How the Bay Area Early Childhood Funders (ECF) makes a difference for young children and their families

ECF provides a valuable resource for funders that allows us to better understand and respond to the challenges facing young children and their families. This timely information informs our early childhood funding in all areas, including child care, health, family support, education, social services, special needs, diversity, and policy advocacy.

LYDA BEARDSLEY, PH.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TRIO FOUNDATION

When our family foundation began, joining the QCCI grantmaking process helped me to connect with and learn from other funders in this field. The collective expertise around the table was invaluable in helping us to become more effective, strategic grantmakers.

MARY WILLIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MORRIS FAMILY FOUNDATION

ECF participants represent a wide range of funders – from individuals to California's largest foundations, some with specifically focused interests and others whose approach is comprehensive and community-wide. ECF encourages networking and relationship building, and we all benefit from each other’s perspective on the significance of funding in early childhood. Our foundation is pleased to be part of this fascinating coalition.

THOMAS PETERS, PH.D., PRESIDENT & CEO, MARIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

ECF has made the difference in facilitating strategic alliances among foundations dedicated to early care and education issues in the Bay Area. It's a smart, strategic, and gutsy group of competent leaders and professionals who value critical thinking, candor, and inclusive decision-making. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation is extremely proud to be a participating member.

CARLA P. DARTIS, PROGRAM OFFICER, DAVID AND LUCILE PACKARD FOUNDATION
What is the Early Childhood Funders group?

Founded in 1994, the Early Childhood Funders (ECF) is an informal association of Bay Area foundations, public funders and private donors. The Early Childhood Funders focus on improving the lives of young children and their families by improving grantmaking effectiveness in the early childhood field. Membership is voluntary, meetings rotate from foundation to foundation, and a leadership team oversees the activities of the group and plans for future meetings.

The Early Childhood Funders Mission

The Early Childhood Funders seek to enhance grantmaking effectiveness in the early childhood field by providing an opportunity to share information, engage in dialogue, and participate in joint activities to improve the lives of young children and their families.

The Early Childhood Funders will accomplish this by:

- Holding meetings at least three times a year, bringing in speakers, and providing up-to-date information and materials on significant early childhood and related issues;
- Convening the early childhood community, policy makers, and/or other groups as appropriate to further the policy or program agenda of the Early Childhood Funders; and
- Developing joint funding opportunities or public policy positions in response to emerging issues.

Early Childhood Funders Accomplishments and Activities

- Created the Quality Child Care Initiative – a unique collaborative pooled funding effort to address the need for quality childcare in light of welfare reform. During QCCI’s duration, from 1997-2002, 26 foundations contributed over $4 million, and 80 grants were issued aimed at: building a sustainable workforce; strengthening advocacy; improving facilities; and improving access to child care.
- Produced and distributed a policy brief for policy makers and educators, “Play in the Early Years: Essential Foundation for Learning.”
- Provides support for public education campaigns to educate policy makers on the impact of the state budget on early childhood issues.
- Partners with the business community to identify advocates for early childhood issues and promote policy change to improve the lives of young children and their families.

Current Members


Early Childhood Funders Membership Support

The annual budget for the Early Childhood Funders is used to provide staffing and resource support for its activities including planning and conducting meetings, providing follow-up between meetings, convening the early childhood community, supporting policy work, and assisting with joint funding opportunities. Contributions range from $500 to $10,000.

Join the Bay Area Early Childhood Funders and make a difference for young children and their families!

__ YES! I’d like to become a member of the Early Childhood Funders. Membership is free and entitles me to attend ECF meetings as well as to receive all ECF information and materials distributed throughout the year.

__ I’d like more information.

Name______________________________Title______________________________Foundation______________________________

Address____________________________City______________________________Zip______________________________

Phone______________________________Email______________________________

Areas of interest:

__ Early Care and Education
__ Healthcare
__ Family Support
__ School Readiness
__ Special Needs
__ Other

__ YES, I prefer to receive all information about the Early Childhood Funders by email.

__ NO, I would like to receive my Early Childhood Funders agendas by mail and all else by email.

For more information, please call 415-733-8576 or email ECF@4children.org or visit www.4children.org/ecf.htm.