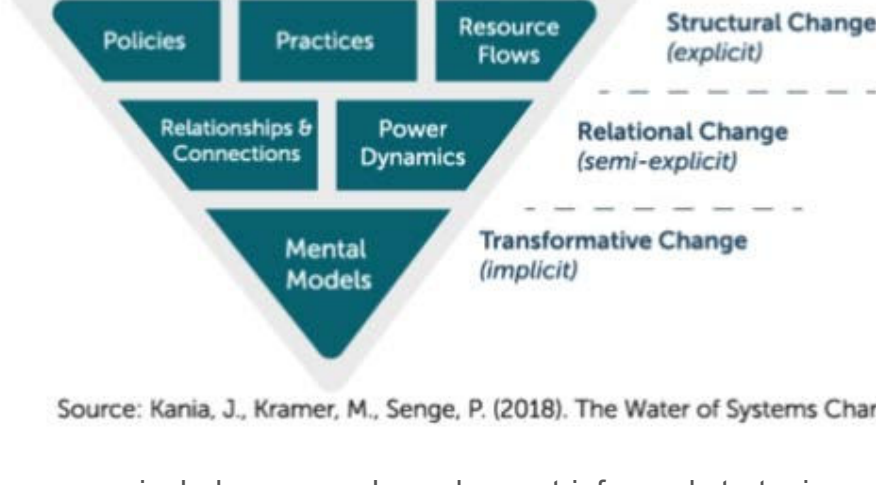


New Resources for Lasting Systems Change

We've released a [set of resources](#) with key strategies to help teams, communities and states enhance their early childhood systems-building efforts. Grounded in The Water of Systems Change framework, these tools outline strategies for six interconnected conditions for meaningful change: policies, practices, resource flows, relationships and connections, power dynamics and mental models.



Source: Kania, J., Kramer, M., Senge, P. (2018). The Water of Systems Change

Each resource includes research- and expert-informed strategies, along with practical actions that state and local health systems can take to support early childhood developmental health.

💡 Sneak Peek of Strategies

- **Policies:** Maximize financing opportunities at state and local levels
- **Practices:** Strengthen care coordination and navigation across the system
- **Resource Flows:** Fund initiatives that support the early childhood mental health workforce
- **Relationships and Connections:** Foster relationships among all systems partners, including providers and families
- **Power Dynamics:** Elevate the real-life experiences of families and communities
- **Mental Models:** Revisit practices to challenge assumptions, realign values and sustain innovation

Explore the Resources

Tools for Sustainable Policy, Financing and Payment Strategies

Transforming Pediatrics for Early Childhood: Developing Sustainable Policy, Financing, and Payment Strategies



Our [new tools](#) help professionals and organizations explore policy, financing and payment strategies that support long-lasting early childhood developmental services. Whether you're new to health care financing or looking to strengthen existing efforts, our practical resources can help build knowledge and identify opportunities.

The toolkit includes:

- **Foundational resources** that explain key policy, financing and payment concepts
- **Practical planning tools** to help teams assess opportunities and plan next steps
- **State examples** that highlight innovative and real-world approaches
- **Additional tools** to deepen learning and action

[Explore the toolkit](#) to access all available resources.

Video Spotlight: Connecting Families to Services in Maui



Across Maui County, partners are working together to connect families to the services their young children need. Our new video highlights the work of Kākou for Keiki, the community collaborative leading Maui's ECDHS Implementation Site, and showcases thoughtful approaches to developmental screening, family engagement and cross-sector collaboration.

Hear directly from providers, partners and family leaders about how this work is helping create a more responsive system for Maui's families.

[Watch the Maui story.](#)

Expanding Local Systems: Impact From Three Communities

Our [newest impact fact sheets](#) highlight how three ECDHS Implementation Sites in Colorado, Maui County and Washington are improving developmental health and well-being for young children and families.



The fact sheets showcase innovative approaches to connecting families with services, elevating family leadership, collaborating across sectors and building more coordinated systems of care. Together, these stories offer practical insights for communities working to strengthen early childhood systems.

🌟 [Read the impact stories from Colorado, Maui and Washington.](#)

Coming This Fall: New Systems-Building Strategy Resource

We are developing a new resource to help state and local leaders, professionals and partners build and improve early childhood systems.

Drawing from evidence and lessons from the field, the resource will include community-driven systems-building strategies, practical tools, measures and real-world examples to support planning and action.

Sign up to be among the first to receive the resource when it launches this fall.

Sign Up for Early Access

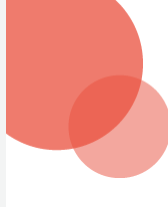
Become an Act Early Ambassador

[Apply by July 31, 2026](#), to join the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's cohort of "[Learn the Signs. Act Early.](#)" Ambassadors. This is a one-year funding opportunity for individuals from Kentucky, Nevada, New York, North Dakota and Tribal communities across any U.S. state or territory.

Events

- Our team will be exhibiting and presenting at the [Association of Clinicians for the Underserved Conference](#), July 26-29 in Washington, DC. Visit our exhibit and join us on July 28, 9:45-10:45 AM ET, for two sessions featuring our work. Kendall McElroy and Cailin Jason will discuss technical assistance with health centers during the policy and partnerships panel, while Dr. Dayna Long and Caroline Wator will share our [new change package](#) during a roundtable session.
- Research Manager Kendall McElroy presented a poster at the [National Research Conference on Early Childhood](#) in Arlington, VA, hosted by the Administration for Children and Families. The poster highlighted our technical assistance with community health centers to enhance developmental services. Explore [related resources](#).
- The [Safe Babies program](#) partnered with the BUILD Initiative's Prenatal-to-Three (PN-3) XChange community for an online conversation about how systems can better support families impacted by substance use disorder. Explore the archived discussion [here](#).

Additional Resources



WA Story Map: Strengthening Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems

Learn how the Washington State Department of Health and community partners are working together to strengthen systems that help every child thrive. This [interactive story map](#) showcases statewide progress and spotlights work underway in Grays Harbor County and Grant County.



Supporting Development Through Literacy Promotion

This [early literacy toolkit](#) equips clinicians with tools and guidance to support early language and literacy development as part of comprehensive pediatric care. It includes book selection considerations, family messaging and strategies across care settings.



Early Childhood
Developmental
Health Systems

EVIDENCE TO
IMPACT CENTER

The [Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems \(ECDHS\): Evidence to Impact Center](#) works to build and improve systems that support young children, helping strengthen the health and well-being of babies and toddlers during their most important early years.

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