

The BUILD Initiative

The BUILD Initiative is a national effort that advances state work on behalf of young children (prenatal through five), their families, and communities. BUILD staff partner with early childhood state leaders focused on early learning, health and nutrition, mental health, child welfare, and family support and engagement to create the policies, infrastructure, and cross-sector connections necessary for quality and equity. BUILD provides consultation, planning, and tailored implementation assistance, learning opportunities, resources, and cross-state peer exchanges. These efforts help state leaders improve and expand access to quality and promote equitable outcomes for our youngest children.

Mission

The BUILD Initiative partners with state leaders to promote equitable child- and family-serving systems that result in young children thriving and learning.

Vision

BUILD envisions a time when all children reach their full potential and when race, place, and income are no longer predictors of outcomes.



Surrounding Children with a Community of Support

The BUILD Initiative brings together state leaders across the early childhood spectrum—professionals dedicated to family support and engagement, early learning, health, mental health, and nutrition—to promote opportunities for all children, prenatal through age five. Since 2002, the BUILD Initiative, in its effort to create this community of support, has partnered with state-based organizations, early childhood innovators, government agencies, philanthropies, business leaders, and others. By creating the policies and infrastructure for quality and equity and connecting programs and services for young children that may have functioned in isolation, at cross-purposes, or without sufficient resources to meet critical needs, BUILD works to ensure that all young children thrive and are well-prepared for school and life.

Why It Matters

With increasing evidence from brain science, we know that the first five years of life (and especially the first three) set the foundation for future growth and development, yet our society currently invests the least in this age group. Investments in early childhood development improve health, school readiness and, ultimately, the ability to be part of an educated workforce, which is critical to our future prosperity. The BUILD Initiative is committed to helping states and communities increase investment and make the best use of the current early childhood investment by developing and implementing public policies, programs, and services that address racial and economic disparities and promote the healthy growth and development of each and every child.

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Our Approach

BUILD has a long history of partnering with state leaders to identify disparities and their root causes, develop strategies that distribute opportunities equitably, promote cultural competence, and create a more diverse and inclusive leadership of systems-building efforts than has existed to date. But we know our attention has not been sufficient. The BUILD team has redoubled its efforts to create a cadre of early childhood leaders for equity. We are working with our state partners to identify and support ways to help them take on institutional and structural racism that will have a direct, positive impact on outcomes for children and families in their state.

BUILD partners with public- and private-sector systems leaders as they work to establish state policy, provide services, and build their advocacy efforts for children from birth to age five. BUILD helps leaders break down the barriers to coordination and collaborative action, which has assisted states in:

- Reforming existing statewide systems.
- Improving connections and feedback loops between local collaboratives and state systems.
- Maximizing federal initiatives.
- Testing new approaches and strategies.
- Strengthening commitment to and action for racial equity, cultural understanding, and linguistic inclusion.

Our Vision for Equitable Early Childhood Systems

The BUILD vision for a racially equitable early childhood system would ensure that all children have an opportunity to develop and reach their full potential, without experiencing discrimination or bias within the early childhood system. Early childhood systems would provide equitable opportunities and resources for excellent educational and developmental outcomes for children from groups historically discriminated against due to race. In addition, an equitable early childhood system would take concerted actions to correct or respond to discrimination in other arenas that negatively impact young children and their families. It would guarantee that family voice is included at decision-making tables and intentionally build leadership at all levels of systems that reflects the racial diversity of the children and families. It would ensure that systems recognize and provide culturally and linguistically responsive services contoured to the needs of individual children in the context of their families and communities. Race and place would no longer be predictive of children's healthy development and readiness for success in school and life.

BUILD helps leaders break down the barriers to coordination and collaborative action.



What Does BUILD Do?

