

ow might we inspire widescale, positive change for Detroit's young children and their families?

We asked ourselves that question in late 2015. Detroit had recently exited bankruptcy and signs of resurgence were evident, yet we knew the city's success would be incomplete if young children and families did not thrive as a result. If Detroit's upsurge was creating opportunities for business and other sectors, shouldn't its youngest residents – any city's most precious resource – experience the same kind of benefits?

We joined forces because we believed that Detroit could emerge as a leader in creative investments to strengthen children's futures. And we recognized that our two organizations could play a pivotal role in that process. Together the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and The Kresge Foundation bring a wealth of experience based on many decades of investing in cities and early childhood education. In collaboration with a wide array of contributors – a vibrant community of parents and caregivers, and Detroit's dedicated leaders - we placed the well-being and future of the city's young children at the center of our combined efforts.

Hope Starts Here grew from that commitment.

Today we are an alliance of advocates and champions for early childhood systems in Detroit. Hundreds of partners have shaped this endeavor, and thousands have shared their insights, observations and deep desires for children in the process. After a year of dedicated listening,

imagining and learning together, we are proud to share this document – a framework for changing the futures of Detroit's young children. Hope starts inside each of us when we recognize how and where we can be contributors. The information and Community Framework offered here invite your participation.

The Community Framework described in the following pages marks the end of our initial community engagement phase. We hope it inspires you to join Hope Starts Here in the next phase of learning, listening and action on behalf of young children and their families in Detroit.

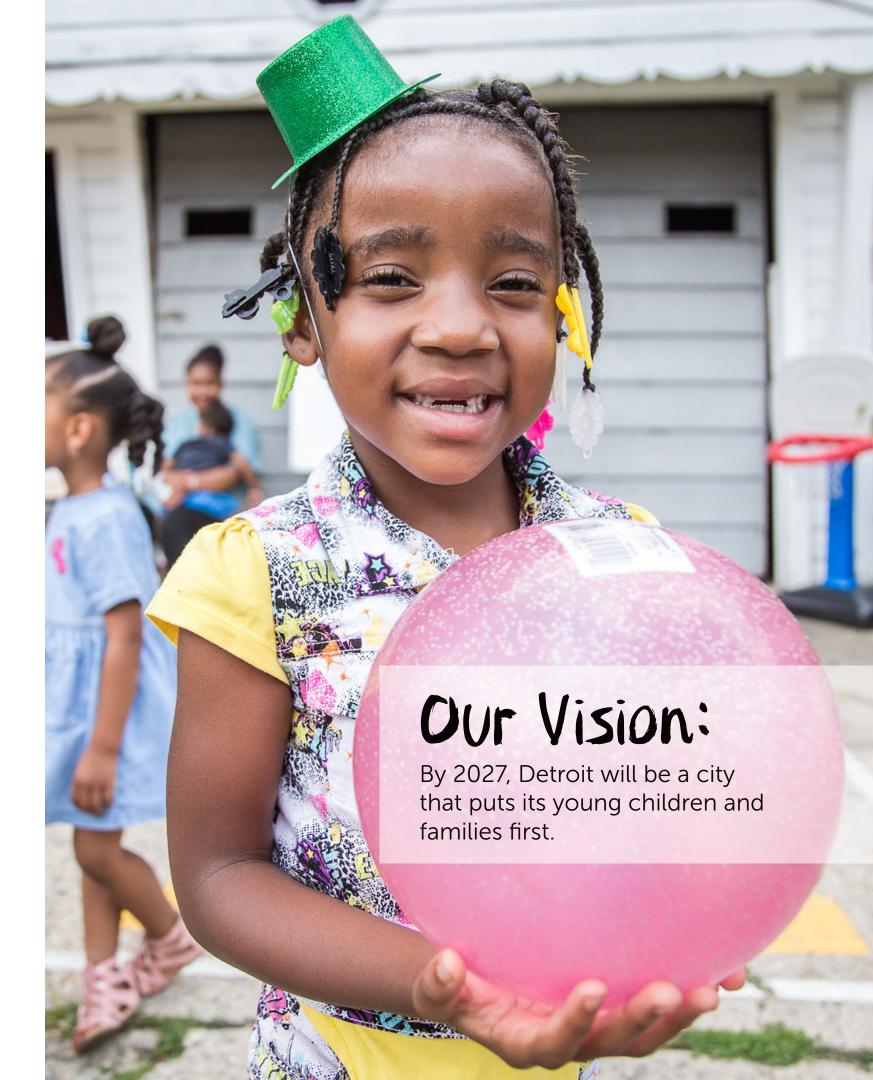
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President and CEO W.K. Kellogg Foundation

