

ECF History and Evolution

- **Sharing information for effective grantmaking**
- **Joint funding/policy/community engagement**
- **Creating alliances**
- **ECF-member collaborative work**
- **Grant making**

1994 - 2023: Sharing information for effective grantmaking

- Founded by 4 partner foundations: San Francisco Foundation, Packard Foundation, Mimi and Peter Haas Fund, Trio Foundation
- Quarterly meetings with presentations, hosted by foundations to share information and ideas based on a common interest in funding projects that support young children and their families

1997 – 2002: Joint funding/policy and community engagement

- Welfare reform eliminated as an entitlement; women will need to return to work, need quality child care
- Quality Child Care Initiative created
 - Dialogues with child care leaders and funders, resource mapping, community forums to identify needs and gaps
 - \$ 4 million raised among ECF members (pooled and aligned funds); 80 grants issued

2003 – 2007: Creating alliances

- Engagement with business community to highlight importance of early childhood development; produced *Key to Economic Success in the 21st Century: Investment in Early Childhood Programs*.

2006-2023: ECF-member collaborative work

- Established a **Play committee**; developed play policy brief and play pamphlets in six languages (*Play: It's the Way Young Children Learn*) to showcase the importance of play for early learning; distributed throughout the country. Also produced *The Power of Play for Addressing Trauma in the Early Years*.
- Established a **Messaging committee** to develop a long-term media effort to communicate to voters the importance of, support for and investment in early childhood development and to unify and expand the field of advocates supporting this messaging campaign. Brought advocates together, held trainings on messaging, produced a language analysis report and brief (*Minding Our Words: Making the Case for California's Kids*).
- Created three interest groups interested in exploring **leveraging investments**.
- Established the **Racial Equity** Framework, learning sessions, LT sub-committee.

2002 – 2023 Grant making

- Funded child care organizations to educate policy makers on impact of the state budget on early childhood issues
- Funded messaging trainings and publications (*Meta-Analysis of Public Opinion Data on Support for Early Childhood*, *Minding Our Words: Making the Case for California's Kids*)
- Funded census outreach, EITC outreach, racial equity convening for child care providers.