



**What Can States Do to Ensure Young Children Thrive?**

**Joint Fellows Convening**

**Child Welfare · Early Childhood · Youth Homelessness**

Embassy Suites, Denver Downtown Convention Center  
Silverton Ballrooms | Denver, Colo. | Sept. 12-14, 2022

**Meeting Overview:**

Children’s earliest experiences are the building blocks for adolescence and adulthood, and many state policymakers are considering policy options to help young children and their families thrive. Since 2011, NCSL has supported state lawmakers by hosting this fellows program through which participants enhance their subject-matter knowledge in a cohort-based, peer-learning environment.

The program is designed to help you achieve the following goals:

- Strengthen your knowledge of early care and learning, family well-being and other birth-to-8 issues.
- Explore options to support young families and their children to achieve their full potential.
- Foster new relationships among fellows, faculty and NCSL staff.
- Develop an individual legislative action plan.
- Identify opportunities for NCSL to support your individual action plan.

During the second, and final in-person, convening Early Childhood Fellows will explore the environments and systems that can support young children and their families. Attendees will discuss topics both in their cohort and enjoy crossover programming with Child Welfare Fellows and Youth Homelessness Fellows.

<b>Monday, Sept. 12   Silverton Foyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (unless otherwise noted)</b>	
3 p.m.	<b>Registration Opens</b> Pick up your name tag and meeting folder.
5:30-7:30 p.m.	<b>Networking Reception</b> Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages and conversation with child welfare, early childhood and youth homelessness fellows. Meet at 5:20 p.m. at the valet station on the ground floor of the hotel. We will walk as a group to Earls Kitchen + Bar.  Location: <u>Earls Kitchen + Bar</u> (1600 Glenarm Pl #140, Denver)
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 13   Silverton Ballroom, Salon 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (unless otherwise noted)</b>	
7:30-8:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast and Networking</b> Breakfast is provided by the hotel and is available in the restaurant.



## What Can States Do to Ensure Young Children Thrive?

8:30-9:45 a.m.	<p><b>Joint Opening Plenary: Putting Money to Work for Children and Families</b></p> <p>Learn from Elizabeth Gaines, a nationally recognized expert in public financing, how to optimize funding to better meet the needs of young children and youth. Gaines is the founder and chief executive officer of Children’s Funding Project, a nonprofit social impact organization that helps communities and states consider opportunities for children and youth through strategic public financing.</p> <p>Moderators: Wade Fickler, NCSL and Tahra Johnson, NCSL Speaker: <b>Elizabeth Gaines</b>, founder and CEO, Children’s Funding Project</p> <p>Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 3</p>
9:45-10 a.m.	<p><b>Break and Room Change</b></p> <p>Move to assigned cohort room.</p>
10-10:15 a.m.	<p><b>Reconnect with the Early Childhood Fellows</b></p> <p>Reengage with fellows and share highlights of any early childhood-focused action you or your state took since our June meeting in Seattle. NCSL staff will preview what’s in store throughout the meeting.</p> <p>Facilitator: Jennifer Palmer, NCSL</p>
10:15-11:15 a.m.	<p><b>Deep Dive into Early Childhood Funding: What’s the True Cost of Care?</b></p> <p>Gain a deeper understanding of how various financing mechanisms and funding streams can support and incentivize high-quality early childhood programs. Consider ways to blend and braid local, state and federal dollars as you learn about fiscal mapping, cost modeling and emerging funding opportunities.</p> <p>Moderator: Alison May, NCSL Speaker: <b>Elizabeth Gaines</b>, founder and CEO, Children’s Funding Project</p>
11:15-12:15 p.m.	<p><b>Numbers, Numbers, Numbers: Why Data Matters for Early Childhood Systems Delivery</b></p> <p>This session will discuss the importance of collecting and using data for well-informed early childhood policy. Learn the basic “nuts and bolts” of implementing a data system and explore Iowa’s Integrated Data System for Decision-Making.</p>



