

## City Use of Early Childhood Data

### An Early Learning Nation

*City Leadership for Building an Early Learning Nation* is a technical assistance initiative that provides assistance to local officials. The goal of this project is to develop and strengthen community plans to ensure that young children in our cities grow up safe, healthy and ready to learn. It is made possible by generous support from the Bezos Family Foundation.



### Survey Methods

The seven ELN cities completed a 6-question online [survey](#) detailing what data they collect, use, and track related to early childhood in their community. Cities noted what data was most useful in their work and what barriers existed for them to utilize that data. Cities choose from a wide variety of indicators including school readiness, physical and mental health, home visiting, and partnership evaluation, to help NLC better understand the current efforts of the Early Learning Nation cohort.

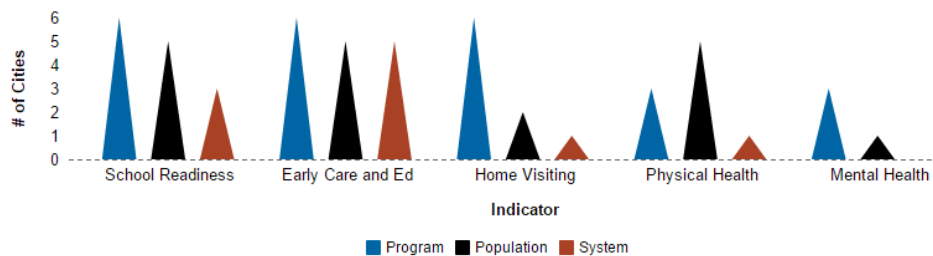
Team leads for the Early Learning Nation project collaborated with other city and nonprofit staff to complete the survey. Three cities, San Francisco, Minneapolis, and Jacksonville, were then selected to participate in a short interview with NLC staff to further discuss their cities' data work.

#### INDICATORS

Physical Health  
Mental Health/Social-Emotional Development  
Home Visiting  
Child Welfare System Involvement  
Early Care and Education  
Inclusion  
School Readiness  
Parental Protective Factors  
Economic Stability  
Community Protective Factors  
Partnership Evaluation

# Survey Results

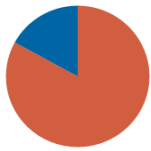
Top Indicators Cities are Measuring by Level



## Early Learning Nation Cities:

Dayton, OH      Jacksonville, FL  
 Kansas City, MO      San Francisco, CA  
 Minneapolis, MN      Pittsburgh, PA  
 Portland, ME

## What is Most Important to Cities?



83% of city respondents included School Readiness, Early Care and Education Home Visiting in their top five early childhood indicators.

3

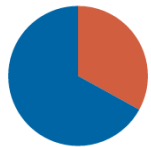
Three of the city respondents indicated using economic stability data in their early childhood work.



66% of city respondents ranked School Readiness among their top early childhood indicator.

2

Two of the city respondents indicated using child welfare data in their early childhood work.



33% of city respondents are using data to inform efforts around racial equity in the early childhood arena.

1

One of the city respondents indicated using inclusion data in their early childhood work.

## What are Barriers for Cities?

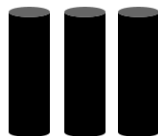
**Data Sharing:** Cities do not have a system in place to share data among partners.



**Limited Capacity:** Cities do not have the resources and means to collect, track, and share data.



**Siloed Systems:** Cities and partners work within subsectors and do not collaborate.



## Opportunities for Cities

Cities can work to advance policies to allow data-sharing among early childhood stakeholders.

Cities can take a leadership role in aggregating and integrating early childhood data from different sources.

Cities can decide on common definitions for early childhood and common metrics on a data dashboard.

Cities can peg strategic goals and stakeholder performance measures to early childhood data and metrics.

# Spotlight on City Use of Early Childhood Data

## Collecting Information on Inclusion in Early Childhood

It is important to think about the individual needs of young children and measure how programs and policies are addressing them. San Francisco, for example, uses its [Inclusion Networks](#), spearheaded by the Center for Inclusive Early Education, to help families and practitioners increase learning outcomes for all students, especially those with disabilities. These networks are a joint professional development initiative supported by First 5 San Francisco, Human Services Agency of San Francisco, and the [Office of Early Care and Education](#). The Inclusion Networks use multiple measures such as training participation, program outcomes, parent involvement, and child outcomes to inform and improve work across the city. Despite challenges coordinating data sharing at the state and county levels, San Francisco's early care and education champions continue to broaden support for inclusive education by investing in on-the-ground relationships and sharing and using data among programs. Members believe that data-driven inclusion practices will significantly influence city-level decisions and resource allocations for inclusion moving forward.



## Using a Race and Equity Lens



More and more cities are using race and equity indicators in their data work. A third of Early Learning Nation cities are using racial equity indicators explicitly in their early childhood data work. One of those cities, Minneapolis, uses place-based data in their [Cradle to K Cabinet](#). Minneapolis focuses specifically on disparities in areas such as access to services, transportation, and achievement gaps based on race and income.

The city has set performance measures based on addressing these disparities. [Results Minneapolis](#) is another tool the city uses when analyzing early childhood data. Results Minneapolis is an initiative that aggregates data and performance measures from different departments throughout the city. It also serves as a resource for individual departments to access data across offices and better understand one another's goals and measures. Staff make data digestible both in form and function for other city staff to collaborate and utilize across city hall.

## The Importance of Data-Sharing Agreements

The Early Learning Coalition of Duval, in partnership with the [City of Jacksonville](#) and [Jacksonville Children's Commission](#), is charging all stakeholders to work together in identifying, developing, and sharing common birth-to-5 data.



**Early Learning Coalition of Duval**  
Your One-Stop Early Learning Resource

The role of this trifecta in advocating for data-sharing agreements has been key to promoting collaboration and collective impact within the city's early care and education space. The city's efforts have seen progress for data-sharing among local and national non-profit partners and the school district. For example, partnerships have improved practice in early childhood in Jacksonville through the [Child Welfare Early Education Partnership](#) which trains providers in trauma-informed practices.