



EARLY  
CHILDHOOD  
OC

## Investing in Early Childhood

PHILANTHROPY THAT  
SHAPES THE FUTURE



***Prevention over Intervention:** Did you know that annual philanthropic funding for birth to five is only a fifth of what is spent on K–12 education? Yet funding for early childhood delivers a higher return on investment than any other program or education system that serves other stages of life – sometimes up to 16 percent!*

### A lifelong impact:

- Investing in early childhood programs and practices produces better education, health, social, and economic outcomes, and the reduced need for costly social spending.
- High quality early childhood programs lead to lifelong social and economic improvement. These investments promote higher education levels, better health, and stronger career opportunities, reduce crime and foster workforce productivity.
- Early Care and Education is the lifeline for working parents. Without childcare, our businesses suffer.

Early Childhood OC is a county-wide organization whose strategic initiatives are to assist in the implementation of Orange County's Early Childhood Policy Framework in and across sectors and to increase the investment in early childhood programs and services.

# Pivotal focus areas for philanthropic funding and a higher return on investment:

- High quality early childhood education.
- Programs which support healthy development from prenatal to five years of age.
- Holistic, multi-generational programs and services that build resilient families.
- Inclusive and innovative programs and services that have a two-generational workforce development model.
- Data collection and usage for cross-sector dialogue.



Investing in Early Childhood OC is an investment in the future health and success of our county.

## TAKE ACTION!

Contact Early Childhood OC's Director:  
[sandy@earlychildhoodoc.org](mailto:sandy@earlychildhoodoc.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES, VISIT:  
<https://earlychildhoodoc.org>

## SOURCES:

- 1) *The Chronical of Philanthropy*, 2016 (Frame Works Institute)
- 2) *Achieving Kindergarten Readiness for All Our Children: A Funder's Guide to Early Childhood Development Birth to Five*, 2015 (J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation and The Bridgespan Group)
- 3) *A Decade of Science Informing Policy: The Story of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child*, 2014 (Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University)
- 4) *An Equity Profile of Orange County: Summary, 2019* (PolicyLink & USC Dornsife Program for Environmental and Regional Equity)
- 5) *The Early Childhood Challenge for Philanthropists*, 2015 (Stanford Social Innovation Review)



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Partnering for thriving communities