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Why focus on early childhood?

The first eight years of a child's life have a huge impact on their development and set the stage for their future success. A large number of developmental milestones fall within this period. If we make sure children have a strong first eight years, we set them up to continue growing and thriving. If we don't, we risk leaving them behind. Luckily, having positive experiences during this time can dramatically change a child's life — and have big impacts on their family and community.

The first eight years provide a critical window of opportunity to change children's lives – and our communities – for the better. We need to seize it.

What is early childhood like in Detroit?

Early childhood starts **BEFORE BIRTH.**

of Detriget late prenate

of Detroit moms get late or no prenatal care.



80,000 children 8 and under live in Detroit.

Detroit ranks

near the bottom

in child well-being.

13%

of Detroit babies are born **too early**, compared to nine percent nationally. 13%

of Detroit babies are born **too small**, compared to eight percent nationally.

Detroit has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the country.

13.5 out of every 1,000 babies born in Detroit dies before their first birthday. That's more than **twice** the national number.

African American babies have a **40%** higher infant mortality rate than white babies in the city.

 Both of these can have significant long-term effects on a child's health and development.



(That's more than in any of the country's 50 largest cities.)

> Kids who grow up in poverty are at higher risk for health and academic problems.

90%

of a child's brain has formed by **age five**.



By this age, many Detroit kids are already experiencing serious challenges, including:

Health



Hunger

Homelessness

Many families aren't receiving the services they need because of:



poor transportation



confusing eligibility requirements



long waiting lists



limited funding for services & programs

Nearly 30,000 of our eligible young children have NO high quality early learning or child care options.

All of those factors combined mean young children in Detroit are starting kindergarten at a

disadvantage.

26 Detroit K-12 schools rank in the **lowest**performing 5% of schools in Michigan.

If students are not reading at grade level by third grade, they are four times more likely to drop out of school.

Starting in the 2019-2020 school year, a new Michigan law means that 3rd graders not reading at grade level could be held back and would have to repeat 3rd grade.

86.5%

of Detroit's third graders are **not** reading at grade level.

That number provides the final shocking evidence that we are failing our children in their early years.



What is Hope Starts Here?

WHO WAS
PART OF THE
PLANNING
PROCESS?

More than 18,000 DETROITERS DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTED

GUIDED BY A 23 MEMBER

STEWARDSHIP BOARD





FRAMEWORK CREATED BY

STRATEGY TEAMS MADE UP OF MORE THAN

240 COMMUNITY MEMBERS & EXPERTS

2 Million

PEOPLE EXPOSED TO HOPE STARTS HERE THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS

s we work to create a brighter future for our city, young children remain our unfinished business. Hope Starts Here was born out of the belief that Detroit won't reach its full potential until our kids reach theirs – all of them. This one-year community engagement process launched in fall 2016 with three goals:

- 1. Create a vision for early childhood in Detroit that gives every child a strong start
- Develop a Community
 Framework to make that vision a reality
- 3. Inspire people across the city to bring that Community Framework to life

Since then, thousands of Detroiters have come together to chart a new course for the city's children and families, providing ideas, brainstorming solutions, and sharing their hopes for our youngest citizens.

