

invest in us

Build a better nation with early childhood education

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invest in us. It's a challenge to public and private partners, business leaders, philanthropists, advocates, elected officials and you. Build a better nation by expanding high-quality early childhood education programs for children from birth through age five. When we invest in them, we invest in us.



Together, we make a difference.

Achieving the promise of a better nation can only be accomplished when we all contribute towards building programs that build strong children. School readiness. Higher achievement. Better health. A skilled workforce. Higher wages. Lower inequality. Reduced social spending. Quality early learning programs pay off for children, families, communities, states and the nation. The private and public sector commitments you see here are sound investments in developing America's greatest resource—its people.

private commitments

Invest in US challenges corporations, foundations and individuals to dedicate a greater ongoing percentage of their philanthropy to high-quality early childhood education and research to achieve better education, health and social outcomes.

Age of Learning Inc./ABCmouse.com

ABCMouse.com is the leading and most comprehensive online learning resource for children in preschool through kindergarten, with more than 5,000 carefully designed learning activities encompassing reading and language arts, math, science, social studies, art, and music. The award-winning curriculum is available on computers, tablets, and smartphones; to date, millions of children have completed more than 850 million ABCmouse.com learning activities. Age of Learning, Inc., the company that created and continues to develop this learning resource, pledges to provide ABCmouse.com for free to every preschool, Head Start, and kindergarten classroom in the U.S. over the next two years, with a value expected to exceed \$10 million.

Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation

Houston Independent School District is the seventh largest school district in the country serving more than 210,000 children, of which more than 84 percent are considered economically disadvantaged. The district invested nearly \$9 million this year to build leveled libraries in every elementary classroom and school, \$1.5 million for the early literacy teacher training and has significantly expanded access to the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program. The Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation has invested nearly \$250,000 in support of HISD's Read Houston Read initiative, in which volunteers read to first-graders online or in-person one hour per week to boost literacy levels. The investment also includes a volunteer management platform, called Connect 4 Literacy, which the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation manages and provides access to more than 20 literacy-focused nonprofit organizations and HISD. These investments are a few indications of Houston's increased priority on early education and towards improved literacy outcomes for children.

In addition to early literacy investments by and in our largest school district, HISD, more than 50 government, philanthropic, business, nonprofit, school district and other leaders from across the Greater Houston Region have formed a coalition, called Early Matters, to improve the quality and accessibility of early childhood education and increase literacy outcomes for children through third grade. Early Matters is led by the Greater Houston Partnership, Houston's largest Chamber of Commerce, and is actively advocating for resources for increased quality and access to early childhood education.

Bezos Family Foundation

The Bezos Family Foundation is committed to helping all children realize their full potential, starting from day one. Through investments that span the continuum from birth to high school, the Foundation partners with education programs, providers and systems in order to improve outcomes for all children, particularly those in poverty. For over a decade, the Foundation has taken a strong focus on the first five years of life. On top of its existing commitments, the Bezos Family Foundation is extending an additional \$5 million over two years. This commitment will continue to support scientific discoveries and the translation of research into practice, innovative communications efforts that bridge the gap between what we know and what we do, and the dissemination of research-based tools that promote children's brain development. Specifically, the funds will support grants in neuroscience and early childhood development; scalable parenting programs that strengthen parent-child interaction; dynamic messaging efforts that leverage technology; the development of corporate and community partnerships; and the creation of Early Learning Nation communities across the country.

Collective Greater Cleveland Community Effort

The Greater Cleveland Community is a leader and national model for community collaboration, strategic focus, and local investment in birth through grade three strategies. This unique and transformative model has been forged through a partnership between Cuyahoga County's Invest in Children initiative, philanthropic and business partners, the City of Cleveland, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Starting Point (Cuyahoga County's child care resource and referral agency), the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County, and now PRE4CLE, Cleveland's new plan to ensure all three- and four-year-olds have access to high-quality preschool. Currently, the Greater Cleveland Community invests approximately \$32 million annually through public and private investments in early learning and development. The Cleveland community is proud to announce \$10.2 million in new investments in early childhood programs. This commitment includes funding from The George Gund Foundation, The Cleveland Foundation, the PNC Foundation and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The work represented by these initiatives is highly integrated, collaborative, and supports early childhood development across the entire continuum.

Collective Illinois Effort

Through the Collective Illinois Effort, Illinois foundations, corporations and individuals commit at least \$7 million in new funding in 2015 and 2016 to leverage federal initiatives in Illinois as well as nationally to ensure Illinois children and their families have access to high-quality services prenatally through age five that ensure their success in school and in life. As of November 21, 2014, the following foundations, businesses and individuals participating in the Collective Illinois Effort include: Grand Victoria Foundation, Irving Harris Foundation, Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Joyce Foundation, and Donors Forum. Donors Forum, the statewide association of grantmakers, operating nonprofit organizations, and their advisors in Illinois, will convene the participants to aggregate results, identify lessons learned, and document effective strategies to leverage their collective investment. Donors Forum is committed to collective action across the sector—including government, philanthropy, business, and operating nonprofit organizations. We believe that the deeper partners move into the work, the more apparent the complexity becomes. The levers that need to be pulled for change become clearer, as reflected in the commitments of participants to the Collective Illinois Effort. By convening all partners, early childhood strategies in Illinois can be made even stronger, spawn other efforts, and reap unanticipated benefits. Seeing the possibilities, the connections, and the potential for leverage sets the stage for further collective action in this work. These commitments are listed separately.

Collective Long Island Effort (Rauch Foundation and The Hagedorn Foundation)

The Rauch Foundation has worked closely with The Horace and Amy Hagedorn Fund and The Hagedorn Foundation for more than 20 years to support organizations and policies on Long Island that intervene early in children's lives and help strengthen families. Over the past five years, these Foundations have invested more than \$11 million to expand quality early care and learning opportunities on Long Island. The Foundations have committed to increase these investments for Long Island. The Rauch Foundation will increase investments to at least \$7.5 million over the next five years, and The Horace and Amy Hagedorn Fund and The Hagedorn Foundation will invest an additional \$6 million. This funding will focus on expanding the Parent-Child Home Program in New York, strengthening state and local early childhood systems and leveraging existing funding to expand access to high-quality early learning opportunities on Long Island. Additional funding is available should there be increased opportunities for public-private partnerships with local, state or federal funding.

Collective Santa Barbara County Effort

Santa Barbara County funders (Orfalea Foundation, James S. Bower Foundation, Santa Barbara Foundation, Hutton Parker Foundation and the Towbes Family Foundation) pledge a total of \$3.5 million to a portfolio of initiatives that will create and expand quality early education through a place-based comprehensive approach aimed at significantly improving school readiness in targeted communities. This pledge will expand access to high-quality early childhood education that supports the development of cognitive and social-emotional skills and prepares children for kindergarten, as well as support family- and center-based quality accreditation.

In addition, County funders aim to create a network of 40 high-quality early childhood centers that model innovative Preschool Food and Outdoor Classroom practices and provide high-quality preschool services to at-risk children and their families.

Common Sense Media

Common Sense Media is pleased to announce a wide-ranging set of commitments to help expand and strengthen early education nationwide. Common Sense will launch a major expansion of its advocacy platform, which will promote a broad agenda with a significant emphasis on early childhood—both nationally and in selected states around the country. In early 2015, Common Sense will announce an initial multi-million dollar commitment to this new advocacy platform and efforts from major investors. Additionally, building off of its robust content offerings to more than 40 million U.S. consumers and over 80,000 member schools, Common Sense will launch broad new programmatic efforts to distribute easy-to-use development and learning materials on technology, media, and early childhood in both English and Spanish. These materials will be distributed to millions of parents as well as a national network of early education providers starting in 2015 under the rubric, “Turn Screen Time into Learning Time.” Common Sense Media will also release new state-of-the-art research on technology and media use by its youngest children entitled “Zero to Five,” with a unique array of demographic data offerings. Common Sense is proud to help lead the charge to ensure that our nation's youngest citizens receive the highest quality start in life that every child deserves, no matter what zip code they're born into.

