

What is the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative (ECFC)?

The Early Childhood Funders Collaborative (ECFC) is a collaborative of committed early childhood funders who have been learning together and improving their collective positive impact for children birth through age 8 for more than 20 years.

Focus Areas:

- Learning and networking
- Aligning and leveraging resources
- Promoting effective local, state and federal policy

ECFC Members

The A. D. Henderson Foundation

Vermont Office

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Baltimore, MD

Bainum Family Foundation

Bethesda, MD

The Ballmer Group

Bellevue, WA

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Seattle, WA

Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Omaha, NE

The Burke Foundation

Princeton, NJ

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Los Altos, CA

Einhorn Family Charitable Trust

New York, NY

The Ford Family Foundation

Roseburg, OR

Foundation for Child Development

New York, NY

GAR Foundation

Akron, OH

The George Gund Foundation

Cleveland, OH

The Grable Foundation

Pittsburgh, PA

The Grossman Family Foundation

Cos Cob, CT

The Heinz Endowments

Pittsburgh, PA

Heising-Simons Foundation

Los Altos, CA

Irving Harris Foundation

Chicago, IL

J.B. & M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation

Chicago, IL

The Kresge Foundation

Troy, MI

Let's Grow Kids

Burlington, VT

Maher Charitable Foundation

Florham Park, NJ

Mimi and Peter Haas Fund

San Francisco, CA

The Nicholson Foundation

Newark, NJ

Omidyar Network

Silicon Valley, CA

The Oregon Community Foundation

Portland, OR

Perigee Fund

Seattle, WA

Rauch Foundation

Garden City, NY

Richard & Catherine H. Gottfred Foundation

Chicago, IL

Robert R. McCormick Foundation

Chicago, IL

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Princeton, NJ

Rose Community Foundation

Denver, CO

Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation

Honolulu, Hawaii

Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton

Canton, OH

Stranahan Foundation

Toledo, Ohio

Trust for Learning

Washington, DC

Vanguard Charitable

Philadelphia, PA

W. Clement & Jessie V. Stone Foundation

Chicago, IL

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Battle Creek, MI

William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund

Hamden, CT

William Penn Foundation

Philadelphia, PA

ECFC Spring Meeting

Objectives for March 12

1. Gain deeper knowledge of key aspects of an early learning system using the District of Columbia as a case study; Exploring the lessons learned and strategy of the Bainum Family Foundation to build a comprehensive framework for early learning using a systems approach
2. Understand how funders and public-private partners in the District are working to build its early care and education system
3. Consider lessons from this work that funders can apply to their own efforts in other cities and regions



Site Visits

9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Site Visits

Site Visit Locations

Eagle Public Charter School's Birth-to-Three Program

Big Mama's Children Center

Bright Beginnings

National Children's Center

Community of Hope (Atlantic Street Location)

Family Child Care Homes

Working Lunch and Keynote Speaker

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.





Early Learning Systems Strategy Presentation and Breakout Sessions

1:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Speaker Logistics

Event Location

Hilton Crystal City Hotel

2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202

Important Details to Remember

- After lunch and the keynote speaker, the breakout sessions will begin at 1:15 p.m. If you'd like to come to lunch, please arrive by 11:30 a.m. If you would like to come in time for the panel, **please arrive by 12:30 pm.**
- Participants will have the opportunity to choose a session.
- Room assignments will be provided closer to the date.
- Please remember not to use acronyms.

Protocol for the Panel Discussions

Timing	Topic/Description	Roles
10 minutes	Introduction	Facilitator
35 minutes	Panelist Presentations or Q&A	Panelists
25 minutes	Small-Group/Table Huddles	Participants
15 minutes	Go-Round	Facilitator and session participants
10 minutes	Panelists' Response	Facilitator and panelists
10 minutes	Wrap-Up	Facilitator will collect takeaways from participants for closing session

Please see document that describes the protocol in more detail.

