

Montgomery County Early Care and Education Strategic Plan 2017
Investments in Our Future
Priorities FY2019: October – December 2018 Update

GOALS	Goal Responsibility
<p>GOAL 1: High Quality from Birth in all Settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Analysis of level of effort specific to supporting programs with Maryland EXCELS advancement; addition of training and technical assistance specific to supporting programs with Maryland EXCELS advancement (S1) ECS/R&R as part of the CCRC Network has a specific charge to support State quality initiatives. Each R&R sets specific benchmarks to work towards each year. This is ongoing work for the R&R and details are reflected in the R&R <i>At a Glance</i> document and the MCCR&RC Reports each year.</p> <p>• Identification of existing birth to five model programs and potential model programs to examine best practice in Early Childhood in the County (S3) An inventory of promising practices from local organizations listed within the Strategic Plan has been completed. The inventory highlights characteristics of programs that are adaptable to meet the needs of target populations. As programs evolve, so will the document to be used as a reference for DHHS early childhood services and stakeholders. This inventory will be published in an online format in 2019.</p> <p>During FY18 ECS Management is examining resources needed for ECS programs that serve both child care providers and families. ECS Management is using existing data through customer service and family surveys to do a trend analysis of where there are unmet needs. ECS programs will collect new customer service information from surveys in late spring 2019. The R&R has completed a DHHS Community Review process that has been published.</p> <p>• Montgomery County Council Education and HHS Committees’ request for PreK expansion options and costs for funding full-day kindergarten for four-year-olds in a mixed delivery system (S4) DHHS, the ECCC and Montgomery Moving Forward facilitated a panel on Prekindergarten expansion in July 2018. This event was attended by Montgomery County center-based child care providers, members of the County Council, and other community early childhood stakeholders. The event provided an opportunity for providers to hear the experiences of other providers who have partnered with the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia for mixed-delivery Prekindergarten programs and ask questions in anticipation of further expansion in Maryland. A symposium on PreK, sponsored by ECS, the ECCC, The Collaboration Council, and Montgomery Moving Forward is planned for May 10, 2019.</p> 	<p>DHHS/ECS/R&R</p> <p>DHHS/ECS/Management Team and ECEPO/Planning Specialist</p> <p>DHHS/ECEPO/Policy Officer/ECS</p>

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<p>Goal 2: Affordable, Accessible Early Care and Education for all Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Implementation of Quality of Care Cost Modeling Study (S5) The Quality of Care Cost Modeling Study and the report with findings was delivered in July 2018. In addition, the report included a customized cost estimation tool for child care centers in Montgomery County that presented 16 model scenarios of program costs and financing. In September 2018, the ECEPO unveiled the study and report to the provider community. The presentation provided an overview of the study, its purpose and examples of the cost estimation tool. In October 2018, the Early Care and Education Policy Officer presented the study and report to the Montgomery County Council Legislative Aides and Analysts. Further presentations and trainings will be provided on an as needed basis to providers and interested community organizations. A version for Family Child Care providers will be developed in 2019. The ECEPO is planning for the customized tool to be a web-based application that can be used by family child care providers and center-based providers.</p> <p>• Increase funding for WPA to eliminate waitlist before engaging in other strategies (S6) An analysis of voucher usage will be conducted at the end of FY18. Changes to the state Child Care Subsidy program will impact WPA usage in FY19 and adjustments to the program’s target enrollment will be made in phases throughout the year.</p> <p>• Establish, where possible, a common application process for DHHS Child Care in Public Space (CCIPS) and the County Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF) Before-and-After child care program (S9) DHHS and CUPF staff had agreed to coordinate a pilot for the 2018-2019 school year on a rebid process in one school where there exists both a DHHS CCIPS program and a CUPF Before and After School Program. This process is on hold at this time as the CUPF rebids have been temporarily suspended.</p> <p>ECEPO staff have created a side-by-side comparison of the CCIPS application and the CUPF application to identify and align sections for continuity among the programs and to assist providers in applying for multiple spaces sponsored by multiple agencies.</p> <p>DHHS Planning, Accountability, and Customer Service is assisting with plotting locations of CCIPS child care centers overlaid on household poverty levels with children under 5. The plotting will include an examination of capacity for both Infants and Toddlers and then 3 through 5 year olds. This will assist in identifying areas to</p> 	<p>DHHS/ECEPO/Planning Specialist</p> <p>County Executive and County Council</p> <p>DGS, DHHS/ECS/CCIPS/MCPS</p> <p>DHHS/ECEPO/Planning Specialist</p> <p>DHHS/PACS, ECS, ECEPO</p>

