

Tools states can use for building effective early intervention and preschool special education systems



*Improving Data, Improving
Outcomes Conference
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What we'll cover:

- Review of two tools for supporting system improvement
- Sharing the perspective and experience of New Jersey
- Discussion of system issues and how the tools might support your work



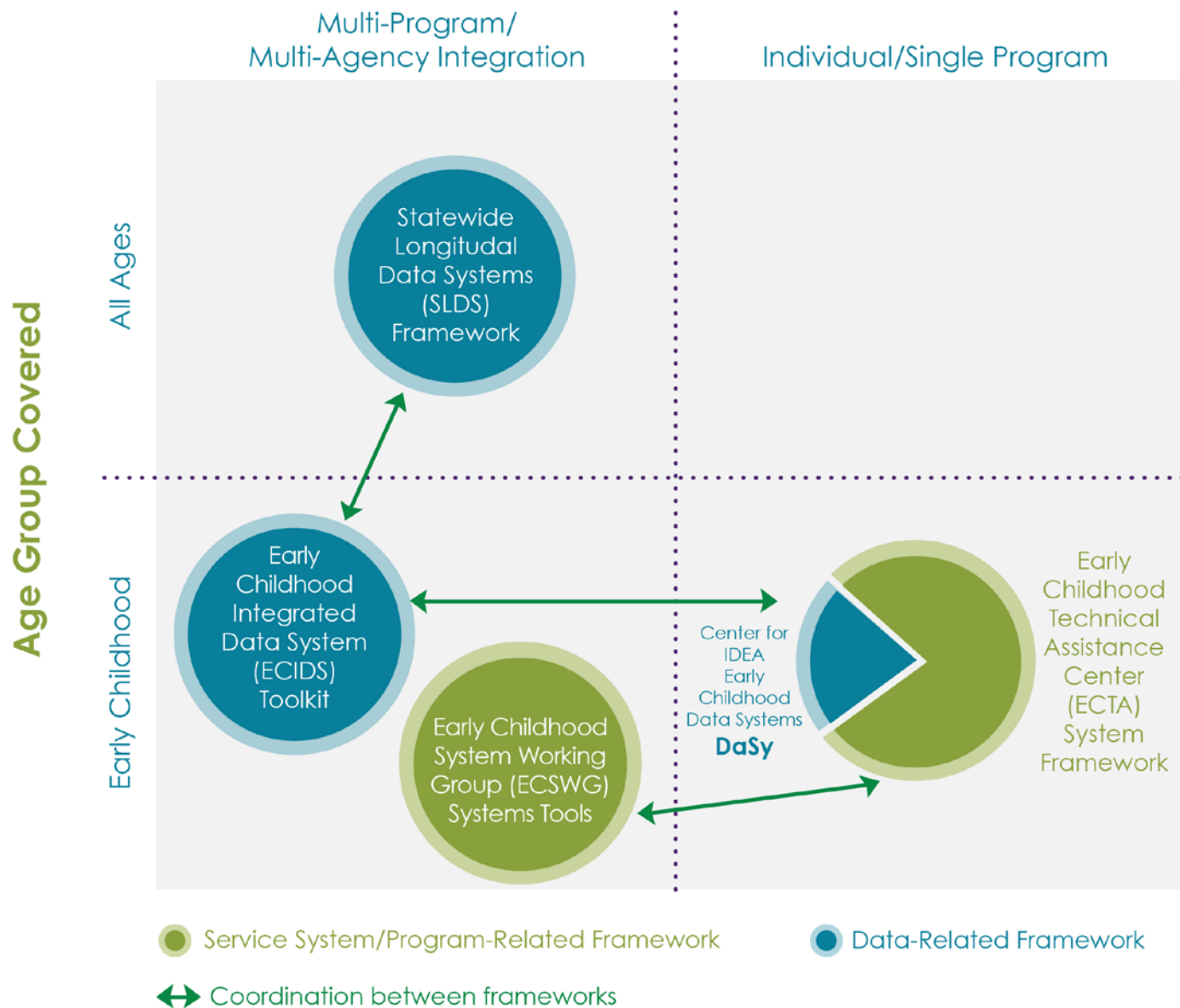
Getting Started

- *What are some of the system challenges/questions that you are trying to address in your state?*
- *Are you familiar with either of the two tools?*
 - *ECTA System Framework*
 - *Comprehensive Early Childhood System Building: A Tool to Inform Discussions on Collaborative, Cross-Sector Planning*

