BUILD Arizona
Building the Foundation for Success Through a Strong Birth to 8 System
The BIG Four:

1. Brain Development
2. Foundation for life-long learning
3. Longitudinal Research
4. Return on Investment
Early Childhood System Building

Build National Initiative: History, Purpose, Approach
Launched in 2002 by the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative (ECFC), a consortium of private foundations.

Created BUILD to:
- invest private funds to stimulate public investments in early learning
- foster greater coordination of comprehensive services, policies and programs for young children
- Today BUILD states include: AZ, IL, MI, MN, NJ, NY, OH, PA, WA.
The ultimate goal of early childhood systems building is to help families get the care and support they need for their children in the most efficient and effective way possible so children can be healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life.

Why Focus on System Building?
What Are the Elements (subsystems) and Functions of a Comprehensive Early Childhood System?

- Define and Coordinate Leadership
- Early Learning and Development
- Health
- Family Leadership and Support
- Outcome: Thriving Children and Families
- Ensure Accountability
- Create and Support Improvement Strategies
- Recruit and Engage Stakeholders
- Finance Strategically
- Enhance and Align Standards

Early Childhood Systems Working Group
System Building Elements

• Context
• Components
• Connections
• Infrastructure
• Scale
Build Arizona

Mission, Vision and Next Steps
All Arizona children by the time they are 8 years old have a solid foundation for success in school and in life because we have worked together to create a family-centered, comprehensive, collaborative and high-quality early childhood system that addresses the child’s development, health and early education.

Arizona’s Early Childhood System Vision
BUILD AZ seeks to elevate the current early childhood system vision and work in our state and its intended outcomes for children and families by aligning policy, funding and action.

Recognizing the significant link between the early years and early grade success in the K-12 system, BUILD AZ supports a birth through age eight (birth-8) system view.

Building on Our Foundation
MISSION: BUILD Arizona is a coalition of children’s champions who are working together to enhance opportunities for all young children ages 0-8 in Arizona so that they can meet our state’s increasingly rigorous educational standards and become productive members of the workforce.

Building the Foundation For Success through a Strong Birth to 8 System
• Conducted statewide readiness assessment for additional systems building work

• Developed a guiding charter document, member roles and responsibilities, and work group functions

• Identified an influential Chair and recruited a diverse, multi-sector, statewide Steering Committee

• Recruited Leadership Group of eight Co-Chairs and engaged over 50 individuals representing over 30 organizations/entities in five Work Groups

• Identified high level, initial priority areas for focus of Work Groups.

• Developed Theory of Change/Framework for Initiative Work

BUILD AZ Steps To Date
BUILD Arizona Membership

- Department of Economic Security
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health
- AHCCCS
- AZ-Academy of Pediatrics/Best Care for Kids AZ
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Children’s Action Alliance
- READ ON Arizona
- Greater Phoenix Leadership
- Bank of America Merill Lynch
- First Things First
- United Ways (Tucson, Maricopa, Flagstaff, Yuma)
- Tucson Unified School District
- Univision 33, Telefutura Phoenix
- Freeport-McMoran Copper & Gold Foundation
- Balsz School District
- Flagstaff Unified School District
- Arizona Community Foundation
- Helios Education Foundation
- Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce
- Desert Schools Federal Credit Union
- Arizona Business Education Coalition (ABEC)
- EMPACT
- DMB Associates Inc.
- Raising Special Kids
- Family Involvement Center
- Southwest Human Development
- Winslow and Partners
- AZ-NAEYC
- Central Arizona College
- University of Arizona
- Arizona Department of Education/Head Start State Collaboration
- Arizona Child Care Association
- Governor’s Office of Education Innovation – AZ Ready
- City of Phoenix
- State Board for Charter Schools
- AZ Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Expect More Arizona
- Association for Supportive Child Care
- Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust
- Steele Family Foundation
- Child and Family Resources
Quality Early Learning

• Increase access to high quality early learning opportunities for 3 and 4 year olds.
• Expand a culturally appropriate, early literacy focus for 0-8 year olds in ALL settings where young children spend time.

Children’s Health

• Expand access to early intervention services for all children.
• Expand linkages between community and public health prevention strategies related to early childhood obesity prevention and nutrition.
• Expand a Coordinated Health Care Model for Children (Medical Home)

Work Group Priorities
Early Grade Success

- Coordinate the linkages and transitions between Pre-k to K-3.
- Create appropriate alignment between the standards and curricula of 3 and 4 year old early childhood classrooms to Kindergarten through 3rd grade.
  Especially relevant is common core and the development of new formative and summative assessments.
  Explore strategies that will provide the student with more opportunities to have more time for learning and developing foundational skills.

Professional Development

- Develop a revised Arizona early childhood educator workforce knowledge and competency framework
- Create and implement an early childhood workforce registry
- Enhance and align degrees and credentials

Work Group Priorities
Communications and Engagement:

- Build formalized, consistent cadre of champions for young children across the state.

- Develop and implement a business/leadership education and engagement plan in conjunction with existing community partners.

Work Group Priorities
Next Steps

- Publication of a series of briefs outlining priority issues, recommendations and incremental next steps for system building
- Development of unified agenda based on recommendations of work groups and establishment of five year work plan with indicators of progress
- Identification of roles/responsibilities/leadership for next steps
- Identification of additional resources to support implementation of proposed steps
- Implementation of Champion Building Strategy
Challenges

- System of Systems with different funding streams and requirements
- Arizona has no overarching governing office/body that oversees early childhood
- While a specific funding stream exists through First Things First, state cuts to foundational programs have caused continuous setbacks
- Complicated landscape of programs and services
- Diverse geography and populations within our state
Initial Successes

• Development of broad based, multi-sector partnership including “unusual champions.”
• Successful linkages developed between 0-5 and K-12 system efforts.
• Conversations/strategies developing around essential system functions (coordination, alignment)
• Recognition of partnership as a viable entity within the community
Opportunities for Involvement/Impact

• Lend influence, expertise to help elevate early childhood as a critical component of Arizona’s educational continuum
• Identify/leverage resources to support specific system infrastructure development/incremental steps
• Consider strategic investment in policy development efforts geared toward system improvements
THANK YOU

Questions and Comments