

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

*Increased Access to High Quality
Childhood Education in Flint*

Flint, MI

Challenge

To expand high-quality early learning opportunities for children ages birth to five in Flint, Michigan. The need is particularly urgent among children who may have been exposed to lead as a result of the city's water crisis.

Innovation

Believing that all children deserve an equal chance to succeed, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has led a variety of robust cross-sector partnerships, involving more than 25 organizations and agencies, in crafting an innovative, sustainable and systems-based approach to increasing the availability and quality of early childhood education in the Foundation's hometown of Flint.

Overview

As a result of the partnerships, two new full-day, full-year centers currently are providing high-quality early learning and wraparound services for 368 infants, toddlers and preschoolers, as well as supportive services for their families. The centers will serve as hubs of early childhood education in Flint, helping to strengthen the quality of early learning throughout the community by offering service models, training and other resources to parents, caregivers and providers. Formal linkages between the centers and a national network of providers, researchers, advocates and other early learning champions will support the ongoing exchange of successful models and promising practices. Additionally, a public-philanthropic collaborative is in place to help identify, support and advance opportunities to further improve and expand early childhood education in Flint. A rigorous, long-term evaluation of this approach and its physical, behavioral and cognitive impacts for students is planned. The project partners are hopeful that, through continued innovation and demonstrated outcomes, the work in Flint will serve as a pilot for other communities and contribute nationally to a deeper understanding of — and support for — quality early childhood education.

PUBLIC-SECTOR PARTNERS

Flint Community Schools; Genesee Intermediate School District; State of Michigan — Department of Education, Department of Technology, Management and Budget, and Office of the Governor; Michigan State University; University of Michigan-Flint; and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Head Start Region V

OTHER PARTNERS

Community Foundation of Greater Flint; Educare Learning Network; Local Initiatives Support Corporation; PNC Bank; Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation; United Way of Genesee County; W.K. Kellogg Foundation and others

CONTACT INFORMATION

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 COUNCIL on FOUNDATIONS