Draft

FRAMEWORKS TO GUIDE QUALITY DATA SYSTEMS

Area of Focus

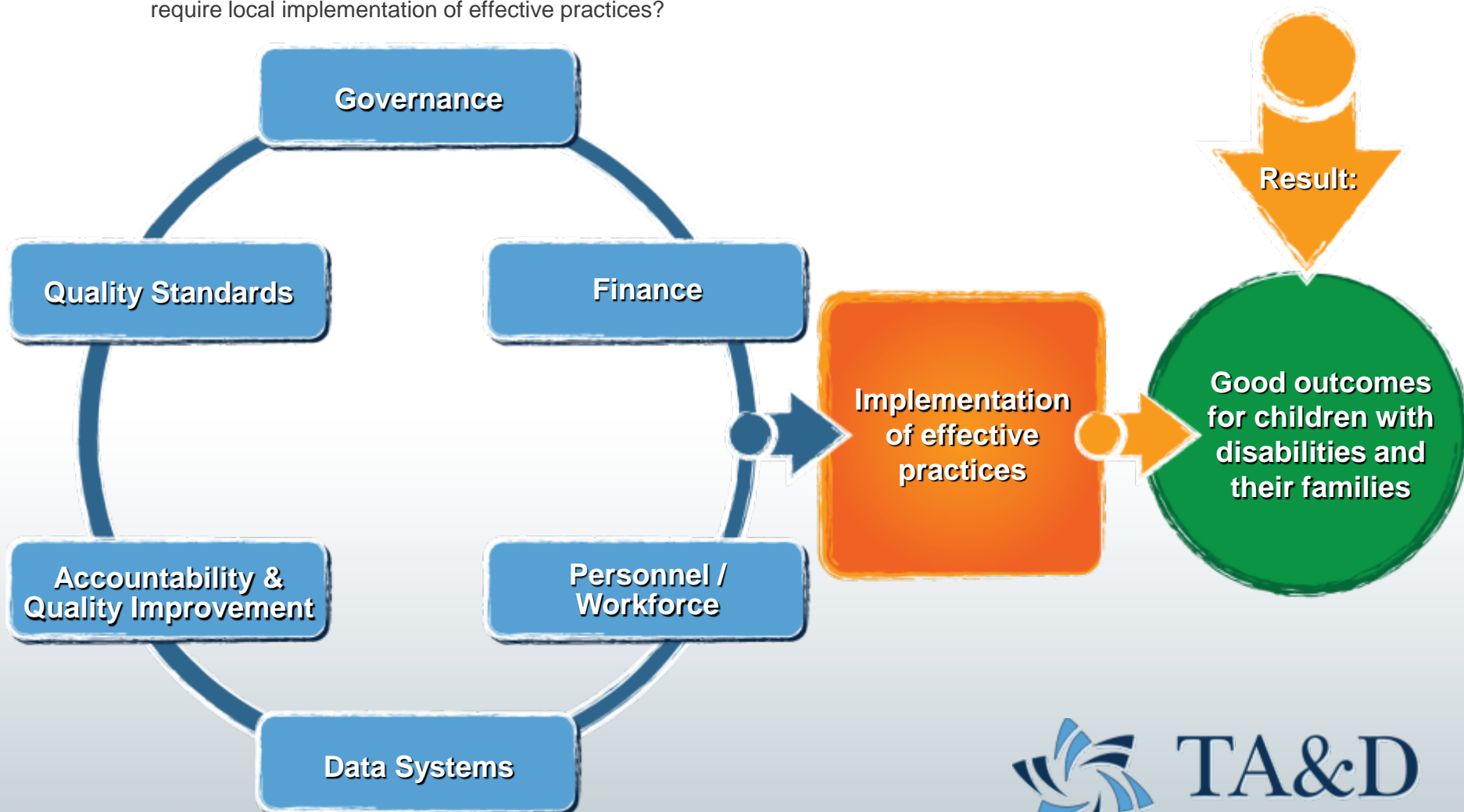


Comparing Components

ECTA Framework Elements	COMMON THEMES	ECSWG System Tool Strategies
Governance	Leadership	Define and Coordinate Leadership
Finance	Finance	Finance Strategically
Data Systems	Use of data	Create and Support Improvement Strategies
Accountability and Quality Improvement	Accountability	Ensure Accountability
Quality Standards	Program Improvement	Align Standards
Personnel/Workforce	Standards	Recruit and Engage Stakeholders
	Stakeholder Engagement	

ECTA Center System Framework

What does a state need to put into place in order to encourage, support, require local implementation of effective practices?



