

Division of Early Childhood---Vision

"ALL young children in Maine thrive, grow, and learn in safe, nurturing, and healthy families and communities."



Division of Early Childhood---Charge

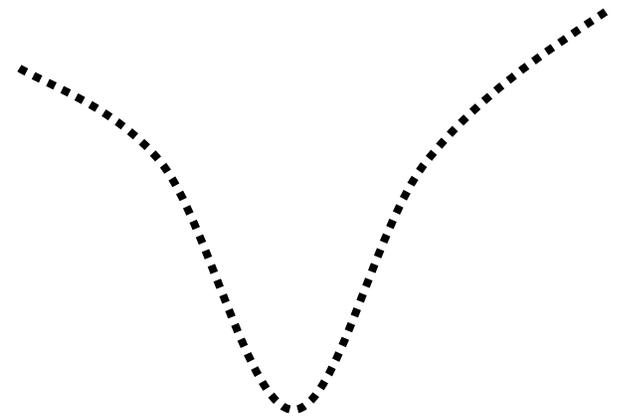


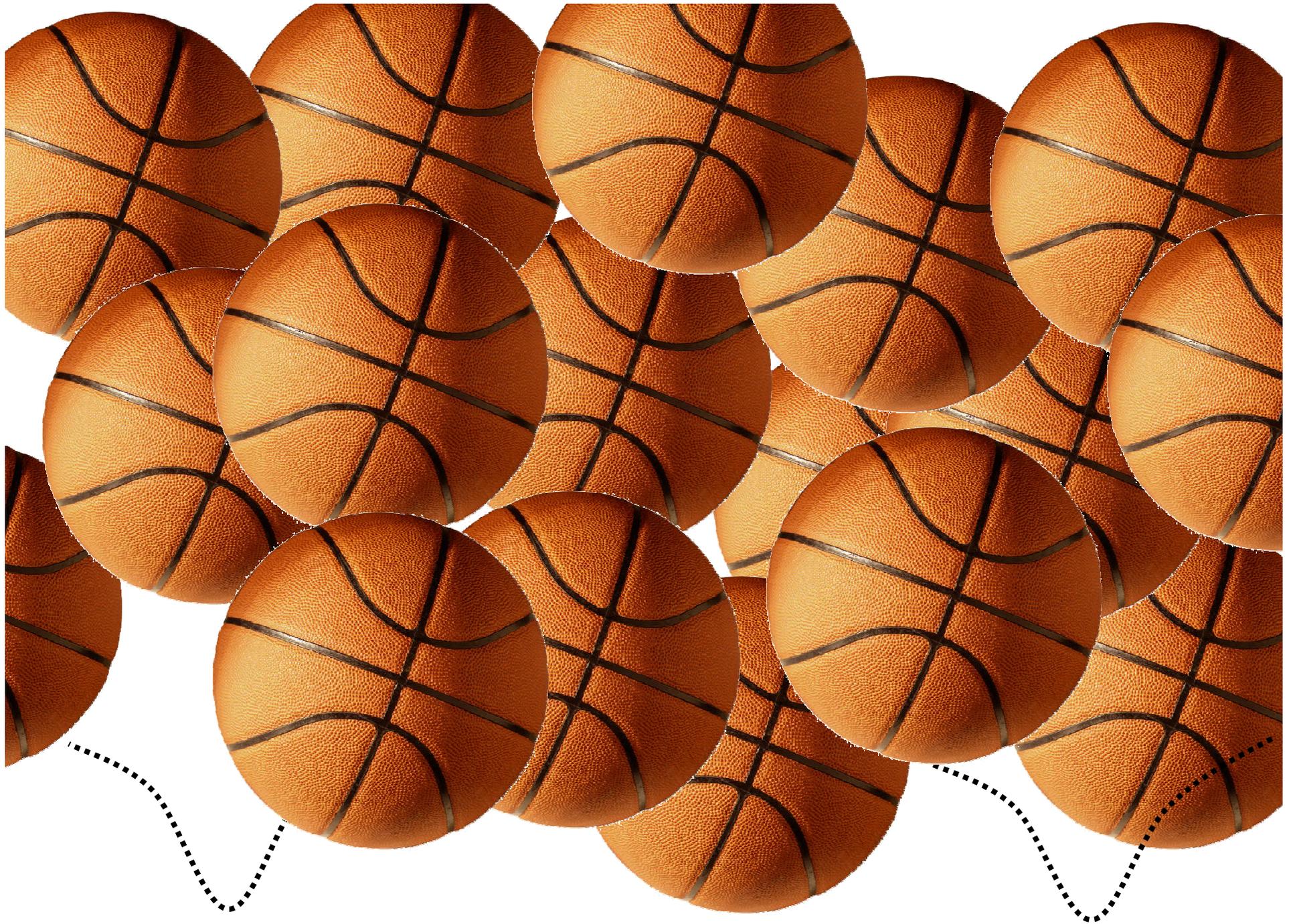
"The Division of Early Childhood offers a visible and positive presence focused on the development of healthy children and families. The division integrates home visiting services, childcare, Head Start (0-5), and other early childhood services into an effective family support system that is the prevention arm of the Office of Child and Family Services."

