

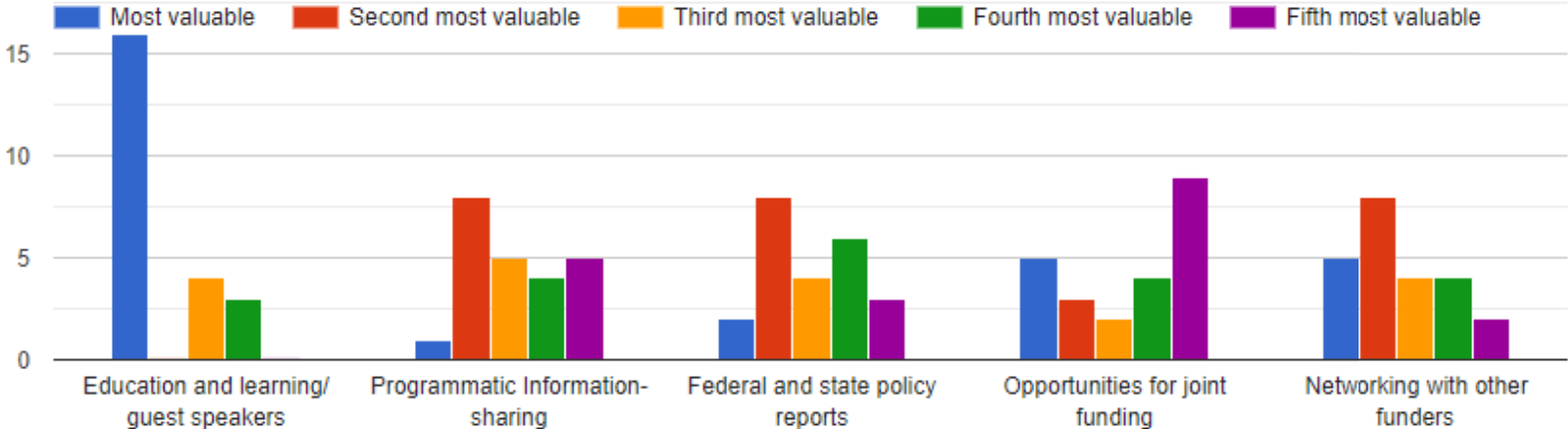
# ECF Survey 2021



23 responses

Thank you for helping us think about ECF's future! We hope to be able to continue to provide relevant information to support quality grantmaking and enhance the value of the early childhood field.

1A. Please rank what you think about ECF's overall purpose.



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1B. Other comments:

5 responses

Great opportunity to get to know the others funding early childhood organizations.

It was hard to rank the first 3 choices as they are all very valuable. Opportunities for joint funding are also important. Although, First 5 Solano does not have a lot of discretionary funding outside of our program planning. The networking is also very important and was only 5th because other areas are slightly more valuable.

I would like to see more opportunities for joint funding and a more thoughtful, inclusive process for how we present joint and decide on funding opportunities.

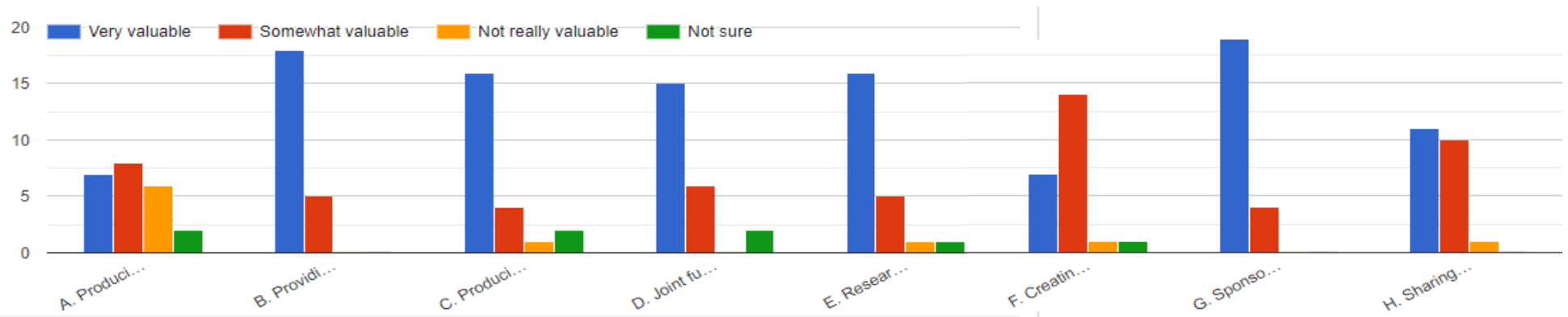
There is less opportunities for joint funding and collaboration across funders than I think would benefit the ECE sector in the Bay Area and California.

None

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Over the last 26 years, in addition to ECF’s three meetings a year on relevant topics selected by ECF members, ECF has also initiated and funded a number of important projects. We recognize that not all ECF members will participate/benefit from these investments, but overall would like to know your thoughts.

