**FINANCING AND SUSTAINING HIGH QUALITY PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**STATE TEAM PLANNING TOOL**

**Overview of the tool: Pages 1-4 will guide your team in discussion to identify the priorities for your state. On page 5, you can then transfer your goals, objectives, tasks, responsibilities and timelines to a strategic planning template.**

**I. August 9, 4:00-4:45: Clarifying the focus of your strategic financing efforts**

a.) Determining where to focus your efforts requires an assessment of both the need and the opportunity for making progress in the current context in your state. With your teammates, complete the chart below to help identify strategic opportunities in your state.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Potential objectives/needs | Extent of need: Urgent/ High/ Moderate/ Low | Comments | Readiness to address this: High/ Medium/ Low  | Comments |
| Expanding access to pre-k for more 4- year-old children |  |  |  |  |
| Expanding access to ECE slots for younger children |  |  |  |  |
| Improving the quality of existing/new ECE programs |  |  |  |  |
| Improving the education and/or compensation of the workforce |  |  |  |  |
| Strengthening capacity to monitor, support, and improve program effectiveness  |  |  |  |  |
| Reducing administrative burden on programs at the community/site level |  |  |  |  |
| Providing communities with greater flexibility to address local needs |  |  |  |  |
| Increasing stability and sustainability of funding for ECE programs |  |  |  |  |

**b.) Based on your responses to the chart and your discussions with your team in preparation for the Peer Exchange, on which of the following areas does your team want to focus its fiscal strategic planning?**

* ***Re-directing resources to better reflect state priorities.*** For example, re-allocating resources to increase program quality, to build necessary infrastructure, and/or to provide more equitable access to services.
* ***Re-designing funding mechanisms and regulations to maximize efficiency and stability of funding.*** For example, revising regulations to remove barriers to efficient braiding of funding, moving to a school funding formula for distribution of pre-k funding, and/or consolidating multiple similar programs.
* ***Develop new/expanded resources for early childhood programs.*** For example, creating a dedicated funding stream for state pre-k programs, and/or developing a strategy to push for a large increase in state spending on high-quality child care.

**What are 2-3 top priorities that your team would like to focus on?**

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**c.) What are some key things you would like to learn more about over the next day (and through follow-up after the Peer Exchange) that could help you make progress on these priorities?**

**II. August 10, State Team Time #2—Wednesday Morning, 11:30-12**

**a.) Increasing Public Financing for Scaling Up High Quality Preschool**

*Discussion Questions:*

* What have you heard from other states that particularly intrigued you?
* What options for increasing funding might be most workable in your state?
* What financing issues might you need to “fix” in your state as you seek a larger public investment in early childhood?
* What else do you need to know to move forward? For example:
	+ Fiscal map of what’s being spent now on early childhood?
	+ Comprehensive cost estimates for scaled up, high-quality system?
	+ More information about different approaches to distributing money to programs?
	+ More information about different strategies for developing new, dedicated funding streams?

**b.) Based on your discussion, what are two or three key objectives that you want to work on in your state?**

*Sample objectives:*

* *Develop a comprehensive fiscal map of early childhood resources in our state, to have a more complete picture of the resources currently being spent*
* *Develop comprehensive cost estimates for universal, high-quality preschool*
* *Develop tools (and modify policies as needed) to support programs in effectively and efficiently braiding funding sources to provide high quality ECE*
* *Develop a new formula for funding pre-k slots that better reflects the true cost of high quality programming*
* *Further investigate the Pay-for-Success model (or system of tax incentives, etc.) and how we might implement it in our state*

**c.) Draft your states goals and objectives:**

**The information on these pages can be transferred to the strategic planning tool that follows with concrete tasks, responsibilities, and timelines.**

**STATE STRATEGIC PLANNING TOOL**

**PURPOSE: This tool is designed to help state teams articulate objectives and timeline for the next year in strengthening the financing system for their state preschool program (and/or for their early childhood system more broadly). The tool allows state team members to identify technical needs and assistance in meeting goals.**

 **Date:**

 **State Team Members Present: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| **Overall Goal(s):**  |
| WHAT:Objective 1 | **HOW:****Action Steps** | **WHO:** | **WHEN:****Timeline** |
| **Leader(s)** | **Other Partners/ Stakeholders** |
|  | **1-A)** |  |  |  |
| **1-B)** |  |  |  |
| **1-C)** |  |  |  |
| **1-D)** |  |  |  |
| **1-E)** |  |  |  |
| Technical Assistance to Support Objective |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WHAT:Objective 2 | **HOW:****Action Steps** | **WHO:** | **WHEN:****Timeline** |
| **Leader(s)** | **Other Partners/ Stakeholders** |
|  | **2-A)** |  |  |  |
| **2-B)** |  |  |  |
| **2-C)** |  |  |  |
| **2-D)** |  |  |  |
| **2-E)** |  |  |  |
| Technical Assistance to Support Objective |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WHAT:Objective 3 | **HOW:****Action Steps** | **WHO:** | **WHEN:****Timeline** |
| **Leader(s)** | **Other Partners/ Stakeholders** |
|  | **3-A)** |  |  |  |
| **3-B)** |  |  |  |
| **3-C)** |  |  |  |
| **3-D)** |  |  |  |
| **3-E)** |  |  |  |
| Technical Assistance to Support Objective |  |