

Early Childhood Comprehensive System

ECCS

Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) - The State ECCS initiative is a federally funded grant program designed to build systems that link different types of programs and services for children from birth to age eight. The systems are required to address five key priority areas.

ECCS Priority Areas

Access to health insurance & medical home:

Services providing comprehensive physical and child development services for all children in early childhood including children with special health care needs.

Mental health and social emotional development:

Address the needs of at-risk children into appropriate child development and mental health delivery systems.

Early care and education/child care:

Services for children from birth through five years that support early learning, health and development of social competence.

Parent education: Services that provide support to parents in their role as prime educators for their children.

Family support: Services that address the stressors impairing the ability of families to nurture and support the healthy development of their children.

HNDECA

As the ECCS grant evolved, it was evident that support was needed from multiple partners. The Healthy North Dakota Early Childhood Alliance (HNDECA) was created to achieve the goals of the federal grant. *HNDECA Vision* is to support families and communities in their development of healthy children who are ready to learn.

HNDECA Program Goals

HNDECA Mission: Provide leadership by planning, developing and implementing collaboration and partnerships that support families and communities in their development of children (ages birth to 8).

HNDECA facilitates enhanced communication, develops a shared knowledge base regarding North Dakota early childhood programs, and identifies common goals and challenges for change. The HNDECA strives to provide an integrated support system to families and communities aimed at creating and sustaining a positive and nurturing environment for the healthy development and school readiness of children. This integrated approach helps HNDECA members see the interrelationship between program goals, in terms of activities and resources and allows HNDECA stakeholders to partner and share resources without duplication to complete HNDECA goals.

HNDECA Committees

The HNDECA committees further develop objectives and strategies to ensure implementation success and focus on strategic planning, public relations, evaluation and sustainability.

Leadership Team: This team is made up of HNDECA members who are committed to early childhood and provide guidance to the HNDECA subcommittee goals and activities. They keep informed of both federal and statewide early childhood issues and make sure the information is incorporated in the HNDECA work plan goals.

Stakeholder Committee: The stakeholder committee consists of all HNDECA members. Participation is voluntary and consists of parents, early childhood professionals, educators, businesses, health professionals and community leaders. Their purpose is to share information and where possible, coordinate their work efforts.

Subcommittees: There are five HNDECA subcommittees related to the five priority areas of the ECCS grant. HNDECA stakeholders volunteer for subcommittees based on their area of expertise, interest and their organization's goals.

Every child needs a strong foundation emotionally, socially and academically.

Key Accomplishments

- Supported the Bright Beginning program through NDSU Extension Services.
- Supported the development of Early Learning Guidelines and the Quality Improvement Rating System (QRIS).
- Supported the Family Leadership Institute through Family Voices of ND.
- Supported the passage of a Medicaid buy-in for children.
- Supported the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health in their anti-stigma campaign for Mental Health Month.
- Sponsored an educational presentation by Dr. Bruce Perry on brain development for 500 early childhood professional and 30 legislative leaders.
- Developed a program evaluation process and retained an epidemiologist to locate and track data relevant to the HNDECA goals.
- Developed and administered a comprehensive, statewide needs assessment regarding early childhood issues and priorities.
- Supported the Governor's Early Childhood Education Council.
- Supported the MCH Title V early childhood priorities.
- Supported HNDECA partners with printed materials for children and families.
- Supported the ND Integrated Services Medical Home Module.
- Supported the 2011 Early Childhood Awareness Legislative Messaging campaign.

The brain is vulnerable to environmental influences and both stressful and enriched environments have long lasting effects on social behavior and future achievement.



**Become a HNDECA partner
and make a difference!**

HNDECA includes approximately 65 stakeholder providers, organizations and parents from across the state.

If you are interested in becoming a partner with the HNDECA, please contact us at 701.328.2790.

All committee meetings are held twice a year in Bismarck. Travel, lodging and meals are reimbursed according to state rates by the ECCS program grant.

North Dakota Early Childhood Comprehensive System



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