Commonweal Foundation

The Commonweal Foundation believes that children living in poverty should be given the chance to rise above their given circumstances by gaining access to high-quality early education and services. They should have the opportunity to graduate from high school well prepared for higher education or gainful employment so that they can contribute to their communities and society as a whole. The Commonweal Foundation commits \$10 million in new funding toward effective early childhood education over the next five years. This investment will expand the availability of high-quality preschool, support the development and demonstration of research-based early learning curricula and materials, and provide instructional coaching to teachers and leaders. This investment will benefit low-income children in Washington, D.C. Through this commitment, the Commonweal Foundation hopes to accelerate the decisions of like-minded peers in philanthropy, federal, state and local governments to make similar commitments or to commit a percentage of their annual resources to invest in early childhood education.

The David and Laura Meringer Foundation

The David and Laura Meringer Foundation is working to incubate an innovative shared services model for the child care industry known as Early Learning Ventures (ELV). The ELV technology platform supports the infrastructure of early education facilities and maximizes the reach and impact of a shared services model.

It provides a comprehensive, fully integrated bridge between small, market-based child care providers and the often-siloed child care regulatory, quality improvement and subsidy systems. The David and Laura Merage Foundation's commitment to Invest in US is an additional \$15 million to support the national scaling of this model and the advancing of the early learning movement. ELV is currently serving more than 580 child care businesses, impacting over 40,000 children, and returning up to \$8 for each dollar invested. The Foundation is entering the third year of scaling the ELV Alliance network in Colorado and, today, is making a ten-year commitment to bring this model to providers across the nation. In the past year, ELV has increased membership in the Colorado network sevenfold. In fact, the State of Colorado Office of Early Childhood issued a grant to ELV in 2014 to expand services to more Colorado child care providers as they recognized the value of licensing compliance and early care quality improvements.

Early Childhood Funders Collaborative

The Early Childhood Funders Collaborative (ECFC) can help to maximize the opportunity presented by the White House summit on early learning in two distinct ways. The Collaborative can support new or current philanthropists interested in supporting early childhood and provide a vehicle for pooled or aligned funding to support building the capacity of states and communities to improve and bolster early learning systems and services. ECFC will provide peer-to-peer support to new funders, increase the collaborative relationships with fellow affinity groups, and provide shared learning opportunities regarding current developments in the field. Although not every ECFC member does or can fund multi-state or national efforts, ECFC has successfully implemented a pooled funding effort related to communications and support of early childhood at the state and federal levels. Additionally, many ECFC members engage in aligned funding at the national, regional or local levels. ECFC will manage a voluntarily pooled fund to increase the capacity of organizations to provide technical assistance to states and communities and ensure strong documentation of the impact of federal initiatives on local and state systems.

Foundation for Child Development

The Foundation for Child Development will commit at least \$2 million over the next three years to support New York City's new universal preschool initiative. The Foundation for Child Development is working in collaboration with the NYC Department of Education and a handful of nonprofit institutions conducting research, program evaluation, and professional learning to enhance the knowledge, skills and dispositions of the city's early learning workforce. Enhancing teacher quality will have a direct impact on the 70,000 children projected to be enrolled each year when the program is fully operational.

George Kaiser Family Foundation

The George Kaiser Family Foundation plans new and renewed commitments of more than \$125 million over five years in support of high-quality early childhood education programs and related parent engagement efforts for at-risk families with children from birth through three years of age. Over the last eight years, the

Foundation has spent approximately \$20 million each year in creating new, high-quality, center-based early childhood programs, training early education teachers, improving maternal/child health and birth-spacing, launching job-training programs and prison-diversion efforts, and developing mixed income housing and various other initiatives—all focused toward providing equal opportunity for Tulsa's youngest and most vulnerable children and their families. The Foundation will expand its efforts with these children and families through an additional commitment of \$25 million over five years to provide more early childhood school sites and a community-wide engagement initiative which will include parents, caregivers, teachers, businesspeople, pediatricians and pastors, alongside other community members, to improve the quality of adult and child interactions for Tulsa's youngest children. This parent engagement effort is designed to extend the impact of high-quality, center-based education, currently serving 2,000 infants and toddlers, and reach the 20,000 children who are eligible but not receiving full-time, quality early learning. It will start with a visit in the hospital with every parent of a newborn in Tulsa before the baby is discharged and continue in pediatric offices, intensive group parenting classes and monthly literacy activities, all reinforced through religious institutions, day care centers, media, and text messaging. The goal is to make Tulsa the first community in the country where every parent or caregiver is a teacher and every home is a preschool.

Grand Victoria Foundation

Grand Victoria Foundation is dedicated to the quality, continuity, and effectiveness of early childhood education in Illinois. We embrace the opportunity to leverage Invest in US for the benefit of children and families in Illinois. To support the success of the initiative, Grand Victoria Foundation will grant \$2 million in new funding in 2015 and 2016 for early childhood initiatives in Illinois. In particular, our focus will be to strengthen infrastructure and system investments. Our grants will be directed at developing sustainable community systems as well as providing technical assistance to help program providers meet higher quality standards through ExceleRate and to support the work of Illinois' Early Learning Council to advance a well-coordinated, comprehensive system for children and families.

The Heinz Endowments

The Heinz Endowments has current investments of more than \$8.1 million in early childhood education grants and about \$1 million in maternal and child health in Pennsylvania. These investments support communications, policy and advocacy efforts, as well as direct program grants for quality improvement efforts, professional development, strategic planning and development efforts, literacy programs and green and healthy facilities improvements. These commitments will continue in 2015. In addition to those investments, The Heinz Endowments expects to support the following new initiatives through an additional \$9 million investment: implementation of the 10 recommendations of Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto's Blue Ribbon Panel on Early Childhood Education; support for Pennsylvania's Preschool Expansion Grant; new advocacy efforts to mobilize Pennsylvania citizens to support universal preschool by elevating the Pre-K for PA campaign; a challenge grant to corporations to support ECE efforts; support to build a stronger business collaborative in Pittsburgh; support of a campaign to raise an additional \$1 million for early literacy efforts;

implementation of new home visiting programs that will forge a new partnership with Pittsburgh's Health Department and Department of Human Services; and new health and wellness initiatives in maternal and child health led by the Department of Health.

The Heising-Simons Foundation

The Heising-Simons Foundation will commit up to \$6.6 million from 2015 through 2018 as part of a new public-private initiative it has launched to leverage federal investments in early childhood education. The Foundation will invite proposals to help match federal investments in early childhood-focused programs in order to increase the pool and quality of resources available in California and nationally in the areas of family engagement, implementation of federal policy at the state level, and research to uncover what works in early learning. Up to \$2.6 million will support efforts to enhance the quality of family engagement in California's U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships and Preschool Expansion Grant, assuming federal grants are awarded to California applicants. Up to \$2 million will facilitate planning and implementation of federal investments, such as the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), and advancing the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program in California and other states to ensure these important programs meet their full potential. Up to \$2 million will complement federal research efforts to help uncover what works in supporting young children's learning and development.

Irving Harris Foundation

Irving Harris was driven by a clear understanding that investing early in human capital development would result in significant returns on public and private investments and, therefore, provide the greatest benefit to our society. The Irving Harris Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that all parents have the resources and support they need to nurture their young children's growth and development beginning from birth. The Irving Harris Foundation's total commitment of new and renewed funding for 2015 and 2016 is \$16.5 million in support of high-quality, comprehensive early childhood services. In addition to sustaining the Foundation's strategic early childhood investments of \$11 million in 2015 and 2016, the Irving Harris Foundation anticipates committing \$2 million in new funding in 2015 and 2016 for Illinois to leverage federal initiatives such as the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, home visiting expansion, and high-quality early learning and mental health systems integration in Illinois as well as nationally. In addition, the Foundation commits \$3.5 million in 2015 and 2016 to extend new support for the 15 U.S.-based programs in the Harris Professional Development Network (PDN), a network of 18 early childhood and infant mental health leadership sites located in 10 states, the District of Columbia and three sites in Israel.