The BUILD Initiative consists of expert staff and consultants in early child systems building. BUILD:

- Provides tailored and timely technical assistance to leaders in partner states.
- Facilitates cross-state learning communities that share new strategies, the latest research, promising practices, and exploration of implementation challenges.
- Fosters an environment for collaboration within and across states, peer sharing, and access to expert resources to improve efficiency, spark innovation, and nurture leadership.
- Serves as a knowledge broker by highlighting early childhood systems strategies and spreading ideas and successful innovations.
- Supports new and emerging leaders.
- Works to ensure diversity and equity in all aspects of early childhood systems building.
- Informs and influences state and national conversations and policy decisions by highlighting emerging issues, innovative approaches, best practices, results, and lessons learned from the field.
- Promotes early childhood systems work that identifies and addresses the root causes of inequities and supports state remedies to address them.

Where We Work

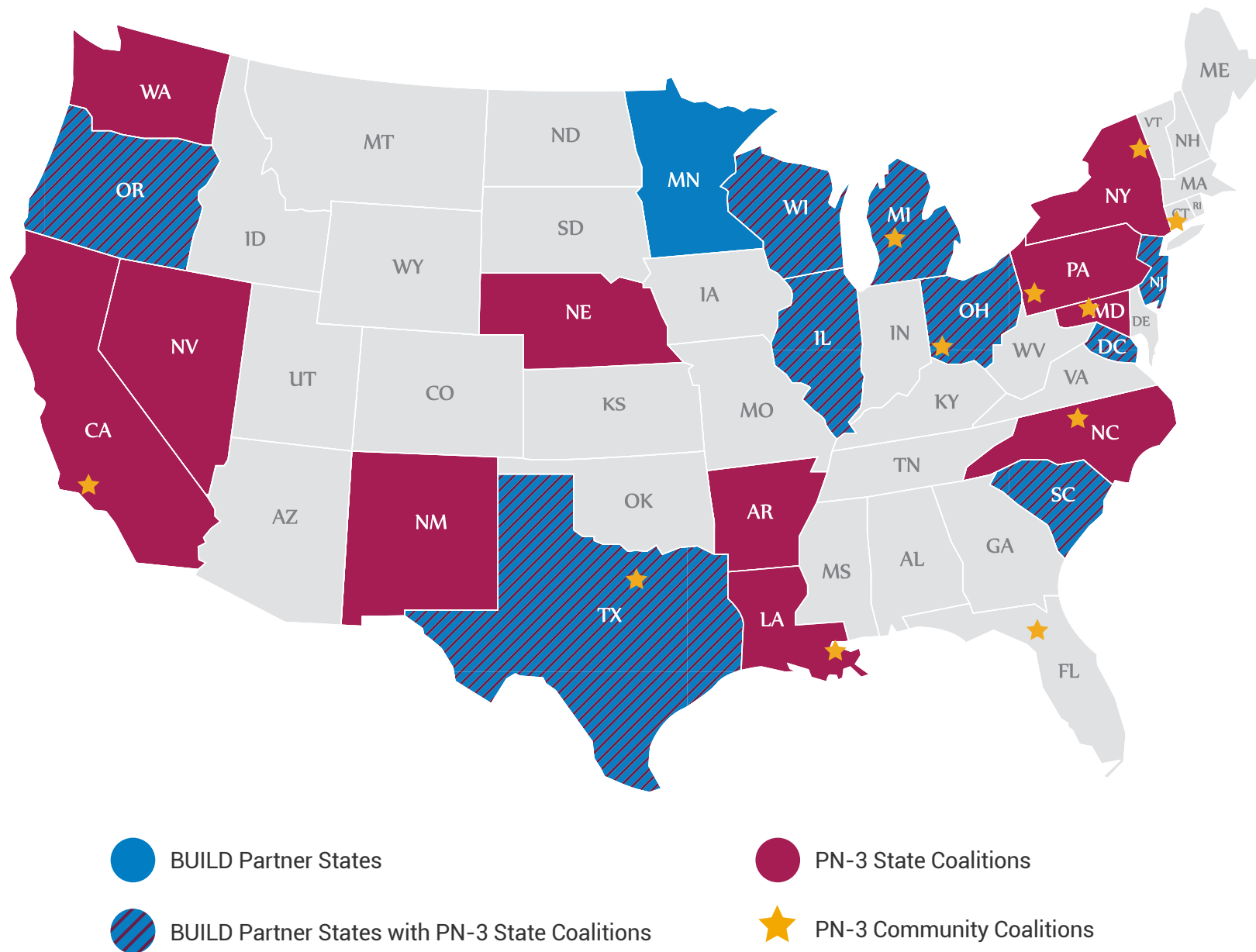
BUILD Partner States

BUILD works with early childhood leaders and their teams in partner states to create and improve early childhood systems to help children and families thrive.

Prenatal-to-Three Capacity-Building Hub

Prenatal-to-Three Capacity-Building Hub works with prenatal-to-three (PN-3) state and community coalitions to support pregnant women, infants, and toddlers.

Where We Work



The BUILD Team

Susan Hibbard

Executive Director

SHibbard@BUILDInitiative.org

Michelle Adkins, MPP

Assistant Director

PN-3 Capacity-Building Hub

MAdkins@BUILDInitiative.org

Gretchen Ames

Community Manager

PN-3 Capacity-Building Hub

GAmes@BUILDInitiative.org

Jenn Bender

Director, Operations

JBender@BUILDInitiative.org

Jonathan Chapman

Specialist, Learning Community

JChapman@BUILDInitiative.org

Tonya Coston

Co-Director

National ECE Workforce Center

