

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE

Advancing Early Care & Education Systems Change



HISTORY

In 2004, Washington Area Women's Foundation embarked on a groundbreaking mission with Stepping Stones—an initiative dedicated to empowering low-income working mothers in the Washington region. Focused on fostering long-term financial independence, the Foundation aimed to create opportunities for advancement and self-reliance. A key aspect of their commitment was building a robust network of community institutions, emphasizing affordable, quality childcare as a crucial element in supporting single, low-income, women-headed households.



In 2008, the Foundation commissioned a study of the state of childcare and early education services for low income, women-headed families in the District of Columbia and Prince George's County. The study engaged directly with low-income women and child care experts, gathering insights into their needs, experiences, and challenges while identifying ways for the Foundation to strategically allocate resources to build community demand for accessible, high-quality childcare and early education. The study found that in D.C, 70% of families living in poverty were women-headed households, 1 in 3 children lived in poverty and the average annual cost of full-time center-based care for an infant was roughly \$22,000 or about 90% of the median income of a female-headed household.

In response to pivotal study, the Early Care and Education Funder's Collaborative emerged, uniting local investors in partnership with The Women's Foundation.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ECEFC

The Collaborative continues to thrive with continued support from dedicated investors:

- The Andrew and Julie Klingenstein Family Fund
- Bainum Family Foundation
- The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation
- The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
- Pollinger Family Foundation
- Richard E. and Nancy P. Marriott Foundation
- Washington Area Women's Foundation
- The World Bank Group



For over 15 years, the Collaborative has...

Disbursed **more than \$5 million** in grant awards and given grants to **over 35** organizations regionally.

GRANTEE ADVOCACY OUTCOMES

- Birth to Three for All DC Act
- Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund
- Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Support Services Program
- Child Care Providers and Employees Bonuses
- Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund
- State Department of Education – Child Care Stabilization Grants
- Employee Child Care Assistance Program and Fund

2024 AND BEYOND FOCUS

The ECEFC remains committed to funding organizations working to advance systems change in the area of early care and education in the Washington metropolitan region.

Learn more about our 2024 Giving Priorities, [here](#).



**To learn more about this program, contact:
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