State leaders seeking ways to ensure the array of state early childhood systems are doing what is needed to improve population outcomes is an endeavor. Starting early in a child’s health and wellness trajectory can have immediate and long-term positive impacts. But what framework best supports these efforts? The Engagement In Action (EnAct!) Framework is a statewide integrated early childhood health system tool that optimizes the power of engaging families to change the life-course path using prevention and early intervention as a priority.

**Half of young children in the United States experience complex social, relational and/or medical health risks, fewer than half meet criteria for being ready for school or receive recommended well child prevention services in the first months and years of life, 65% fail to receive even basic early developmental screens and large gaps exist in the utilization of essential primary care health promotion and prevention services and other early childhood programs and supports.**

**What is EnAct! - ?**
A national model focused on translating the science of healthy development by scaling strategies, innovations, and policies to equitably promote:
- Child flourishing and resilience
- School readiness
- Family resilience
- Positive childhood experiences (PCEs)
- Reduction and mitigation of the impacts of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

Using the following tools:
- A through any door, two generation approach.
- Closing gaps in the utilization, quality and equity of covered well child health promotion and preventive services for young children.
- Family centered and personalized whole child and family assessments aligned with Bright Futures Guidelines.
- Interoperable data sharing leveraging digital health innovations that activate families and make time to build trusting relationships and coordinate care while meeting quality of care standards.
- Scaling evidence-based health promotion interventions.
- In full alignment with national Bright Futures Guidelines, healthcare and state early childhood systems' goals, performance standards, payment innovations, data requirements and evidence-based strategies.

**Why Use EnAct! - ?** Despite widespread awareness about the urgency and possibilities to improve the healthy development of young children, unacceptable inequities, poor outcomes and performance gaps still exist. EnAct! provides an actionable roadmap and key action steps supported by a:
- **Summary of data** to set priorities,
- **Policy playbook** with levers,
- **Summary of methods** to jump start collaboration,
- Partner shared performance measure analysis,
- **Possibility Prototypes**, Illustrating how the any door approach can support success across 10 early childhood partners.
How Does EnAct! Implementation Drive Change?

Implementation is always a challenge especially for busy state leaders trying to address multiple and competing needs of the population they are responsible for and to. This implementation roadmap provides four key actions to move the system of health care and early childhood towards systemic improvements and ensure outcomes are achieved.

Figure 2: The Engagement In Action Implementation Roadmap (see full report for data, methods, partners landscape, policy levers and possibility prototypes)

IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

1. Action: Establish a sustainable, cross-system, multi-level state leadership capacity
   - Outcome #1: A cross-sector body has the structure, capacity and influence to sustainably advance state program and policy strategies that promote positive early childhood health equity
   - Outcome #2: State leadership build an across state agency infrastructure to coordinate strategies, resources, operations and performance measures that promote early childhood development
   - Outcome #3: Local community coordinating bodies lead and link with state leadership to drive effective frontline systems changes and improvements

2. Action: Create a culture of engagement among families, professionals, and system partners
   - Outcome #4: Families are supported, included and activated to partner in care.
   - Outcome #5: Families trust and experience authentic power-sharing and respect
   - Outcome #6: Professional competencies and mechanisms for effective family engagement and partnerships are prioritized

3. Action: Catalyze, facilitate, study and spread cross-sector, practice-based implementation
   - Outcome #7: A learning and communications network supports early adopters and spread
   - Outcome #8: Launch and learn demonstrations inform spread and continuous improvement
   - Outcome #9: Implementation resources are built, integrated and accessible
   - Outcome #10: Professionals are trained to implement the science of healthy development and positive and adverse childhood experiences (PACES) with all children and families

4. Action: Drive enabling and incentivizing policies and financing strategies critical to success
   - Outcome #11: Policies support processes to facilitate coordination of healthcare and community based services and resources across organizations and state agency programs
   - Outcome #12: Health plans, providers and early childhood development professionals are incentivized and financed to enable high quality care and improvement

This is the road to positive health equity, school readiness, family resilience and child flourishing.

Source: Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Feb. 2023

By leveraging strengths and existing federal, state and community programs and infrastructure, states are well poised to catalyze positive health equity through transformational partnerships across systems and in full partnership with families and communities. The decades of research, advocacy and systems change work led by a countless army of individuals and organizations enable us to meet this moment of opportunity for generations to come if we prioritize the possibilities. The EnAct! Framework is offered to accelerate progress by bolstering and building the capacity of families, communities, children's health care and all early childhood systems to partner in this work to measurably improve the well-being of all children and families and give the professionals that serve them the tools to be successful with their work.

What Can Your State Do?

✓ Adopt this framework through incenting MCOs and other providers using existing and new payment associated quality measures ensuring Bright Futures Guidelines are met.
✓ Build collaborative infrastructure across state programs and contract with an early childhood systems leader to coordinate collaborative implementation across early childhood systems.
✓ Use the framework to inform and design necessary early childhood system improvements.

Learn more here.

Citation: Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Two Page Summary of the Engagement In Action Framework, April, 2023
Acknowledgement: A Health Resources & Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Cooperative Agreement (#U2MC31456) to the University of Mississippi Medical Center’ funded the Mississippi Thrive! Child Health and Development Project through which the EnAct! framework was created with the CAHMI.