

Early Childhood Glossary

developed by family and parent leaders, in collaboration with advocates and systems leaders



Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children

Term/Acronym	Definition
ACEs	Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years). For example, experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect; witnessing violence in the home or community; or, having a family member attempt or die by suicide. Also included are aspects of the child’s environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding such as growing up in a household with: substance misuse; mental health problems; or, instability due to parental separation or household members being in jail or prison. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse in adulthood. ACEs can also negatively impact education and job opportunities. However, ACEs can be prevented.
Benefits Portal	Many states have online benefits portals, in addition to “one stop shops” where families with young children can apply for benefits, such as food assistance, child care, health insurance and more.
BIPOC/ ALAANA	BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous, People of Color. ALAANA stands for African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, Native-American.
Caseload consensus	<p>The caseload consensus process consists of three principal forecasters: the State Budget Office (SBO), the House Fiscal Agency (HFA), and the Senate Fiscal Agency (SFA), with the Department of Education (MDE) available as a reference resource. These entities work to determine the estimated caseloads, expenditures, and the total appropriations for the current fiscal year and the two subsequent fiscal years.</p> <p>The estimating requirement is designed to make expenditures for caseload programs a technical issue in the appropriation process and to remove caseload adjustments as a negotiation tactic during the budget target setting process.</p>
CCDBG	The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act provides federal funding to states for child care subsidies for low-income families with children under age 13. Additionally, CCDBG allows for flexibility to pair state and federal funds to improve the overall quality of child care available to families within existing state and local systems.
CEPI	CEPI stands for Center for Educational Performance and Information - The agency responsible for collecting, securely managing, and reporting education data in Michigan.
Child Care Provider	Policy priorities and strategies primarily focus on licensed child care providers; when identified, specific strategies also address policy needs impacting license-exempt providers (also known as “family, friend and neighbor care” or “kinship care” providers).

Term/Acronym	Definition
Early Childhood Systems	“A system is a group of interacting, interrelated, and interdependent components that form a complex and unified whole.” Early childhood systems building is an ongoing process of improvement. Due to the fragmented nature of all the various systems that support young children, many states are also working to build coherence so that the infrastructure (financing, governance, and professional development); programs (Head Start, child care, early intervention, pre-k, home visiting, and other health and human services); and sectors (public, business, philanthropy, and nonprofit) of early childhood operate more as a whole.
Early On®	Part C (of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 / IDEA) - early intervention program for children 0-3 with developmental delays and disabilities.
EHS / HS	Head Start and Early Head Start programs are free, federally funded programs designed to promote school readiness for children from low-income families. Early Head Start serves pregnant women and families with children under age 3. Head Start programs serve children between 3 and 5 years old.
FFPSA	The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was passed in 2018 to turn the focus of the current child welfare system toward keeping children safely with their families to avoid the trauma that results when children are placed in out-of-home care. To increase the number of children who can remain safely at home with their families, the law provides families with greater access to mental health services, substance use treatment, and/or improved parenting skills.
Great Start Collaborative	Great Start Collaborative (GSC) - Michigan's 54 state-wide Collaboratives, housed in local Intermediate School Districts, coordinate early childhood system building efforts through a GSC Director that works as a community change agent, focused on system change, facilitating the GSC and community organizing around local and state level early childhood issues.
Great Start Parent Coalition	Great Start Parent Coalition (GSPC) - The partner-organizations to the Great Start Collaboratives, (also housed in local Intermediate School Districts) are the 60 state-wide Great Start Parent Coalitions. These volunteer-based parent groups, led by a Parent Liaison, that provide parent/consumer voice to the Collaboratives, build local and statewide public will for early childhood, offer parent education and early childhood program/service resource information and support to the system level efforts of the Collaborative.
Great Start to Quality Resource Centers	Great Start to Quality Resource Centers - There are ten Great Start to Quality Resource Centers across eleven regions throughout Michigan. Each of these Resource Centers are available to help programs, providers, and families with child care resources.
Great Start Readiness Program	Great Start Readiness Program - Four-year-old, state funded preschool for children whose families are at 250% FPL and below.
HomVEE	Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness - assesses the quality of the home visiting research evidence about models and implementation that reflects information provided by the developer or other model stakeholders.

