Cities in Action: Building Early Learning Communities

Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference
September 16, 2019 Morning Session
WHO WE ARE

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the voice of America’s cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people across the country.
Early Childhood Success

Partnering with leaders so every City, Town and Village has...

Healthy Babies and Happy Families, and All Children are Thriving by 3, Ready at 5 and On Their Way by 8

https://www.nlc.org/early-childhood-success
Where We Work

The ECS Team brings city leaders together from across the country to help them achieve their shared mission: to lead thriving cities.

Almost 50 cities, towns & villages reaching 2 million est. young children birth to age 8 years and growing...

Cities participating in Early Childhood Success initiatives

https://www.nlc.org/early-childhood-success
Building an Early Learning Nebraska
Rooted in Community

Norfolk
Schuyler
Omaha
NCFF
Lincoln
Red Cloud
Wood River
Grand Island
Kearney
Gothenburg

Early Childhood Success National League of Cities

https://www.nlc.org/early-childhood-success
Building an Early Learning Community

1. Community leadership, commitment and public will
2. Quality services that work for all young children and their families
3. Neighborhoods where families can thrive
4. Policies that support and are responsive to families

EQUITY • FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS • RESULTS IN EVERY BUILDING BLOCK

https://www.nlc.org/early-childhood-success
Community leadership, commitment & public will

Gothenburg

Target 1.1 Local leaders work together across systems with a focus on early childhood.

Target 1.2 The community invests in young children and families.

Target 1.3 Community members support and understand the importance of early childhood health, learning and well-being.

Target 1.4 A rich network of informal supports is available for all families.

Target 1.5 Community resources for children and families are well-known, accessible and easy to use.

https://www.nlc.org/early-childhood-success
Community leadership, commitment & public will

Norfolk

**Target 1.1** Local leaders work together across systems with a focus on early childhood.

**Target 1.2** The community invests in young children and families.

**Target 1.3** Community members support and understand the importance of early childhood health, learning and well-being.

**Target 1.4** A rich network of informal supports is available for all families.

**Target 1.5** Community resources for children and families are well-known, accessible and easy to use.

https://www.nlc.org/early-childhood-success
Quality services that work for all young children and their families

Target 2.1 Families have access to high-quality, basic services that proactively promote and support health, learning and family strengths.

Target 2.2 All children receive routine screening, identification, referral and linkage for additional risks and needs.

Target 2.3 Children and families at risk and those with identified needs have timely access to more intensive services.

Target 2.4 Families and parents are actively engaged as partners.

Target 2.5 Supports are in place for service providers.

Target 2.6 Leaders use data to drive change.

https://www.nlc.org/early-childhood-success
Quality services that work for all young children and their families

Target 2.1 Families have access to high-quality, basic services that proactively promote and support health, learning and family strengths.

Target 2.2 All children receive routine screening, identification, referral and linkage for additional risks and needs.

Target 2.3 Children and families at risk and those with identified needs have timely access to more intensive services.

Target 2.4 Families and parents are actively engaged as partners.

Target 2.5 Supports are in place for service providers.

Target 2.6 Leaders use data to drive change.

https://www.nlc.org/early-childhood-success
Target 3.1 The built environment promotes safety and allows families to access basic services in their neighborhoods and beyond.

Target 3.2 Economic and employment opportunities are available to all.

Target 3.3 Residents feel a sense of belonging and hope within their neighborhoods and connection to the broader community.
Policies that support and are responsive to families

Target 4.1 Policies that govern child and family services are equitable and responsive.

Target 4.2 Workplace and other policies support families in raising children.

Target 4.3 Land use and community development policies are designed with consideration for how they affect young children and families.
Pathway to Your Early Learning Community

Becoming an Early Learning Community is an ongoing process

- No. 1  
  Building champions into the DNA of your city

- No. 2  
  Activating and mobilizing all who impact children

- No. 3  
  Coordinate & Identify Resources

- No. 4  
  Use the Progress Rating Tool

- No. 5  
  Develop an Action Plan

- No. 6  
  Engage parents, service providers and community residents

- No. 7  
  Regularly review progress

https://www.nlc.org/early-childhood-success
What is your next step?

What will tomorrow look like in your community?

https://www.nlc.org/early-childhood-success
QUESTIONS? GET IN TOUCH.

Tonja Rucker, PhD
Director
Early Childhood Success
rucker@nlc.org

Nancy Lim, MPH
Program Manager
Early Childhood Success
lim@nlc.org

https://www.nlc.org/early-childhood-success