

Congressional City Conference



Early Childhood: A Key Building Block of a Thriving City

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NLC's Institute for Youth, Education and
Families

#NLCDC

The HD Committee Policies & Resolutions Strongly Support Early Childhood

“NLC supports all efforts to create effective and comprehensive early childhood development programs and high quality education systems that ultimately provide individuals with the skills needed to secure meaningful employment and lifetime skills.”

Why Early Childhood?

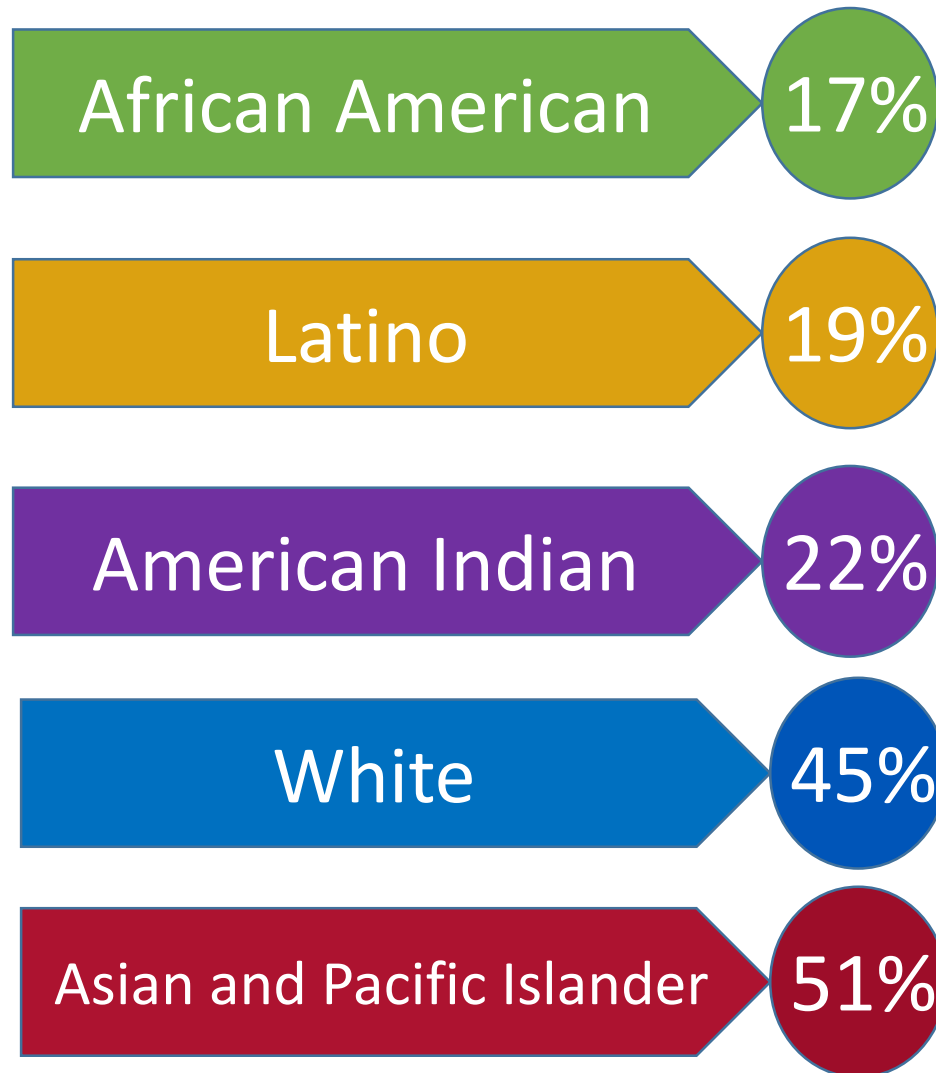
90%

of a child's
brain
development
has occurred
by age 5

700

The number of neuron connections per second that are formed during the early years of a child's brain

Percentage of children who scored at or above proficient in reading by fourth grade



