



Coalition to Promote Quality Early Ed & Out-Of-School Time

Put Massachusetts Kids First is a broad-based coalition of more than 70 organizations across the state focused on improving outcomes for children by stabilizing and strengthening the educators who nurture and teach them.

### Join Us!

Connect with us online at:



<http://www.putmakidsfirst.org>



<http://www.facebook.com/putmakidsfirst>



<http://www.twitter.com/putmakidsfirst>

### Consider these facts:

- Low reimbursement rates make it difficult to recruit and retain skilled educators. Massachusetts is losing classrooms and programs. The number of early education and care programs in this state has decreased by almost 3,000, from 11,824 in 2011 to 8,954 in 2015.<sup>i</sup>
- The median salary of early educators in Massachusetts is approximately \$25,000/year<sup>ii</sup> The average salary of kindergarten teachers in the state is \$68,270/year.<sup>iii</sup>
- Since 2001, state funding for community-based early education and care and out-of-school time has not kept pace with inflation, resulting in a reduction of more than \$100 million – a 50% decrease in the state’s commitment to its youngest scholars.<sup>iv</sup>

Help us stabilize and strengthen early education and care and out-of-school time for children in FY’17!

### The coalition’s two priorities for FY’17 are:

1. Increasing the Early Education and School Age Rate Reserve (1599-0042), which
  - Moves reimbursement rates closer to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, which is the level recommended by the federal government<sup>v</sup>
  - Seeks to reduce the 30% turnover rate estimated in the field<sup>vi</sup>
  - Supports the early educator workforce - 37% of whom are reliant on some form of public assistance to support their families (for example food stamps (SNAP), Medicaid (MassHealth), and cash assistance (TANF)).<sup>vii</sup>
2. Ensuring \$2M in direct grants to programs, in the Quality Improvement line item (3000-1020), which:
  - Would help early education and care programs raise and maintain their level of quality
  - Is critical to helping programs meet state standards for effective early learning environments
  - Would enable more early education and care programs to improve their quality. In FY’16, 586 programs applied for funding and only 196 were funded.



*Put MA Kids First Coalition*  
 Led by *Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children*  
 142 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116  
 www.PutMAKidsFirst.org | @PutMAKidsFirst | 617-425-0002



### Coalition Members

Action for Boston Community Development  
Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs  
American Association of University Women  
Bay State Child Care Food Program  
Berkshire United Way  
Bessie Tarrt Wilson Initiative for Children  
Bethel Child Care Services, Inc.  
Beverly Children's Learning Center  
BMC HealthNet Plan  
BOSTnet  
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester  
Burgos Family Childcare  
Cape Cod Child Development  
Catholic Charities Boston  
Catholic Charities Peabody Child Care Center  
Child Care Resources/Children's Aid and Family Services - Seven Hills Foundation  
Child Development & Education, Inc.  
Children's Investment Fund  
The Children's Village  
Communities United, Inc.  
Community Action of the Franklin, Hampshire, and North Quabbin Regions  
Community Teamwork  
East End House  
Edward Street Child Services  
Ellis Memorial  
Families First  
Fedcap Rehabilitation Services  
For Kids Only Afterschool  
Grove Hall Child Development Center  
Guild of St. Agnes  
Horizons for Homeless Children  
Infants & Other People  
Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPND)  
L&Z Happy Tots Family Daycare

Little Brown Bear Academy  
MADCA  
MA Afterschool Partnership  
MA Association for Community Action  
MA Child Care Resource and Referral Network  
MA Fair Share  
MA Head Start Association  
MA Independent Child Care Organization  
Metro North Children's Learning Center  
New Chapter Home Improvement  
NorthStar Learning Centers  
Nurtury  
Parent-Child Home Program  
Parenting Journey  
Parents Alliance for Catholic Education  
Pathways for Children  
Quincy After School Child Care, Inc  
Rainbow Child Development  
Reflection Films  
SEIU Local 509  
Sharon Cooperative School  
South Shore Stars  
SPARK Center at BMC  
Stand for Children  
Strategies for Children  
Taylor's Tots Home Daycare  
The Community Group  
Twelfth Baptist  
Church Christian Preschool  
UMass Amherst Labor Management Workplace Education Center  
UMass Boston Early Education Undergraduate and Graduate Programs  
UMass Boston – LEAP Program  
United Teen Equality Center  
Wheelock College  
Worcester Comprehensive Education & Care  
XYZ Family Child Care

<sup>1</sup> Child Care Aware State Fact Sheets. Data from state Resource and Referral Agencies for Child Care Aware's yearly MA state survey. <http://usa.childcareaware.org/advocacy-public-policy/resources/reports-and-research/child-care-in-america-2015-state-fact-sheet/>

<sup>2</sup> Bessie Tarrt Wilson Initiative for Children (2013). *The Massachusetts Career Ladder and Early Educator Compensation Reform*.

<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics. May 2015 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, Massachusetts. Available via: [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_ma.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_ma.htm)

<sup>4</sup> Bernstein J (2013). *Declines in Spending on Early Education and Care in Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Child Care and Development Fund Program; Proposed Rule, 45 CFR Part 98, December 2015.

<sup>6</sup> Marshall N, et al (2005). *Massachusetts Capacity Study Research Brief: Characteristics of the Current Early Education and Care Workforce Serving 3-5 Year olds*. Wellesley College.

<sup>7</sup> Whitebook M, Phillips D, and Howes C (2014). *Worthy Work, Still Unlivable Wages: The Early Childhood Workforce 25 Years after the National Child Care Staffing Study*. Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California, Berkeley.



The  
**Bessie Tarrt Wilson**  
Initiative for Children INC.  
research. engage. change.

**Put MA Kids First Coalition**  
**Led by Bessie Tarrt Wilson Initiative for Children**  
**142 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116**  
**[www.PutMAKidsFirst.org](http://www.PutMAKidsFirst.org) | @PutMAKidsFirst | 617-425-0002**