“Why Is There Air?”



Bill Cosby's answer:
"To blow up basketballs!"





CCR & R's

Quality Rating System

**Prog. Standards:
NAEYC, NAFC, NAA, HS
Performance Standards**

Staff Outcomes

Early Childhood System Basketballs

Licensing Requirements

Early Childhood Workforce Registries

Program Outcomes

Service System for children with disabilities 0-21 yrs.

Early Childhood Learning Guidelines

Infant/Toddler Quality Initiatives

Professional Development Pathways



Higher Education
degree programs
for ECE

publically
funded
Pre-K
programs

Funding streams
for ECE w/differing
priorities/eligibility

Child
Outcomes

Federal &
State Tax
Credit initiatives

Early Childhood System Basketballs

"NCLB"
"Good Start:
Grow Smart"

Professional
Development
Initiatives

Results-focused
federal, state,
private
resources

↑ engagement
with business
community

Economic
Impact of
ECE studies

Community
Engagement

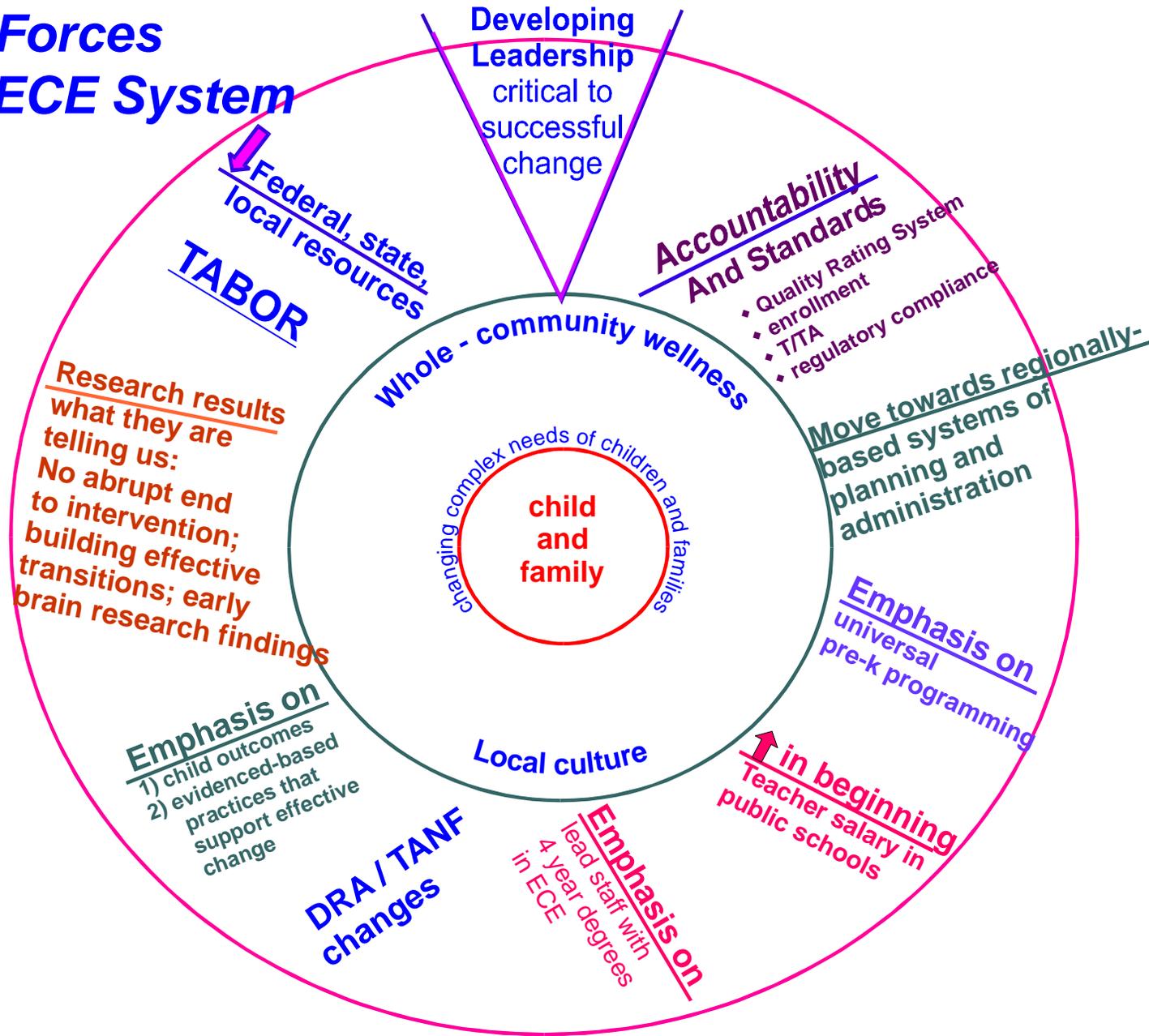


**What
are the
challenges?**

What Research Tells Us:

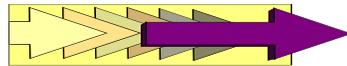
- ~ *Given the complex, diverse, and fluctuating needs of children and families, no one agency, program, or service provider can operate in isolation.*
- ~ *Service institutions and agencies that are already a part of the community should be intimately involved in the creation and continuation of a service.*
- ~ *Programs should be “culturally sensitive” in design, implementation, and delivery.*
- ~ *Programs should be designed so that they can change and adapt services based on continued readings of changing family needs.*
- ~ *Developmental transitions should be carefully planned for. Abrupt endings should be avoided.*

