Improving Equitable Access to Early Head Start/Head Start

Resources by Topic Area

Head Start/Early Head Start – General Resources	
Resource/Link	**Description**
Early Childhood Knowledge & Learning Center	This site provides resources and information for HS and EHS programs and families.
Head Start Program Performance Standards	Head Start agencies that provide services to children and families must meet the Head Start Program Performance Standards and the requirements set forth in the Head Start Act of 2007
Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF)	The (ELOF) presents five broad areas of early learning, referred to as central domains. The framework is designed to show the continuum of learning for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers
Facts and Figures on Early Head Start	This is a brief from the National Head Start Association with facts and figures on Early Head Start. It is a national snapshot, largely pulled from Office of Head Start-collected data, that they hope is a good tool for you as you engage in work around Early Head Start or consider how it might fit into your state ECE landscape.
Early Head Start: A Critical Support for Infants Toddlers and Families	A CLASP and ZTT 2-page brief on how EHS supports infants, toddlers, and families
Prenatal-to-3 Policy Clearinghouse Early Head Start	An ongoing inventory of rigorous evidence reviews of state-level policies and strategies that impact the prenatal to age 3 developmental period
Foundations for Excellence: A Guide for Five-Year Planning and Continuous Improvement	This comprehensive guide shows programs what Head Start expects from strategic planning. The following pages cover a range of planning topics to support programs' successful completion of the Head Start grant application, and to ensure that programming is responsive to community needs throughout the five-year grant period.
ACF Grants and Funding	This site provides ACF competitive funding opportunities.
Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs	This site provides information about the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Collaboration Office (MSHSCO), which promotes high quality, direct service delivery through collaboration, coordination, and alignment of high-quality services for all MSHS grantees and delegate agencies.
American Indian Alaskan Native Programs	This site provides support for programs serving the estimated 44,000 children of AIAN heritage in both AIAN and non-tribal programs. Based on the needs of local communities, Head Start programs offer traditional language and cultural practices to provide high-quality services to young children and their families. The targeted tools and resources below are available to assist in the planning, development, and organization of AIAN and other programs serving AIAN communities.

EHS-CC Partnerships	
Resource/Link	**Description**
Policy and Program Guidance for the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP)	This site provides official OHS policy and program guidance for EHS-Childcare Partnerships.
Support for Expansion of EHS Services: Using a Community Hub Approach	An overview of a community hub model for implementing HS-CC Partnerships, including state examples and a cost modeling tool.
Who Does What Best? Some Thoughts about State Roles in EHS-CC Partnerships	In this paper, BUILD highlights a selection of examples of partnerships between state and local leaders as part of the last round of EHS-CC Partnership grants.
Data Sources	
Resource/Link	**Description**
Head Start PIR Data Reports	The Office of Head Start (OHS) Program Information Report (PIR) provides comprehensive data on the services, staff, children, and families served by Head Start and Early Head Start programs nationwide. All grantees and delegates are required to submit PIR for Head Start and Early Head Start programs.
Descriptive Data on Head Start Children and Families from FACES 2019: Fall 2019 Data Tables and Study Design	The Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES) is the premier source of national information about Head Start programs and participants. This report includes key information on the FACES 2019 study design. The tables in this report describe the children enrolled in Head Start programs in fall 2019 and their family backgrounds and home environments.
State of Babies Yearbook	The ZTT *Yearbook* compiles national and state-by-state data on nearly 60 indicators, specifically for children ages 0 to 3, to measure progress in the domains of *Good Health*, *Strong Families*, and *Positive Early Learning Experiences*. The *Yearbook* breaks down the data for selected indicators by race/ethnicity, income, and rural/urban areas, enabling a closer look at the disparities that can exist even within states whose babies, on average, are doing well.
Kids Count Data Center	An online resource that provides data on child well-being over time from the most trusted national sources and from more than 53 state- and territory-based organizations. It houses hundreds of key child and family well-being indicators and more than four million data points at the national and local levels.
Infant/Toddler Self-Assessment Toolkit	This toolkit is intended to help state policy leaders and advocates assess the current status of services for infants, toddlers, and their families, and to set priorities for improvement. A user-friendly format allows users to easily access state information from national sources, assess how your state compares to other states, and gather stakeholder input.
NIEER: State(s) of Head Start	*State(s) of Head Start* is the first report to describe and analyze in detail Head Start enrollment, funding, quality, and duration, state-by-

