

# Aligning Arizona PreK for Early Childhood Success

Arizona Mayors Education Roundtable

July 6, 2023



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**NLC**

WHO WE ARE

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people across the country.

The slide features a dark blue background with decorative elements: a large, faint 'NLC' logo at the top, a silhouette of the Statue of Liberty on the left, and several white geometric shapes (brackets, lines, and a series of slanted lines) scattered across the bottom.

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Join our Network

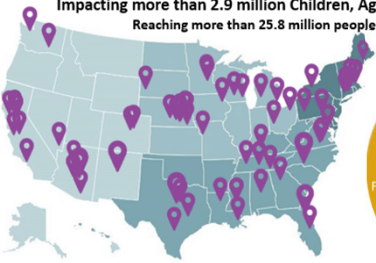
**Accelerate and serve as catalyst and changemaker** for young children and families.

**Strengthen local infrastructure and community.** Bringing best practices in support of the early childhood systems and child development beginning at birth.


[ECteam@nlc.org](mailto:ECteam@nlc.org)

## Cities for Early Childhood Success

BUILDING THRIVING COMMUNITIES THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE  
starting at the beginning and through every stage of life



Impacting more than 2.9 million Children, Ages 0-8 yrs.  
Reaching more than 25.8 million people



Every city, town and village has  
*healthy babies and happy families, and  
all children are thriving by 3, ready at 5, and on their way by 8*

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## The Reality

- ~ 11 million of the 74 million children in the US live in poverty

  - 1 in 6 children ages 0 to 5 years (childrensdefense.org)
  - 47% live in severe to extreme poverty
- \* 7.9 yrs. difference in life expectancy at birth based on state of birth
  - 78.7 years avg. (range 74.9 to 82.0 years) (2010-15 KFF State Health Facts)
- \* 5.4/1,000 US children die before their first birthday
  - 10.6 Black, 7.9 Amer. Indian, 5 Hispanic, 4.3 White
- ~ 2 out 3 US 4th graders scored below proficient reading level
  - 83% Black, 82% Amer. Indian, 79% Hispanic, 58% White

So All Children Thrive

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## Hope & Promise

- **Local Government has a large impact** on what and where resources and opportunities are available
- **90% of a child's brain development** has occurred by age 5 (toosmall.org)
- **700 neuron connections per second** are formed in the young child's brains (developingchild.harvard.edu)
- Achievement gaps can be **identified as early as 9 months** (nces.ed.gov)
- **13% return on investment** annually for every \$1 invested in high-quality early childhood programs for disadvantaged children (heckmanequation.org)

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## Arizona PreK Alignment for Early Childhood Success

### Launched in September 2020

Goals to align regional efforts to:

- Increase awareness, support for universal PreK in Arizona
- Develop a sustainable financing and resourcing plan for universal PreK in Arizona



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**Reflections: Aligning Arizona PreK** **NLC** NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

What happened? → Why is this important? → What's next?

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# The Challenges Facing Cities, Towns, and Villages




**Polarization & Growing Incivility**  
**Discrimination**  
 Pandemic recovery  
**Inflation**  
**Child Care Crisis**  
 Livable wages  
**Severe weather**  
**Affordable housing**  
 Accessible healthcare


**SMARTCITIESDIVE**  
 Harassment and intimidation are driving local leaders away from public service, and we all stand to lose  
 "I generally worry about how our nation's cities, towns and villages will perform and evolve the future we seek" writes the head of the National League of Cities.

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## What it Takes


- Start at the beginning and throughout the life-span
- Support for a high-quality early childhood workforce & industry
- Align across community, city, county & state
- Put the building blocks of success in place
- Embed Equity into how you do business



**Human Infrastructure Physical**


Source: <https://www.maintenancegroup.com/Strategy.html>

Cities for Early Childhood Success



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## Equity Is Central to Early Childhood Success




<b>Understand the Landscape:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's Available? ~ What's Missing? ~ What's Next?</li> <li>• How did we get here?</li> </ul>
<b>Create &amp; Evaluate Policies/Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where is the action with the continuum of policy, practice, and program?</li> <li>• How well have you mapped out the steps in your process? ~ How will you monitor impact?</li> </ul>
<b>Always Ask:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who's Benefiting? ~ Who's Burdened? ~ Who's Missing?</li> <li>• Who's part of the process? ~ Who's deciding?</li> </ul>
<b>Monitor Impact:</b> (data)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On PN-3, PreK, K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade</li> <li>• Across race, socioeconomic status, gender, geographic location and ability</li> </ul>

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## Many Roles of City Government in Early Childhood Success




<h3>Elected Officials</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Policy Direction</li> <li>➤ Budget Decisions</li> <li>➤ City-wide priorities &amp; plans</li> </ul> <h3>Staff</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Recommendations on policies</li> <li>➤ Implementation of policies adopted</li> <li>➤ Delivery of services</li> </ul> <h3>City Departments</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Multiple areas of focus</li> <li>➤ Early childhood; education; parks and rec.; libraries; housing; economic development; city planning; zoning and regulations; health department</li> </ul>	<h3>Policy</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Codes ordinances, regulations</li> <li>➤ Support/financing</li> </ul> <h3>Programs</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Essential &amp; Direct services</li> </ul> <h3>Practices</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bully pulpit</li> <li>➤ Awareness &amp; convening power</li> </ul>
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Early Childhood Success Team Leads

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CITIES STRONG TOGETHER

[@LEAGUEOFCITIES](https://www.instagram.com/leagueofcities)



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