TCoston@BUILDInitiative.org

Tony Durborow

Director, PN-3 XChange

TDurborow@BUILDInitiative.org

Mariana Florit

Director, Communications

MFlorit@BUILDInitiative.org

Maisha Giles

Liaison, State Services

MGiles@BUILDInitiative.org

Jim Gutierrez

Manager, Finance and Contracts

JGutierrez@BUILDInitiative.org

Danielle Fuentes Johnson

Special Project Manager, Early Care

and Education Quality Improvement

DFuentesjohnson@BUILDInitiative.org

Lydia Kim

Conference Manager

LKim@BUILDInitiative.org



Sherri Killins Stewart

*Director, Systems Alignment and
Integration, Co-Director, State Services*

SKillins@BUILDInitiative.org

Tameika Leslie

*Project Director, Early Care and
Education Quality Improvement*

TLeslie@BUILDInitiative.org

Tiereny Lloyd

Director, PN-3 Capacity-Building Hub

TLloyd@BUILDInitiative.org

Debi Mathias

*Director, Early Care and Education
Quality Improvement*

DMathias@BUILDInitiative.org

Laura May

Manager, Communications

LMay@BUILDInitiative.org

Carey McCann

Co-Director, State Services

CMcCann@BUILDInitiative.org

Ingrid Molinares

Manager, Learning Community

IMolinares@BUILDInitiative.org

Kemi Nnaji

Associate, Research and Evaluation

KNnaji@BUILDInitiative.org

Karen Ponder

Distinguished Fellow

KPonder@BUILDInitiative.org

Aisha Ray

Distinguished Fellow

ARay@BUILDInitiative.org

Omotunde Sowole-West

Liaison, Whole Family Systems

OSowole-west@BUILDInitiative.org

Cynthia Tate, Ph.D.

Liaison, State Services

CTate@BUILDInitiative.org

Xzandria Toombs

Community Manager, PN-3 XChange

XToombs@BUILDInitiative.org

Ruth Trombka

Editor and Writer, Communications

RTrombka@BUILDInitiative.org

Wendy Waithe Simmons, Ph.D.

Liaison, State Services

WSimmons@BUILDInitiative.org

Michelle Stover Wright

Director, Research and Evaluation

MStoverWright@BUILDInitiative.org

Core Consultants

Jeanna Capito

Jeannacapito@gmail.com

Kandice Cole

Kandice@kandicecole.com

Harriet Dichter

Harrietdichter01@gmail.com

Deborah Stahl

Deborah.stahl@verizon.net