J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation

Pritzker Children's Initiative (PCI), a national project of the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation, has worked for over a decade toward a single achievable goal: that all at-risk infants and toddlers obtain access to high-quality early childhood development opportunities, increasing their likelihood of success in school and in life. Today, to continue its work in making early childhood development a national priority, PCI takes bold action on behalf of our country's most vulnerable infants and toddlers and their families with an increased commitment of \$25 million over five years in three areas: 1) Scaling zero-to-three high-quality, evidence-based early childhood programs; 2) Advancing early learning Social Impact Bond investments to increase access to evidence-based programs; 3) Furthering research on the economic efficacy of government investments in early childhood development that transform the lives of disadvantaged young children and their families. Through the Pritzker Early Childhood Consortium at the University of Chicago, PCI will build upon groundbreaking research by Nobel laureate economist James Heckman establishing the high returns from public investments in early childhood, and will advance these findings through the Heckman Equation online platform. Similarly, PCI continues to support the University of Minnesota's Child-Parent Centers Education Program and the Faculty Innovation Fund at the Erikson Institute, both of which will spur a deeper understanding of best practices within the early childhood development field. PCI will dramatically expand access to high-quality services for children and families by catalyzing public and private capital through innovative financing tools, as illustrated by the recent Social Impact Bonds in Salt Lake County and Chicago. As a leading funder of Educare in underserved communities in Washington, D.C., Chicago and DuPage County in Illinois, PCI will further highlight best practices in Early Head Start and Head Start classroom settings while engaging parents with a full complement of support services. In addition, PCI will partner with organizations that build sustainable quality in early childhood programs, such as Ounce of Prevention Fund, First Five Years Fund, HealthConnect One, New America Foundation's Early Education Initiative, Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop, Alliance for Early Success, ReadyNation and BUILD Initiative.

Joyce Foundation

In 2015 and 2016, the Joyce Foundation will support the Collective Illinois Effort by committing \$1,050,000 to address the school readiness gap in Illinois by supporting strategies that promote innovations in family engagement and bolster teacher quality in early education programs.

Kaplan Early Learning

Kaplan Early Learning Company (KELC) is excited to announce a commitment of \$1.6 million over the next three years to the field of early care and education. KELC plans to invest over \$120,000 towards the goal of reducing childhood obesity through a partnership with the Nemours Foundation in support of the National Early Care & Education Learning Collaborative Project. This project will reach thousands of children across the United States and focus on strengthening early education in nutrition and increasing physical activity in

schools and child care centers. KELC will continue its financial support of \$25,000 annually to the Nemours BrightStart! Initiative, a program designed to help struggling readers successfully transition to kindergarten and beyond. KELC will also donate more than \$500,000 on behalf of nonprofit organizations such as DonorsChoose.org, Child Care Aware of America, and the National Head Start Association to help support and advocate for the children and families these programs serve. Another \$500,000 will be invested into a collaboration with Yale University to translate, adapt, and validate a comprehensive curriculum.

The Kenneth Rainin Foundation

In 2013, The Kenneth Rainin Foundation provided \$500,000 in early learning grants. In 2016, the Foundation will invest over \$5 million in young children. An investment will be made in California's new grade level, Transitional Kindergarten (TK), which requires new commitments to the workforce. In a multi-year, multi-partner initiative, the Foundation will provide evidenced-based professional development that includes training, coaching, child progress monitoring, and environmental assessment to increase the quality of instruction for 730 TK children in Oakland by Spring 2015. Three assessments will be used to track progress, inform instruction and demonstrate outcomes. The foundation deeply believes that the quality of literacy opportunities has a profound impact on children's trajectories. The Kenneth Rainin Foundation is enriching Oakland preschool/TK classrooms with the SEEDS of Early Learning and the replication of Minnesota Reading Corps. By Spring 2015, the investment will serve almost 1,000 children and track outcomes towards children securing predictive skills: alphabet knowledge, phonological awareness, oral language, vocabulary, and book and print rules. Planning is currently underway to invest deeply in charter and district school communities in Oakland to build a birth-through-eight system. Schools will provide literacy rich opportunities for children from the time they are born until they are reading successfully. In partnership with the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the District, the Foundation's commitment will fund a new Deputy Superintendent of Early Learning, support the development of a birth-12th grade citywide data system, and plan for the full utilization and expansion of subsidized preschool.

Knowledge Universe

Knowledge Universe, best known for its community-based KinderCare Learning Centers, provides high-quality education to over 150,000 children ranging in age from six weeks to 12 years at over 1,500 early learning centers and 400 school sites in 39 states and D.C. Approximately one-third of our children are from low-income working families receiving assistance under CCDBG. We are also the largest partner with the DoD in providing high-quality community-based ECE for America's military, serving over 4,000 military children. Knowledge Universe makes the following commitments to expand and strengthen ECE, especially for low-income children. We commit to 100% of our ECE programs achieving national accreditation by 2016. Currently, 900 of our centers are accredited. As the nation's leading private provider of ECE, this will ensure quality for the children we serve and signal to all other ECE providers the importance of serving all children in high-quality environments. This commitment will result in our serving over 65,000 low-income children through our accredited centers. We will also commit to providing families in high-risk communities our Guide to Reading and a series of parent videos supporting such concepts as serve and return and the importance

of speaking, singing, and reading to infants and young children. All children deserve the opportunity for development and learning and to experience a sense of belonging. We commit to developing and distributing an inclusion services toolkit containing recommended tools and resources to support our over 25,000 educators working with children with diverse needs.

The Kresge Foundation

As part of our ongoing dedication to advance tangible, sustainable and long term progress in Detroit, the Kresge Foundation is proud to announce \$20 million in new commitments over the next five years to build out a high-quality early childhood development system in the city of Detroit in collaboration with local, state and federal partners. Our overarching goal is to ensure that Detroit's youngest children have access to the highest quality early childhood development opportunities and are prepared for kindergarten. We will focus on elevating and promoting early childhood care and education opportunities in neighborhoods throughout the city and filling gaps in the current system. We will do so in partnership with a diverse set of community stakeholders and the Southeast Michigan Early Childhood Funders Collaborative.

LEGO Foundation

In pursuit of its goal to empower children to become creative and engaged lifelong learners, the LEGO Foundation is proud to announce a commitment of \$5 million to launch the Early Learning Initiative with New Profit, Inc. The Initiative will convene a cross-sector community of thought leaders, practitioners, researchers and philanthropists who will build on shared learnings to identify and lift up approaches that offer scalable, high-impact results for young children. By forging connections between developmental science and the systems that can deliver outstanding early childhood programs, this \$20 million effort will select and support a set of six to ten investments in organizations that emphasize whole-child development in reaching children and the parents, caregivers and educators who support them. Leveraging New Profit's exceptional 15-year track record of venture philanthropy that enables proven social entrepreneurs to grow their organizations and strengthen their impact, the LEGO Foundation hopes its commitment will catalyze additional financial commitments and activate a results-driven network to drive lasting impact on the sector. The LEGO Foundation believes that learning through play should be at the heart of our discussions about what quality early learning looks like, and looks forward to this collaboration as a way to share its experience, to learn from others in the field and to think together about how to use the transformative power of learning through play to benefit young children around the world.

The Marriott Foundation

The Marriott Foundation is committing \$5 million over three years to support quality early education for all children aged zero to eight in the District of Columbia. Our vision for this commitment is that all of D.C.'s children, regardless of where they attend school, are equipped with the building blocks for lifelong learning and healthy social-emotional development.

Newark Early Learning Funders Group – Council of New Jersey Grantmakers

The Newark Early Learning Funders Group, an affinity group of the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers, plans new commitments of over \$1.5 million in 2015 for high-quality early childhood education for the children of Newark and of the state of New Jersey. The group will advocate for, and support, children aged zero to three by: 1) Improving Parents' Access to Information; 2) Providing Early Childhood Teachers with Opportunities for Professional Growth; and 3) Improving Early Learning Centers by Investing in Center Directors.

Overdeck Family Foundation

Overdeck Family Foundation (OFF) believes that children's beginning years are critical. Overdeck has contributed to early childhood since its inception. In addition to grantmaking, the Foundation supports the research of Bedtime Math, an affiliated organization whose mission is to make nightly math as universal and beloved as a bedtime story. OFF affirms an additional commitment of \$3 million to early childhood over the next three years, aimed at a range of programs that lay strong foundations for children's readiness, numeracy, and non-cognitive skills. OFF seeks to invest in programs that expand the capacity of early childhood teachers and leaders, strengthen the quality of early learning, support parents and caregivers in promoting learning at home, and improve continuity in children's formal learning from birth through third grade.

Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc.

