

Who we are

The Great Start Collaborative-Wayne is part of an impressive state-wide early childhood development system funded by public and private dollars through the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC). It is designed to guide efforts in every Michigan county to strengthen and align supports and services for our very youngest citizens; babies, toddlers, preschoolers and early elementary.

Research has shown, time and time again that children who are given a great start are much more likely to grow into caring, responsible, productive adults.

Our Mission

The mission of the Great Start Collaborative - Wayne is to engage the entire community to assure a coordinated system of services and resources to assist all Wayne County families in providing a great start for their children from prenatal through age eight.

Be a helping hand for
The Great Start Early Childhood Fund.

Contact us today

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Great kids futures
communities
workers leaders
neighbors people
friends dreams families



students

start with a helping hand.



Wayne County

A partner of the
Early Childhood Investment Corporation

How to give a helping hand to children in your community?

In recent years, the economy in Michigan and Wayne County has changed the way families are able to provide for their children. Parents are faced with making the hard decision to keep their youngest learners home from preschool, and often struggle to afford quality child care. In Wayne County the average cost of full-time child care is \$7,000 annually, which can consume up to 47% of minimum wage pay.

The Great Start Collaborative - Wayne is working to help those families in need, so their children are not left to bear the burden of entering kindergarten behind the learning curve of other prepared students. Through the creation of the **Great Start Early Childhood Fund for Wayne County** child care scholarships will be available to families with young children who are struggling with the cost of quality child care.



Why support the Early Childhood Fund?

EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This fund is an investment in our youngest learners to help them develop the skill that will make them successful throughout life. With every dollar raised through the fund, Federal matching dollars have been given so your contribution is doubled.

Invest

- Invest in educational and developmental resources for disadvantaged families to provide equal access to successful early human development
- Invest in the economic development of a community with a meaningful investment in quality early learning programs
- Invest in early care and education businesses by supporting families
- Invest \$1 now returns up to \$17 in generations to come
- Invest in the labor force; among families with children age six or younger, 77% have a parent who is in the labor force
- Invest early in our workforce pipeline and ensure the best economic outcome for Wayne County.

Develop

- Develop qualified committed employees by supporting quality early care and education
- Nurture early quality development of children aged birth to five

Sustain

- Sustain early development with effective education through to adulthood
- Sustain early care and education businesses with ensuring families can pay the quality child care fees and consistent/increased enrollment.

Gain

Gain a more capable, productive, and valuable workforce that pays dividends to our country for generations to come.

A Great Start for every child in Wayne County: Safe, Healthy ... and Ready to Succeed in School and in Life.