46%

Children Living
in Poverty

64%

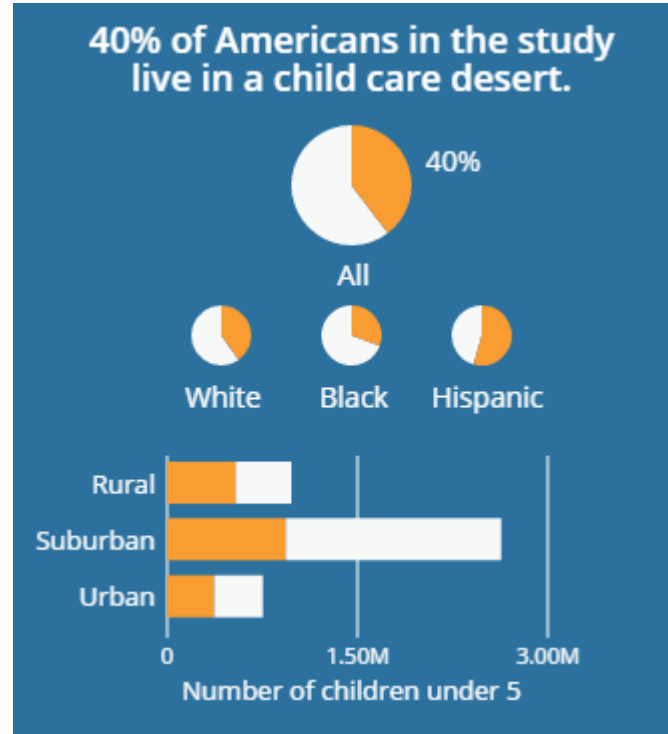
Children Living
Above the
Poverty Line

Percentage of 3- to 6-year-old children not yet enrolled in kindergarten who were able to write their names

In 2015, the average annual cost for an infant in center-based care was **higher than a year's tuition and fees** at a 4-year public college in 30 states and the District of Columbia.

\$10.72/hour

The average income for a full-time child care professional in 2015, putting the wages of child care workers below those of 97% of all occupations in the US economy



Across 8 states in the US, 48% of zip codes are “child care deserts”. This includes 1.8 million children under the age of 5.

For every **\$1** we invest in high-quality early childhood programs for disadvantaged children, we can expect a **13%** return on investment annually.