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HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration - an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary federal agency for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically, or medically vulnerable.
IDEA	IDEA stands for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (federal).
IDEA- Part B- Federal	Part C is funding for Early On and part B, for early childhood, is mostly focused on early childhood special education services.
IDEA- Part C- Federal	Part C of IDEA deals with early intervention services (birth through 36 months of age)—see Early On, while Part B applies to services for school-aged children (3 through 21 years of age).
IMH	Infant Mental Health - A professional organization that works across Michigan to equip and support professionals who serve infants, young children and their families through specialized in-service training, advocacy and Endorsement®. Associations for IMH strive to supply these professionals with everything they need to support strong relationships for infants, young children and their families, and those who care for them.
License-Exempt	Unlicensed, or "Family, Friend and Neighbor" child care, which can be funded by tax dollars or by what families pay.
LLG	LLG stands for Local Leadership Groups - Parent led groups that provide the perspectives of families who utilize the programs and the work of the home visitors to strengthen home visiting funded through MIECHV.
MDE-CDC	Michigan Department of Education- Child Development and Care
MDE-OGS	Michigan Department of Education - Office of Great Start
MDHHS	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
MEDICAID	Medicaid provides health coverage to millions of Americans, including eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults and people with disabilities. Medicaid is administered by states, according to federal requirements. The program is funded jointly by states and the federal government.
Michigan AEYC	Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children – a professional organization that promotes high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy, and research.
Michigan's Children	A statewide advocacy organization that aims to influence public policies that close equity gaps, grow healthy minds, listen to youth and families, make government work, support professionals, and build on progress related to children and families in Michigan.
MI Bridges	An online portal where Michigan residents can apply for and manage multiple programs and benefits in one place, administered by MDHHS.

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MI-AIMH	Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health - A professional organization that works across Michigan to equip and support professionals who serve infants, young children and their families through specialized in-service training, advocacy and Endorsement®. MI-AIMH strives to supply these professionals with everything they need to support strong relationships for infants, young children and their families, and those who care for them.
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health	An organization of diverse partners representing hospital systems, statewide organizations, local public health advocates and individuals with an interest in the advancement of maternal and child health.
Michigan Hands and Voices	A non-profit group that offers events, trainings, and programs to support families of children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, regardless of communication mode or language.
MLPP	Michigan League for Public Policy - A nonpartisan policy institute dedicated to economic opportunity for all focused on: Empowering Families with Young Children, Promoting Skills for the New Economy, Creating Work and Economic Opportunity for All, Strengthening Healthy Kids and Families and Advocating for Strong Revenues and Smart Investments.
MIECHV	HRSA's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program that provides pregnant women and families, particularly those considered at-risk, with the necessary resources and skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn.
Pathways to Potential	An initiative in Michigan focused on supporting communities and working where families are located, targeting five outcome areas: attendance, education, health, safety and self-sufficiency. This initiative was started with Governor Snyder and focused on seven original Pathways to Potential target communities: Flint, Pontiac, Saginaw, Detroit, Muskegon, Warren, and Kalamazoo (all of which have high concentrations of families living in poverty).
PDG	Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Grant - designed to fund states to conduct a comprehensive statewide birth through five needs assessment followed by in-depth strategic planning, while enhancing parent choice and expanding the current mixed delivery system consisting of a wide range of provider types and settings, including child care centers and home-based child care providers, Head Start and Early Head Start, state pre-kindergarten, and home visiting service providers across the public, private and faith-based sectors.
Prenatal and Perinatal	Prenatal means before birth; during or relating to pregnancy. Perinatal refers to the time right before birth and the weeks immediately after giving birth. The term postpartum is also used. There's no right or wrong word to describe the period of time around birth.
Quality	Many states using a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) to define "high-quality child care" by rating. As an example, in Michigan, child care providers can be rated up to five stars.

Term/Acronym	Definition
Regional Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (RPQCs)	The Regional Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (RPQCs) act as the backbone organizations of statewide Infant Health & Equity Improvement Plans, charged with leading implementation of quality improvement projects, conducting systems change work, convening regular meetings with diverse stakeholders, and authentic engagement in decision-making. RPQCs serve as the place where community work can align and integrate. Each is comprised of clinical providers, local public health, health plans, nonprofits, community organizations and community members, while evolving to include new partners. Each collaborative region is characterized by the unique efforts, accomplishments, and resources that have supported family needs over time.
State-funded Pre-K	Many states fully fund or partially fund programming for four-year-olds through state-funded preschool for children whose families are at 250% FPL and below.
TANF	The federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides states and territories with flexibility in operating programs designed to help low-income families with children achieve economic self-sufficiency. States use TANF to fund monthly cash assistance payments to low-income families with children, as well as a wide range of services.
Tri Share	Child care funding strategy with the employer, family and state equally sharing a third of the cost of child care.
WIC & SNAP	<p>The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides federal grants to states to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency.</p> <p>WIC is a special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children that provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk.</p>