

# Building Bridges Action Plan



State: Michigan

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Goals: *(What outcomes do we want to see?)*

1. The project seeks to **establish leadership (between health experts and child care professionals)** in early brain and child development (EBCD) at the state level in order to **develop and implement sustainable connections** between health care professionals and the state's early childhood systems.

Project Objectives: *(What could my state team do to work toward these outcomes? Example: Provide 3 EBCD presentations using the Speaker's Toolkit by December 2013.)*

1. **Creation of statewide early brain and child development and related health topics track at the 2013 Early Childhood Investment Corporation sponsored Michigan Great Start Conference.**
2. **Establishment of a statewide health and early childhood consortium of pediatric health professionals and child care professional representatives (collaboration with AAP Chapter and ECIC).**
3. **Develop EBCD-based Recommendations and present to the Great Start to Quality Core Advisory Team for review and consideration for incorporation into Michigan's Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) standards**

Project Activities:

1. The annual Great Start Conference, held for the last five years, is widely attended by early learning and care professionals and parents of young children and business representatives from all of Michigan's communities, with ~ 400 individuals attending the conference. The conference historically, however, has only included a minimal number of early childhood health specific presentations. Our proposal will allow the project leader and ECIC to recruit and to work with other state-wide pediatric health care leaders and experts to increase the quantity and quality of health-specific and Early Brain and Child Development (EBCD) content delivered at the 2013 conference for early learning and care professionals and parent representatives.
  
2. This consortium, in partnership with ECIC leadership and Michigan AAP Chapter, will provide input and alignment of ongoing health related systems building efforts to the EBCD principles and to ensure state wide dissemination of effective practices that result in better and sustainable connections between medical home and statewide early childhood initiatives (e.g. Home visiting, Early Head Start, Project LAUNCH, QRIS). The consortium will include experts and speakers identified in objective #1 and will consist of approximately five pediatric health professionals and child care professional representatives in addition to the project leader and ECIC representative. The consortium will provide expertise in the following areas identified by ECIC as high-need areas: behavioral health and development, allergy/asthma, childhood obesity, infectious disease, disaster management, injury prevention, and oral health. The consortium will provide specific EBCD content and health related expertise to be included in the child care workforce development opportunities sponsored by the ECIC through eleven Resource Centers throughout the state that provide training to the workforce. (see [greatstartCONNECT.org](http://greatstartCONNECT.org)). The training opportunities offered are supportive and reflective of the Great Start to Quality data generated from the QRIS process.
  
3. The Great Start to Quality Core Advisory Team is co-convened by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start and the Early Childhood Investment Corporation. Great Start to Quality is in the first year of implementation. The quality program standards and indicators related to pediatric health need to be further refined. For example, there are five standards in the QRIS with 50 indicators pertaining to the five standards. Settings receive one point for each indicator "met." Only 4 of these indicators relate to health. For example, there is one indicator that requires child care providers to keep health records according to the most recent Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule for infants in their care. In Michigan, though EPSDT is a "requirement" of health providers in their care of children, historically, health provider participation has been low. The consortium will identify barriers for participation and establish methods to streamline and use this information effectively to improve the health status of children in early learning and child care settings.

Additionally, the consortium will initiate the development of specific, accredited pediatric health/EBCD training curriculum for early child care workforce development that will include multiple modalities of delivery including in person and online training. The ECIC is the lead agency on workforce development through 11 Great Start to Quality Regional Resource Centers situated throughout the state. These centers are responsible for statewide dissemination, adoption, and implementation of QRIS and also establish and support appropriate training for child care workers to increase QRIS ratings. The ECIC will distribute this accredited pediatric health/EBCD training through these resource centers with consortium leadership.

**Initiatives/Programs:**

*What initiatives/programs would be our best partners? Why these initiatives/programs? What steps would my state team need to take to establish/strengthen these partnerships?*

The primary resources allocated to assist in implementation efforts will come from the **Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC)**. The ECIC was created in 2005 to be the state’s focal point for information and investment in early childhood in Michigan so that children can arrive at the kindergarten door, safe, healthy, and eager for learning and life. The Investment Corporation is charged with implementing a Great Start system for Michigan both at the state level as well as one community at a time. Through ECIC’s efforts, there are 50+ Great Start Collaboratives that are engaged in early childhood systems building throughout 83 Michigan counties and 11 Great Start to Quality Resource Centers (Child Care Resource and Referral) that focus on quality improvement in early learning settings and collectively, the Collaboratives and Resource Centers are referred to as the **Great Start Network**. On a state level, the ECIC is leading the state’s Quality Improvement Rating System on behalf of the Office of Great Start in Michigan’s Department of Education and the Early Learning Advisory Council (Early Childhood Advisory Council). The ECIC also provides leadership on Michigan’s home visiting MIECHV efforts and Project LAUNCH efforts, and is the designated leader for the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant. The ECIC also incorporates the BUILD initiative.

Michigan AAP Chapter will provide a connection with active content experts throughout the state as we seek to coordinate existing AAP educational programs (e.g. obesity) for early childhood systems and to develop new educational initiatives. Michigan AAP program manager, **Carley Kirk**, who has extensive knowledge regarding current AAP educational programs and initiatives, will be a key contact person connecting us with AAP educational resources, content experts, and expert educators throughout the state as we seek to develop a sustainable connection between the medical home and early education and childhood programs.

**Timeline:**

*What tasks are feasible to complete . . .*

Right now: 1.) Begin planning for Michigan Great Start Conference, including date (May 30, 31<sup>st</sup>), location (Lansing, MI – Kellogg Center), 2.)

Have AAP CCCC become part of Early Childhood Advisory Council \_\_\_\_\_  
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Within the month 1.) Define tracks within the Great Start Conference. 2.) Develop assessment survey for attendees Great Start Conference 3.)

Identify potential experts and invite 4.) Identify consortium members and invite members and include ECIC professional development manager 5.) Set potential dates for 2-3 meetings. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Within six months 1.) Discuss recommendations for adding/modifying Great Start to Quality health indicators. 2.) Semiannual report (August 28, 2013. \_\_\_\_\_

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One year from now 1.) Unified recommendations (EBCD/health/training/education) related recommendations for Great Start to Quality Indicators specific to health. 2.) Identify barriers and find recommendations for facilitating the use of EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment) 3.) Finish final report (Feb 28, 2014)\_\_\_\_\_

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**Evaluation**

*Evaluation should be determined during the planning phase of any project and should be re-evaluated regularly just like the rest of the action plan. Consider how you want to measure needs, assets, and success. Consider multiple viewpoints.*

**Key activities to evaluate** 1.) Great Start Conference (attendee evaluations) 2.) Evaluate final recommendations from the consortium 3. Evaluation/reflection from health experts in the consortium. 4. The intent of Project Director and the Health Innovations Director is to leverage this success to strongly recommend that the Early Childhood Investment Corporation incorporate the expenses of the consortium and EBCD/health track at the conference into its 2014 annual budget to allow continued sustained partnership in subsequent years.\_\_\_\_\_



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