Driving Forces For the ECE System



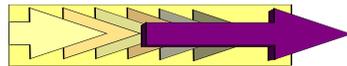
The Landscape of Early Childhood is changing...

Traditional Services



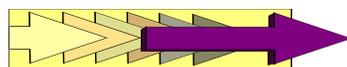
Evidence-based Services

Single Environment



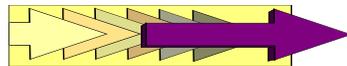
Multi-faceted Environment

Advocacy for the single service



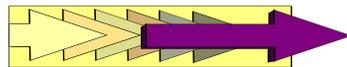
Advocacy for System

Performance Focused



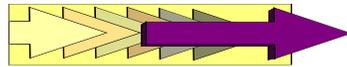
Outcomes Focused

Collaboration



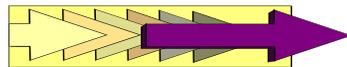
Regionalization

Provider Driven



Consumer Driven

System Focus



Cross service systems integration partnerships

What are the opportunities?



Need for ECE System Alignment

That spends smarter & maximizes resources to serve vulnerable young children

- *Provide “Seamless” Child Care Services to eligible Families*
- *Promote a “Customer Friendly” service model allowing families to access child care across a variety of settings – center, family cc homes, nursery schools, public Pre-K, school age cc & rec programs, in home care, or family-friend-neighbor (FFN) care*
- *Promote access (“Parental Choice”) through quality initiatives that build capacity/quality of care across the Child Care Continuum*
- *Build an effective CCDF-TANF Partnership consistent in policies/practices related to eligibility, rates, accountability systems*
- *Build a Comprehensive Early Childhood Information System with web-based centralized services; increase data analysis capacity to monitor outcomes, trends, and strategically plan for change*
- *Design/Implement regionally-based system of service delivery aligned with DHHS districts*