Hope Starts Here launched with a public event at the Michigan Science Center on November 10, 2016. Over the following months, the process brought together thousands of Detroiters to develop a vision for early childhood in Detroit, to create a blueprint to achieve that vision, and to mobilize people across the city to bring that blueprint to life. More than 18,000 Detroiters directly contributed to Hope Starts Here's planning process: families and caregivers, child care providers,

educators, health care professionals, community advocates, business leaders, policy makers, funders, and a diverse range of other stakeholders.

Hope Starts Here was guided by—a **Stewardship Board** made up of parents, child care providers, early childhood educators, health care providers, local and state government representatives, as well as business, community and philanthropic leaders.

Six Strategy Teams took on the big task of understanding the many challenges children and families face in Detroit, then coming up with ideas to address them. More than 240 parents, caregivers, early childhood professionals, and others made up the Strategy Teams.

Detroit residents provided input, ideas and feedback through a citywide community engagement process that informed the work of the Strategy Teams and Stewardship Board. This included the formation of a dedicated Community Engagement Planning Team, a parent survey that reached caregivers in every neighborhood in the city, 125 listening sessions that brought people together to discuss their ideas and hopes for our youngest citizens, Detroit's first Day of the Young Child, as well as digital and traditional media campaigns. More than two million people were exposed to Hope Starts Here through this work.



Our Vision:

By 2027, Detroit will be a city that puts its young children and families first.



Detroit will be a city where all children are healthy and thriving, and have high quality experiences that help them grow and develop.



Detroit will be a city where **families feel supported** raising their kids and use their power to make sure their children have high quality early childhood experiences.



Detroit will be a city where the **professionals who care for our children are valued**, well-trained and respected.



Detroit will be a city with many high quality **spaces** and places where children can learn.