System Framework: Purpose and Audience

Purpose: to guide states in evaluating their current Part C/619 system, identifying areas for improvement, and providing direction on how to develop a more effective, efficient Part C and Section 619 system that requires, supports, and encourages implementation of effective practices.

Audience: the key audience is state Part C and state Section 619 coordinators and staff, with acknowledgement that other key staff and leadership in a state will need to be involved.

Cross cutting themes

- Engaging stakeholders, including families
- Establishing/revising policies
- Promoting collaboration
- Using data for improvement
- Communicating effectively
- Family Leadership & Support
- Coordinating/Integrating across early childhood



Framework Structure

Framework

- Subcomponents
- Quality Indicators
- Elements of Quality

Self-assessment (coming soon!):

- Scale for assessing quality indicators
- Place for state evidence

Subcomponent 1: Vision, mission and/or purpose

Quality Indicator GV1: Vision, mission and/or purpose guide decisions and provide direction for quality comprehensive and coordinated Part C and Section 619 Statewide Systems.

Elements of Quality
a. Core values, beliefs, guiding principles and current evidence based practices are the foundation for public statements of vision/mission/purpose. <i>State evidence (state discussion):</i>
b. These public statements are consistent with IDEA. <i>State evidence (state discussion):</i>
c. These public statements address who the program serves, what the program does and the intended outcomes for children and families. <i>State evidence (state discussion):</i>

ECTA Center

The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

Improving Systems, Practices and Outcomes

ECTA Center Intranet | In/Out Board

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[System Framework](#) | [DEC Recommended Practices](#) | [Implementing & Scaling Up EBP](#) | [Implementation Process](#) | [Outcomes Measurement](#)

System Framework for Part C & Section 619

System Framework for Part C & Section 619

- Governance
- Finance
- Accountability & Quality Improvement

Development Process

The system framework is being designed to support states in: analyzing the capacity of their current systems; build quality systems that support implementation of effective practices; and, ultimately, improve child and family outcomes. Here are links to the most current information on our progress.

- [System Framework: Components Descriptions](#) (May 30, 2014)
- Presentation File: [Developing a Framework to Build High Quality Part C and Section 619 Systems](#) (updated July 3, 2014)
- Handout: [Introduction to the ECTA System Framework](#) (updated June 2014)
- [Draft Components](#) (We are requesting your feedback!)

Purpose of the ECTA System Framework

The purpose of the ECTA System Framework is to guide state Part C and Section 619 Coordinators, staff, and leadership in evaluating their current Part C and Section 619 systems, identifying areas for improvement, and providing direction on how to develop a more effective, efficient system that supports implementation of effective practices. We began with the question:

"What does a state need to put into place in order to encourage, support,

Page Contents

- [Purpose of the ECTA System Framework](#)
- [Six Key Components](#)
- [Ongoing Development](#)

The diagram illustrates the components of the ECTA System Framework. It features a central blue circle with the text "Building High Quality" at the bottom. Three orange rounded rectangles are positioned around the top of the circle, labeled "Governance", "Quality Standards", and "Finance".

Look for updates about the System Framework via the ECTA web site:

