



CATALYZING PHILANTHROPY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

THE MASSACHUSETTS EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDER COLLABORATIVE **IMPACT**

WHO WE ARE

A COLLABORATIVE FOR PHILANTHROPIC LEADERS:

The Massachusetts Early Childhood Funder Collaborative (MA ECFC) is a network of philanthropic leaders working together to ensure every young child in Massachusetts can thrive, starting from birth. MA ECFC's **Connect + Educate → Activate** model serves as the foundation for how we bring funders together for shared learning, collaboration, and strategic alignment that inspires greater investment in early childhood and advances effective, equitable solutions. Our work is grounded in strong relationships with early childhood advocates, practitioners, community organizations, and state leaders —because lasting change requires all of them at the table.

MA ECFC helps members identify emerging needs, move from learning to action, and drive long-term systems change across the Commonwealth.



THE URGENCY

INVESTING IN THE EARLIEST YEARS: Birth to age five is the most critical time in a child's life, shaping the foundation for lifelong well-being. When children and families lack access to essential supports during these formative years, the effects extend far beyond childhood, limiting economic mobility, straining the early childhood workforce, and undermining our communities and the long-term competitiveness of Massachusetts.

Investment in early childhood is urgent. Working together, funders can accelerate impact, expand reach, and drive systems change that no single organization can achieve alone.



THE SOLUTION

ALIGNING EFFORTS FOR GREATER IMPACT: By connecting philanthropy, grassroots organizations and grassroots leaders, MA ECFC helps direct resources where they are needed most - while building the relationships, shared knowledge, and aligned strategies that make philanthropic investment more impactful.

“MA ECFC is a one-stop shop for how to fund strategically in early childhood in Massachusetts.”

Shanna Shulman
Richard and Susan
Smith Family Foundation



HOW MA ECFC EMPOWERS FUNDERS



CONNECT

Funders have a space to build relationships, trust, and knowledge with other funders and early childhood leaders at all altitudes.

MA ECFC connects funders across the early childhood landscape—from community-based organizations like ECCHO-Latino, which supports Spanish-speaking Family Child Care educators, to state leaders shaping policy. Guided by community voices, including MA ECFC's Community Advisory Committee, learning opportunities help funders build the knowledge needed to invest strategically in areas they might not otherwise reach, from infant and early childhood mental health to workforce sustainability.

"MA ECFC is an inclusive community and the only table where philanthropies can gather, strategize, and work together to advance early childhood."

Tom Weber
Eastern Bank Foundation

"We really appreciate MA ECFC's clarification of the four components that make early childhood critical and strong – if we're trying to strengthen and build this infrastructure, we cannot forget about those pillars."

Danubia Camargos Silva
The Boston Foundation



EDUCATE

Funders learn about research, knowledge, and analyses relevant to their philanthropic and advocacy strategies.

MA ECFC's EC 101 tool helps funders make informed, equitable investments by illustrating four interconnected pillars of early childhood: Health & Wellbeing, Family & Caregiver Support, Education & Care, and Community Engagement. This systems-based understanding leads to broader action—for example, a member funder's regional effort to address barriers facing newer Family Child Care providers grew into a statewide, co-funded research study, generating insights that inform investments across Massachusetts.

"We used MA ECFC as an advisor and strategic partner to validate our choice to go down this road of funding and supporting child care programs."

Matt Jose
**Community Foundation
for MetroWest**



ACTIVATE

Through MA ECFC, funders can activate their learnings using various philanthropic levers, while finding opportunities to co-fund and advocate to collectively drive change.

MA ECFC is a catalyst for collective action, helping members make high-impact funding decisions. As Governor Healey's Inter-Agency Task Force on Early Education and Child Care took shape, MA ECFC quickly mobilized a philanthropic coalition to support this critical statewide effort. Through a strategic investment in dedicated consulting capacity, MA ECFC helped elevate the voices of families and practitioners while ensuring philanthropic perspectives informed the Task Force's work and recommendations.



JOIN US

Open to foundations, corporate giving programs, individual donors, and philanthropic advisors, MA ECFC is a community for learning, partnership, and impact. Members gain access to relationship-building opportunities, a members-only resource portal, curated funding opportunities, and a voice in shaping MA ECFC's direction and priorities, helping to advance stronger early childhood outcomes across Massachusetts.

**BECOME A
MEMBER TODAY!**



www.maecfunders.org



info@maecfunders.org



THE MA ECFC IMPACT