

PROGRAM NAVIGATOR

Funded by the Preschool Development Grant

Navigator

Haleigh Rice



ECE Workforce
Innovation,
Navigation
& Support

Time Frame

May 2024 - December 2025

Introduction

The role of Program Navigator is to provide State and Regional Coordination of services to strengthen connections and expand access within the field. To plan, coordinate, and administer the connection of child care owners/directors/administrators to resources, grants, programs, and services.



Next Steps:

To continue to provide personalize and intentional supports the position was designed to. To continue to isolate challenges within the field, and find ways to reduce barriers, make connections and create sustainability within the industry.

Highlights

180



Childcare Program connections! Ranging from Tier 1 (one time communication) to Tier 4 (resulting in statewide or community collaboration). However, the majority being Tier 3 - a full Program Consultation with some sort of Technical Assistance.

77



Agency/Community/Individual outside and internal collaboration partnerships made or maintained over 2024-2025 time frame.

8



In-Person summits, conferences or large group speaking engagements. I also presented a Keynote presentation, 3 conference break-out sessions and 4 in-person staff meeting/trainings at childcare centers.

As Program Navigator I also focused on specific initiatives designed to focus on needs of the field and targeted, individualized supports. A few of the most notable were: BRIDGE, Baxter Communications & Support, DOL Wage & Compliance training, Licensing support and partnerships, Immigrant Resource Center supports, and Business Foundations initiative.

Projects



Program Impact Stories:

Not long ago, my husband and I sat at our kitchen table and made the heartbreaking decision that we would finish our preschool year in June 2025, celebrate our graduates, and then close the doors of Blueprints Learning Center – a program I have operated since 2014 and put my whole heart into. Years of staffing shortages, financial strain, licensing pressures, and systemic challenges had pushed us to a breaking point. Closing felt inevitable.

Because of Haleigh and the support provided through this role, that is not our story anymore.

Instead of closing, we stabilized. We rebuilt. We expanded. Today, we are not only open, we are successfully operating two centers. That turnaround is directly tied to the existence of this position and to Haleigh's commitment, expertise, and presence.



More from providers:

The support felt truly personalized. Haleigh took the time to understand my unique situation as a new small business owner and a single parent opening my first licensed program. She provided practical, actionable steps and always made me feel like I had someone in my corner. Her encouragement and insight helped me move from overwhelmed to confident in the decisions I was making for my center.