development & Education, Inc.
- Children's Investment Fund
- Community Action of the Franklin, Hampshire, and North Quabbin Regions
- Community Teamwork
- East End House
- Edward Street Child Services
- Ellis Memorial
- Families First
- Fedcap Rehabilitation Services
- For Kids Only Afterschool
- Guild of St. Agnes
- Horizons for Homeless Children
- Infants & Other People Inc.

## Focused on Giving Children a Strong Educational Foundation

A renewed commitment is needed to put our youngest children on the right track. It's time community-based early education and out-of-school programs are recognized as essential elements of the education system. They are not extras, nor optional. Strengthening community-based early education and care should be an integral part of the Commonwealth's long-term plan to invest in human capital to support growth and quality goals.

Having children prepared for a lifetime of learning requires consistent, quality educators. However, pathways for the workforce are not economically viable. With average salaries of less than \$25,000 and a turnover rate of nearly 30 percent<sup>1</sup> in early learning and out-of-school programs, quality becomes increasingly difficult to maintain. Community-based programs invest significant dollars to help teachers earn graduate degrees or achieve further training and credentialing, only to see them leave for higher paying teaching jobs in district schools, or other unrelated fields.

In Massachusetts, there are more than 8,800 early education and care programs employing over 40,000 people, with revenues of \$1.5 billion. A serious investment in centers providing this educational foundation for children is long overdue.



**State funding decreased by 50% from FY01 to FY12 (adjusted for inflation)**

*Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center. Declines in Spending on Early Education & Care in Massachusetts, January 2013. Amounts are adjusted for inflation.*

Since 2001, state funding for community-based early education and care and out-of-school time has not kept pace with inflation, resulting in a reduction of more than \$100 million – a 50% decrease in the state's commitment to its youngest scholars.

**Put Massachusetts Kids First** is a broad-based coalition of more than forty organizations across the Commonwealth focused on improving outcomes for children by stabilizing and strengthening the workforce that engages with young children who can most benefit from qualified educators.



## Coalition Accomplishments - Fiscal Year 2016:

The Coalition to Promote Quality Early Ed and Out-of-School Time

### Coalition Members

- MADCA
- MA Afterschool Partnership
- MA Association for Community Action
- MA Child Care Resource and Referral Network
- MA Fair Share
- MA Head Start Association
- MA Independent Child Care Organization
- Metro North Children's Learning Center
- NorthStar Learning Centers
- Nurtury
- Parent-Child Home Program
- Parenting Journey
- Rainbow Child Development
- SEIU Local 509
- South Shore Stars
- SPARK Center at Boston Medical Center
- Stand for Children
- Strategies for Children
- The Community Group
- UMass Amherst Labor Management Workplace Education Center
- United Teen Equality Center
- Wheelock College
- Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care

### Shared Vision

- **True Public Private Partnership between the state and community-based providers**
  - **Providers are willing to meet state's quality rating and improvement system requirements**
  - **State is willing to invest a fair share of the funds for technical support, training and wages**

### Budget Recommendations

1. **Program Quality & Workforce Supports**  
An Early Education Quality Fund based on tiered and achievable quality standards related to workforce credentialing and specified quality standards.
2. **Early Education & School Age Rate Reserve**  
Between FY09 and FY14, reimbursement rates for early education and out-of-school time providers that serve children with subsidies were frozen, causing a disruptive level of turnover in our teaching core. We support the current Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC) Rate Reserve recommendation to stabilize the early education field as part of the broader effort to improve educational outcomes for young children in our programs.

### Budget Achievements

- The Put MA Kids First coalition was successful in securing \$9 million in funding for quality early education and care and out-of-school time programming through:
- \$4M earmark for quality (in Line Item 3000-7050), including \$1M in direct grants to programs participating in the state's **Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)**
  - \$5M for the **Rate Reserve** (Line Item 1599-0042)

## Join Us!

Sign up at <http://www.putmakidsfirst.org/coalition-members/become-a-member/>

<sup>1</sup> Marshall N, et al. Massachusetts Capacity Study Research Brief: Characteristics of the Current Early Education and Care Workforce Serving 3-5 Year olds. Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College, 2005.



The **Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children** INC.  
research. engage. change.

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