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	state. The report focuses on the 2014-2015 program year but also provides longitudinal data beginning with the 2006-2007 program year.
NIEER: The State of Preschool 2019	The State of Preschool Yearbook has annually tracked state-funded preschool program funding, access, and policies since the 2001-2002 school year. The Yearbook seeks to improve the public's knowledge and understanding of state efforts to expand the availability of high-quality education to young children. This valuable report is indispensable for policymakers, advocates, and researchers to make informed decisions on early childhood education.
Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap	The annual Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap is a first-of-its-kind guide that state leaders can use to develop and implement the most effective policies to strengthen their state's prenatal-to-3 (PN-3) system of care.
NHSA State Fact Sheets	2020 overview of individual state and territory Head Start accessibility and reach.
Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Profile	2020 overview of Migrant Seasonal Head Start accessibility and reach
Diversitydatakids	This brief explores how residential segregation shapes inequitable access to Head Start programs at the neighborhood level for two time periods. National and state level patterns are discussed.
Ethics and Empathy in Using Imputation to Disaggregate Data for Racial Equity: Recommendations and Standards Guide	This report includes a set of recommendations and standards for data analysts and data consumers around how to impute information on race and ethnicity ethically and with empathy.

Advocacy	
Resource/Link	**Description**
Early Head Start Advocacy Toolkit	Urge policymakers to *Think Babies™* by supporting Early Head Start with this this advocacy toolkit. Tools include a Head Start brief, talking points, social graphics, sample op-ed, and more.
Think Babies: Key Messages and Talking Points	Use the sample language in this document for materials, presentations, and any conversation you may have about children and families.
Enhance Parents' Advocacy and Leadership Skills	Head Start is a strong national model of family advocacy and leadership. Explore this series to learn more about the family engagement outcome. Review the tip sheets with parents to help them enhance their advocacy and leadership skills at home, in programs, and their community.
Advocacy & Communication Tools	Tools & resources including helpful guides, handy tips and clear advice for planning a new advocacy or communication projects, understanding the ins and outs of advocacy, or organizing media outreach.
The NCIT: Make the Case	Use the resources on this page to help make the case for investments in prenatal-to-three policies and programs in your state or community.
NHSA Playbook: Engaging Governors to Support HS and EHS	This Playbook from NHSA and a Genius Team* of state Head Start leaders is your guide to engaging with your Governor to set Head Start

	up for success. This Playbook is meant to be an interactive guide to share best practices and draw out your expertise.
Governors are key to HS and EHS success	NHSA blog post on engaging governors in HS and EHS.
Supporting Head Start Access and Quality through State Policy	This issue brief describes 12 state policies—six that promote Head Start access and six that promote Head Start quality—with broad support and precedent.
State Investments in Head Start to Support At-Risk Children and Families	This document by the NHSA and Voices for Healthy Children – American Heart Association – provides examples of how states have invested state funds to expand/support Head Start programs.
Building Momentum for Prenatal-to-Three: Lessons Learned from Message Research	This guide offers messaging and communications tips, based on insights from recent research, to help PN-3 advocates build support and spark action among policy leaders.
Early Head Start Rising!	This NHSA brief addresses the urgent need to care for and support pregnant women, infants, and toddlers in pandemic recovery through a major expansion of Early Head Start.
Racial Equity in Public Policy: Message Guide	Messages and tips to help advocates: Advance the conversation on racial equity, link racial inequity and structural racism to policy, and obtain specific racial equity language in policy.

Coalitions

Resource/Link	Description
State Advocacy Campaigns: Coalition Guidance and Roadmap	This coalition guidance and worksheet document is intended to be used in the development of an advocacy coalition. The document provides an overview of coalitions and includes questions to consider when beginning the formation process.
Roadmaps to Health Community Grants Advocacy Toolkit: Coalition Building and Maintenance	This toolkit is based on the experiences of successful advocates across the nation and is organized according to eight capacities. needed to carry out effective advocacy campaigns.
Coalitions Work Tools & Resources	We develop custom tools or adapt any of our existing tools. Download any of the following documents to help your coalition.
Community Engagement Matters (Now More Than Ever)	Article from the *Stanford Social Innovation Review* about the importance of public and social sector leaders designing and implementing programs in ways that engage community members directly in the work of social change.
The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships	Based on existing research and best practices, the Dual Capacity-Building is designed to support the development of family engagement strategies, policies, and programs.
Community Toolbox	The Community Tool Box is a free, online resource for those working to build healthier communities and bring about social change. It offers thousands of pages of tips and tools for taking action in communities.
Parent and Family Leadership Transforming the System Leadership Webinar	This webinar, hosted by the Pritzker Children's Initiative, discussed impactful approaches to embedding parent and family leadership into PN-3 system change work to inform organizations that are active locally or nationally.