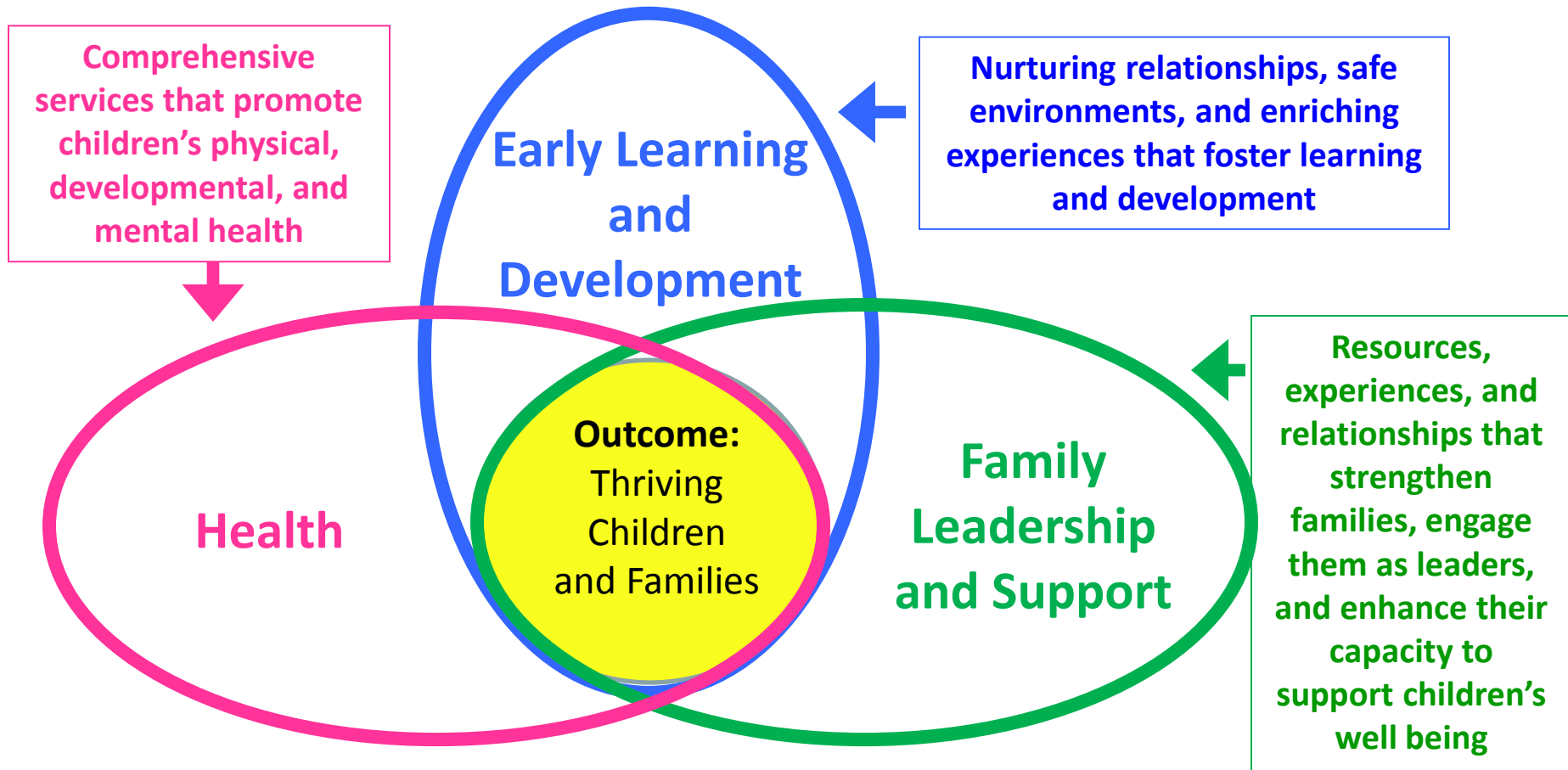
<http://ectacenter.org/sysframe>

What is the Early Childhood Systems Working Group (ECSWG)?

A peer learning community made up of organizations and individuals who provide technical assistance to state leaders

Since 2006, the ECSWG has been meeting on an ad hoc, volunteer basis to discuss TA needs and develop resources for states.

What Results Should a Comprehensive Early Childhood System Deliver?



