

About the BUILD Initiative

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BUILD is a national initiative created in 2002 by a consortium of private foundations to help states use public policy to improve the quality and availability of early childhood services for families.

Many factors contribute to healthy child development and thriving children. These include: stable and nurturing relationships; supportive communities; positive early learning experiences; and comprehensive health supports. Too often, children begin school without the foundations that are critical to educational and life success. And, disparities in outcomes seen in the early years, most often, become more pronounced as children grow. State policies and practices can have an enormous positive—or negative—impact on children and families. States are responsible for ensuring that the early childhood systems we build are of high quality and achieve equitable outcomes regardless of the child’s or family’s socio-economic background, race, ethnicity, culture or home language. States are responsible for supporting, creating, or directing many and varied opportunities for children with high needs and for strengthening communities that are under-resourced.

That’s where BUILD comes in. BUILD supports state leaders in developing comprehensive, effective, and equitable early childhood systems through continuous learning and improvement. BUILD provides peer learning opportunities, access to diverse technical assistance providers and experts, and state-of-the-field resources on all aspects of systems building.

We are experts in the development of a comprehensive early childhood agenda (the policies, infrastructure, programs, and services) focused on improving outcomes for young children from birth to age five, and connections earlier and later including prenatal care and the early elementary years. BUILD serves as a catalyst for change and a national resource on early childhood development and policy.

BUILD states are leaders in a national movement to create effective, comprehensive services for children and families. Currently, BUILD works with ten states: Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington. BUILD states are leaders in a national movement to create effective, comprehensive services for children and families. Currently, BUILD works with ten states: Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington. To close the gap between what we know makes a difference for young children and what states are actually doing, BUILD:

- links states with private and public funds, technology, and research, and
- provides an array of services including technical assistance, professional development opportunities and evaluation.

Early Childhood System