NOW's Levers of Community Change	NOW's levers of community change are key components that we believe are critical to ensure the equitable transformation and alignment of community systems - in a way that moves those most impacted by inequity from margin to center. Click on each lever to learn more and access curated resources and tools designed to build capacity around these fundamental areas.
The Networks of Opportunity for Child Wellbeing (NOW) Playbook	This is a resource guide designed to provide tools for local leaders, community coalitions and networks, educators, practitioners, and policymakers working to promote the wellbeing of children and families, advance equity, and align systems of care and education in early childhood.

Family Advocacy and Leadership

Resource/Link	Description
FrameWorks Family Engagement Toolkit	The resources in this toolkit are designed to collectively build the understanding and support we need to change the narrative around family, school, and community engagement.
Families and Communities as Co-Designers of Education	This memo is our effort to share what we have learned with public school leaders and others working to engage families and communities in education. Based on the findings of our collaborative work, we conclude with policy recommendations.
Enhance Parents' Advocacy and Leadership Skills: A Guide for Head Start and Early Head Start Staff	Explore this resource to learn about the many ways that Head Start and Early Head Start staff can support parents as advocates and leaders in early childhood programs and at home.
Families as Advocates and Leaders	This resource presents a summary of selected research, promising practices, proven interventions, and program strategies intended to be useful for Head Start, Early Head Start, and other early childhood programs.
Parent Leadership Indicators Project	This website shares evaluation tools as they are created and serves as a hub for both quantitative and qualitative evaluation findings, with the purpose of developing novel, engaging, participatory, and culturally responsive ways to evaluate parent leadership development initiatives.
No Decisions About Us, Without Us: The Impact of Parent Leaders on Early Learning Collaborations	Illinois Action for Children and Community Organizing and Family Issues joint report on building early learning systems responsive to the needs of diverse families and communities.
The COFI Way: Policy and Systems Change	This report details how low-income moms and grandmothers of color have used COFI's collaborative organizing model to influence policymakers and elected officials to strengthen public policy that affects their families.
Indigenous Family Engagement: Strong Families, Strong Nations	In this chapter we argue for amplifying and renewing Indigenous family leadership and engagement in systems of education that aim to support Indigenous communities' resurgence.
Amplifying Family Voice to Advance Equitable Outcomes for Young Children	This report provides findings from an extensive Ohio and national environmental scan of family engagement strategies.

Stepping Up and Speaking Out: The Evolution of Parent Leadership in Michigan	These resources expand on the work of Stepping Up and Speaking Out: The Evolution of Parent Leadership in Michigan and were created for the National Home Visiting Summit to support the development of parent leadership within a home visiting system.
Engaging Parents, Developing Leaders: A Self-Assessment and Planning Tool for Nonprofits and Schools	This publication introduces an assessment and planning tool to help nonprofits evaluate their parent engagement efforts and chart a path toward deeper partnerships with parents and caregivers. The tool spans just eight pages, with accompanying text outlining how to use it, how to assess its results and what real-world strategies and programs are already in play — and working — to boost parent engagement.
Ripples of Transformation: Families Leading Change in Early Childhood Systems	Drawing on the experiences shared in parent focus groups and interviews with agency staff, this toolkit takes us on a journey through social services offices, hospitals, community organizations, citywide and countywide collaborative initiatives. It shows us the ways we as program and agency leaders can form powerful partnerships with diverse families.
Engaging the Power of Families and Community to Increase the Impact of Philanthropy: A Roadmap for Funders	This document provides best practices for funders to authentically and respectfully engage community and a detailed set of guidelines and recommendations.
States can Strengthen Equity through Head Start and Early Head Start Support and Partnership	These state equity highlights from NHSA's full Policy Agenda offer ways that states can expand their partnerships with Head Start and build greater equity into their early childhood systems.
Young Learners, Missed Opportunities: Ensuring that Black and Latino Children Have Access to High-Quality State-Funded Preschool	This report examines the accessibility and quality of state-funded preschool programs for 3- and 4-year-old Black and Latino children during the 2017-2018 school year and finds that, out of the states analyzed, no state provides both high-quality and high-access ECE for these children.
Equity	
Resource/Link	**Description**
Equity Starts Early: Addressing Racial Inequities in Child Care and Early Education Policy	This brief takes a deep dive into racial equity in child care and early education, along with the historic and current systemic underpinnings that shape policies and programs. It looks most closely at the major funding streams for child care and early education.
An Anti-Racist Approach to Supporting Child Care through COVID-19 and Beyond	This brief explains the origins of long-standing racial inequities in child care and early education, examines how the COVID-19 crisis has exposed and exacerbated these inequities, and offers recommendations for how policymakers, advocates, and other stakeholders can address them to rebuild a stronger, more equitable system.
User Centered Policy: Organization Assessment	This assessment document helps government organizations begin to take a user-centered approach to their policy making process and is a useful tool as any team plans to launch a new policy effort.
Building Strong Foundations: Racial Inequity in Policies that Impact Infants, Toddlers & Families	This paper explores racial disparities, including the policies that drive them, among infants and toddlers and their families. It highlights key examples in recent history and their continued