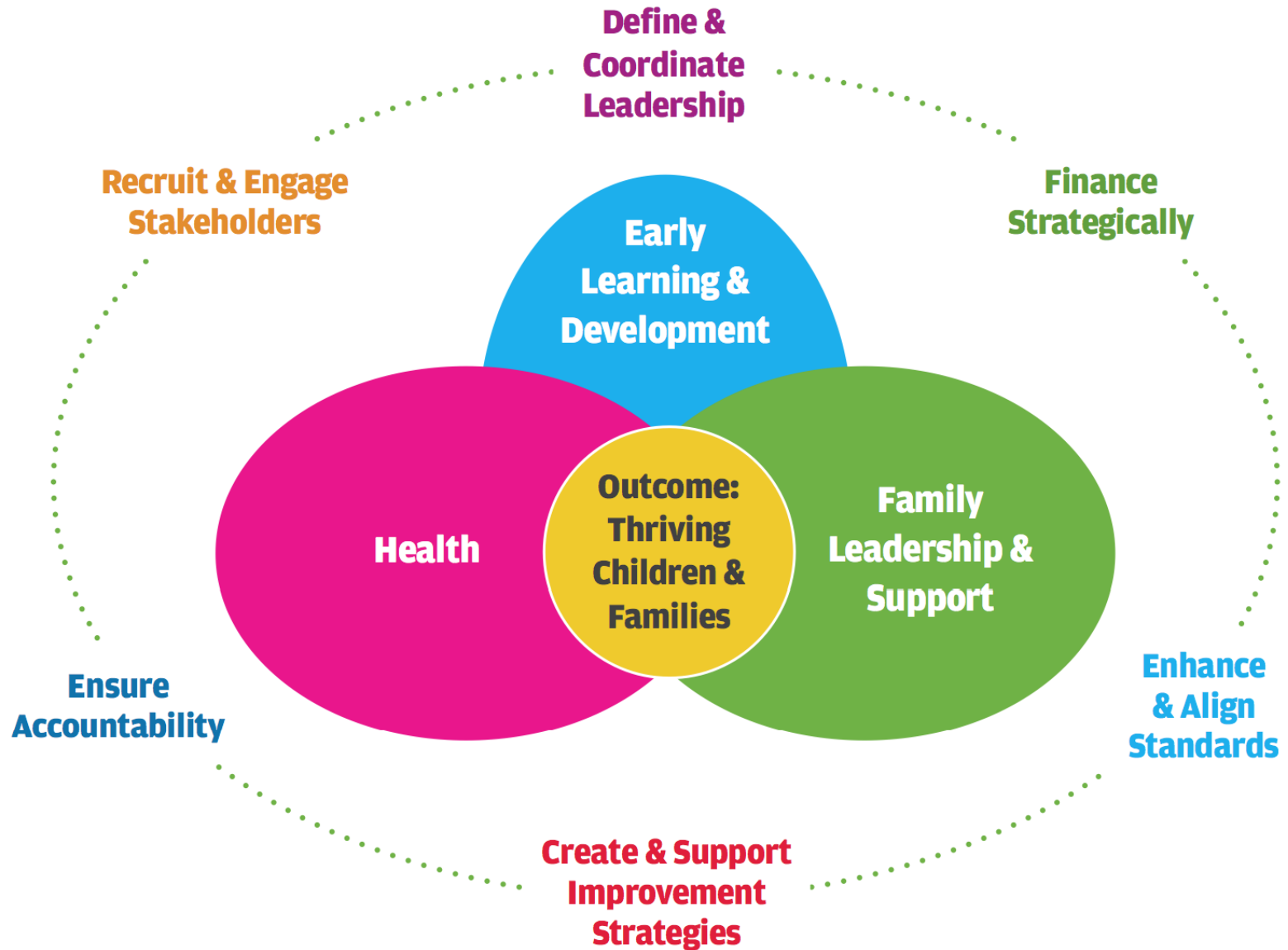
Values and Principles of a comprehensive early childhood system:

- Reach all children and families, as early as possible, with needed services and supports
- Genuinely include and effectively accommodate children with special needs
- Reflect and respect the strengths, needs, values, languages, cultures and communities of children and families
- Ensure stability and continuity of services along a continuum from prenatal into school entry and beyond
- Ease access for families and transitions for children
- Value parents as decision makers and leaders
- Catalyze and maximize investment and foster innovation

Guiding Values and Principles of a Comprehensive Early Childhood System

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Six Key Strategies to Improve the Functioning of a Comprehensive Early Childhood System





COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM-BUILDING: A Tool To Inform Discussions On Collaborative, Cross-Sector Planning

What is the purpose of this tool?

The purpose of this tool is to help state and community leaders improve the capacity of their early childhood system.

Comprehensive early childhood systems require work across the Health, Early Learning and Development, and Family

To access the tool:

http://www.buildinitiative.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/ECSWG%20Systems%20Planning%20Tool_2014.pdf

The ECSWG System Tool: What it *is* and is *not*

It is:

- A **set of strategy considerations** to improve “systems thinking” in decision-making.
- A **tool** for facilitators to use with groups of cross-sector early childhood stakeholders.

