



EARLY
CHILDHOOD
OC

Communities and Early Childhood

INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD
FOR A THRIVING COMMUNITY



As a society, we have ignored investing in early childhood, which has created serious economic and social issues. Child well-being and thriving communities go hand in hand.

When early childhood is overlooked, the ecosystem of our community suffers.

RISE IN POVERTY:

Poverty is linked to negative conditions such as under-resourced schools, unsafe neighborhoods, poor health, and inadequate child care

GROWING HOMELESSNESS:

In 2017/18 nearly 30,000 Pre K - 12th grade students in Orange County were homeless or living in unstable housing situations

DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 6 children live in poverty in Orange County; factoring in Orange County's cost of living and range of family needs, poverty level increases to almost 1 in 4

Early Childhood OC is a community collaborative that was formed to develop Orange County's Early Childhood Policy Framework to ensure that young children reach their developmental potential and are ready to succeed in school and life. Visit www.earlychildhoodoc.org for more information.

The Solution:

Community leadership, commitment, and public will. We must advocate for quality services that include all young children and their families, build neighborhoods where families can thrive; and create policies that support, and are responsive to, families.

Build the neighborhood our children deserve:

Prioritizing early childhood reduces inequities which positively impacts political and cultural context, governance, dominant cultural and societal norms and values, daily living conditions, and health-related behaviors.

90% of a child's brain is developed in the first three years of life. Positive or negative, all experiences, relationships with families, and neighborhood norms build the architecture of the brain.

Early childhood learning, health and well-being set the foundation for future learning, and life.

Research shows, whole person, whole-family, and whole-community systems positively influence social, emotional and learning outcomes for young children.



Early Childhood OC can work with your community or city to prioritize early childhood and ensure that all children and families living within your community have equitable opportunities to thrive.

TAKE ACTION!

Contact: info@earlychildhoodoc.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES, VISIT:

<https://earlychildhoodoc.org/community-action/city-community-sector>

SOURCES:

- 1) Orange County Community Indicators Report, 2019
- 2) Conditions of Children in Orange County Report, 2019
- 3) Center for the Study of Social Policy National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families, 2018
- 4) Early Childhood Learning & Innovation Network for Communities (EC LINC), Early Learning Communities: Building Blocks for Success, April 2017
- 5) Symposium on the Social Determinants of Health: Influence of Early Life; John Hopkins Medicine, 2012
- 6) Evidence review: Early childhood development and the social determinants of health inequities, 2015



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Partnering for thriving communities