

Early Learning Challenge Collaborative

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Evolution of a Collaboration

Presentation Overview

- **To Collaborate or Not To Collaborate** – That is the Question
- **Funder Collaboratives** - Essential Elements for Success
- **The Early Learning Challenge Collaborative** – The Power of Relationships



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Reasons to Collaborate

- The issue you are addressing is either too big or too complex for one foundation alone
- Joining with other foundations will elevate the issue to a higher level and that elevation will positively impact the issue
- Emulate best practice
- Aligning and leveraging resources can lead to better outcomes and greater efficiencies



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Elements of Successful Collaborations

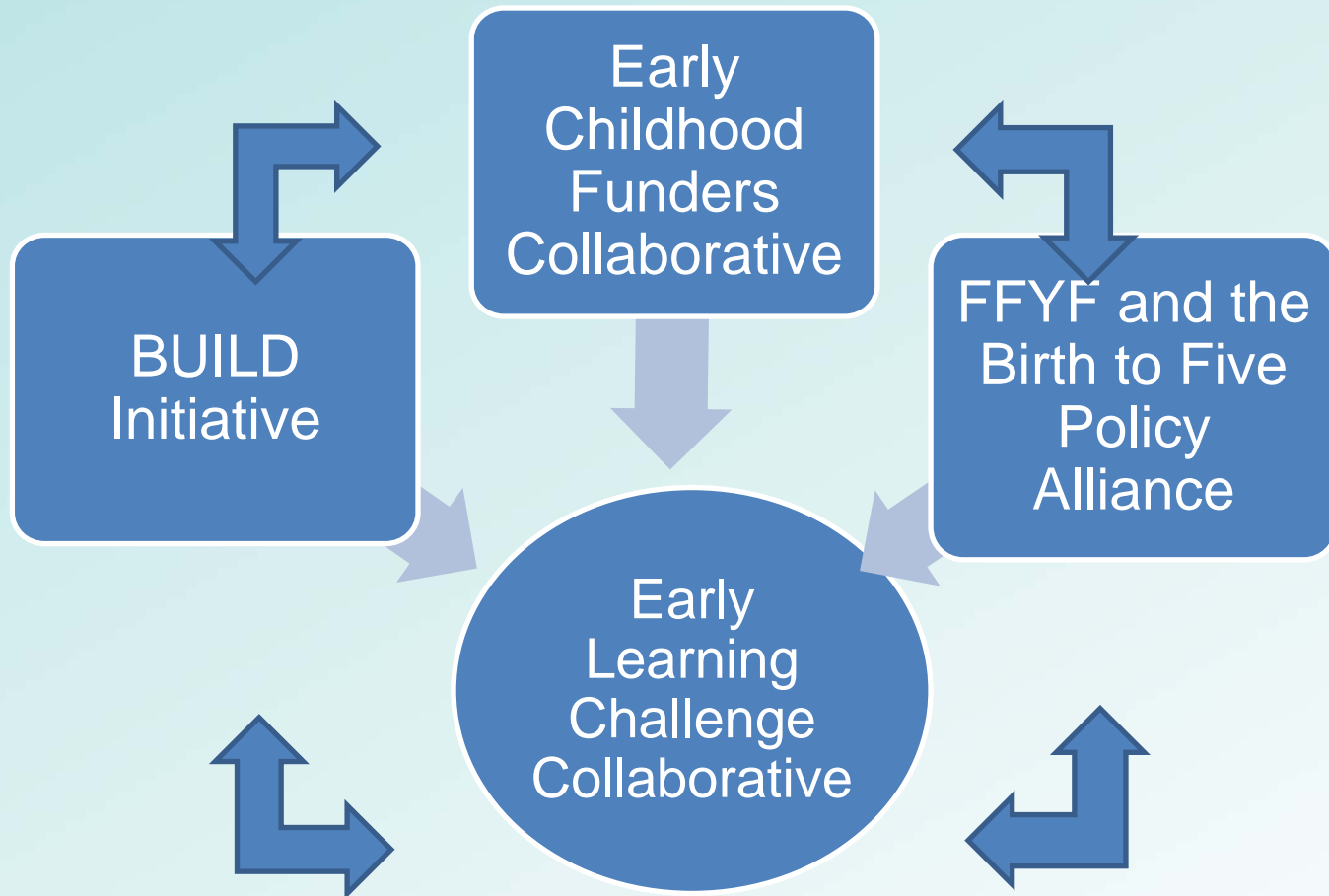
- Strong and trusting relationships
- Willingness to listen well
- Flexibility
- Shared vision and aligned broad goals
- Clear governance structure
- Equal voice



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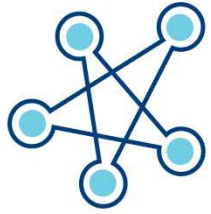
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Importance of Long-term Relationships



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Early Learning Challenge Collaborative

A partnership between BUILD and the First Five Years Fund - Supported by a funding collaborative



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Seizing the Opportunity

- Funders joined to support the establishment of the Early Learning Challenge Collaborative to leverage public funding
 - Brought together:
 - ✓ BUILD—leading early childhood systems building
 - ✓ First Five Years Fund—federal advocates with an education frame
- Aligned EC/ED funders and other field leaders



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Early Learning Challenge Collaborative

- **Values**

- Non partisan
- Help each state take its next best step

- **Vision of what it takes**

- Assertive leadership
- Coherent organizational structure
- Commitment to high quality
- Focus on high-needs children birth to age five
- Commitment to develop needed systems



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Funder Roles

- Provide funding for ELCC
- Participate on Core Advisors Group which includes two foundation leaders
- Support collaborative staff, TA consultants, meetings & webinars
- Align funding
- Bridge the EC/K-12 divide



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Outcomes

Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge 1

- 37 states were supported with tools, technical assistance and consultation to apply for RtT ELC grants
- \$550 million awarded to 9 states
- The focus remained comprehensive

Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge 2

- 5 additional states were supported in rewriting their applications and were awarded \$175 million in grants



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Outcomes

ELCC – BUILD and FFYF supported by the Birth to Five Policy Alliance, the Ounce and other national and state organizations will

- Continue to provide technical assistance
- Host issue-focused convenings and meetings
- Drive lessons learned from the state to inform federal policy
- Develop tools to support a 50 state strategy to strengthen EC systems



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