



Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems

IMPROVING EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES THROUGH COLLABORATION

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This series is dedicated to recognizing the South Carolina coalitions that are leading the way in the improvement of health outcomes for ALL people in South Carolina.

Coalitions highlighted in the "Coalitions' Work Series" are actively working to improve outcomes in the five priority areas of the Alliance: Improve the health of babies, improve the health of children, prevent chronic disease, improve access to high quality primary care, and improve access to behavioral health services.

To share your coalition's work in support of Alliance Goals contact agallego@scha.org

EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS

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ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) is a collaborative effort of several agencies who work with children in South Carolina. This effort is federally funded by Health Related Services Administrations (HRSA) and coordinated in the Department of Health and Environmental Control. From 2005 to 2013 these funds focused on creating avenues for state level planning and coordination of early childhood initiatives. ECCS Planning Grants were \$100,000 each year and from the time that a State Plan was submitted, funding was increased to \$140,000 per year.

On the front page of its 2009 State ECCS Implementation Plan, a quote by Vincent Van Gogh summarizes the nature of these efforts, “Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.”

The early ECCS grants preceded the 2010 robust funds available to states from the U.S. Department of Education as part of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), specifically to “implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive early learning education reform”. In this federal funding landscape, the FY 2013 ECCS became a part of the MCH Office of Home Visitation and Early Childhood Systems.

The 2013-2016 ECCS funding focuses on early childhood toxic stress prevention and mitigation. ECCS also continues partnership within the ECCS State Leadership Team.

SC ECCS SYSTEMS CRITICAL AREAS

The ability to use these strategies has been grounded in collaborations among ECCS member organizations.



RECENT STRATEGIES SUPPORTED BY ECCS

ECCS provides partial funding and development of the annual [Community Access to Child Health \(CATCH\)](#) Meeting for the SC Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics. This annual learning collaborative includes timely information and training such as developmental screening tools and another to build upon each child’s history regarding adverse childhood experiences as well as their learning about the support services available.

ECCS and the [Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visitation \(MIECHV\)](#) grants are bound closely to the practice of building systems for young parents and children most in need through contracted resources. Both bolster our [Help Me Grow SC](#) initiative to expand their service area as well as the early childhood initiative of [PASOs](#) that have trained early childhood Promotores in areas with large Latino populations. These community health workers share information with parents of young children about developmental screening, social-emotional development, educational options and understanding the importance of accessing medical homes and oral health care and how to determine quality child care.

In partnership with the [Children’s Trust South Carolina](#), ECCS planned and funded a June 2015 ACE Interface Master Training. Over 25 master trainers, selected from a variety of service sectors, now provide trainings at meetings large and small, workshops and interagency groups about understanding adverse childhood experiences.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT ECCS

- Join the ECCS Leadership Team to share and learn about current practices in the early childhood sector and help create connections to quality care.
- Call [Children’s Trust of South Carolina](#) to organize an ACE training.
- Support the implementation of programs and strategies identified as best or promising practices in early childhood. Place special focus on supporting populations with poorer outcomes.
- Share data that is relevant for the design and improvement of early childhood outcomes.
- Continue the state level conversation on the importance of a collaborative approach to tackling problems and opportunities related to child health and development.

CONNECT

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