



PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR EARLY LEARNING: THE CASE FOR GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT

A great recession, several years of dwindling state reserves, an historic federal sequestration, and increased focus on performance measures have challenged state and local governments. Governments are being asked to do more with less and are facing growing pressure to find new and better ways of doing business. In response, government leaders are looking for ways to adapt, finding new and more efficient ways to maximize their limited resources. One important way is through partnerships with the private sector.

Public-private partnerships have become an increasingly effective strategy for drawing together the resources and know-how that are needed to expand and improve supports and services. Achieving school readiness for all young children is a large goal with wide-reaching implications for children, families, communities, and the economy. It is difficult to accomplish or finance this exclusively through any single entity; public-private partnerships can be part of the solution.

State governments benefit from convening public-private partnerships because partnerships can:

- Bring together diverse resources, perspectives, and expertise;
- Leverage expertise across sectors, including technical expertise in public relations, marketing, financial management, and lobbying to affect laws and public policy;
- Ensure more efficient use of time and resources;
- Prevent duplication of efforts;
- Garner wider public and private support for and investment in early education initiatives by engaging their unique constituencies and connections; and
- Create leadership across diverse sectors thereby ensuring the work can withstand changes in political leadership and maintain a consistent, bipartisan focus.



Public-private partnerships can help state governments bolster an early education agenda by:

- Informing state policy priorities;
- Building sustained public awareness of the importance of early childhood development;
- Building flexible and more sustainable funding models to support locally identified needs, such as improving quality standards for early care and education programs, increasing access to health services, or providing professional development opportunities for early childhood practitioners and leadership;
- Building or enhancing the state and local infrastructure needed to effectively coordinate an early childhood system across the State; and
- Promoting best practices by helping to bring promising models of high-quality programs to scale.

For more information about public-private partnerships and how they can be instrumental in bolstering state early learning initiatives, please see the full range of topics included on this topic, available at <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/state-systems-specialist-network>:

- *What is a Public-Private Partnership and Why Do They Matter?*
- *Public-Private Partnerships: Getting Started and Principles for Success;*
- *Making the Case for Business Community Involvement;*
- *Making the Case for Philanthropy Involvement;*
- *Summary of State Profiles of Successful Public-Private Partnerships for Early Learning; and*
- *Individual State Profiles of Successful Public-Private Partnerships for Early Learning.*

Child Care State Systems Specialist Network, A Service of the Office of Child Care
9300 Lee Highway, Fairfax VA, 22031 | Phone: 877-296-2401 | Email: OCCTANetwork@icfi.com