

# Creating an Early Learning System

## Five key components

1. Time, parent information and support
2. Early Learning Programs (0-5)
3. Professional development system
4. Community support system
5. Child care assistance/tuition assistance

### 1) Time, Parent Information and Support

- Paid family leave
- At home infant care
- Parent education/family support

### 2) Early Learning Programs

- Program standards
- Staff qualifications
- Curriculum and school linkages
- Parent Involvement/ family support

### **3) Professional Preparation System**

- Improved higher education capacity and articulation
- State scholarship system
- Compensation initiatives
- Data collection and research on the workforce

### **4) Community Support System**

#### **Network of Community Supports**

##### *For parents*

- Information and Referral
- Family support
- Outreach to care by neighbors, friends and relatives

##### *For providers*

- Health and mental health linkages
- Support for children with special needs
- School linkages and curriculum support
- Family child care networks
- Training and compensation

##### *For the community*

- Resource development
- Data collection/ Outcomes

### **Children's Champions**

- Parents
- Educators
- Business, unions, philanthropy
- Health professionals

- Law Enforcement
- Faith-based groups
- Providers
- Elderly

## **Intergenerational activities**

- Older adults as caregiver
- Shared sites

## **5) Child Care Assistance/Tuition assistance**

### **Reformed child care subsidy**

- Expanded eligibility
- Improved reimbursement rates
- Affordable co-payments
- Outreach, information and access

### **Reformed tax benefits**

- Expanded DCTC provisions (ie refundable)
- Information and outreach on EITC, DCTC,etc

*This document was developed by Joan Lombardi, Director of The Children's Project for use by state groups working to develop a cohesive early childhood system which promotes learning, supports families and builds communities.*

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