## What Can States Do to Ensure Young Children Thrive?

	<p>Moderator: Melissa Mincic, NCSL</p> <p>Speaker: <b>Carlise King</b>, executive director, Early Childhood Data Collaborative at Child Trends; <b>Heather Rouse</b>, Ph.D., assistant professor, human development and family studies, Iowa State University</p>
12:15-1:15 p.m.	<p><b>Lunch and Networking</b></p> <p>Lunch will be provided by NCSL. Fellows and faculty are invited to engage in conversation.</p> <p>Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 3</p>
1:15-2:15 p.m.	<p><b>High-quality Prekindergarten: What Is It and How Can It Be Achieved?</b></p> <p>Research and policy experts share the markers of quality in prekindergarten programs and potential outcomes for children when quality is prioritized. Learn how local and state governments have invested in the infrastructure and supports needed to sustain quality.</p> <p>Moderator: Melissa Mincic, NCSL</p> <p>Speakers: <b>Anna K. Shapiro</b>, Ph.D., research scientist, University of Virginia, School of Education and Human Development; <b>Albert Wat</b>, senior policy director, Alliance for Early Success</p>
2:15-2:30 p.m.	<p><b>Break</b></p>
2:30-5 p.m.	<p><b>Colorado Case Study: How One State Is Revamping Its Early Childhood System</b></p> <p>Learn how Colorado is overhauling its early childhood system from a variety of stakeholders. Topics will include governance, universal prekindergarten, early childhood workforce and the role business and philanthropy in making it happen.</p> <p>Moderators: Alison May, NCSL and Jennifer Palmer, NCSL</p> <p>Speakers: <b>Alethea Gomez</b> director of programs and initiatives, Executives Partnering to Invest in Children; <b>Tom Massey</b>, co-chair, executive subcommittee of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission; <b>Dawn Odean</b>, director, Colorado Universal Preschool Program; <b>Lisa Roy</b>, Ed.D., executive director, Colorado Department of Early Childhood; <b>Rep. Emily Sirota</b> (D-Colo.); <b>Jennifer Stedron</b>, Ph.D., executive director, Early Milestones Colorado</p>



## What Can States Do to Ensure Young Children Thrive?

6 p.m.	<p><b>Dinner on Your Own</b></p> <p>Venture out on your own or with others to enjoy Denver’s food scene. Save your receipts. NCSL will reimburse up to \$40.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, Sept. 14   Silverton Ballroom Salon 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (unless otherwise noted)</b></p>	
7-8 a.m.	<p><b>Breakfast and Networking</b></p> <p>Breakfast is provided by the hotel in the restaurant.</p>
8-9 a.m.	<p><b>Home Visitation: Come on In and Take a Closer Look</b></p> <p>Home visitation is a voluntary, evidence-based prevention strategy supporting pregnant women, new parents and young children. This session will explore the legislative and funding landscape and two well-researched models: Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First.</p> <p>Moderator: Alison May, NCSL Speakers: <b>Allison Mosqueda</b>, program director, Nurse-Family Partnership for Invest in Kids; <b>Marisa Gullicksrud</b>, program director, Child First Program for Invest in Kids</p>
9-11 a.m.	<p><b>Warren Village Site Visit: Two-Generation Strategies at Work</b></p> <p>Board a bus to Warren Village, a metro Denver program known for moving people from poverty toward self-sufficiency. Learn how Warren Village and the programs housed within it support low-income, single-parent families by providing housing, high-quality care and learning opportunities for young children, as well as navigators to help residents set and achieve goals. Hear from staff, residents and alumni as you learn more about the people, programs and supports provided at Warren Village. Media may be present.</p>
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	<p><b>Reflections, Next Steps and How NCSL Can Support You</b></p> <p>Reflect on the past few days of learning and consider knowledge gained through both in-person meetings and webinars. Write down your next steps, sharing with the group and hearing what actions other fellows plan to take. Consider how NCSL can support the work you do for young children and their families.</p> <p>Facilitators: Alison May, NCSL; Melissa Mincic, NCSL; Jennifer Palmer, NCSL</p>
12:15-1:40 p.m.	<p><b>Joint Lunch and Closing Plenary: Up and Down the Prevention Continuum</b></p>



## What Can States Do to Ensure Young Children Thrive?

	<p>Engage with fellows across the three programs over a networking lunch. Then hear from Melissa Merrick, president and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America. Merrick will share her organization’s vision and the important role you as lawmakers and NCSL policy fellows can play. We will consider the continuum of prevention strategies and opportunities for parents and other caregivers to create better outcomes for their children.</p> <p>Moderators: Kate Blackman, NCSL and Wade Fickler, NCSL Speaker: <b>Melissa Merrick</b>, Ph.D., president and CEO, Prevent Child Abuse America</p> <p>Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 3</p>
1:40-2 p.m.	<p><b>Closing Ceremony: You’re Awesome, but Now What?</b></p> <p>Congratulations! Enjoy final closing remarks by NCSL’s CEO as you complete your time as an Early Childhood Fellow. NCSL is your organization, and we’re here to support you as you return home with new subject-matter knowledge and ideas about how to better meet the needs of your constituents.</p> <p>Moderators: Kate Blackman, NCSL and Wade Fickler, NCSL Speaker: <b>Tim Storey</b>, CEO, NCSL</p> <p>Location: Silverton Ballroom, Salon 3</p>

*This meeting is made possible through a grant from the Alliance for Early Success.*