As an advocate of universal screening for more than twenty years, Brookes Publishing has committed to help strengthen screening in early education as part of the expanding federal initiatives. Brookes Publishing will support programs in beginning and/or extending developmental screening for all the children by developing an Ages and Stages (ASQ) Screening Resource Center that will include new educational tools designed to help early childhood programs prepare and organize, conduct, and follow through on developmental screening. This virtual toolkit will support screening success with new webinars, videos, downloadable tip sheets, FAQs, and practical implementation materials. Brookes Publishing commits to making The Resource Center freely available to promote truly universal screening. They will also offer 1,000 ASQ Screening Success kits which will bundle their best resources that support ASQ-3 use. Starting with a copy of the Developmental Screening in Your Community book, this booster package will also include Quick Start Guides, Learning Activities, a Scoring and Referral training DVD, and more. This donation represents \$200,000 in product value. And finally in partnership with members of the federal inter-agency group supporting early education, they will design a Universal Screening Pilot Study to determine the use of ASQ-3 as a tool to collect population-wide data to evaluate community progress in supporting young children's development, early learning, and readiness for school.

PVH Corp.

PVH's philanthropic mission is championing causes that advance the needs of women and children around the world. The commitment being made by PVH will improve access to high quality early childhood education, which the company believes is essential to providing children with the ability to succeed. PVH is thrilled to be furthering its long-standing relationship with Save the Children through this \$5 million commitment by The PVH Foundation to Save the Children's Early Education program.

Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB)

In recognition of the vital role that quality early education experiences play in improving school readiness for our nation's children, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), and local public media stations have together committed \$58 million, including \$20 million in newly dedicated funds, to expand the scope and reach of the U.S. Department of Education Ready To Learn (RTL) Grant program. Through a combination of Ready To Learn resources and new funds from the recently-established American Graduate/PBS KIDS Fund, CPB and PBS are serving as a nexus of local, national, public, private, and not-for-profit partnerships to provide greater access to high-quality educational media and digital learning tools. These public organizations will increase the amount of free, high-quality content created and distributed to enrich early learning experiences in more homes, child care centers, and classrooms, deploy innovative approaches to improving early education including free digital tools to help parents support their children's learning, and expand professional development opportunities for the early learning workforce.

Robert R. McCormick Foundation

As part of the McCormick Foundation's \$6 million annual investment in education, the Foundation anticipates at least \$2 million in new investments for the Collective Illinois Effort in 2015. These new investments will leverage federal initiatives such as the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, and home visiting expansion to ensure children and their families in Illinois have access to high-quality early learning services that support success in school and life.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation®

In 2014, RWJF began investing in initiatives to promote the social and emotional development of children, as a means to support overall wellbeing, including academic achievement, and improved resilience—and including projects aimed to influence stakeholders at national, state, and local levels. At the national level, we are committing approximately \$4 million over the next several years to advance the integration of child

development, social and emotional skills building, and health supports within early care and education settings, as a means to support academic achievement and overall wellbeing. At the local level, we are committing approximately \$11 million over the next several years to build tools and resources that facilitate community engagement to implement social and emotional learning and health supports in schools that promote and improve mental health among children; to employ collective action strategies and support community partnerships to promote resilience and social emotional health in families with young children; and integrate the growing knowledge about brain science into programs, policy and systems design to improve child and family outcomes, including social emotional outcomes.

Rose Community Foundation

Rose Community Foundation in Colorado is creating a new entity, the Colorado Early Childhood Foundation, to leverage and support federal initiatives in a public-private partnership approach. With \$300,000 already raised for this new entity, the plan is to raise \$1.5 million in 2015.

Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation

Commitment of over \$2 million a year from 2015 to 2017. This estimated annual distribution supports teacher and school administrator training in public preschool sites, scholarships for some four-year-olds, and advocacy for early education. An example of the investments made in 2014 includes a \$58,000 grant to train public and private preschool teachers in early mathematics teaching skills.

Scholastic

Scholastic commits to providing in-kind donations of over \$1 million worth of books and professional learning opportunities to awardees of the U.S. Department of Education's Preschool Development Grants and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Early Head Start–Child Care Partnership Grants. Scholastic will donate preschool classroom libraries, consisting of 300 board books for ages zero to three, to each Early Head Start Grant awardee. Approximately 300 early childhood centers will receive a total of 90,000 books through this commitment. Scholastic will also offer five days of professional learning for early education providers and leaders in states that have been awarded Preschool Development Grants.

Schumann Fund for New Jersey

The Schumann Fund for New Jersey will provide up to \$1.5 million (\$500,000 each year) in New Jersey over the next three years to support early childhood systems building work related to the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant and preschool expansion. This funding will be directed at extending the impact of state and federal investments in expanding access to preschool, implementing a Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) state-wide, and coordinating services for children from birth to age eight.

Sesame Workshop's Joan Ganz Cooney Center and New America

Sesame Workshop's Joan Ganz Cooney Center and New America promoting innovation: Map, Link and Rethink Early Learning for a Digital Age. In January 2015, Sesame Workshop's Joan Ganz Cooney Center and New America will be unveiling a nationwide project to identify and examine the uses of technology within early learning initiatives. Map, Link and Rethink Early Learning for a Digital Age will create new tools for assessing the potential of emerging technologies and build a professional learning community that draws from research on best practices. The initiative will create open-source tools, guides for using technology, and interactive maps to be used by thousands of front line early learning practitioners in over 100 communities nationally. The research phase for the project launched in 2014 with the development of the "Seeding Reading" campaign, a joint effort with the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, which is active in over 140 communities. The new project will also produce action briefs, conduct planning and development institutes with policy leaders and highlight evaluation and research projects to inform new early learning investments and public-private partnerships. Funding for the project comes from The Pritzker Children's Initiative and the Alliance for Early Success. The Alliance's goal is to advance policies that lead to improved health, learning, and economic outcomes for young children, birth through age eight. The Pritzker Children's Initiative is funding innovative research and programs for children in underserved communities. In addition to financial support, both organizations have expertise in engaging researchers, practitioners and policy leaders in promoting innovation.

Stranahan Foundation

The Stranahan Foundation Board of Trustees have recently affirmed their commitment to continued investment in strategies to: (a) support and nurture effective teaching and high quality adult/child interactions in early childhood settings; (b) make rich, impactful early learning available to more disadvantaged children; and (c) advance quality in the early education sector. The specific amount of future investments will depend on the opportunities surfaced through our ongoing research. That said, the Foundation expects to invest \$6 million or more in new grants over the next 3 to 4 years.

Susan A. Buffett and Partners

Omaha is a mid-sized city with big-city challenges. This new investment will serve children and families living in two neighborhoods that are home to three of Nebraska's four designated "high poverty zip codes"—and the two zip codes in the state with the highest percentages of young children in poverty. Inspired, in part, by compelling longitudinal data that shows Educare students outperforming their peers in third and fifth grade, Omaha Public Schools (OPS) has embarked on an ambitious preschool expansion that will eventually bring universal preschool services to all three- and four-year-old children in the district. The OPS preschool classes will be six-hour days. Buffett Early Childhood Fund and other private funders are eager to work in public-

private partnership with the schools and other public funders to help reach the neediest children and families even earlier in their lives, and to provide full-day, high-quality care for those families who need it. The achievement gap is measureable as early as a baby's 18-month birthday and even before. Educare research shows vulnerable children and families who receive high-quality care and education from their earliest weeks, months and years do better in school. As the Omaha Public Schools expand preschool education, Buffett Early Childhood Fund and other private funders commit to investing \$15 million to expand high-quality early childhood services for an additional 192 infants, toddlers and their families.

Televisa Foundation

Televisa Foundation commits to promoting innovation for early childhood education in the Hispanic community by developing free and culturally responsive digital platforms related to early math and technology education for English Language Learners (ELLs), particularly focusing on low-income households. Televisa Foundation aims to reach 300,000 families with TV ad space in Univision networks with an estimated value of \$2 million.