It is not:

- An assessment tool.
- A tool to be used all at once in its entirety.



Define & Coordinate Leadership

How can coordinating leadership improve system functioning?

Leaders work together according to shared understanding of common goals and what their roles and functions are within the system.

Consider how to define and coordinate leadership:

- A. Identify cross sector leadership (*sectors of health, early learning and development, and family leadership and support*), with clear authority to modify existing cross sector relationships, establish priorities, leverage fiscal and human resources, and implement system change.
- B. Ensure that cross sector leadership is inclusive and representative of families participating in the early childhood system; providers, administrators, and other professionals within delivery system partners (*sectors of health, early learning and development, and family leadership and support*); policymakers; and private stakeholders (*business, civic, faith-based, and philanthropic communities*).
- C. Set vision, mission, and principles or group norms for how the system sectors work together.
- D. Set outcomes and benchmarks across sectors for what the comprehensive early childhood system delivers.
- E. Establish processes for ongoing communication, coordination, and decision-making among governance structures and across system sectors as they relate to achieving shared goals.



Finance Strategically

How can financing strategically improve system functioning?

Financing strategically will enable policy makers to leverage and maximize all available resources and improve access to additional financial support to achieve common goals for children and families.

Consider how financing decisions support and incentivize system-building goals:

- A. Develop fiscal policies that build connections among system sectors and mandate or incentivize comprehensive service delivery.
- B. Analyze all available data to understand whether resources are targeted to improving affordability, access, and quality for families and closing disparities in child outcomes, particularly for high needs children.
- C. Map all current funding allocated for services to children and families to identify opportunities to connect policies across funding streams. *(See Appendix list of funding streams.)*
- D. Develop detailed cost estimates of quality improvement implementation and analyze expected impact on providers and programs before launching new programs.
- E. Give competitive priority to grant or contract applicants who leverage private sector matching dollars with public funds.



New Jersey Early Intervention System



NJEIS Use of ECTA System Framework

- Providing a framework for a State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Service Delivery Committee working on recommendations to the lead agency for the development of a competitive Early Intervention Program Request for Applications (RFA).
- Guiding the lead agency in work with stakeholders to complete infrastructure analysis for the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)
- Supporting the NJ Interdepartmental work across early childhood with the:
 - NJ Council for Young Children
 - Race To The Top–Early Learning Challenge Grant
 - Interdepartmental Planning Group

Comprehensive Early Childhood System Building:

A Tool to Inform Discussions on Collaborative, Cross-Sector Planning

- ▶ This tool provides the core values, principles and key strategies that are useful in guiding the work of the NJCYC, RTTT-ELC Grant and Interdepartmental Planning Group in building a NJ Comprehensive Early Childhood System.

SICC Service Delivery Committee

- ▶ Six months of monthly meetings generated relevant discussions without significant progress in establishing recommendations for the RFA.
- ▶ The committee decided that the foundation for a decision making process to restructure the EIPs lied in identifying the competencies that needed to be established to become an EIP provider agencies in the NJEIS.

SICC –Commits to Framework

- ▶ The System Framework Partnership was presented to the committee early in 2014 and while recognizing that the ECTA framework had a different purpose, the committee “firmly believes that there is value in aligning with the categories in restructuring the way services are delivered (with regards to providers) in the State of NJ”.
- ▶ The committee began their review with the Finance Component, Subcomponents, Indicators and Elements of Quality which were adjusted to reflect the competencies recommended to be required of a NJEIS service provider.

Finance – Fiscal Data Example

- ▶ Quality Indicators

1. State and Regional and or local structures have access to fiscal data for their program planning, budget development and required reporting
2. State and Regional and or local structures use fiscal data to manage the budget.

- Committee recommendation combined into:

1. NJEIS agencies will use fiscal data for their program planning, budget development and required reporting.

ECTA System Framework

- ▶ Provided a focus and design to move the committee forward in a constructive and effective direction.
- ▶ Review has been completed for Governance, Finance, Accountability and Quality Improvement and Personnel/Workforce.
- ▶ A next step is to propose suggested evidence for each of the elements of quality that would be used in RFA review/scoring.

Small Group Discussions:

- What system questions are addressing in your state?
- What successful processes have you used to address critical system questions in the past?

(Please record your small group ideas to share back at the end)

Thank you!
If you have questions, please
contact us!



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