

**When  
Early  
Childhood  
Works,  
We All  
Work**

## REGIONAL CHILDCARE PLAN

### **OUR CHARGE:**

Build & support a coalition committed to collectively developing a plan that is reflective of family voice. A coalition whose goal is to accelerate community-level, cross-sector efforts to address the child care crisis. Ultimately our collective efforts will expand access to quality, affordable child care for working families in MEDC's Region 8.

MEDC's Region 8 includes: Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph & Van Buren Counties



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## REGION 8 ANSWERING THE CALL: WHAT'S NECESSARY TO BUILD A STRONG CHILDCARE SYSTEM?

**a good plan always begins with the right questions**

- What is the current state of childcare in the region?
- What existing resources, policies & practices support a childcare friendly region?
- What existing resources, policies & practices can we realign to improve regional conditions?
- What new resources are needed to innovate, fill gaps & create systemic change?
- What change do we need to collectively advocate for?



# 2023 REGIONAL CHILDCARE PLAN TIMELINE



**LEAD:**  
PULSE @ THE WE UPJOHN  
INSTITUTE

**STAKEHOLDERS:**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS

MUNICIPAL LEADERS

COMMUNITY BASED  
ORGANIZATIONS

FAMILIES

CHILDCARE BUSINESS  
OWNERS

POLICY EXPERTS

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS	Coalition Building, Research, Testing, Infrastructure Development			
MUNICIPAL LEADERS		research, data visualization, plan template creation, family training, one:one discussions, childcare landscape assessment, EDO & Municipal Asset + Opportunity Mapping Workshop (5/19/23)		
COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS			First Full Stakeholder Convening, data review & analysis, sharing best practices + possible innovations, ID + confirm potential strategies, draft initial plan	
FAMILIES				Plan presentation to all Stakeholders (review + approval), ID potential/necessary resources for implementation, ID advocacy opportunities + implementation plan
CHILDCARE BUSINESS OWNERS				
POLICY EXPERTS				

# REGION 8 CHILDCARE PLAN

## our plan development process

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### DEFINE

what is the current state of childcare?

what role does each stakeholder play in solving this crisis?

what examples can we learn from?

### DESIGN

bring research to the group to identify what's feasible + powerful for our region

use data to make strategic decisions

ensure family voice is foundational to group decisions

### DO

develop a comprehensive childcare plan that:

highlight policy recommendations

identify innovations

detail necessary funding (inc. opportunities to leverage current assets)

spell out ecosystem changes necessary

### LEARN

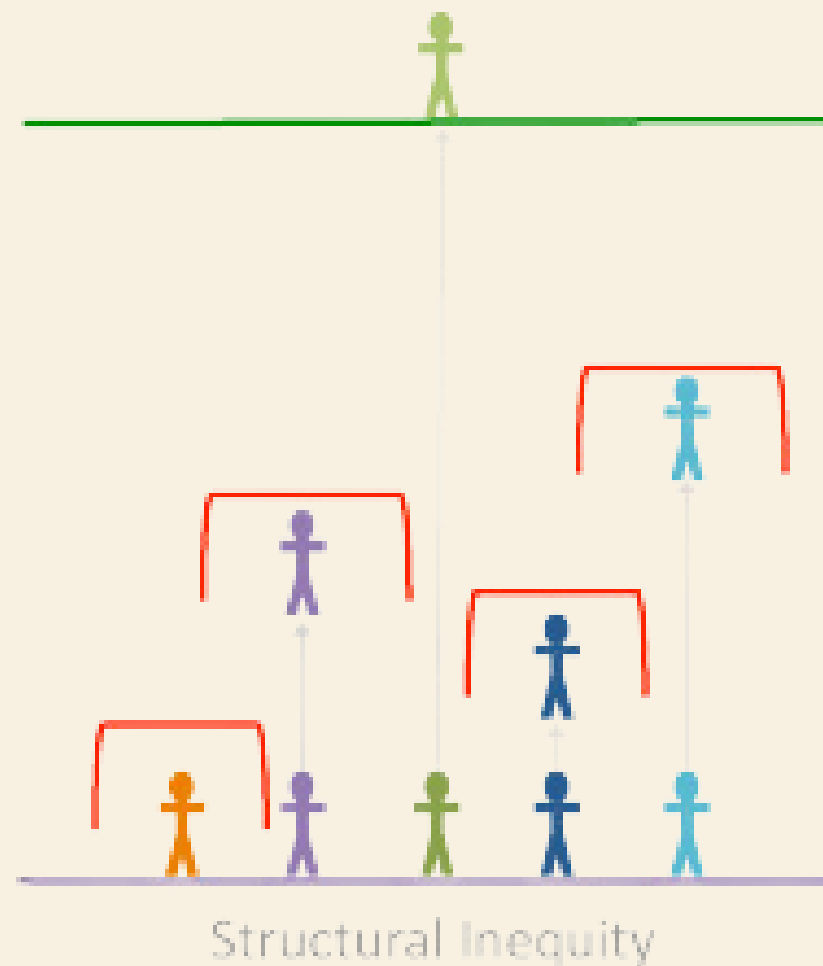
create ongoing, collaborative relationships to ensure that plan can be implemented

# PRIORITIZING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

Resources are finite. To ensure equitable outcomes, we must understand how folks are situated to our goal of all families thriving. We'll use a Targeted Universalism framework throughout our planning process to ensure we are equitable in our approach and plans and that resources are directed to where the need is greatest.