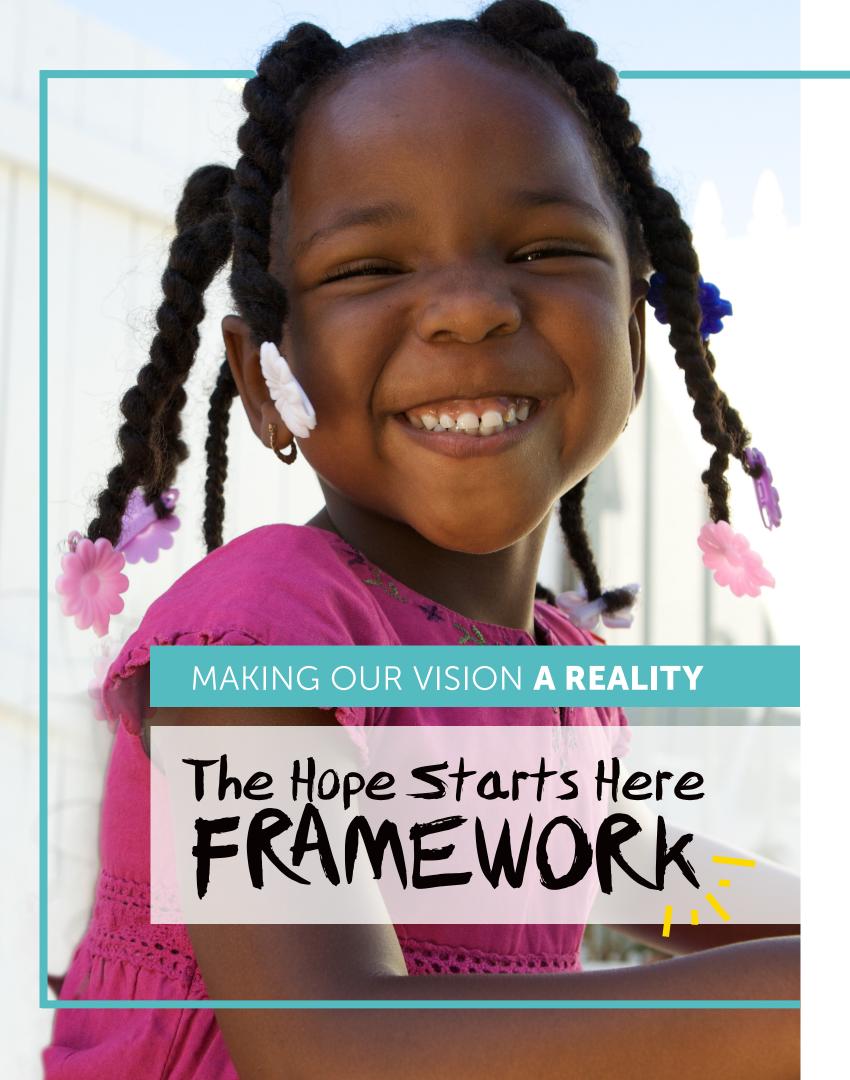


Detroit will be a city where everyone understands that the first eight years of a child's life are important, and that efforts to help our kids help all of us.



Detroit will be a city where the systems that affect early childhood have the **funding they need** to make an impact, and **work with each other** to do the most they can do.





IMPERATIVES:
what we must do to make
Detroit a city that puts our
young children and families first

STRATEGIES: recommended actions to achieve our vision by 2027

IMPERATIVE #6:

Find new ways to fund early childhood, and make better use of the resources we have

- Strategy #14: Increase state and local funding
- Strategy #15: Better coordinate philanthropic giving

IMPERATIVE #1:

Promote the health, development and well-being of all Detroit children

- Strategy #1: Support the first 1,000 days of a child's life
- Strategy #2: Establish a comprehensive health and developmental screening system



Create tools and resources to better coordinate systems that impact early childhood

- Strategy #11: Create a central coordinating body to lead early childhood efforts
- Strategy #12: Use one integrated data system to increase information sharing across systems
- Strategy #13: Ensure systems adjacent to early childhood also take children into account



IMPERATIVE #2:

Support parents and caregivers as children's first teachers and champions

- Strategy #3: Support the role of families in children's development
- Strategy #4: Improve the processes, programs and systems that support them
- Strategy #5: Create a team of advocates to champion early childhood

IMPERATIVE #4:

Guarantee safe and inspiring learning environments for our children

- Strategy #9: Improve facilities quality across Detroit
- Strategy #10: Align, increase, and better leverage existing resources

IMPERATIVE #3:

Increase the overall quality of Detroit's early childhood programs

- Strategy #6: Develop common standards, and support providers with professional development opportunities
- Strategy #7: Attract, better compensate, and retain the early childhood workforce
- Strategy #8: Align the early childhood and K-3 systems

HOPE starts with THEM:

WE ASKED
DETROIT KIDS:
WHAT ARE
YOUR HOPES
& DREAMS?



"I want to be a doctor.

An animal doctor!

DANIELA, age 8 **BRAXTON**, age 5

"Sometimes I build things, and I get happy. When I get big, I want to be a construction man."



FON, age 5 **NALA**, age 5

"I want to be a **frog**. I like to jump around like frogs do. And swim. I know how to swim."

As parents, what would

what would make a difference to you?

We talked with parents across the city about their experiences raising children here. We asked what they need to raise children in

Detroit.



WANT MORE? VISIT US ONLINE:

HopeStartsHereDetroit.org

Hear from LaToya, Esmeralda,
Ora, James, and other parents
as they discuss their parenting
experiences: what's going
right, challenges they're facing,
and why they're hopeful about
the future.



LATOYA KIMBROUGH

Lives with her parents, her son, and two nieces on the east side of Detroit

"My son will be going to kindergarten soon, and I'll have to take him to school outside of my community. I would like the convenience of being able to take him around the corner. My nieces don't go to school in our neighborhood...because we don't have any schools."



ORA WILLIAMS

Lives in Brightmoor where she raises her grandchildren

"Keep moving that blight. Just making it safe for children to walk, safe for people to catch buses, just making it safe period. These abandoned houses, the weeds that are tall as me, there's so much that can happen."



