

Comprehensive Early Childhood Systems in States

ECSWG 2011

Revised System Graphics

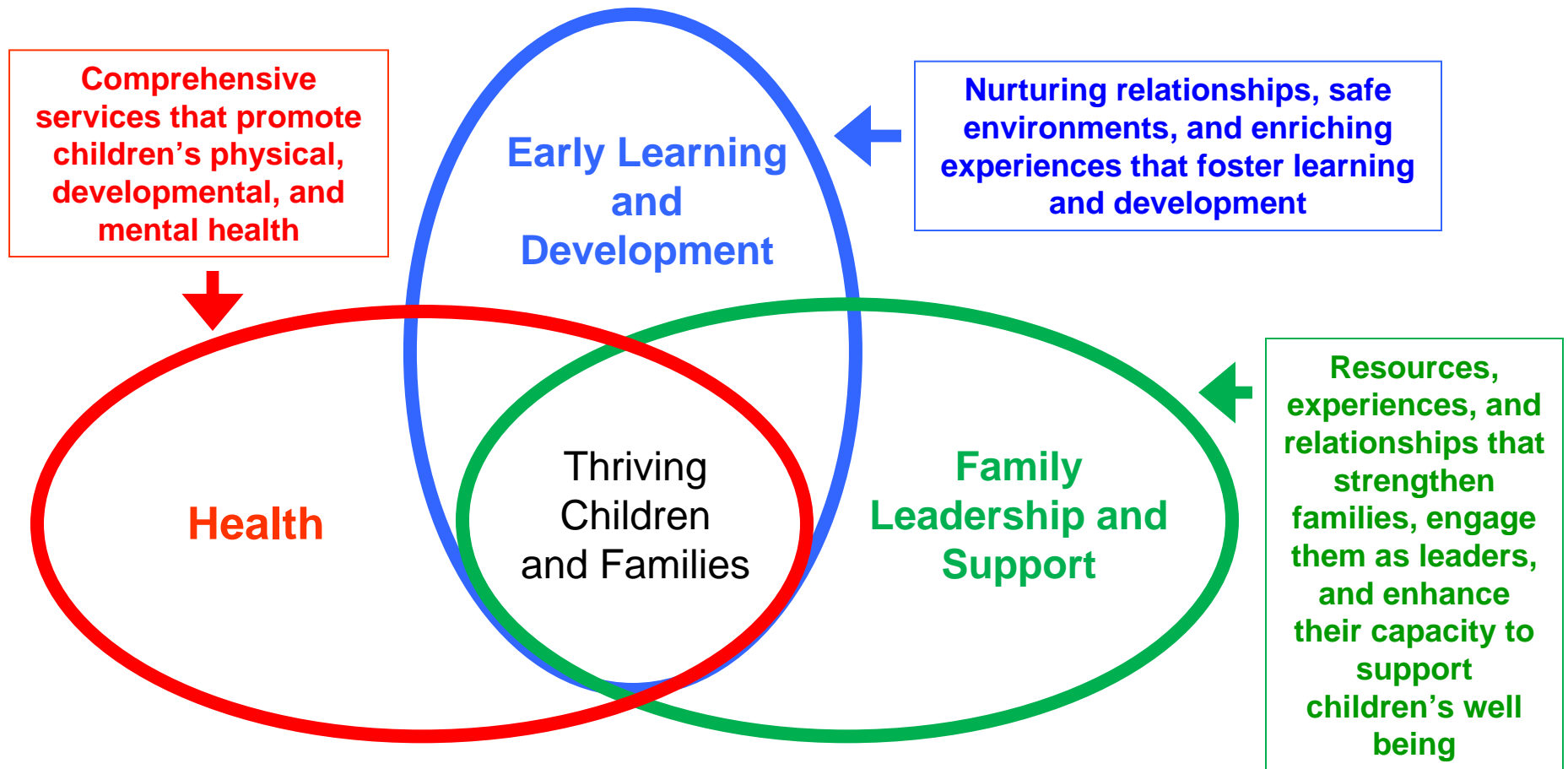
The Early Childhood Systems Working Group

Guiding Values and Principles

Optimally, a comprehensive early childhood system will:

- Reach all children and families, and as early as possible, with needed services and supports
- Genuinely include and effectively accommodate children with special needs
- Reflect and respect the strengths, needs, values, languages, cultures and communities of children and families
- Ensure stability and continuity of services along a continuum from prenatal into school entry and beyond
- Ease access for families and transitions for children
- Value parents as decision makers and leaders
- Catalyze and maximize investment and foster innovation