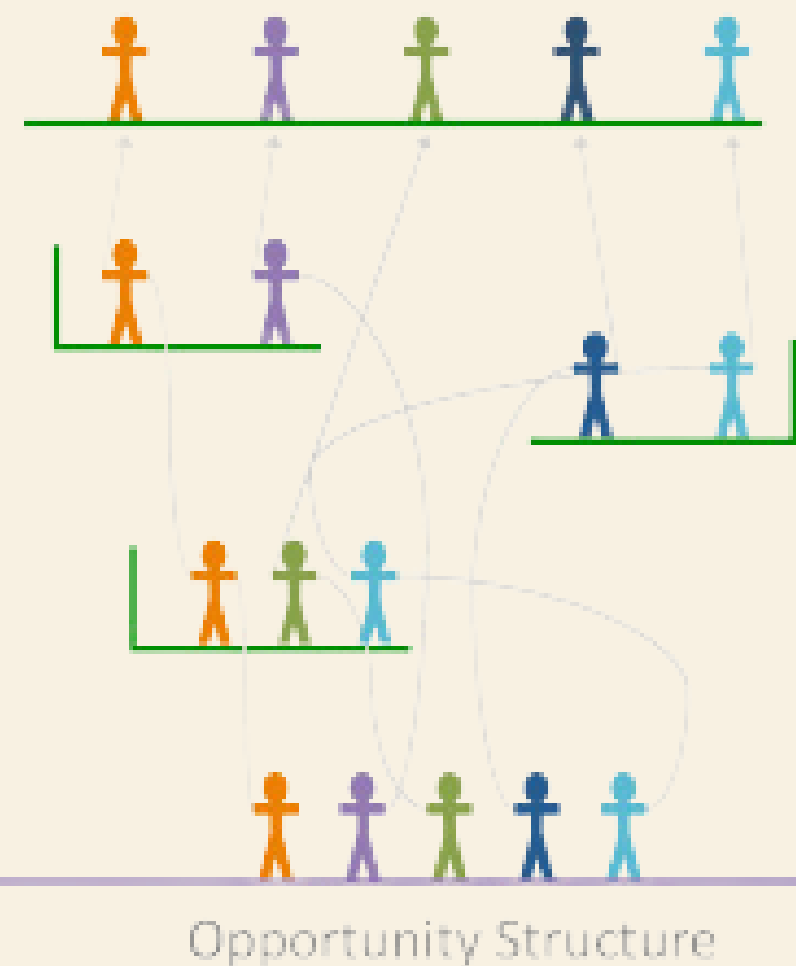
## Universal Goal with Targeted Solutions

*Structural Inequity* produces consistently different outcomes for different communities.



VS.

*Opportunity Structures* respond with necessary resources and multiple paths needed for different communities & individuals to thrive.



# UNDERSTANDING THE CHILDCARE LANDSCAPE

CONSIDERATIONS	<b>DEMAND</b> family needs & preferences	<b>SUPPLY</b> capacity of childcare options
Who do families want caring for their children?	type of setting, values & expectations for quality	available slots in different care settings across child age groups options that are congruent with families' standards & values
What can families afford to pay for child care?	household income access to subsidized care	market-rate price of child care, cost of quality, % of income families spend on care
Where do families need child care?	location of child care relative to home & work	child care supply/child care deserts, transportation options effort required for families to identify & use care that meets their needs
When do families require child care?	work schedules part- vs. full-time back-up/"emergency" care needs	availability of care during nonstandard/irregular hours back-up care options

# KEY STAKEHOLDERS

# ACTIVITIES

## FAMILIES

- participate in family leader training (through ECIC)
- participate in RAPID-EC survey
- facilitate data review & analysis, strategy development

## CHILDCARE BUSINESS OWNERS

For Profit / Nonprofit | Home-Based | Centers

- engage to understand current realities + best practices
- facilitate data review & analysis, strategy development

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS

EDOs | Small Business Development | Entrepreneur Support

- ID current assets (through Pulse-led workshop)
- ID opportunities to more deeply engage employers
- build sector awareness, desire + knowledge
- data review & analysis, strategy development

## MUNICIPALITIES

Cities | Townships/Villages | Counties

- ID current assets (through Pulse-led workshop)
- build sector awareness, desire + knowledge
- data review & analysis, strategy development

## COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

ISDs/RESAs + GSCs + CCR&Rs  
Community Colleges | Policy Experts

- support engaging families
- provide data
- engage to understand current realities + best practices
- facilitate data review, strategy development
- ID potential policy asks, develop advocacy tools

# The pulse))) Team

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