

Montgomery County Early Care and Education Strategic Plan 2017
Investments in Our Future
Priorities FY2019: January 2019 – March 2019 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>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>Identification of existing birth to five model programs and potential model programs to examine best practice in Early Childhood in the County (S3) The ECEPO Planning Specialist Visited The Rochambeau School to learn about how the French International Education System is implemented within the United States, with a particular focus on their Maternelle program for children ages 2 to 6 years old. Visited The Waldorf School to identify alternative instructional methods for early care and education programs.</p> <p>Evaluation of a mixed-delivery system for Prekindergarten expansion (S4) A symposium on early childhood services for children ages birth through five was sponsored by ECS, the ECCC, on May 10, 2019. The Collaboration Council and Montgomery Moving Forward were partners for this event.</p> 	<p>DHHS/ECS/Management Team and ECS/R&R</p> <p>DHHS/ECEPO/Planning Specialist</p> <p>DHHS/ECEPO/Policy Officer and ECS</p>
GOALS	Goal Responsibility
<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 consultant was hired and began work on the Cost Modeling Tool specifically for Family Child Care providers. Focus groups with Family Child Care providers will be held in April 2019 to garner input from providers on budgets and costs related to their businesses. Focus groups will include large and standard size Family Child Care providers to calculate various costs which will determine an average cost for various budget line items. In</p> 	<p>DHHS/ECEPO/Planning Specialist</p>

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addition, training sessions on the cost estimation tool will be scheduled for both the Family Child Care providers and the center-based providers.

Work with Acting Social Services Officer and DHHS Legislative Analyst to identify upcoming state and local legislation that has an impact on general CYF services, with an emphasis on early childhood programming (i.e., Blueprint for Maryland – Kirwan, Family Leave Act, etc). Processed about 65 pieces of legislation that related to the overall health and welfare of children and their families.

- **Increase funding for WPA to eliminate waitlist before engaging in other strategies (S6)**

An analysis of voucher usage for the Working Parents Assistance program (WPA) continue to the end of FY19. 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.

- **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.

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 improve marketing and outreach, where to open new locations, and other approaches to increase accessibility to families. This research and preliminary work continues and has informed the PACS Manager to create additional maps that can be used for location decision-making purposes.

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.

County Executive and County Council

DGS, DHHS/ECS/CCIPS and MCPS

DHHS/ECEPO, ECS, and PACS

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<p>ECEPO continues to coordinate with M-NCPPC to create additions to 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. The storybook has been created and internal edits are the focus. Working with PACS and CountyStat to migrate maps to county servers so completion of work can occur to meet the CE and Council’s priorities.</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) 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 completed work on competencies for part of the pathway document; the Regional network is adopting some of the work on competencies from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Communication work completed on the development of a separate webpage for the Network on the Washington Area Women’s Foundation website and to develop messaging for the Network and a training was held on developing a communications plan.</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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<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 align="center">DHHS/ECS/R&R</p>
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FCC Technical Assistance	Jan	Feb	Mar	YTD Total
Number of Programs receiving FCC start-up support	13	5	7	25
Number of FCC who have received their registration	2	12	4	18

GOALS	Goal Responsibility
<p><i>GOAL 4: Transitions and Continuity Across Ages and Settings</i></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 align="center">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) Members of the ECCC were notified of upcoming term-limit dates and encouraged to circulate the vacancy announcement when it is publicized in the Spring of 2019.</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. The ECS Management Team is updating the <i>Structure Roadmap</i> and continues to work toward implementation. The team is additionally working on using Results Based Accountability (RBA) to examine data across ECS programs and work toward outcomes – a planned manager Retreat for June 2019).</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 May Prekindergarten symposium 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</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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<p>Conference to promote and expand existing resources that support parents and young children that will be held on Saturday, August 10, 2018.</p>	
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<p>ECEPO staff regularly attend MFN Public Policy Forums to educate themselves on legislation that impacts early care and education within the county.</p>	
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