



Hope Starts Here (HSH), Detroit's Early Childhood Partnership has engaged a wide array of stakeholders from families to businesses to early childhood providers and health practitioners in creating a vision that ensures children are born healthy, prepared for kindergarten, and on track for success by the third grade and beyond.

This partnership launched in November 2016 with unprecedented community engagement – 18,000 citizens, that led to the creation of the HSH community framework consisting of six imperatives and fifteen strategies necessary to the formation of a responsive and coordinated early childhood system in support of Detroit's young children and their families www.hopestartsheredetroit.org.

These imperatives – what we must do, are:

1. Promote the health development and well-being of all Detroit children
2. Support parents and caregivers as children's first teachers and champions
3. Increase the overall quality of Detroit's early childhood programs
4. Guarantee safe and inspiring learning environments for our children
5. Create tools and resources to better coordinate systems that impact early childhood
6. Find new ways to fund early childhood education and make better use of current resources

Aligned to these imperatives are policy priorities that ensure progress and sustainability of these "must do's". Governor Whitmer's "Get It Done" plan for the state, specifically in the areas of education and fighting poverty, are in direct alignment with the HSH policy priorities. During the governor's *State of the State address*, there were specific call-outs for policy to address disparities in education and the development of skills along with improving affordability and access to childcare.

More specifically the plan aims to:

- Increase the per child allocation for Great Start Readiness programs
- Increase entry eligibility for childcare subsidies from 130% to %150 FPL
- Provide access to universal high-quality Pre-K for children who need it most

We highly endorse these and other budget allocations from the budget which move Michigan one step closer to achieving its Top 10 in 10 goals and mitigating poverty for its citizens including Detroit's youngest citizens.

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Implementation Office: Hope Starts Here Detroit