

Partnering with City Leaders for Early Childhood Success

The Role of Government

COVID-19 has highlighted the critical importance of a strong early childhood system as essential to a thriving community - where young children starting from birth have the resources and opportunities to succeed and where families are supported. All levels of the American government structure play an important role in this process. The federal government funds and supplements, state government manages, and local government executes and implements efforts. During this pivotal time in our nation, local government plays a key role in ensuring an equitable recovery. To recover, rebuild and thrive, our nation's cities, towns and villages need empowered leaders who prioritize the well-being of young children and their families.

Getting Started: Strategies for Success



**ESTABLISH AN UNDERSTANDING
OF WHERE THE POWER LIES**



**ALIGN WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS
AROUND A SHARED VISION**



BUILD A BASE OF SUPPORT



**IDENTIFY CONCRETE SHARED
MESSAGING**



Ensure Equitable Practices

EQUITY IS CENTRAL FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SUCCESS

UNDERSTAND THE LANDSCAPE:

What's available?
What's missing?
What's Next?

ALWAYS ASK:

Who's benefitting?
Who's Burdened?
Who's part of the process?
Who's deciding?

MONITOR THE IMPACT:

Across race, socioeconomic status, gender, geographic location, ability along the early childhood continuum (PN-3, PreK, K-3rd Grade, and the workforce)

Questions for Consideration



UNDERSTANDING WHERE THE POWER LIES

Ask Yourself: How is this city organized to get work done?

The structure of city governments differ throughout the country, but they all provide a wide array of services for residents. Depending upon the level of revenue and the needs of the community, city departments, led by human services can create programs that are customized to provide a variety of opportunities to help children and families thrive. Cities are strengthening their early childhood systems by coordinating the governance of early childhood services across many different entities whether city, county, or community based.



ALIGNING WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

Ask Yourself: What are the top 3 priorities of this city?

As you look to connect with local leaders key entry points think of areas of intersection, identify the city's plans and priorities, share your vision, goals, and plans, look for ways to support each other, and align efforts and resources to improve outcomes and well-being. Share your vision, goals, and plans and look for ways to support each other. Align efforts and resources to improve outcomes and well-being.



BUILDING A BASE OF SUPPORT

Ask Yourself: How does this city bring the community together?

City governments are already doing work to support quality of life for its residence. With strong partnerships they build/maintain communities that work. The recent pandemic has shown a surge in trust and credibility amongst local governments.



IDENTIFYING CONCRETE SHARED MESSAGING

Ask Yourself: Who is the best messenger for your target audience?

Municipal Leaders do more than manage a given set of priorities. It is also about setting and implementing an agenda, coordinating, and influencing the actions of others and implementing policies. They are well positioned to advocate and support efforts, be a strong partner in family engagement, and utilize existing department policies and practice impacting children and families.

Contact Information

Want to learn more about partnering with city leaders on growing early childhood success? Reach out to our team at ECTeam@nlc.org