



State Partners and BUILD

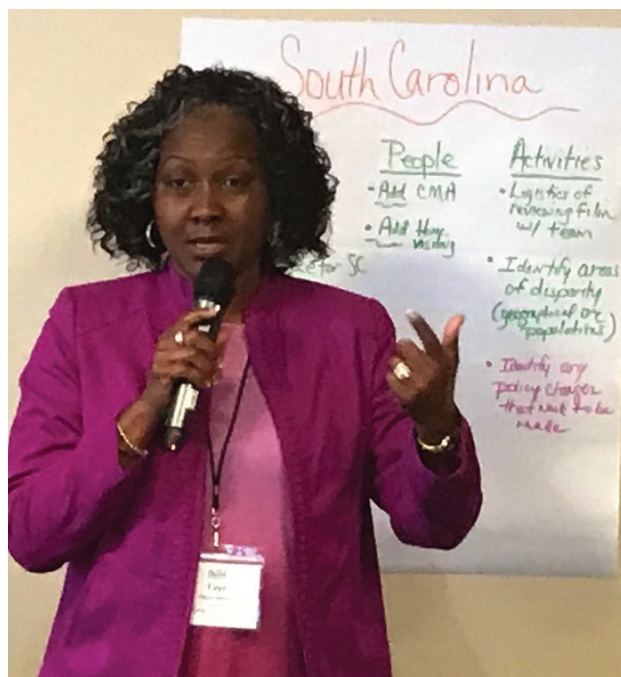
INTRODUCTION

The BUILD Initiative supports states as they build early childhood systems across the many child- and family-serving sectors. BUILD aims for optimal child development and family well-being by partnering with and developing teams of state leaders who share those aims and understand the relationship between research and best practice related to early childhood science and equitable systems change. It is this focus on cross-sector leadership and equitable systems building for early childhood that makes BUILD unique. In seeking to support child and family well-being and address persistent inequities in access to and benefit from programs and services, BUILD focuses on how leaders of early childhood programs, services, and systems can work together to reduce siloed sub-systems, reliance on aggregated data, fragmentation in service provision, and the restrictions of limited funding.

OVERVIEW OF BUILD STATE SERVICES

BUILD partners with early childhood leaders focused on family support and engagement, early care and education, health, mental health, nutrition, child welfare, and housing to create the policies and infrastructure necessary for quality and tailored design to increase access that ensures equity. In each partner state, BUILD supports a team of cross-sector state leaders by providing consultation, learning opportunities, resources, cross-state peer-to-peer exchanges, and in-state planning and implementation assistance. These efforts help state leaders increase quality, expand access, and promote outcomes for our youngest children.

As the sole membership organization for states with this specific focus on early childhood systems building, participation in the BUILD Initiative provides an opportunity to work with other states and their agency partners who seek to create unified and coordinated early childhood systems. BUILD also supports state Early Learning Councils or state advisory groups and their efforts to champion and move forward strategies with state agencies to advance systems building and improve young children's outcomes. In addition to fostering peer-to-peer learning opportunities with other BUILD states, BUILD also provides technical assistance on a range of early childhood implementation challenges which may arise from an individual department or division within the early childhood system.



The BUILD Initiative:

- Provides tailored and timely technical assistance to state agency leaders and the leadership team as defined in partner states.
- Provides a dedicated BUILD Initiative liaison who is an expert in early childhood systems building and provides timely access to content experts for specific state projects, initiatives, policy development, and initiative to improve practices.
- Provides access to experts in the field including those who can provide consultation on issues covering the full range of the early childhood system: health, e.g., public health, health care, Medicaid, child welfare, mental health; early care and education; family support; and human services, e.g., housing, TANF, employment support, WIC, SNAP, etc.
- Facilitates learning communities that share the latest research and promising practices.
- Serves as a knowledge broker by shining a light on promising early childhood systems efforts and highlighting new ideas and successful innovations.
- Supports state agencies and division or departmental leaders working to ensure diversity and equity in all aspects of program and service delivery as well as early childhood systems building.
- Informs and influences state and national conversations and policy decisions by highlighting emerging issues, innovative approaches, best practices, and results from the field.
- Supports states in using the qualitative and quantitative data to inform and drive decision making, quality improvement, removal of barriers, and monitoring and distribution of state resources.