Trust for Learning

Trust for Learning commits \$15 million to increase access to high-quality, developmentally-appropriate early childhood education models for low-income and at-risk populations in the United States. In a collaborative strategy, Trust partners including the Harold Simmons Foundation, the Walton Family Foundation, the McCall Kulak Family Foundation and the McTeague Catalyst Fund will use this investment to dramatically increase the number of public early childhood programs using the evidence-based, time-tested Montessori approach to transform classrooms and support families in underserved communities. Montessori is overwhelmingly chosen as a model of private education by parents seeking the best early learning environments for their children, but of the approximately 5,000 existing schools in the U.S., only 500 are public. Within this number, several exemplary public programs use Montessori to provide deep, student-centered early learning, as well as wrap-around services such as parent support, home visits, special needs and learning differences support, with outstanding results for children and families involved. The Trust's multi-pronged effort will increase access to this type of program by expanding and replicating successful, multi-generational community demonstration projects; leveraging an existing network of high-quality teacher training centers to prepare significantly more early childhood teachers, and trainers of teachers, who are uniquely prepared to observe, understand and cultivate children's development; creating a new teacher recruitment pipeline (TeachMontessori.org) to develop a network of top-quality young teachers; and building awareness of the potential of these programs through targeted communication and outreach.

Univision and Too Small To Fail

A new collaboration between Univision, America's largest Spanish language media company, Too Small to Fail, a joint initiative of the Clinton Foundation and Next Generation, and Vroom, an initiative of the Bezos Family Foundation, is being developed to provide Hispanic parents and caregivers with positive messages focused

on boosting early brain and vocabulary development among Hispanic children under age five. Messages will spark brain-building moments between parents and children, including interactions that improve early language, literacy, numeracy and social-emotional development. The partners will aim to reach Hispanic parents through more than 200 million media impressions that model and reinforce the importance of quality interactions, language-rich parenting and the benefits of bilingualism. At least 100,000 Hispanic families will be engaged directly online, through mobile apps, and at Univision-sponsored community events, with materials and innovative tools to motivate brain-building activities, including talking, singing and reading during everyday routines. By empowering families with actionable information about the science of early childhood, tools to better assess the quality of child care providers, and tips about how to integrate more talking, singing and reading to their children into their daily lives, parents will be better equipped to boost early brain and vocabulary development. This joint effort brings together and expands upon the partners' existing work, including Pequeños y Valiosos (Young & Valuable), a joint campaign launched in 2014 by Too Small to Fail and Univision and supported by the Heising-Simons Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and Vroom, the Bezos Family Foundation's science-based initiative.

UPS

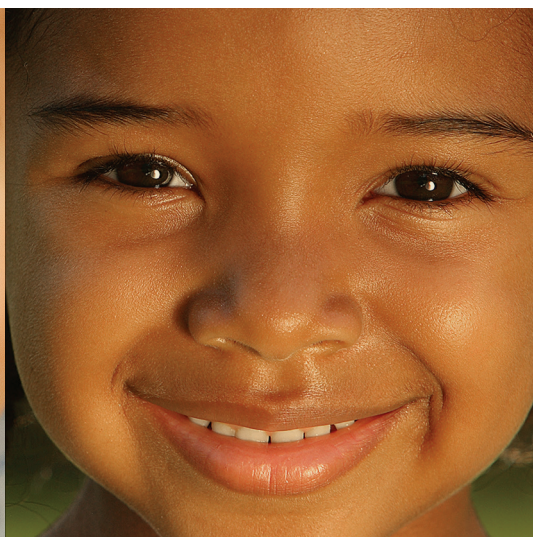
In 2015, UPS and its employees will commit \$5 million to help local communities address the challenge of ensuring more children are reading on grade level by the third grade. This commitment is directed towards early grade level reading initiatives conducted at the community level by United Way as part of the national Campaign for Grade Level Reading. Our new investment will impact nearly 100 communities across the country, enabling them to target three areas: reducing summer learning loss, reducing chronic absence, and improving the quality of early learning opportunities.

The Walt Disney Company

As a part of the launch of Disney Imagicademy, a new, innovative learning initiative for families with children ages three to eight, Disney is donating \$55 million in high-quality apps and books to First Book and other nonprofit organizations over the next three years to make books and learning tools accessible to a larger number of young learners. Designed to inspire a lifelong love of learning and creativity in all children, Disney Imagicademy combines research-driven curricula developed in conjunction with leading academics and experts with the Disney characters and stories that children and families love. Disney will also provide funding to First Book to help children in need gain access to critical resources around the country.

William Penn Foundation

In addition to the William Penn Foundation's ongoing support of early education initiatives in Pennsylvania and across the country, the Foundation is making a new \$3.2 million commitment for the last quarter of 2014 in order to further our shared goal of expanding access to high-quality early childhood education. In 2015, the William Penn Foundation will commit another \$8 million in additional funding to improve the quality of, and access to, early childhood education.



early learning communities

An Early Learning Community works together to deliver measurable improvements in the lives of its youngest children. It provides all children, regardless of what zip code they live in, an equal shot at success by implementing a continuum of high-quality learning experiences for its youngest children. Early Learning Communities demonstrate momentum in the following three priorities:

1. Significant public investments and private or nonprofit partnerships that catalyze increased investment in early learning;
2. Clearly articulated goals to reach and serve additional children with high-quality early learning services; and
3. A commitment to high-quality early learning services across the continuum from birth to age five.

A continuum of high-quality early learning starts with good prenatal care for mothers; support for new parents; high-quality early learning opportunities for infants and toddlers; high-quality preschool; and full-day kindergarten. It requires community buy-in, partnerships and a strong commitment to an investment in our youngest children.

Alabama

Alabama has increased funding for preschool while maintaining high-quality standards with three outcome goals in mind: positive social-emotional skills, acquisition and use of knowledge, and use of appropriate behavior to meet students' needs. For the past eight years, Alabama's First Class preschool program has received the highest quality rating by the National Institute for Early Education Research. Alabama has strict student-to-teacher ratio guidelines that ensure each child gets adequate attention from his or her teacher. In addition, teachers must have a bachelor's degree or higher and specialization in early childhood or a teaching certification. The state's quality programming also encourages parent involvement in child education. Alabama has increased budget funding for First Class preschool programming by \$10 million for the 2015 fiscal year to provide additional high-quality programs for 12 percent of the state's four-year-olds. The 2014 fiscal year saw a \$9.4 million increase in First Class preschool budgeting, which supported approximately 100 new grants and allowed more than 1,800 children (nine percent of the total four-year-old population) to access state preschool programs. Public-private partnerships allow school districts and states to access additional funds so they can provide their students better educational opportunities. For example, Alabama Partnership for Children (APC) is a prominent Alabama organization that uses public and private partnerships to develop and strengthen programs and increase awareness of early education opportunities in Alabama.

Boston, MA

In 2005, Boston launched a citywide universal preschool program in the Boston Public Schools (BPS) for four-year-olds that combined two features of early childhood education: research-based, integrated and thematic curricula and quality professional development informed by NAEYC quality standards and practices. Through a public-private partnership, the Boston program was able to hire coaches to improve the skills of preschool teachers and ensure high-quality programming. Today, the BPS high-quality preschool program serves over 2,300 four-year-olds. Research has demonstrated significant benefits for children who participate in the BPS preschool program in cognitive and non-cognitive skills, including language, math, executive functioning and self-regulation. Results also show that the program helps to close the achievement gap, though it benefits all children, regardless of race and income. In an effort to reach more children and provide a consistent preschool experience for all students entering kindergarten, BPS next obtained external funding to expand beyond the school-based classrooms to community-based programs through an initiative known as the Boston K1DS demonstration project. The demonstration project serves approximately 250 students in 14 classrooms. Preliminary results look promising, showing gains in instructional quality in math, language and literacy. BPS and its partners in the Boston K1DS effort recently received additional funding to expand the project to six Head Start classrooms in the city. In addition to the curriculum, materials, and coaching support, this new project will build Head Start's internal capacity for classroom mentoring and coaching. These efforts with community-based and Head Start programs are supported by grants from Pierce Trust, the Barr Foundation, Cox Foundation, and Race to the Top funds. Additionally, in 2008, Boston launched Thrive in Five, a public-private partnership between the City of Boston and the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, dedicated to ensuring that children of all

backgrounds have the needed support and opportunities to succeed in school and life. To tackle the latter part of the learning continuum, the city is also working with several renowned academic experts to develop a curriculum and adequate supports for children in kindergarten through the third grade.

