



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MA ECFC Selects Rennie Center for Early Childhood Systems Map and Data Overview Project**

MASSACHUSETTS – The Massachusetts Early Childhood Funder Collaborative (MA ECFC) today announced that it has selected the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy (Rennie Center) to complete an innovative statewide early childhood systems map and data overview project. Through this project, the Rennie Center will illuminate key programs and projects across multiple sectors, including health, education, and early intervention, with the goal of developing a clear, accessible understanding of the current systems and opportunities for impactful action to support young children from birth-to-five in Massachusetts.

“We know that the web of supports that surrounds very young children is complex and difficult to understand, which can lead to inaction in policy and funding, not to mention confusion for parents,” said Brian Gold, MA ECFC Director. “We are thrilled to be working with the Rennie Center on this first-of-its-kind project to provide a clear, comprehensive understanding of the Massachusetts early childhood landscape. The Rennie Center has a long track record of producing work that catalyzes statewide policy priorities, and it is our hope that this project will further illuminate the issues that impact our Commonwealth’s youngest children and their families.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the importance of a stable ecosystem that supports children’s healthy growth and development into the public eye. Through this project that will intentionally map out the current state of that ecosystem, we will be able to bring to the forefront not only the current challenges, but also identify avenues for impactful change,” said Kimberly Lucas, Northeastern University Professor of the Practice in Public Policy and Economic Justice and member of the MA ECFC’s Community Advisory Committee.

“Evidence has long shown that high-quality early childhood programs positively impact children’s development, well-being, and achievement, putting them on a path toward greater life success. They are investments in our shared prosperity. The Rennie Center is delighted to work with MA ECFC and its impressive list of partner organizations to better understand the early childhood landscape and identify opportunities and actions for driving large-scale improvements,” said Chad d’Entremont, Executive Director of the Rennie Center.

“This project represents the kind of public education and engagement effort that is needed to help communities - parents, educators, employers and policymakers - more easily understand the scope of both the challenges and opportunities in the early childhood field,” stated Turahn Dorsey, MA ECFC

co-chair and Foundation Fellow at the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation. “Shared information, understanding and insight are the foundations for the service and systems transformation that we need. We believe that this project will position families, early childhood professionals, and allies to advocate for systemic change and strengthen our partnerships with one another to bring greater investment and sustainability to a field that is poised to deliver powerful developmental outcomes for every child in the Commonwealth.”

For more information, please visit the project page at <https://www.maecfunders.org/ec101>.

**About the MA ECFC:** The [MA ECFC](#) is a partnership effort among the region’s leading foundations, nonprofit organizations, corporations, and individuals working to ensure that all young children in Massachusetts have the opportunities and supports they need to thrive. This group of public and private foundation and individual funders has come together with the intention of serving as a vehicle to strengthen the community of early childhood funders and to drive policy and systems change by catalyzing a unified early childhood strategy.

**About the Rennie Center:** The [Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy’s](#) mission is to improve public education through well-informed decision-making based on deep knowledge and evidence of effective policymaking and practice. As Massachusetts’ preeminent voice in public education reform, they create open spaces for educators and policymakers to consider evidence, discuss cutting-edge issues, and develop new approaches to advance student learning and achievement. Through their staunch commitment to independent, non-partisan research and constructive conversations, the Rennie Center works to promote an education system that provides every child with the opportunity to be successful in school and in life.

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