SCOPE

BUILD performs the following services for the state leadership team in partner states to support the successful implementation of actions that advance an early childhood system:

Specific Opportunities

Throughout the grant period, BUILD will provide up to 200 hours of technical assistance by engaging in monthly calls with leaders to plan and prioritize technical assistance. In addition, BUILD offers other technical assistance as needed. For example, BUILD anticipates providing support and expertise to the leaders in designing and implementing the next steps in advancing racial equity, with a focus on responding to beneficiary voice.

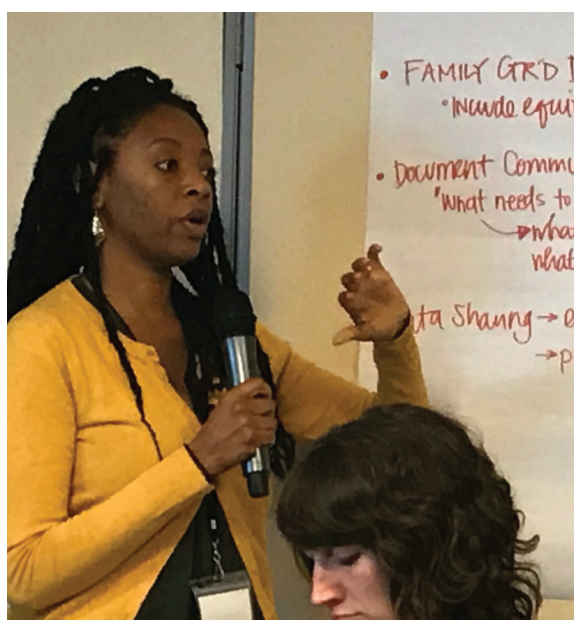
Two State Peer-Learning Networking Meetings

BUILD will:

- Support the state in sending an eight-member cross-sector team, representing multiple divisions and departments and the diversity of the children and families served to participate in two annual in-person conferences with other BUILD member states and content experts. This team attends these meetings to focus on implementing state agency coordination and the systems building required to build a successful early childhood system.
- Work with the team before each networking meeting to identify current challenges to implementation and facilitate networking opportunities with other states facing similar challenges or having experiences that will assist the state team members in addressing these issues.

Dedicated State Technical Assistance Liaison

BUILD will assign a Technical Assistance Liaison to the team. The Technical Assistance Liaison has extensive experience working within state systems programs, services, or initiatives. The Liaison will conduct monthly phone calls with the designated team members to monitor progress, help problem solve, and identify additional technical assistance needs. When additional technical assistance needs are identified, the Technical Assistance Liaison will be responsible for: (1) determining which BUILD team and/or other content experts have the corresponding expertise and (2) facilitating the delivery of that technical assistance to the team or individual team members. The liaison has the following skills, knowledge, and abilities:



- **Consultation and problem solving.** BUILD offers thought partnership, provides ongoing support and problem solving, helps leaders address specific problems, and supports planning and action steps.
- **Leadership development and building capacity.** BUILD supports leaders in their knowledge of and capacity to engage in systems building and racial equity work. And BUILD helps leaders understand and take action within their specific roles, responsibilities, and influence.
- **Meeting facilitation or planning processes.** BUILD provides meeting facilitation and supports planning processes that may involve collecting data (quantitative or qualitative – surveys, beneficiary voice, interviews), analyzing the results, determining next steps, and implementing those steps.
- **Individualized technical assistance.** BUILD provides or brokers expertise in the specific content area the state requests.
- **Learning community and peer support.** BUILD provides examples from other states and connects state leaders with leaders from other states who have similar plans and challenges and can inform each other's work.

BUILD and External Experts' Technical Assistance

BUILD provides “one-stop shopping” for technical assistance needed by the state on the wide range of early childhood content, including all the sectors involved in the early childhood systems (health, mental health, child welfare, early care and education, early intervention Parts B and C, family support, and human services, e.g., housing, TANF, WIC, SNAP, employment, etc.). In coordination with the state team, BUILD will provide technical assistance to support the development of the state's early childhood system, including but not limited to racial equity, early childhood professional development and quality improvement systems, data systems, financing, governance, and leadership development. This technical assistance will be provided by phone, through webinars, and in person, as appropriate.



STATE SERVICES TEAM

Sherri Killins Stewart, Co-Lead

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STATE LIAISONS

Alabama: Marie St. Fleur

California: Carey McCann

Washington DC: Debi Mathias

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