	consequences for young children of color and their families. The paper concludes with recommendations to ensure new or reformed policies reduce racial disparities.
Centering Racial Equity Throughout Data Integration	This toolkit is designed to help guide partnerships, collaboratives, agencies, and community initiatives seeking to center racial equity while using, sharing, and integrating administrative data.
Liberatory Design: Mindsets and Modes to Design for Equity	In situations as complex as equity challenges, the way forward is led by noticing, experimenting, learning, reflecting, and repeating. Liberatory Design is structured to build your equity leadership capacity to create real change with the communities you care deeply about. The process itself, as well as the outcomes, are building towards greater collective liberation.
Racism Creates Inequities in Maternal and Child Health, Even Before Birth.	To inform maternal and child health policy and practice, this brief applies a racial and ethnic equity lens to the review of data from the State of Babies Yearbook: 2021. Specifically, this brief aims to explore why there are disparities in maternal and child health; what disparities exist, and for whom; and how policymakers and practitioners can promote racial and ethnic equity to improve maternal and child health.
Race Forward	Race Forward brings systemic analysis and an innovative approach to complex race issues to help people take effective action toward racial equity. Race Forward is home to the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), a national network of local government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. Race Forward publishes the daily news site Colorlines and presents Facing Race, the country's largest multiracial conference on racial justice.
Racial Equity Tools	This site supports everyone working to achieve racial equity. It offers tools, research, tips, curricula, and ideas for people who want to increase their own understanding and to help those working for racial justice at every level – in systems, organizations, communities, and the culture at large. This is the best place to curate your own library on racial equity.
The Management Center	The Management Center's mission is to help social justice leaders learn how to build and run organizations effectively, equitably, and sustainably so that they deliver exceptional results toward their missions. They offer: Intensive hands-on coaching services for executive directors and their senior leadership teams; a series of management training courses that supply practical advice and tools that managers can put to work immediately; and an array of tools and resources that equip leaders to manage effectively. They are an excellent resource for shifting internal personnel practices and policies to be more equitable.
Other	
Resource/Link	**Description**
The Impact of COVID-19 on Head Start Programs and Families: Recommendations for Health Care Providers and Policymakers	A report by the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students and Voices for Georgia's Children providing an overview of how health professionals and policymakers can support Head Start Programs in mitigating challenges exacerbated by the pandemic.

Reframing Childhood Adversity: Promoting Upstream Approaches	This report seeks to work through framing challenges, offering guidance on positioning, emphasis, and explanation. It is intended for professionals who communicate about child wellbeing and adversity – a broad field that includes advocates, researchers, and practitioners working on issues including child abuse and neglect, family violence, (ACEs), early trauma and trauma-informed care, and toxic stress. The guidance has implications for a wide variety of communications goals and contexts, but it is most relevant for efforts designed to educate the public about strategies that work at the community and policy levels.
Storytelling and Social Change	This guide is for anyone who wants to create social change, and who wants to learn how storytelling can help. The guide is divided into four color-coded sections. The STRATEGY section is about how to use storytelling to best effect. The STORYTELLING section offers ideas on how to tell a good story. The METHODS section covers some techniques in storytelling. And the STRUCTURE section looks at how to incorporate storytelling into your everyday work.