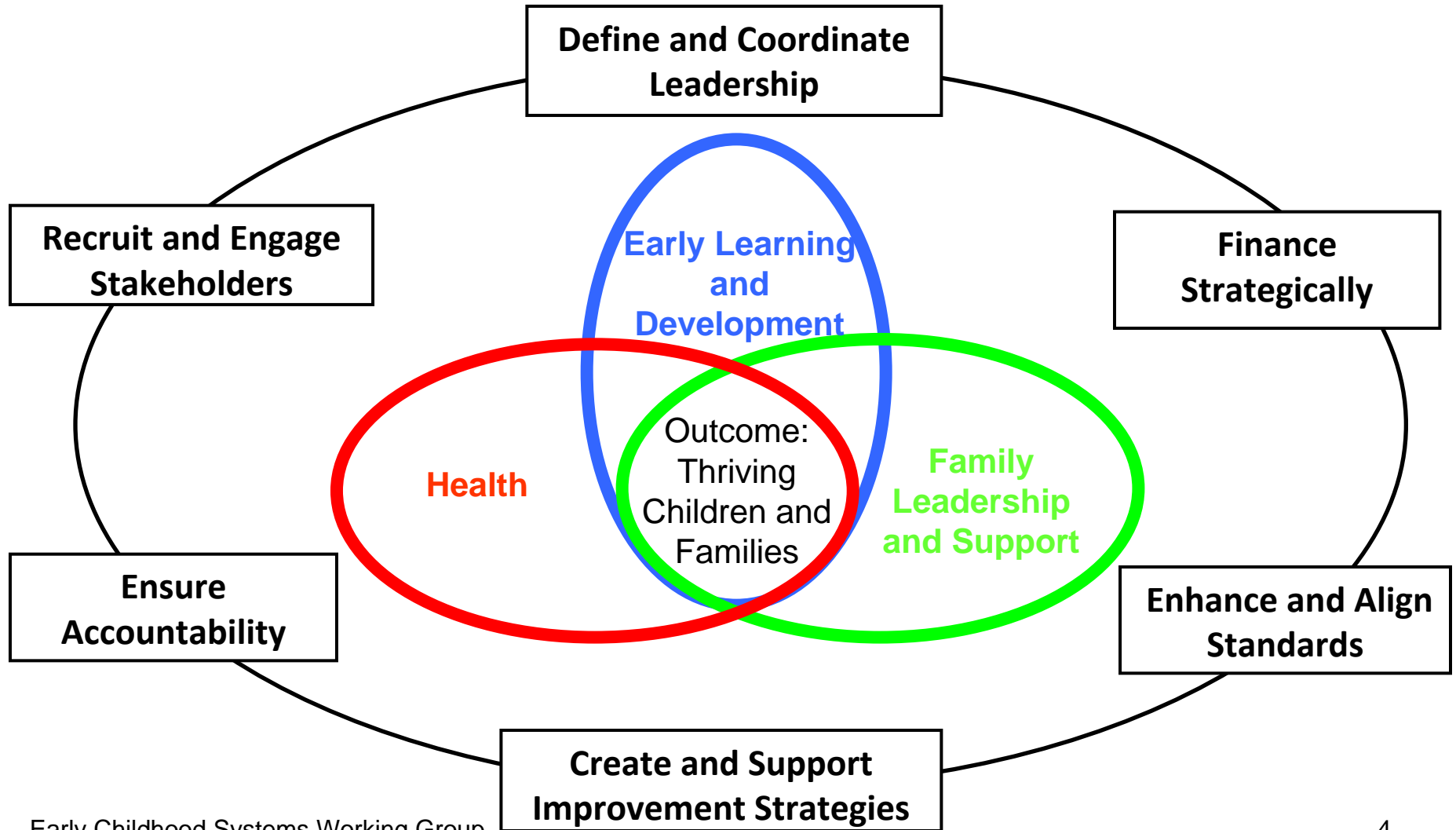
What Results Should a Comprehensive Early Childhood System Deliver?



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What Are the Functions of a Comprehensive Early Childhood System ?



Strategies within Functions

Define and Coordinate Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Articulate a shared understanding of roles and joint leadership to make greater progress toward common goals.- Set guiding vision, mission, principles, outcomes, and benchmarks for how the system sectors work together.- Coordinate relevant governance structures and policies.
Finance Strategically	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop fiscal policies that move system sectors toward delivery of services in a comprehensive manner.- Provide financial incentives for ongoing quality and system improvement.- Allow and incentivize braiding and blending of funding streams.- Leverage federal, state, local, and private dollars across systems.- Secure sufficient and sustainable funding to support progress toward common goals.
Enhance and Align Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Align standards both within and across system sectors.- Use standards to integrate services and practices across system sectors as appropriate.- Update standards regularly to reflect current child and family needs and best practices.

Strategies within Functions, cont'd.

Create and Support Improvement Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop approaches that drive continuous improvement in both quality and in services and their delivery.- Connect improvement activities both within and across service sectors.- Design strategies that meet standards and achieve desired results of a comprehensive system for children and families.
Ensure Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Design data systems that track progress on outcomes and benchmarks.- Regularly review and use data to guide continuous improvement and inform planning, policy, practice and operations.- Connect data across the comprehensive early childhood system to answer critical policy questions.
Recruit and Engage Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use strategic communication to increase understanding of requirements and benefits of a comprehensive early childhood system.- Build a broad constituency to support investment in a comprehensive early childhood system.- Partner with families as leaders in building a comprehensive early childhood system.