2A. Please rate the following investments as to how valuable you think they are:



- A. Producing educational publications in multiple languages, such as the play briefs which promote the importance of play for early learning and in addressing trauma
- B. Providing grants to support efforts by early childhood organizations such as the All Together Now messaging campaign or the First 5 Association’s census outreach
- C. Producing real life data-driven case stories in partnership with early childhood organizations, including Parent Voices, to prevent state budget cuts
- D. Joint funding opportunities such as the \$4 million raised as part of the Quality Child Care Initiative
- E. Research and analysis resulting in reports such as “Minding Our Words: Making the Best Case for Kids in California,” and the meta-analysis of public opinion data to promote unified early childhood messaging
- F. Creating and facilitating ECF sub-committees to work on issues of importance to ECF members, such as the messaging project with early childhood advocacy groups
- G. Sponsoring convenings on key issues such as messaging strategy or on the Early Childhood Master Plan
- H. Sharing federal and state policy reports at each ECF meeting

## 2B. Other comments:

4 responses

State child care presentation/update every meeting by Kim tends to ramble on...

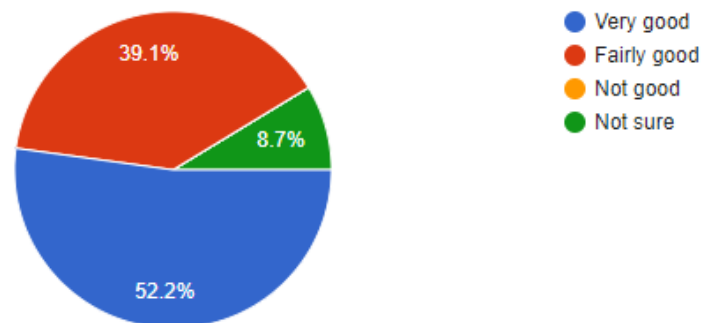
As you can see, I find most of what ECF does very valuable. The publications might be very valuable as well. I'm not sure who is aware of them, who receives them, or how we leverage them to influence policy and decision makers, including those who choose curricula for publicly funded preschool and pre-kindergarten programs. The value of these publications is relative to their use and influence.

I don't think producing publications are a good use of funding for this group. We seem to have very little information about how the publications were used, by whom and where and if they were valuable to users. If we are going to produce publications, we need a strong feedback loop for this kind of information. Again, I believe that joint funding opportunities are exciting and motivating but we need a better process to source opportunities and decide on them.

ECF is at its best when the collective power of the group is harnessed, in partnership with the field. The recent funding efforts (All Together Now and Census) have been small relative to the need of the projects or the potential of the foundation members collaborating. ECF could consider joint funder on a larger scale.

3A. Decisions for funding projects such as those mentioned above are made, when possible, at an ECF meeting, or by the ECF Leadership Team. What do you think about this process?

23 responses



### 3B. Please share any ideas for ways to improve the decision making process

3 responses

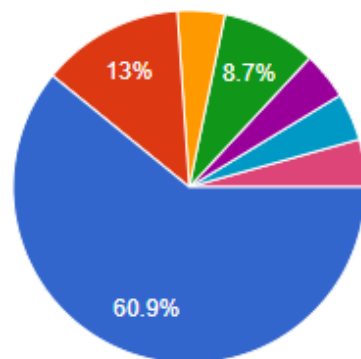
Again, I think we need a more interesting, dynamic process for making decisions and I think they should be for grantmaking. Perhaps we can ask the Southern CA Early Childhood Funders Group for the purpose/agendas/joint funding/other functions of their group.

Create "opt in" funding opportunities at a larger scale for members interested in critical field issues that would benefit from funder collaboration. Example, ATN is seeking to raise a \$400k for next stage messaging work, could ECF members interested in this be convened to fund the project jointly?

At ECF Leadership Team would be better perhaps rather than full group

### 4A. Please share what you think about the frequency of ECF meetings, now three times a year

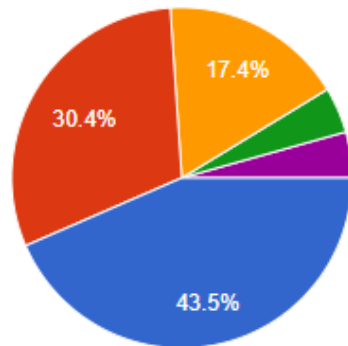
23 responses



- Just right
- Mostly ok
- Too much time between meetings
- Need more meetings
- 3 meetings work well but quarterly meetings might be preferred
- mostly OK but quarterly if jt funding was added to activities
- About right, or could have additional ongoing meetings that are centered around particular themes for those interested

4B. Please share what you think about the length of time for ECF meetings - in person for 3 hours (or 2 ½ hours on Zoom)