California

California's approach to early childhood education is guided by principles designed to help students thrive in preschool and be prepared for kindergarten—a quality early learning program, an early learning program connected to the K-12 system, access to quality early education, and providing children with comprehensive developmental support. California intends to accomplish these goals with a comprehensive system of supports for children and a child care Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS). California increased early childhood education and development funds by about \$263 million in 2014. A portion of these funds will expand service capacity in the California State Preschool Program to serve an additional 11,500 children in full-day, full-year programs and increase capacity in other child care programs to 1,500 children. The budget allocates \$68 million to raise reimbursement rates for child care and \$15 million to eliminate family fees for part-day preschool. California has committed to provide all low-income four-year-olds with preschool programs in future years. The state also provided one-time funding of \$25 million to train preschool and transitional kindergarten educators in early childhood development, as well as one-time funding of \$10 million to provide loans for state preschool facility expansion. The budget increases Early Start services by \$8 million for infants and toddlers with disabilities and allocates \$50 million in ongoing funds for the Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS). California is also working to improve pre- and in-service training for early childhood educators, supporting innovative funding models, and funding universal transitional kindergarten programs, early learning programs, and professional development.

Chicago, IL

In 2013, Chicago Public Schools and the City of Chicago's Department of Family Supports and Services came together to launch Chicago: Ready to Learn!, an initiative that expands early learning opportunities across Chicago. This initiative serves children in Early Head Start, the IL Prevention Initiative, Head Start, and Preschool for All. The city recently committed to a new investment of \$36 million over three years, beginning with \$10 million in the 2013-2014 school year, to increase access to early learning programs and raise the quality of existing programs, reaching 5,000 additional children who were not previously served. Those investments have resulted in over 2,300 additional children being served this school year. In addition, the city is investing in raising the quality of existing early learning services through efforts focused on intensive parent engagement, teacher preparation and development, nursing and health services, and community partnerships. The city has ensured that early learning services across Chicago are aligned and form a strong continuum of experiences for young children and their families, starting with home visiting and infant/toddler programs, full-day preschool, and full-day kindergarten. The Chicago: Ready to Learn! program is free of charge for income-eligible families, children with special needs, and children in temporary living circumstances. Fees for other children depend on family income level. The city has partnered with Goldman

Sachs, the Northern Trust financial services firm, and the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation to reach additional children through \$17 million in private investments and the use of innovative financial tools, including social impact bonds, that leverage the city's investment.

Cleveland, OH

As part of an overall effort to improve education for Cleveland children, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District partnered with the philanthropic sector, business community, and representatives of the charter sector to develop a plan to fundamentally reinvent public education in Cleveland, creating The Cleveland Plan for Transforming Schools. This plan was presented to the Governor and the Ohio General Assembly and was adopted in July of 2012. That November, a \$15 million property tax levy was passed to enact provisions of the Cleveland Plan. One of the six core goals of the Cleveland Plan was to make high-quality preschool available for every four-year-old, then three-year-old, in the City of Cleveland. A Pre-K Task Force of more than 30 Cleveland area organizations was convened in October of 2013 to create a roadmap for this goal. The PRE4CLE plan, developed by this Task Force, would more than double the number of children in high-quality preschool programs and make preschool available to more than 70 percent of the city's 5,400 four-year-olds. It was approved by the city and school leadership and adopted in March of 2014. PRE4CLE includes rigorous child-level and system-level benchmarks based off the new state multi-dimensional kindergarten readiness assessment and Ohio's child care quality rating system. It emphasizes equitable compensation for teachers and expanded access to scholarship programs for teachers seeking degrees. The first wave of PRE4CLE expansion enrollees entered high-quality preschool programs in August of 2014, with nearly 350 additional seats available, and a target of over 1,100 four-year-olds in the first year. Private partners have not only engaged in the design and development of PRE4CLE, but they have made philanthropic investments to leverage local government dollars and reach additional children with high-quality services. Cuyahoga County, which encompasses the City of Cleveland, has a program called Invest in Children that engages government and private organizations to help achieve a common goal of increased public services for early childhood. Invest in Children's programs include universal preschool, home visiting services, and home-based early literacy services. The program is largely funded through grants from a variety of charitable organizations, such as the Cleveland Foundation and other local philanthropic groups.

Delaware

Delaware is in the process of implementing a strategic plan that addresses the comprehensive needs of children from birth to age five, developed as a joint effort between public and private partners. In 2012, Delaware received the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant from the federal government for \$50 million and has expanded the scope of its strategic plan. As part of this plan, Delaware has made a commitment to a "whole child" approach, which combines physical and mental healthcare with early education to improve early child development. Delaware has a long-term goal to ensure all children receiving child care subsidies have access to programs rated in the highest tier of the Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS). The state also plans to extend access to home visiting and family health services to all

families. Delaware's plan actively works to increase the quality of the systems already in place through further implementation of its rating system to ensure providers meet certain standards and by providing more complete early childhood services, such as mental and physical healthcare services.

Denver, CO

In 2006, Denver voters approved a ballot initiative to set aside a percentage of city sales tax revenue to improve the availability of high-quality preschool for Denver families, creating the Denver Preschool Program (DPP). In November of 2014, this program was renewed and expanded to provide support for high-quality preschool through 2026. The program provides tuition credits to Denver residents for up to one year of education, based on family income and the quality of the preschool the child attends.

Georgia

Georgia currently has one of the longest-standing and most successful early education programs in the country. The 2012-2013 school year marked the 20th year of the state's preschool service, which served 84,000 students that year. More than 1.3 million four-year-olds have attended the voluntary program. In 2013, the legislature approved a \$13 million increase to add 10 days to the preschool year. Georgia's program has the unique distinction of being largely funded by the state lottery, which has appropriated more than \$5 billion since its creation to increase preschool access in the state. Residents of Georgia receive free access to preschool services. The agency, Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, has also implemented GELDS (Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards) in an effort to extend educational standards back all the way to birth and create continuity with the state's K-12 standards. With a strong statewide preschool program in effect, Georgia has recently turned to expanding access to high-quality early learning experiences for infants and toddlers through the Talk With Me Baby (TWMB) initiative, the product of a robust public-private partnership initially made possible by a United Way grant. Spearheaded by Georgia's Departments of Health and Education, in partnership with Emory University's School of Nursing and Department of Pediatrics, the Marcus Autism Center, the Atlanta Speech School, and Get Georgia Reading, TWMB has set an ambitious agenda to ensure that all babies born in Georgia are exposed to a rich language environment, which has lasting effects across learning and development later in life. Specifically, TWMB is training nurses, midwives, and WIC nutritionists on building parents' capacity in enriching young children's early language environment; providing training to preschool teachers on enhancing their language and vocabulary instruction in early learning settings; and using technologies to remind parents to use nutrition-related language with their babies. The dynamic program is also undergoing a careful evaluation to ensure continuous quality improvement. By 2017, TWMB projects that it will reach all newborns in the Atlanta metro region, where 61,000 births occur each year; by 2020, the initiative is expected to sweep across Georgia, reaching the 130,000 babies born each year.

Michigan

Michigan is determined to provide its children a "great start" in their education. In 2013, a \$65 million budget increase was proposed in the Great Start Program, which provides quality preschool education for four-year-olds from low- and moderate-income families. Passed by the state legislature, this was the largest increase in preschool funding by any state in 2013. Funds will help create 16,000 additional slots in half-day preschool. In addition to meeting increasing demand for the state's preschool program, this proposed funding increase will help improve the quality of early childhood education by increasing per-student spending to \$3,645. Under the guidelines of Michigan's Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Pre-kindergarten, the \$65 million budget increase will keep class sizes and ratios small to promote strong relationships between children and teachers. An additional \$65 million is being added in 2014-2015.

Mississippi

Mississippi recently passed the bipartisan Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 and funding for Mississippi Building Blocks, which established preschool and technical assistance to private child care for the first time in the state. In December 2013, the state awarded the first round of Early Learning Collaborative awards to 11 communities for voluntary preschool. The state legislature approved \$3 million for grants in 2013-2014, which will serve nearly two dozen school districts this year and reach an estimated 1,500 four-year-olds per year. Mississippi Building Blocks was also funded at \$3 million to help child care center teachers provide help to approximately 1,100 children utilizing the Between the Lions Reading curriculum to teach early literacy. The Governor's State Early Childhood Advisory Council (SECAC) continues to develop a systematic approach to addressing all areas of early education. SECAC is working in six key areas of early education: improving and expanding standards; revising and expanding quality rating systems; promoting quality professional and workforce development; increasing the use of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment; improving stakeholder and community partnerships; and building an early childhood data system.

