

## Strong Families

**GOAL** - All families of young children are supported in their parenting and have the knowledge, skills, confidence, and resources they need to raise their children in healthy and nurturing environments.

### OBJECTIVES

### STRATEGIES

### OUTCOMES

Increase opportunities for all families to gain the knowledge, skills, confidence, and social supports needed to nurture the health, safety, and positive development of children.

Increase the proportion of vulnerable/at-risk families that are identified and provided with needed supports and services.

#### ACTION

- Support the New York State Parenting Education Partnership's work to empower parents and caregivers through the provision of high-quality, accessible information that supports positive parenting practices, early learning, and healthy development.
  - Increase the availability, quality, and scope of parenting education activities.
  - Advance an outreach strategy that promotes parental understanding of child development and **QUALITYstarsNY**.
  - Develop a New Parent Kit.
  - Improve coordination and access to evidence-based family supports and services.
- Develop a statewide campaign to promote support for families that incorporates the core principles of parental resilience and enhancing protective factors as a framework for all health, education, and human service programs.
- Develop recommendations for policy and program changes to promote adequate and equitable income for all families with young children.

#### ACTION

- Guide the establishment of a system of universal screening and the expansion of assessment activities that identify families in need of additional supports and services at the earliest possible point.
- Develop a system for providing comprehensive home visiting services for vulnerable expectant and new families.
- Take steps to insure that family and caregiver relationships are integral to the delivery of mental health treatment services for young children.
- Promote routine developmental screening of young children as part of well child care, consistent with AAP/Bright Futures guidelines .

#### CHILD-FAMILY OUTCOMES

- Increased number of families utilizing evidenced-based parenting education.
- Increased number of families utilizing home visiting programs with measurable outcomes.
- Increased percentage of families with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to nurture the health and well-being of their children.
- Increased percentage of families that seek, utilize, and actively participate in supportive services.
- Increased percentage of children living in safe and healthy environments.

#### SYSTEM OUTCOMES

- Increased number of evidence-based parenting programs.
- Increased number of home visiting programs with measurable outcomes.
- Availability of a New Parent Kit.
- Increased use of family support principles in all child and family service settings.
- Increased number of mental health providers trained in relationship-based mental health treatment of young children.

# Healthy Children

**GOAL** - All young children are healthy and thriving, and have access to comprehensive health care services

## OBJECTIVES

Expand the practice of healthy behaviors in the preconception, prenatal, and postpartum periods, including use of early and comprehensive prenatal care.

Promote optimal health and development in all domains, including social-emotional development, for young children.

Provide children with safe and healthy environments in which to grow and develop.

## STRATEGIES

### MONITOR

- Engage all pregnant women in high-quality, comprehensive, and early prenatal care, with an emphasis on reaching at-risk/vulnerable populations.
- Support efforts to eliminate Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) in New York State through universal screening of pregnant women.
- Increase protection, promotion, and support for breast feeding when mothers return to the workforce.

### ACTION

- **Build capacity among service providers in all child-serving systems to identify and respond to the social-emotional needs of young children and their families.**
- Promote innovative models for the delivery of health care services within child-serving settings, including the co-location of social-emotional services, nutrition services, and early preventive screenings for vision, hearing, and dental.
- Increase efforts to ensure that children with specific vulnerabilities-including children in foster care, children in homeless families, and children whose parents are struggling with addiction, mental illness, and/or domestic violence are screened for developmental and social-emotional issues and given needed supports and services.

### MONITOR

- Establish and strengthen cross-system partnerships to increase enrollment of young children in health insurance programs.
- Expand the use of medical and dental homes for all young children, including children with special health care needs.
- Provide early childhood oral health screenings for low-income children through dental partnerships and other educational and preventive measures.
- Monitor evolving national professional guidelines on expanded social-emotional screening for children and screening for maternal depression.

### ACTION

- **Strengthen and expand current efforts to promote health and safety in early care and education settings through the development of standards, training, and consultation.**
- **Identify opportunities to collaborate with existing public health programs and initiatives on achieving key outcomes for young children, including healthy weight, nutrition, asthma, and social-emotional development.**

### MONITOR

- Support efforts to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in New York State.

