Local governments can champion efforts to ensure that early childhood educators have the support and resources they need to provide a quality learning experience for all children in their care. In recognition of the important role of the early childhood workforce in promoting children’s success, many cities have initiated policies and programs to improve the quality of training and supports for early childhood educators from diverse settings across the early learning landscape. Cities Supporting the Early Childhood Workforce is a two-year initiative designed to help cities deepen efforts to support the early childhood workforce by promoting strong governance, aligning professional development opportunities, and mobilizing key stakeholders to leverage increased support for the early childhood workforce. This initiative is made possible by the generous support of the Foundation for Child Development.

Local Early Childhood Workforce Landscape

Through this initiative, NLC is delving into cities’ work on early childhood workforce issues, highlighting successes across the country, and connecting local leaders to one another. NLC is gathering information about how a select group of cities are professionalizing and supporting the early childhood workforce through early learning policies and initiatives, how existing governance structures support this work, and what the key challenges are to supporting the early childhood workforce at the local level. This information will contribute to the national conversation and provide the field with clear examples of what successful implementation of supports for the early childhood workforce in cities looks like in practice.

Partnerships

While cities are making headway, they cannot do this work alone or in isolation. NLC is working closely with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). City leaders are drawing upon the knowledge and expertise of these national and state partners and aligning their efforts with relevant state and federal efforts to deepen the effectiveness of their local work.
Technical Assistance

The centerpiece of Cities Supporting the Early Childhood Workforce is a technical assistance initiative involving a group of five cities. Over the course of this initiative, NLC is providing city teams with:

- Tailored information about the latest research and promising practices;
- Assistance with developing and implementing local plans that incorporate practices and policies to help professionalize the early childhood workforce;
- Assistance with setting defined goals and benchmarks that deepen cities’ ability to support the early childhood workforce;
- Connections to national experts and resources;
- Opportunities for peer learning and sharing across city teams;
- An in-person meeting of all city participants; and
- Topical webinars to facilitate focused discussions of design and implementation challenges, and promote cross-site sharing of best practices.

As a result of this initiative, the selected cities will advance their local progress to support the early childhood workforce and receive national visibility of their efforts. The learnings of this initiative and innovative practices of the selected cities will be shared with NLC’s larger network to enable a broader group of cities to expand opportunities and supports for the early childhood workforce.

NLC’s Technical Assistance Cities
- Hartford, Connecticut
- Jacksonville, Florida
- Kansas City, Missouri
- Rochester, New York
- Richmond, Virginia

NLC’s Faculty Advisor Cities
- San Francisco, California
- Seattle, Washington

About the National League of Cities
The National League of Cities (NLC) is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

About the Institute for Youth, Education, and Families
NLC’s Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute) helps municipal leaders take action on behalf of the children, youth, and families in their communities. NLC launched the YEF Institute in 2000 in recognition of the unique and influential roles that mayors, city councilmembers and other local leaders play in strengthening families and improving outcomes for children and youth.