Nebraska

Nebraska has expanded access to and improved the quality of early learning for infants and toddlers by carefully utilizing funding and optimizing public and private partnerships. Funded by earnings from \$20 million in private contributions and \$40 million in public investments to the Early Childhood Endowment, the Sixpence Early Learning Fund provides competitive awards to community partnerships led by local school districts as well as training, support and professional development opportunities for early learning providers, program assessment and evaluation.

New York City, NY

This year, New York City pioneered Pre-K for All, expanding early education from just over 20,000 students to more than 53,000 children in year 1 of implementing truly universal preschool. The City secured \$300 million in state funding for the expanded pre-kindergarten program, which offers free, full-day, high-quality education for four-year-olds. These classes lay a solid foundation for future success by offering instruction advancing comprehensive State preschool Learning Standards, aligned to K-12 expectations. Children are exposed to a wide range of books, learn new vocabulary, develop early math skills, and grow socially through developmentally appropriate, hands on activities and positive interactions with other students and teachers. In the fall of 2014, over 53,000 preschoolers enrolled in 1,700 high-quality, full-day pre-kindergarten programs and the city is working to serve all eligible four-year-olds next school year.

Palm Beach County, FL

The Children's Service Council (CSC) of Palm Beach County, initially authorized by a 1986 ballot initiative and reauthorized by voters this year, is an independent special district that provides a continuum of services to young children and families. Services include maternal and child health, early identification and intervention, quality and affordable early learning and after school programs, parenting education and support, teen pregnancy prevention, and mentoring. In 2005, the Florida Legislature established a voluntary preschool program (VPK) for four-year-old children. VPK is implemented through a mixed-delivery model, operating in public schools, public and private child care centers, and other community-based organizations. CSC and VPK services are aligned through their use of the Quality Star Rating System and Florida's Early Learning and Development Standards. The standards provide a clear and comprehensive framework on child development from birth to five years of age that parents and educators can use to track children's development. Through collaboration between local and state officials and a combination of local, state and federal funding, Palm Beach County has developed a strong, high-quality continuum of early learning experiences from birth to school entry and equipping their youngest with the skills they need to be ready for and excel in school and beyond.

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning partners with parents, schools, child care providers, early-intervention programs, Head Start, libraries, community organizations, and other stakeholders in order to provide Pennsylvania's youngest children with a high-quality early childhood education system. Private partners also play a key role in ensuring that children have access to the highest quality of care in the early years. Seven Pennsylvania foundations joined together to build a coalition and to fund the Pre-K for PA campaign to expand access to preschool for all three- and four-year-old children in the state under 300 percent of the federal poverty level. The campaign achieved an interim victory in July of 2014 when the state increased preschool funding by \$10 million (an 11.5 percent increase), which will result in 1,670 additional children served. The state partnered specifically with the American Academy of Pediatrics and United Way in drafting their 2014 Infant, Toddler, and Pre-kindergarten Standards. It sets high standards for programs and

professionals, and then gives programs the support they need in order to meet those standards, in terms of accountability. Pennsylvania has also released detailed reports to gauge the level at which their early childhood centers are operating, detailing both the risk and reach of the Keystone Stars program, showing that more than one-third of the state's children under age five participate in some sort of state or federally funded early education program.

San Antonio, TX

San Antonio passed a ballot initiative in 2012 to provide preschool with a sales tax increase of one-eighth of a cent. The initiative will raise \$31 million a year and scale up to serve an additional 3,700 four-year-olds each year in high-quality preschool in years 4 through 8. San Antonio partners with a number of public, private, and philanthropic organizations, including Alamo Public Telecommunications Inc. and non-profits like Avance, Boys Town Texas, Ella Austin, the YMCA, Family Service Association, the San Antonio Public Library Foundation, and public school districts such as Northside Independent School District. These partnerships provide the funding for exceptional programs that serve as great investments in early learning. Avance, a non-profit aimed to strengthen families in low-income communities, offers a program to assist parents in developing their child-rearing skills with the aim of healthy development and school readiness. This program uses monthly home visits in order to view the home environment and reinforce the lessons the parents previously learned. Another program at the San Antonio Public Library, Little Read Wagon, is funded by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation and aims to foster an early love and excitement in children for reading and provide resources for parents. Several partners -Ella Austin, Family Services Association and St. Paul Lutheran Child Development-also invest in Early Childhood Professional Development to supply resources for early childhood professionals necessary for running a high-quality program. San Antonio also implements a Head Start program for children ages 3 and 4, and some 5 year olds who reside in the San Antonio and Edgewood Independent School Districts. This Head Start Program is funded to serve 3,020 children in both of the school districts combined. Five other community and educational agencies implement Head Start programs across San Antonio to serve an additional 3,769 children.

San Francisco, CA

The development of a high-quality early learning system in San Francisco has been built through community collaboration over the past 20 years. In 1991, San Francisco was one of the first cities in the nation to pass a proposition—the Children's Amendment—which set aside tax dollars for children's services, to seed local investment in early learning. In 2004, San Francisco voters expanded their investment with the passage of the Public Education Enrichment Fund to enhance K-12 education with one-third of its funds aimed at providing every local four-year-old with high-quality preschool through the Preschool for All program. In November of 2014, voters approved the Children and Families First amendment, which establishes a policy council to formalize a cradle-to-college continuum of support, continuing funding for early learning for 26 years. San Francisco will invest an estimated \$135 million in local funding, generated by the measure each year for quality early learning, education enrichment, and youth services. An estimated one-third of this annual allocation will be invested in early learning. While consistently focused on creating opportunity for the lowest

income children, San Francisco's strategy evolved to ensure access and quality for all children through a universal approach. San Francisco champions both quality and choice through a mixed delivery system that offers community, school, and family child care options through nonprofit, for-profit, and public sector program partners. Early learning professionals are highly trained and supported—lead teachers must hold a B.A. degree and are offered on-site expert coaching to identify needs, develop long-term quality improvement plans and model best practices. The preschool program is made possible in part by support from the Mimi and Peter Haas Fund. The Haas Fund has contributed over \$60 million since 1994 and will contribute an anticipated \$5.6 million in early learning funding in 2015 to champion access, quality, and professionalizing the workforce.

Seattle, WA

Recognizing the importance of early childhood education, Seattle developed a plan to provide high quality, voluntary and affordable preschool for the city's three and four year old children. A study mission to Boston, Jersey City and Washington, D. C. in the spring of 2014 with elected officials, preschool providers, education advocates, labor representatives and Seattle School District officials helped solidify a keen focus on quality and student outcomes. A ballot measure was then placed on the November 2014 ballot to increase property taxes to fund a 4-year phase-in of the Seattle Preschool Program. The preschool campaign raised \$1.2 million funded primarily by the Seattle business community, including Microsoft, Amazon, Vulcan and other businesses. The measure passed with 69% voter approval. The Seattle Preschool Program will serve 2,000 children in 100 classrooms by 2018. It will be free to families making up to 300% of the federal poverty level. Families making more will pay tuition on a sliding scale based on income. Preschool classrooms will be provided through a mixed delivery network of community-based and public school facilities. Seattle also fully funds the Nurse Family Partnership, an evidence-based home visitation program for low-income, first-time moms from pregnancy through the child's second birthday. The city also partners with United Way of King County to provide the Parent Child Home Program, another evidence-based home visitation program focused on reading and parenting skills development. The city launched its Early Learning Academy two years ago, a program designed to increase professional development for child care workers and preschool teachers.

Tulsa, OK

Oklahoma is nationally recognized for its high-quality infant and toddler programs and longstanding statewide universal preschool program, which is available to all four-year-olds in the state on a voluntary basis. The program started in 1980 and served more than 40,000 children statewide in 2013. All preschool teachers have at least a bachelor's degree, must be fully certified in early childhood education, and are compensated at the same level as public school teachers. Researchers have studied Tulsa's preschool program and found that children who attend Tulsa preschool make important gains in early literacy and math skills. These benefits extend to third grade math outcomes, particularly for boys and low-income children. Researchers also found that there are significant cost savings for the program, with every dollar invested yielding three in return. In addition to the high-quality preschool program offered to four-year-olds, the Oklahoma Early

Childhood Program, which was launched in 2006, now serves more than 2,000 infants and toddlers across the state. This program benefits from a unique public-partnership with the George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF) that matches state investments annually to serve additional children and families. The GKFF also led the development of and continues to support Tulsa Educare, a public-private partnership that serves over 500 children under three-years-old in three high-quality early childhood program centers in at-risk communities. Tulsa recently partnered with the nonprofit Too Small To Fail to reach the broadest set of children and families through the "Talking is Teaching" campaign. The campaign employs a community-based approach to engage pediatricians, business owners, faith-based leaders, librarians and others to empower parents and caregivers to boost young children's brain development and build their vocabularies by increasing the number of words they hear spoken to them every day.

