



About the Alliance

The [Alliance for Early Success](#) is a catalyst for bringing state, national, and funding partners together to improve health, family support, and learning outcomes for young children starting at birth and continuing through age eight. We create and enhance partnerships in new and innovative ways, because we believe this is the way to achieve results faster and better than anyone could do alone. The Alliance operates through pooled and aligned funding from: Buffett Early Childhood Fund, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Richard Goldman Family Foundation, Irving Harris Foundation, Heising-Simons Foundation, George Kaiser Family Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation.

Strategic Areas of Investment

We invest in three areas to achieve better policies, smarter funding, and, better outcomes for young children.

- **Advocacy** to strengthen and sustain traditional and non-traditional leaders and organizations inside and outside of government to act as champions for vulnerable young children and their families.
- **Policymaker leadership** to inform policy and budget actions by governors, legislators, chief education officers, and state administrators.
- **Knowledge and research** to serve as a base for effective advocacy through unified and effective messages, user-friendly information, policy analyses and monitoring, and information sharing.

The Alliance works in all 50 states and with over 30 national expert organizations. Some receive financial grants; all have access to or provide technical assistance, peer networking, and rapid response. Partners include: state advocacy organizations, business leader coalitions, researchers, communication experts, and policymaker member organizations.

Hallmarks of Our Work

Partnerships. The Alliance is grounded in partnerships, recognizing that we are stronger and better together. During Alliance meetings and over the course of a year, we build bridges across sectors and provide opportunities for networking. We purposefully connect information seekers with peers who are working on similar issues and experts who are creating the knowledge and tools they can use. Rather than making individual grants for solo work, we do coordinated grant-making where state and national partners identify what they will accomplish, who they will work with, what they need, and what they have to offer. Then we connect people in and across states and national expert organizations to leverage expertise that will advance targeted policy

priorities. We also partner with other organizations and funders doing related work to leverage innovative ideas and resources so funds are spent wisely.

National Technical Assistance (TA) Network. The Alliance curates a network of national organizations and individuals with expertise in early childhood. Our grants enhance or sustain organizational capacity, allowing experts to develop and maintain their expertise and share it with states and other national partners. The tools, databases, and reports that partners create are available for anyone working to promote effective early childhood policies.

Rapid Response (RR). The Alliance activates our network of experts and calls on others as needed to provide rapid response (RR). RR is immediate support that helps seize an unforeseen policy and funding opportunity, or fend off an unexpected crisis. A portion of National TA Network grants is set aside for RR activities. We also have an Opportunity Fund to bring in additional experts when needed. The majority of RR goes to support Alliance state partners, but RR funds can be used in any state where an immediate response can have a significant impact. RR allows the Alliance to provide flexible support, in real time, in a way that most traditional funders often cannot.

A Birth Through Eight State Policy Framework

All Alliance activities and investments are strategically guided by our [Birth Through Age Eight State Policy Framework](#). Over 200 experts in 10 fields (early childhood, health, family support, education, business, economics, research, communication, policy, philanthropy) agreed on policy priorities in areas essential for the healthy growth and development of young children: health, family support, early learning, as well as those that cut across all three. Rather than a laundry list, the Framework includes “best bet” policies known to achieve results. An accompanying report by Child Trends cites the evidence base for every policy. Our intent is for advocates, policy influencers, and policymakers to use the Framework as a guide to help them determine the most effective options to pursue based on their economic, social, and political conditions at any given time.

The Future

The Alliance is available to work with anyone interested in advocacy and policy consistent with our State Policy Framework. Together, we can strengthen advocacy, improve state policies, and achieve better outcomes, especially for the most vulnerable young children and families. To learn more, visit us at: www.earlysuccess.org, @4earlysuccess, and #bthru8.