Early Childhood is Infrastructure

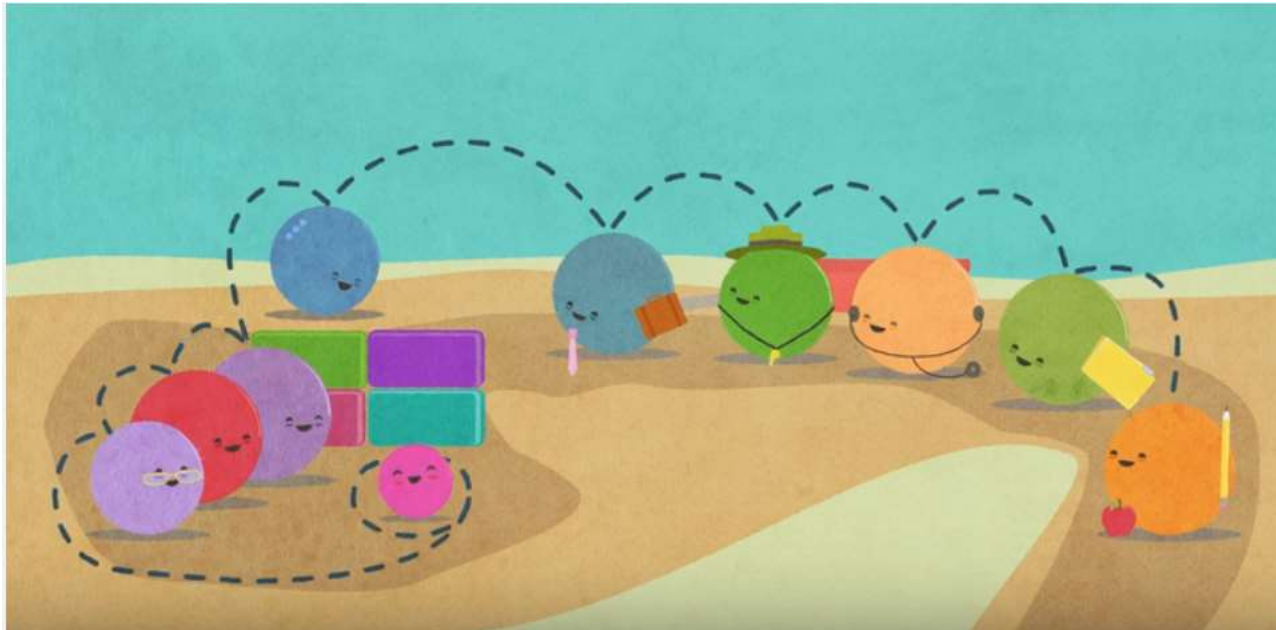


Early Childhood is Workforce Development

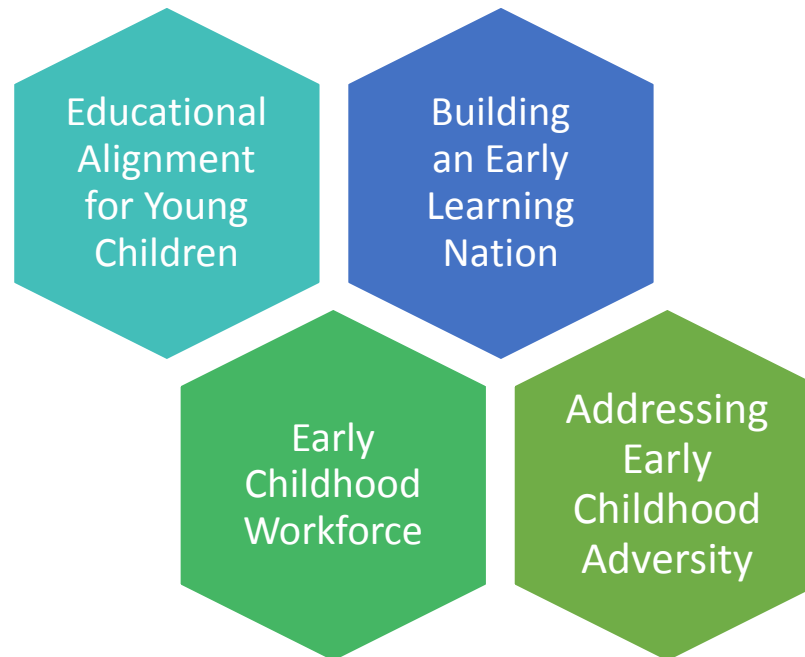


Why Aren't We Making Different Choices?

Early Childhood Systems Building



NLC's Early Childhood Success Work



Cities Are Leading The Way

- **Jacksonville, FL: Mayor's book club**
- **Kansas City, MO: Paid leave for city employees**
- **Dayton, OH and Pittsburgh, PA: Listening sessions**
- **Richmond, VA: Parent leaders**
- **Providence, RI: Trainings for informal care providers**
- **San Francisco, CA: Wage supplements for providers**

Children and Families Need YOU as an Advocate!

- Federal programs that support children and families may face cuts
 - Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
 - Head Start and Early Head Start
- Early childhood affordability is a top priority of Senator Alexander (R-TN)
- How do you use federal dollars in your community to support early childhood?



WE WANT YOU!

How to Get Involved

- Advocate with the HD Committee on issues of early childhood
- Provide feedback to help refine our Educational Alignment for Young Children (EAYC) Framework
- Explore additional resources about creating early learning communities:
 - [Ten Elements of Educational Alignment](#)
 - [Early Learning Communities: Building Blocks for Success](#)
 - [Strong Start for Strong Cities](#)
- What do you want from us?

Questions?

**Please fill out this
session's evaluation on
the NLC Events app!**

Contact us!

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NLC

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