West Sacramento, CA

The UP for West Sacramento (UP4WS) initiative is a collaborative partnership between the City of West Sacramento, the local school districts, First 5 Yolo, First 5 California, and community-based organizations to provide high-quality preschool and child care for all children ages zero to five in the City of West Sacramento. Originally created by a universal preschool task force initiated in 2003, the UP4WS program now serves over 500 children annually in high-quality preschool. Children who attend UP4WS show consistent gains in all assessed domains, with impressive language and literacy growth among English language learners whose growth in these areas mirrors that of their native English-speaking peers. The program includes high-quality standards and elevated teacher pay to professional wage levels and low student-teacher ratios. A partnership with UC Davis School of Education has supported the provision of high-quality preschool based on the latest knowledge about learning and brain development.

West Virginia

West Virginia passed legislation in 2002 requiring expanded access to preschool education programs in order to make preschool available to all four-year-olds in the state by the 2012-2013 school year. West Virginia's preschool program, West Virginia Universal Pre-K, is available in all 55 counties and reaches 73% percent of eligible children and collaborates with Head Start and Child Care in 74% of all Universal Pre-K classrooms. West Virginia requires that a minimum of half of the programs operate in collaborative settings with private preschool, child care centers, or Head Start programs in order to facilitate expansion of the initiative. The state is also implementing a child care Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) and has aligned its statewide early learning standards to the Head Start early learning framework and the Common Core State Standards. West Virginia also offers early childhood e-learning opportunities, at no cost, to Teachers and Assistant Teachers working within Universal Pre-K to make required professional development and credentials more accessible.

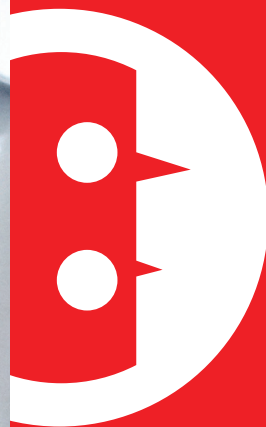
Winnebago Tribe

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska has implemented an intensive, research-based Educare model early learning program to reduce early educational achievement disparities by integrating and enhancing their Head Start and other child care programs in a new \$10 million, state-of-the art facility. This project is the first ever Educare project built and implemented in Indian country. The building opened its doors to children in March of 2014, and currently serves 191 children and their families with early childhood development and educational services. The Buffett Early Childhood Fund invested \$5 million toward the design and construction of the new facility. The Winnebago Tribe has committed to match the Buffett Fund’s contribution from sources including New Market Tax Credits, philanthropic foundations, and private donors. The operating costs for the comprehensive early childhood programming will be covered by public and private funds, including federal Head Start grants and Winnebago Tribe direct investments.

campaign partners

Invest in US is committed to bringing elected officials, community leaders, philanthropists and advocates together to support additional investments in high-quality early learning programs across the country.

AFSCME	Mission: Readiness
Alliance for Early Success	MomsRising
American Counseling Association	National Association for the Education of Young Children
American Federation of Teachers	National Association of Counties
BUILD Initiative	National Black Child Development Institute
The Campaign for Grade Level Reading	National Education Association
Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids	National Governors Association
Center for American Progress	National Head Start Association
Center for Law and Social Policy	National Institute for Early Education Research
Child Care Aware of America	National League of Cities
Children’s Defense Fund	National PTA
Council for a Strong America	National Women’s Law Center
Early Care and Education Consortium	The Ounce of Prevention Fund
Early Childhood Funders Collaborative	ReadyNation
Early Childhood-LINC	Save the Children
Easter Seals	Save the Children Action Network
Fair Share	SEIU
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids	US Conference of Mayors
First Five Years Fund	ZERO TO THREE
First Focus	
Jewish Council for Public Affairs	



**when we invest in them,
we invest in us.**

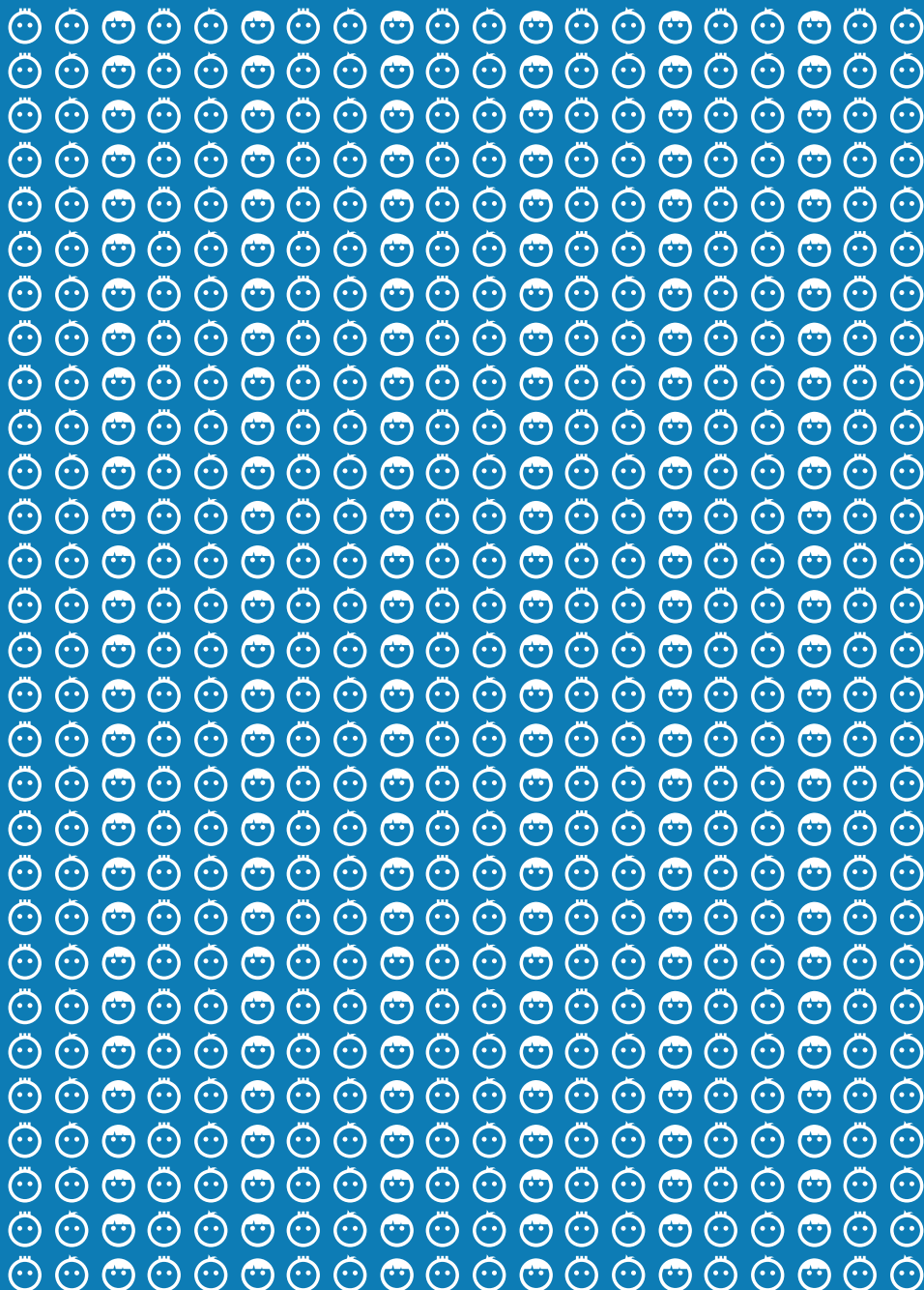
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