ESMERALDA TORRES

Lives in Southwest Detroit with her husband and three children

"I would love to see **more support for parents**. I didn't

realize there were certain resources for parents until my little girl was in kindergarten. If I would have known about these resources when she was freshly born, it would have made a difference in her education."



JAMES HILL

Lives in Grandmont-Rosedale with his wife and three children

"A solid early childhood education

made all the difference in our boys being able to adjust to school. We consider ourselves informed, but there needs to be more information available to all Detroit families on enrolling in preschool."



USING POLICY CHANGE TO PUT CHILDREN & FAMILIES FIRST

ope Starts Here's Framework requires policy changes at every level – institutional, local, state and federal – to ensure Detroit is a city where children and families come first. During the Hope Starts Here listening and planning phase, thousands of Detroiters shared how difficult it can be to obtain services for their family members, and hundreds of strategy team members spoke about the red tape and hurdles providers face when helping those in need. **Let's change this.**

Hope Starts Here's policy priorities offer public officials, the business community, community-based organizations and citizens a place to start. And in many cases, the change can happen right

now. The recommendations focus on supporting financial stability, creating a stronger connection between early childhood, health, K-12, and regional food systems, and identifying resources for higher quality early childhood programs and services.

To foster change and help Detroit children and their families thrive, the recommendation in this section offer a wide range of possibilities to consider. Recommendations marked with an asterisk (*) indicate policies and practices that companies and other community-based organizations can advance on their own, with or without the implementation of the recommended policy change.

Our Policy Priorities:

IMPERATIVE #1:

Promote the health, development and well-being of all Detroit children

- Implement a universal screening and referral system
- Support policies and programs that increase access to fresh food*
- Support policies and programs that reduce food insecurity*

IMPERATIVE #2:

Support parents and caregivers as children's first teachers and champions

- Increase public and private health care payers' focus on preventive and integrated care for children and mothers
- Streamline application requirements for child care subsidies, as well as other social services such as WIC and Medicaid
- Consider the feasibility of increasing Michigan's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Explore creative funding options such as a Michigan Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit'
- Implement a family leave policy*
- Promote living wage initiatives*
- Promote policies that increase the predictability of employee schedules*
- Support local transportation system improvements that increase mobility for families
- Support efforts to maintain or increase health care coverage for low-income families and children

IMPERATIVE #3:

Increase the overall quality of Detroit's early childhood programs

- Adapt higher education degree programs to meet the needs of Detroit's early childhood workforce
- Increase access to and affordability of higher education through financial aid programs and scholarships
- Expand and improve citywide early childhood coaching models to support impactful teacher-child interactions
- Increase compensation and benefits of early childhood educators

- Implement a statewide Kindergarten Entry Observation
- Develop formal partnership agreements between the early childhood and K-12 systems

IMPERATIVE #4:

Guarantee safe and inspiring learning environments for our children

 Allocate funding specifically for improving Detroit's early childhood facilities

IMPERATIVE #5:

Create tools and resources to better coordinate systems that impact early childhood

- Create a public or public-private coordinating mechanism for early childhood in Detroit
- Integrate early childhood data collection, analysis, and utilization*

IMPERATIVE #6:

Find new ways to fund early childhood, and make better use of the resources we have

- Create a local public funding mechanism for early childhood in Detroit to supplement state and federal resources
- Raise child care subsidy reimbursement rates and change reimbursement policies
- Expand Great Start to Quality
- Ensure Michigan pursues and leverages all available federal resources, such as the Preschool Development Grants
- Allow automatic eligibility for child care subsidies for all residents of low-income neighborhoods, following the example of the school lunch program

LEARN MORE ONLINE:

HopeStartsHereDetroit.org



Visit our website to find more details on the policy priorities outlined here.

HOPE starts with -400

Take the pledge to be an early childhood champion at HopeStartsHereDetroit.org

Every Detroiter has a role to play in making our city a great place for children. It's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work.



is a joint initiative of:





All sources for this document can be found at hopestartsheredetroit.org/sources

