

Philanthropic Investment and Partnerships in Other States

States have used private foundation funding for several purposes, such as:

1. Leverage public funds;
2. Enhance public funds;
3. Fund partnerships that piloted programs and led to public sector investment at greater scale;
4. Support organizations to do policy analysis, advocacy and systems development that impact public investment and coordination.

(The Ounce Backgrounder: Public-Private Partnerships, April 2012 Chicago: Ounce of Prevention Fund. Retrieved October 30, 2012, from <http://www.ounceofprevention.org/national-policy/Public-Private-Partnership-State-Examples-Paper-April-2012-v2.pdf>)

The National Center for Children in Poverty has suggested that public-private collaboration is essential to developing and financing a system of care that provides a continuum of early childhood mental health services. They have identified that public-private as well as interagency collaboration works best when sustained by formal mechanisms such as legislation, regulation, memoranda of understanding, and other formal guidance.

Connecticut

Philanthropic leaders conducted a scan of current investments, documenting more than \$75 million in private and philanthropic funds allocated to early childhood programs and services. Using the results, public, private, and philanthropic leaders developed a plan to align current investments to the priorities of the Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet's Early Childhood Investment Framework. A leading Connecticut philanthropy, the [William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund](#), proposed a public-private matching plan to the state cabinet, which subsequently allocated \$1.25 million in new state funds to leverage \$800,000 in additional philanthropic investments. The plan was to use funds to support local capacity building and enhance the state's Parent Trust Fund, which provides funding to train parents in civic leadership. Connecticut's state and philanthropic leaders continue to explore avenues for further collaboration, which may include new formal structures for managing public and philanthropic resources.

Another unique public-private partnership in Connecticut is [Child FIRST](#). Significant private and public funding has been leveraged to expand Child FIRST statewide with matching grants from the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Education, the Children's Fund of Connecticut, the Connecticut Health Department and the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund. Local and regional foundations including the Connecticut Community Foundation, the Fairfield County Community Foundation, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, the Community Fund of Darien, the Leever Foundation, Norwalk Children's Foundation and the William C. Bullitt Foundation all support Child FIRST in their communities.

Child FIRST (Child and Family Interagency Resource, Support, and Training) is a home-based early childhood intervention, embedded in a system of care. Child FIRST works with the most vulnerable young children (prenatal through age five years) and families to decrease serious emotional disturbance, developmental and learning problems, and abuse and neglect.

Based on the most recent research on the developing brain, Child FIRST employs a two-pronged approach: 1) Decreases environmental or “toxic” stress by connecting families to needed services and supports, and 2) Protects the developing brain from damage by facilitating a nurturing parent-child relationship and secure attachment.

Illinois

A number of Illinois-based foundations invested in building the capacity of the early childhood field over time. Grant-makers recognized the complexity of the system-building process, and different foundations focused on different parts of the system including research, advocacy and policy development, and professional development.

The [Irving Harris Foundation](#) in Chicago, IL, and early childhood advocates approached the Illinois School Board of Education (ISBE) about launching an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project. The Foundation agreed to provide partial funding for this work for two years if ISBE would match the grant and, over time, would assume full responsibility for the costs of the project. The Foundation also contributed \$5 million to the Erikson Institute to support training and leadership development for the infant and toddler and mental health workforce.

Ohio

Early childhood mental health efforts in [Cuyahoga County](#), Ohio have been embedded in a larger early childhood initiative. The county has used significant local public and private dollars, as well as state and federal funding streams. Supplementing the existing capacity to provide more intensive treatment to young children and their parents, the county has expanded its prevention and early intervention services by integrating mental health consultation into existing early childhood programs.

Michigan

The [Early Childhood Investment Corporation](#) (ECIC) was created in 2005 to be the state's focal point for information and investment in early childhood in Michigan so that children arrive at the kindergarten door, safe, healthy and eager for learning and life. ECIC leverages and invests public and private dollars. ECIC receives state funds to support local Great Start Collaboratives comprised of community leaders to who work together to create information, services and resources that parents want and need. Over \$9 million dollars have been invested by foundations, including the Kellogg Foundation and the Kresge Foundation.

Minnesota

Over 30 foundations statewide participate in [Start Early: Funders for Children and Minnesota's Children](#), a group that supports a collective policy agenda with the end goal of increased school readiness. In 2009, this group invested \$18 million in school readiness related efforts.

The [Minnesota Early Childhood Funders Network](#) provides information to network members and policymakers, monitors how changing public policy affects early childhood issues and organizations, and works to strengthen the voice for early childhood within Minnesota philanthropy.

Nebraska

In April 2006, the governor signed legislation to create a [Birth to Three Early Childhood Education Endowment](#) for at-risk children, with a commitment of \$40 million in public funds matched by \$20 million from private philanthropic sources. The endowment generates approximately \$2 million annually to support high quality birth to three services. In November 2006, voters approved a constitutional amendment to permanently establish public funding for the endowment through the use of Educational Land Trust Funds. A board of trustees administers the endowment's grant allocation process. The endowment awards competitive grants to school districts to partner with local agencies or programs in their communities to deliver evidence-based birth-to-three services for at-risk children.

Oklahoma

During the 2006 legislative session, Oklahoma appropriated funds to the Oklahoma State Department of Education for a new public-private partnership called the [Early Childhood Pilot Program for Infants and Toddlers](#). This pilot was initiated from the private sector, with support from the public sector, to create a replicable model for early education programs that prioritize serving the most at-risk children. Private funding to support these has grown to approximately \$15 million per year.

Virginia

In 2005, Governor Tim Kane facilitated the creation of the [Virginia Early Childhood Foundation](#) (VECF). VECF's private partners include a variety of national and local philanthropic and corporate organizations. VECF integrates public and private funding streams, offers systems-building grants and technical assistance to build capacity of local Smart Beginnings partnerships, tracks programmatic outcomes, and builds public awareness of the importance of early childhood development. While initially VECF pledged a dollar-for-dollar private match for every public dollar invested, VECF and its local coalitions have leveraged more than \$4 in private, local, and federal funds for every dollar of state investment. Since 2006, a total of \$30.1 million has been raised at the state and local levels leveraging state general fund investment of \$6.8 million to support Smart Beginnings.