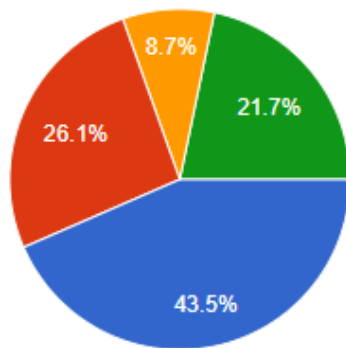
23 responses



- Just right
- Mostly ok
- Too long
- I think 2/12 hours on Zoom is too much. Ninety minutes to 2 hours should be more than enough if we are efficient.
- Some parts/updates can run a bit long, but length of main presentations and having time to interact is good

5. In order to continue its work, ECF will need to continue to meet its small \$50,000 budget. Part of the budget supports ECF's operating costs and the remainder supports important and timely projects agreed upon by ECF members, such as the ones identified above. Have you ever contributed to help ECF meet its \$50,000 budget?

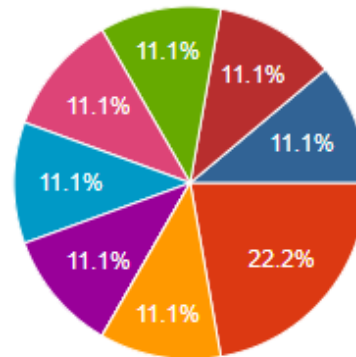
23 responses



- Always
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

## 6. If rarely or never, what are the barriers to contributing?

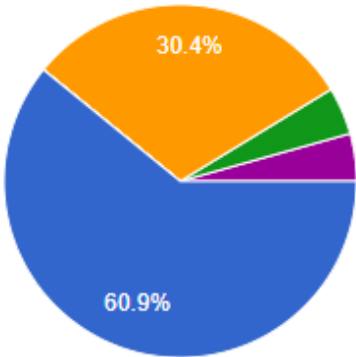
9 responses



- Our foundation does not fund coalitions like ECF, only direct services
- Our grantmaking process makes it difficult to make these types of contributions
- We have so many programs that need funding that this just isn't a priority
- We've had to pivot because of COVID-19 but hope to make grants to ECF in the near future
- I just joined as ED for my organization.
- We don't have a clear process at my foundation for this kind of contribution and I have struggled to describe the exact function of this group.
- still new to the group and can consider future funding
- Not aware that contribution was a possibility-we've had many org changes so it participation has been inconsistent.
- We have not actively invested in ECF in the past but have shifted and plan to invest going forward.
- all of the above

7. If ECF required dues (up to foundations to choose the amount) would you stay involved with ECF?

23 responses

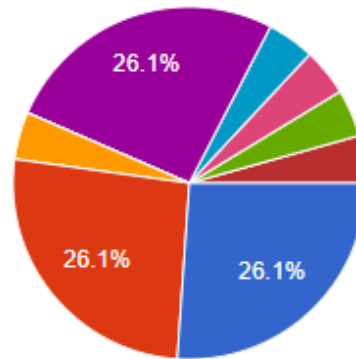


- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- I think so.
- Likely, although my hope would be it's kept accesible to any who are interested, or they feel invited to attend a couple mmetings without feeling obligated to pay dues



8. Given that ECF did not meet budget in 2020 and is behind in our fundraising goals for 2022, would you be inclined to make a donation for 2021-2022?

23 responses



- Yes
- Already did
- In process
- No
- Not sure
- Especially with a more clearly articulated purpose and functions for the group.
- it was hard to keep recommending funding when there was big reserve built up.
- Did for 2021, most likely will not be able to again until later this year
- may consider

9. What do you find most valuable about ECF? Are there any other matters that you would like ECF to consider? If so, please feel free to share any additional thoughts with us.

9 responses

I find all aspects of ECF valuable. Most valuable is hearing the in-depth presentations by experts and the comments and questions of colleagues. We are constrained by the priorities and practices of our foundation from participating in the joint efforts and some of the other activities, but I value them as important endeavors that I support.

ECF provides the highest quality training, informational and networking opportunities that I have found in the early childhood arena. I have benefitted personally over the last four years as I was new to early childhood. Thank you for all you do to support children and families and to help us all work together on important programs and issues.

Making a more direct link between presentations and group funding opportunities.

I value the opportunity to learn from and alongside funders who are more experienced in the ECE space than our team. I also value the opportunity to co-fund promising grantees. My sense is that the group may be better served by supporting grantees who are given flexibility to do the work they deem most valuable in the space rather than this group engaging in our own direct work (e.g. producing briefs or reports.)

More strategic learning and discussion, nurturing our peer community, joint funding critical gaps in the field.

Topical presentations, opportunity to network, and state/federal policy updates. We need to use our collective voice to drive change and elevate critical issues. I feel that this group could do this better as a force for good.

I have just joined ECF but found the first meeting extremely informative and helpful.

Thanks for all your efforts, these sorts of collaborations have such value

Meeting are well organized, always informational and valuable.