

Access to More Resources for Children and Families: Strategic Implementation Plan, 2020 - 2023

Background

In 2018, the Early Learning Board (ELB) and Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) completed a multi-stakeholder planning process that generated the **Hawai'i Early Childhood State Plan, 2019-2024**. The State Plan set out a vision, five-year goals, key strategies, and priorities to create a stronger future for our keiki, their families, and the entire state. The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Office of Child Care, through the Hawai'i Department of Human Services (DHS), awarded EOEL a Preschool Development Grant, Birth through Five (PDG B-5) to develop in-depth, actionable strategic plans that are rooted in the State Plan. EOEL used the PDG B-5 Grant to convene work groups and develop seven Strategic Implementation Plans; each one serves as a "living" document meant to change over time as opportunities emerge, lessons are learned, and challenges are met with innovation.

The Hawai'i Early Childhood State Plan 2019-2024, full Strategic Implementation Plans, Needs Assessments, and background information can be found at: <https://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/resources/hawaii-state-early-childhood-strategic-implementation-plans/>

Introduction

The phrase "access and availability" is commonly used in discussions on the early care and education needs of children and families, reflecting the deep interrelationship between the presence of resources (availability) and the ability of families to locate and secure them (access). However closely linked these two concepts are, the strategies for improving access are not the same as those for increasing availability. The focus of this plan is on increasing **access** to child care-related resources, especially in rural and remote areas of Hawai'i, by expanding community-based partnerships.

Needs Assessment Summary

	2015-2018	2020	Recommendations
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33% of Hawai'i children live below 200% of the federal poverty level, but average cost of center-based child care for 3-4-year-old is \$9,553; infant care is \$13,404; toddler care is \$11,904 There are some supports through no-cost settings, subsidies, scholarships, and sliding fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child care assistance reaches 4.7% of estimated income-eligible population School complexes at greatest risk: Hilo & Waiākea, Ka'ū, Kohala, Kona, Laupāhoehoe, Pāhoa, Hāna, Lāna'i, Moloka'i and Wai'anae/Nānākuli Family priorities are cost and flexible drop off/pick up time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target resources to communities experiencing the highest need Deepen understanding of the transportation barrier Address state constitution's prohibition on public funds distributed to private sector education programs
System Fragmentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many different state agencies administer early childhood programs and services, but no unified eligibility criteria or application process Unclear state and federal funding mechanisms to enlarge available resources, combined with differing views on Hawai'i's efforts to optimize federal funding opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State agency leaders report difficulties reaching rural areas and ensuring adequate services of every type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase tele-help services by increasing availability and reliability of technology, internet access, and bandwidth, as well as workforce and family capacity to utilize technology Develop hub models that allow families to access multiple services at a single physical or virtual site
Eligibility Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families report the application processes are long, tedious, rushed, require extensive documentation, and are complicated by cultural and language barriers Redetermining eligibility every 6 months is challenging 	No additional information generated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide continuous 12-month eligibility for child care subsidies Revise family copayments for child care subsidies at or below 7% of family income for households of three at or below 150% of the federal poverty level Enact administrative rules necessary to enable recommendations

Key Priority for Collective Action:

Increase supports for families, children, and providers, including state departments' capacity to deliver wrap-around supports, and increase families' ability to navigate resources as informed consumers when accessing services. (BB2, iv, drawn from the Hawai'i Early Childhood State Plan, 2019-2024)

Objective 1: Providers of all types and families are actively utilizing a resource hub – virtually and/or physically – and report being able to locate resources to meet identified needs.	
Actions	Indicators of Success
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support ongoing design and implementation of Department of Human Services' Benefits Eligibility Solution (BES) project. 2. Drawing on successful models at the national level and partnering with community members and leaders at the state and local level, identify ways to make services more accessible and convenient for families that are navigating through multiple State of Hawai'i systems by developing systemic navigation hubs and supports. (BB5, vi, modified) 3. Working with providers of navigation hubs, develop a system for moving families to intervention and/or case management services when navigation is insufficient to meet individual or family needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility integration has been implemented and is online. • Commitment exists for expansion of a physical hub to one more community and the resources to do so. • Federal resources for physical hub expansion are secured. • Long-term: Physical navigation sites are widely dispersed throughout all the Islands. • Triage system is mapped out. • Training is being provided to navigators.
Objective 2: Providers, information network leaders, and families in communities statewide understand how to access information and resources based on proactive information-sharing and ongoing training.	
Actions	Indicators of Success
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early Care and Education Provider-Focused. Understand the constraints experienced by early care and education providers and support services partners (e.g., housing and shelter partners) in enrolling children from vulnerable families into early care and education settings and services. 2. All Types of Providers-Focused. Provide training and outreach to providers of programs and services of all types on available resources and network opportunities. 3. Family-Focused. Ensure parenting resources, support programs, and parenting classes are available in all communities, are culturally responsive for diverse families, and are accessible in the state's two official languages, as well as in dominant immigrant languages. (BB2, i) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers are trained in 1-3 prioritized communities. • 2-1-1 usage data exists on who is calling and for what. • Inventory of existing resources by zip code is available. • At least one training focusing on available resources and/or network opportunities has occurred on each island. • Gaps have been identified and prioritized for action. • Expanding services to address priority gaps has been initiated. • Translation of materials has been initiated.
Objective 3: Collaborative partners are working on and with the structures for accessing services, they are achieving common goals, and they are encouraged to share knowledge, questions, and feedback on a regular basis.	
Actions	Indicators of Success
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilize the Early Childhood State Plan's Priorities for Collective Action to enhance collaboration, bring government agencies together (and also government/nonprofit organizations) to generate innovative, collaborative projects and continue to move the work forward to implementation (e.g., state and county departments identify administrative gaps and convene to align them). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress on Priorities for Collective Action in Hawai'i Early Childhood State Plan reported annually. • Children's Cabinet has been established.

This is a summary of the Access to More Resources for Children and Families: Strategic Implementation Plan, 2020-2023.