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<p>improve marketing and outreach, where to open new locations, and other approaches to increase accessibility to families.</p> <p>In addition, a chart of each CCIPS site has been completed which evaluates enrollment vs. capacity, waitlist status and how each site complies with subsidy rate requirements. This evaluation will provide insight into potentially allocating resources to various age groups and to examine gaps in funding streams used for subsidies.</p> <p>ECEPO is coordinating with M-NCPPC to create a storybook map that will include various layers of ECE programs and services related to poverty levels, single parent households and other attributes that will be useful to community organizations, policy makers, providers and the general public.</p>	
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<p>GOAL 3: An Educated, Diverse, Well-Compensated Early Childhood Workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Tracking of Family Child Care (FCC) and center-based providers advancing on Maryland Early Childhood Credential (S10) ECS/R&R as part of the CCRC Network has a specific charge to support State quality initiatives. Each R&R sets specific benchmarks to work toward each year. This is ongoing work for the R&R and details are reflected in the R&R <i>At a Glance</i> document and the MCCR&RC Reports each year.</p> <p>• Financial assistance to defray cost of ECE professional development and higher education (S10) Reductions in the allocation to the DHHS budget for scholarships were made for FY19 with the understanding that the Department would work with Montgomery College on financial aid options for currently enrolled students. For the current pool of students there was no loss.</p> <p>• Continue Montgomery County’s work and engagement with the Washington Region Early Care and Education Workforce Network and the National Academies on strategies for shared competencies, career pathways, and compensation around the region. (S11, S12)</p> <p>A study on compensation in Early Care and Education across the region was sponsored by the Network and published by the Urban Institute in March 2018. A consultant has been hired to develop and write the career pathways document with an estimated completion date of March 1, 2019. Stakeholder sessions will be held in February in Montgomery County using a draft of the pathway. Communication work is underway to develop a</p> 	<p>DHHS/ECS/R&R</p> <p>County Executive and County Council</p> <p>DHHS/ECS/Administrator and R7R Manager, Montgomery College</p>

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<p>separate webpage for the Network on the Washington Area Women’s Foundation website and to develop messaging for the Network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund outreach and capacity-building strategy, and implement an initiative in multiple languages to support those in the community interested in becoming a part of the licensed state child care system (S13) Continue ongoing work of the full set of services of the R&R and the work of Council Bill 13-15 and the Quality Enhancement Initiative. The Women’s Business Center and R&R conducted Family Child Care (FCC) provider start-up orientations in the summer and offered two separate FCC start-up classes. Monthly enrollment is indicated in the table below; totals are duplicate and not unique due to participation in both parts of the process. <p>A DHHS Community Review of the R&R has been completed and is posted online at: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/Resources/Files/DHHS_PACS_CR%20MCCCRRC%20Final%20Report%20Updated.pdf</p>	<p>DHHS/ECS/R&R</p>
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FCC Technical Assistance	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	YTD Total
Number of Programs receiving FCC start-up support	60	107	18	29	11	31	256
Number of FCC who have received their registration	0	3	0	3	4	1	11

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<p>GOAL 4: Transitions and Continuity Across Ages and Settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the coordination between MCPS and child care programs, led by the ECCC, on smooth transitions to Kindergarten (S14) The current priority for Prekindergarten in Montgomery County is expansion of existing services. There will likely not be much progress on transition in the coming 18 months. 	<p>Child Care Providers, ECCC, DHHS/ECS/R&R, MCPS</p>

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<p>GOAL 5: Leadership and Financing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Achieve full membership/representation on the ECCC; examine budget needs for ECCC (S16) Representatives for the identified stakeholders in the ECCC have been recruited and vacancies were filled at two points in 2017.</p> <p>• Ensure that the policy and program offices are adequately staffed and have sufficient authority to operationalize the full plan. (S17) The ECS Management Team began work in April 2017 to examine the structure of roles and positions within the ECS division (program offices). This work resulted in an in-house <i>Structure Roadmap</i> completed in January 2018 that outlines a 3-year plan regarding management and roles within ECS to build the capacity of the division to serve the public and the in-house development of teams across ECS to build upon the strengths and knowledge within the division. Additionally, ECS has developed a refreshed logo for the division and is working on marketing the services in ECS as one division to be more accessible to residents of the County. Some re-classifications have been completed and ECS continues to work on the addition of positions and the development of teams to support work across the division.</p> <p>DHHS continues to work with MSDE and MMF to leverage current resources and relationships across agencies to align early childhood services in the community.</p> <p>• Continue work with MMF to align efforts of the strategic plan and MMF Call to Action for Early Care and Education (S18) DHHS staff participate in the MMF Leadership and ECE Expert Advisory Group for MMF.</p> <p>DHHS has signed on in support of the MMF ECE Call to Action.</p> <p>DHHS cosponsored the July Prekindergarten expansion panel with MMF and will explore additional opportunities for joint sponsorship of community events.</p> <p>DHHS staff worked with Montgomery College as Planning Committee Members on the Single Parent Conference to promote and expand existing resources that support parents and young children that was held on Saturday, August 11, 2018.</p> 	<p>County Executive, County Council, DHHS/ECEPO/Policy Officer</p> <p>DHHS/ECS/Management Team</p> <p>DHHS/CYF and ECEPO</p>

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ECEPO staff regularly attend MFN Public Policy Forums to educate themselves on legislation that impacts early care and education within the county.	
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ECEPO staff attended the 9 th annual MFN Skolnik lecture to learn about equity in delivering services.	
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