## OUTCOMES

### Child-Family Outcomes

- Increased percentage of children born in optimal health.
- Increased percentage of young children enrolled in adequate health care coverage.
- Increased percentage of young children receiving health care within a medical home.
- Increased percentage of children who have optimal physical, emotional, and cognitive development.
- Increased percentage of young children with good to excellent oral health.
- Decreased percentage of young children who are overweight or obese.
- Increased percentage of young children receiving social-emotional screening with a validated tool.
- Increased percentage of mothers of young children screened and appropriately referred for maternal depression.
- Increased percentage of young children free from preventable injury and/or illness.

### Systems Outcomes

- Increased availability of social-emotional/behavioral consultation and treatment services.
- Increased number of child-serving providers trained in social-emotional development.
- Increased number of dentists conducting early childhood oral health exams.

Red text indicates initial priority.

## Early Learning

**GOAL** - All young children will be successful in school and life.

### OBJECTIVES

### STRATEGIES

### OUTCOMES

#### ACTION

- Establish **QUALITYstarsNY** as the framework for unifying and aligning New York State's system of early care and education.
  - Establish required criteria that ensure all New York State early care and education funding opportunities advance the 3 early learning objectives.
    - > Establish an interagency process for analyzing early learning program funding, and recommending changes to ensure integration and improved access and quality.
    - > Propose changes in UPK, child care, and other program funding and legislation to maximize support for more effective service integration.
  - Establish uniform standards for all early care and education programs.
    - > Establish Early Learning Standards as the foundation for all pre-service and in-service early childhood professional development and unified program standards and ensure they are integrated into instruction/program practices and aligned with SED learning standards.
    - > Ensure that **QUALITYstarsNY** incorporates early care and education program standards from OCFS, SED, Head Start/Early Head Start, and relevant New York City regulatory agencies.
    - > Develop uniform workforce standards that align with the program and Early Learning Standards.
  - Establish a uniform system of program monitoring for all early care and education programs.
    - > Recommend a common system for early care and education program monitoring by OCFS, SED, Head Start/Early Head Start, and relevant New York City regulatory agencies.
- Develop a more coherent statewide structure for the child care subsidy system that promotes greater efficiency, accessibility, and quality.
- Develop a coordinated system of screening, referral, and provision of health, social-emotional, disability, and family support services for children in early learning programs.

#### ACTION

- Develop a unified competency-based professional development system for the early care and education workforce.
  - Develop a data system to approve training and track the qualifications and professional development of the early care and education workforce.
  - Articulate career pathways and build accountability and quality into leadership development and pre- and in-service teacher preparation/education.
  - Establish recruitment and retention strategies, including recognition and adequate compensation.
  - Revise the New York State Core Body of Knowledge.

#### ACTION

- Develop strategies for increasing community awareness of the importance of early learning opportunities and for taking responsibility to increase those opportunities within their community (e.g., libraries, parks, museums, pediatrician offices, etc.)
- Develop community-based strategies to engage and empower parents and caregivers and support positive parenting practices that enhance early learning.

Align the current diverse set of early care and education programs and services to become a unified and integrated system.

Increase the knowledge and competencies of the early care and education workforce.

Increase the ability of communities to effectively respond to the needs of young children and their families.

#### Child-Family Outcomes

- Increased percentage of eligible families receiving child care subsidies.
- Increased percentage of children who enter kindergarten ready for school.
- Increased percentage of children birth through five years of age enrolled in high quality of early care and education programs.
- Increased percentage of children who are competent in English Language Arts and Mathematics by the third grade.
- Increased number of children with special needs receiving consistent supports and services
- Increased number of children with special needs receiving consistent supports and services in integrated settings.

#### System Outcomes

- Increased public investment for early care and education.
- Increased coordination of funding and service delivery among early care and education programs and settings.
- Increased consistency of early care and education funding priorities among state agencies.
- All children have access to state-funded PreK and full-day kindergarten.
- Increased quality of early care and education programs.
- Increased use of appropriate, consistent, and comprehensive assessments by public and private early learning programs.
- Increased coordination of program monitoring among authorized agencies.
- Creation of an integrated data system.
- Increased number of early care and education professionals who have degrees and/or credentials in early care and education.
- Increased number of community initiatives that promote early learning.

Red text indicates initial priority.

## Coordinated & Responsive Systems

**GOAL** - Public and private sectors that serve young children and their families are committed to collecting and utilizing data to inform decisions; developing a sustainable infrastructure and a fully-trained, properly-compensated, and well-supported workforce; and establishing policies for accountable approaches that promote healthy children, strong families, and early learning.

