



**Early Childhood Governance Report &
Great Start for All MN Children Task Force Overview & Update**
Presentation to House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee

Stephanie Hogenson | Children's Cabinet Policy Director

Early Childhood Governance Report

- The Children’s Cabinet was directed to execute a report on the governance of programs related to early childhood development (*Minnesota 2021 Session Law, First Special Session, Chapter 7, Article 14, Section 22*)
- Per the statute, the report findings must be determined based on community engagement and address the impact of consolidation on:
 - State efforts to ensure all Minnesota children are kindergarten ready
 - Coordination and alignment among programs
 - The effort required of families to receive services to which they are entitled
 - The effort required of service providers to participate in early childhood programs
 - The articulation between early care and education programs and the K-12 system
- \$200,000 was allocated for completion of the report through transfer of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds from DHS to MMB.
- The Children’s Cabinet contracted with Management Analysis Division (MAD) at MMB to execute the research, community engagement and report writing.

Great Start for All Minnesota Children Task Force

- The Task Force was established to develop a state plan and implementation timeline ensuring all families:
 - **“Have access to affordable, high-quality early care and education that enriches, nurtures, and supports children and their families”** (*Minnesota 2021 Session Law, First Special Session, Chapter 7, Article 14, Section 18, Subd. 2*).
- As part of this charge, the Task Force is working to meet the following goals:
 - Affordability
 - Accessibility
 - Supported workforce
- A draft plan and implementation timeline (to begin in July 2025 and finish no later than July 2031) to meet this charge is due to the Governor and jurisdictional legislative committees by December 15, 2022. The final versions are due by February 1, 2023.
- \$858,000 was allocated through transfer of ARP CCDBG funds from DHS to MMB for Task Force operations.

Task Force Process

- To support and facilitate the work of the Task Force, MMB has:
 - Following an RFP, executed a contract with a vendor for meeting facilitation and plan development
 - Hired a Task Force Coordinator
- The full Task Force meets virtually each month, per statute, to address the charge and goals provided in statute. These meetings are livestreamed for public viewing.
 - The Task Force is composed of 15 voting members and 22 non-voting members, per statute.
- The Task Force has identified guiding principles, and are committed to grounding their work in local and national research, analysis and modeling, existing recommendations, and stakeholder feedback.
- Two Task Force working groups have been established and will meet monthly, beginning in February.
 1. Workforce Compensation and Supports Working Group
 2. Parent and Provider Affordability Working Group
- The Task Force maintains a website which contains relevant information, meeting minutes and slides, and notice of future meetings. <https://mn.gov/mmb/childrens-cabinet/great-start-childrens-task-force/>