

Overview of HOPE State Efforts

BUILD's goals for HOPE efforts are to: **promote optimal health and well-being** for pregnant mothers and young children; **shift or realign systems** to increase access to opportunities for young children and families in communities with significant racial, ethnic, economic, health, and education disparities; and **engage community members and create feedback loops** to ensure ongoing communication between state and local policy makers, practitioners, community leaders, and families. State leaders should understand the lived experience of intended beneficiaries of programs and policies; it should inform state actions to address disparities.

Through the project, BUILD seeks to advance the following set of core elements in state work all designed to promote health and racial equity:

1. Reinforce and utilize the **cross-sector team** to advance the state's North Star and goals.
2. Document and prepare **qualitative and quantitative data** to identify focus communities and ensure data and the voices of beneficiaries inform all stages of the work.
3. Define and develop the process for **beneficiary voice** visits and create a continuous feedback loop between the communities and state.
4. Frame and confirm the cross-sector **equity challenge** as a focus for increasing access to opportunities based on data and cross-sector mutual interest for a shared population.
5. Identify multiple cross-sector mechanisms to **modify policy, practices, or funding** related to universal state goals to improve access and quality of services for a targeted population.
6. Select at least one mechanism to **shift resources** to increase access to opportunities and improve outcomes for young children, their families, and communities.

BUILD's North Star for HOPE State Work

Each child, regardless of race, neighborhood, or family income, has equitable opportunities to achieve positive health and education outcomes.

The work across the HOPE states is designed to address the needs of Blacks, Native Americans or American Indians, immigrants, and other underserved or marginalized populations impacted by persistent poverty.

Alabama

The Alabama HOPE leadership team includes the Department of Early Childhood Education, Alabama Partnership for Children, Department of Human Resources, Department of Mental health, Department of Public Health, Department of Rehabilitation Services, and Alabama Medicaid. They have worked together to meet the needs of families in Macon and West Montgomery.

Leaders are responding to feedback from the community gathered over 18 months. Leaders are talking to families and direct service providers, such as home visitors and pediatricians, to increase opportunities and remove barriers to support and improve child and family well-being. An example of shared work is increasing communication between the community and the pediatric care provider to enhance child development and connection to referral resources. The state leaders have intentionally increased their knowledge of practice and processes that may increase equity in distributing services, programs, and initiatives to underserved children and their families. In addition, the state leaders have increased their utilization of disaggregated data to shape interventions and make underserved populations more visible. Leaders in Alabama have sought to include the voice of children, families, and the workforce in multiple projects by initiating community feedback loops.

California

The California HOPE Leadership Team is a partnership between the Tribal Child Care Association of California (TCCAC) and the California Department of Education—Early Learning and Care Division (CDE-ELCD). The team is committed to working with and learning from tribal communities across the state to determine how state policy, practices, or investments can be changed to improve young children’s access to quality early care and education that embraces culturally appropriate materials and traditions for Native children.



The collaborative approach between TCCAC and CDE-ELCD has strengthened the number and involvement of tribes, early care and education state departments, advocates, and other local and state stakeholders. There is a deeper sharing about the tribes’ cultures, traditional learning and practices, tribal sovereignty, government-to-government relationships, and the need to address inequities that exist in the state. The state and federal partners have been shown new ways to build relationships and to learn about culture in tribal child care and communities. The CA HOPE Team has been promoting needed changes that have resulted in the following: Quality Counts California (QCC) region has been designated for tribes to access state quality improvement resources and funding (Region 12); audit and contract language has been modified to support Tribal Child Care participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); and work is being done to recognize tribal licensing as meeting state licensing requirements in CDE state contracting and funding, e.g., CACFP, CCTR, CSPP. The next steps involve continuing the trust building and partnerships that have begun, maintaining, and expanding the feedback loops between tribal community voices and state leadership, and expanding the changes to state policies and practices to increase access to quality early learning and care for Native children and ensure that the definition of quality is informed by Native culture.

Minnesota

The Minnesota HOPE Team created the Minnesota 2-Generation Policy Network as a joint effort of state agencies, counties, local organizations, and the White Earth Nation. The Network is designed to advance two-generation approaches to policies and practices that improve outcomes for children and parents. Leaders are working to identify barriers to opportunity and create equitable tailored responses within state programs, services, and initiatives to meet the needs of children and their families. The vision of the Minnesota 2-Generation Policy Network is that families in the state of Minnesota will thrive, services will be integrated to support children and families, and systems will support integration and effectiveness. At the core of this vision are families that have economic assets, social capital, health and well-being, postsecondary and career pathways, and nurturing learning environments.

The Whole Family Systems Initiative is a continuation of the 2-Gen policy focus that began with four

sites in the first cohort and expanded to an additional eight sites during the HOPE project with support from multiple departments in state government. Systemic change is the goal. The Minnesota HOPE Team examines the current policy landscape



through an intentional equity and cultural lens, moves to change and reinterpret state policy, modifies needed practices, and develops the workforce and leadership through a robust learning network. All efforts are co-created by local partners in the community and the state.

- [MN 2-Generation Policy Network — Future Services Institute](#)
- [2 Generation / 2 Generation Network \(mn.gov\)](#)

New Jersey

The New Jersey HOPE effort is centered in the Interdepartmental Planning Group. This cross-sector team includes the Department of Human Services, Department of Health, NJ Council for Young Children, Department of Education, Department of Children and Families, Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the Head Start Collaboration Office.

New Jersey has a team of leaders working together to meet the needs of children, their families, and communities in Atlantic City and Bridgeton. The leaders have partnered with community members and providers to increase opportunities for children, their families, and the community. A group of leaders in labor and early care and education is currently working to increase access to childcare and employment for residents of both communities by engaging county and local agencies. An early effort led to increased access to summer care for young children.