Public-Private Partnerships

Breakout Session One

Objective

To understand how the District of Columbia is leveraging private- and public-sector investments to create systems change for infants, toddlers and their families. This discussion will focus on forming, cultivating and sustaining partnerships; the range of initiatives undertaken in and planned for D.C. through the partnership; how to navigate challenges in the partnership; and critical success factors.

Panelists

- **Noel Bravo**, Senior Director of Strategic Research and Partnership at the Bainum Family Foundation (Facilitator)
- **Dr. Kathryn Kigera**, Director of Quality Initiatives, Division of Early Learning, Office of the State Superintendent of Education
- **Gail Govoni**, Director of the Office of Early Learning at the United Planning Organization
- **Syrita Robinson**, United Planning Organization HUB Project Manager

Public-Private Partnerships

Questions to Consider

- What makes a successful public-private partnership? What are the critical success factors?
- What challenges has your organization faced in developing and sustaining a public-private partnership?
- Discuss one of your organization's current public-private partnerships and what it has meant for infants, toddlers and their families.

Birth-to-Three Policy

Breakout Session Two

Objective

To discuss a long-term, sustainable strategy that engages policymakers as well as other influencers and decision makers. This discussion will focus on the groundbreaking Birth to Three for All DC Act of 2018, the lessons learned from the 2008 implementation of universal pre-K in the District, and how each have impacted/will impact providers serving infants and toddlers.

Panelists

- **Marlana Wallace**, Formerly at DC Fiscal Policy Institute (Facilitator)
- **Carrie Thornhill**, President at DC Early Learning Collaborative
- **Jess Giles**, Deputy (Education) Committee Director
- **Osa Imadojemu**, Deputy (Health) Committee Director

Birth-to-Three Policy

Questions to Consider

- What is the Birth-to-Three For All DC Act of 2018? How will this piece of legislation support infants, toddlers and their families?
- What all did it take for the DC Council to unanimously support this piece of legislation?
- What are the lessons learned from implementing universal pre-K in D.C.? How can those lessons inform the implementation of the Birth-to-Three For All legislation?
- What will it take to get this legislation completely funded and implemented with fidelity?

Research and Evaluation

Breakout Session Three

Objective

To discuss how to share and interpret data, test theories and scale. This discussion will focus on how research is being used across the city to inform policy, practice and investment in scale. For instance, the District is currently conducting an independent evaluation of its Quality Improvement Network (QIN).

Panelists

- **Nisha Sachdev**, Senior Director of Evaluation at the Bainum Family Foundation (Facilitator)
- **Brenda Jones-Harden**, Professor at the University of Maryland's College of Education
- **Pyper Davis**, Executive Director at Educare DC

Research and Evaluation

Questions to Consider

- How can philanthropy and direct-service programs develop partnerships with research institutions to evaluate demonstration projects/pilots?
- How do community-based programs evaluate their direct services and continuously improve?
- What partnerships need to be forged to collect and analyze data to inform decisions and shape next steps?

Facility Funds to Support Quality

Breakout Session Four

Objective

To discuss the findings from the District's recent Early Learning Supply and Demand Analysis commissioned by the Bainum Family Foundation, and to understand the strategic approach to driving quality through facility improvement/creation. This discussion will focus on the approach D.C. is taking to drive facility enhancement and quality improvement.

Panelists

- **Arrealia Gavins**, Senior Manager of Early Learning Practice at the Bainum Family Foundation (Facilitator)
- **Bevin Parker-Cerkez**, Senior Director of Early Childhood Education at Reinvestment Fund
- **Natalie Renew**, Senior Managing Director of Education and Family Services, Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC)
- **Muluwork Kenea**, Business Owner/Family Child Care Educator, Amen Family Child Development

Facility Funds to Support Quality

Questions to Consider

- Explain the Early Learning Quality Fund and the Low-Income Investment Fund and how they are two complementary initiatives in the District.
- How can facility funds be used to drive quality in early learning programs?
- What are some of the barriers program providers face when they seek funding to support their facility?
- As a provider, how have these funds affected the children and families you serve and the sustainability of your business?
- How do you sustain change through ongoing training and technical assistance?