Need for ECE System Alignment

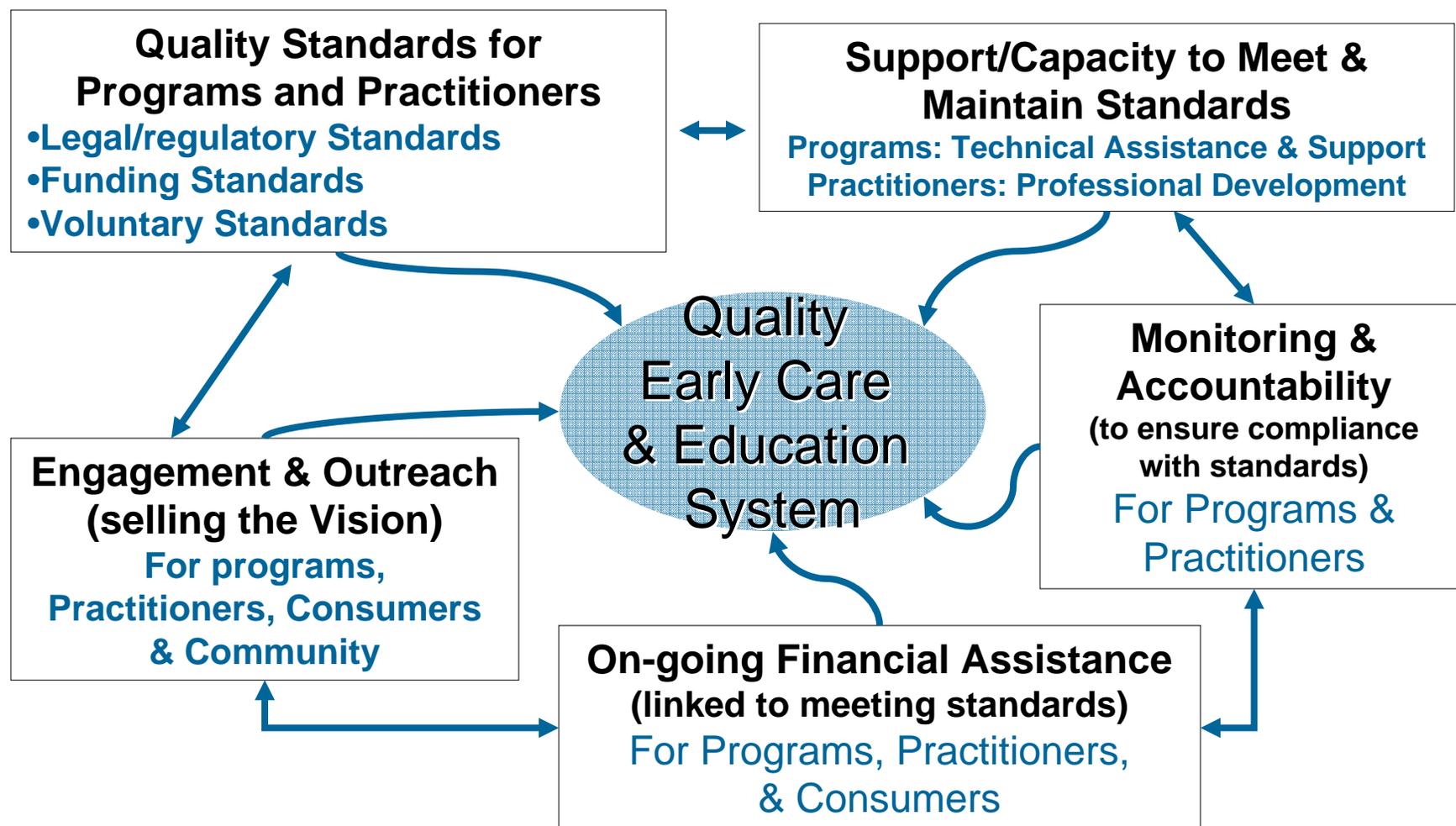
That spends smarter & maximizes resources to serve vulnerable young children

- *Cluster” related community-based contracted services purchased by the EC Division; implement through a competitive RFP process*
- *Advance School Readiness through Common Standards across systems*
- *Advance comprehensive Benchmarks and Measures for the wellbeing and readiness of Maine’s young children*
- *Promote a Comprehensive State Policy and Investment Strategy and accountability for results across departments and between state and local levels*

The Early Childhood Division remains committed to the public vetting of the final change recommendations through engagement with the Child Care Advisory Council, the Early childhood Task Force, and (where policy-related) the Children’s Cabinet.

A Model

Early Care & Education System Design



Louise Stoney, Early Childhood Finance.org and NCCIC

State Funding for Child Care