Coalition Building and Campaign Work

Breakout Session Five

Objective

To discuss how grassroots and grass-tops coalitions can be formed to achieve long-term sustainable systems change. This discussion will focus on how to implement a strategy to drive the development of and work toward implementation of legislation through an equity lens.

Panelists

- **Sara Watson**, Senior Director of Policy at the Bainum Family Foundation (Facilitator)
- **BB Otero**, President at the Otero Strategy Group
- **La Don Love**, Director of Organizing at Safe Places for the Advancement of Community and Equity in Action (SPACEs In Action)

Coalition Building and Campaign Work

Questions to Consider

- What are some of the opportunities and barriers that exist for foundations looking to engage in coalition-building and campaign work?
- What are some previous campaigns in the early learning space that have led to positive outcomes for children and families?
- What all is involved (i.e., time, resources, stakeholders) in building a grassroots effort around an early learning issue?
- How can you build awareness around a specific issue? How can you then transfer that awareness into action?

Q & A Highlights

Can speaker use PowerPoint presentations and/or bring handouts?

We will not have AV in the breakout rooms. If speakers have visuals or PowerPoints that they would like to use, we can provide these materials to participants as:

- Advance reading (attachments or links) – See next slide
- Handouts (ECFC can copy materials or Speakers can bring copies – 25-30 copies)
- Meeting Session archives – Attachments and links to speaker materials can be posted on ECFC's website.
- Electronic files for copying (or inclusion on meeting website sessions page), should be submitted to Sweta.Alberta@ecfunders.org by February 28th.

Q & A Highlights

Can Speakers receive and/or suggest items that are being shared with attendees as recommended pre-reading?

- Bainum Family Foundation and ECFC are compiling a few key items for attendee pre-reading. ECFC can share the list of pre-reads so speakers know what the assumptions are in the room.
- Speakers can recommend items for additional pre-reading (e.g. good grounding documents, resources to help attendees go deeper). This includes large documents or reports that speakers would like to share (but don't want to bring as hard copies).
- Speakers that have ideas for the pre-reading list can submit suggestions to Sweta.Alberta@ecfunders.org by February 28th.

Q & A Highlights

How many attendees are expected for the afternoon breakout sessions?

- We expect approximately 70 attendees for the afternoon.
- Breakout rooms will accommodate 20-30, however we are asking for attendee breakout preferences to confirm distribution of attendees across breakout topics.

Q & A Highlights

Can Speakers get additional information on ECFC members/funding interests?

- ECFC is a collaboration of funders (not a funding organization).
- Membership are experts in EC, focused on systemic impact (birth to eight system continuum) and policy impact.
- Local, state and national members sitting at table together bringing perspective of different kinds of levers you can use at each of those levels to make change. Some members fund many things at different levels (e.g. Kellogg and Gates), some are city-based funders trying to build a place-based early learning system (where gaps exist, where their investments can fill gaps).
- Broad member interests, with some predominant funding interests (child care, Pre-K, EC workforce, Home Visiting, Early Relationship Building (pediatrics supporting parents, attachment, bonding, parent/child interaction))

ECFC mission, interest areas, history: <https://www.ecfunders.org/about-us/>

Next Steps

- Breakout facilitators will follow-up with speakers to confirm breakout format (and coordinate additional planning calls if needed).
- Speakers with ideas for pre-reading (or items to be provided to attendees for sessions as handouts or links) should submit items to Sweta.Alberta@ecfunders.org by February 28th.
- ECFC will include speakers on the final pre-read list shared with attendees.
- ECFC will follow up with speakers on pre-reading, handouts, and lunch attendance.