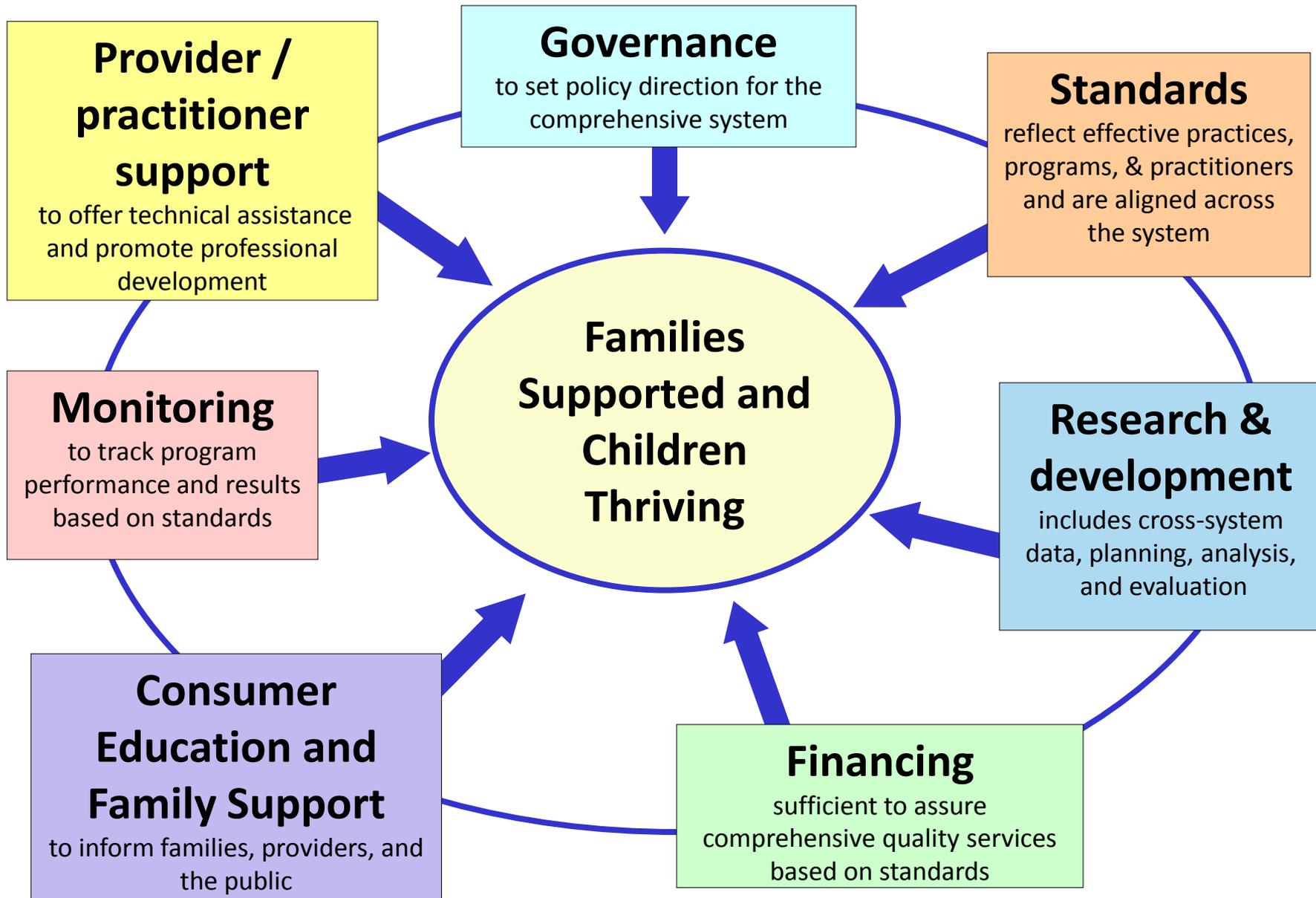


**Early Learning**

**Health,  
Mental  
Health, and  
Nutrition**

**Family  
Support**

**Special Needs/  
Early  
Intervention**



# KIDS MATTER FRAMEWORK

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Research and Resources:  
Infrastructure In WA State;  
Projects and Initiatives:

## COMMUNICATION

Children's Web Hub  
211 Information and  
Referral Line

## FUNDING

Leverage public/private resources to  
move the early care and education  
agenda

## KEY RESOURCES

### STRATEGIES

#### ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE & MEDICAL HOMES

- Increase awareness among all who care for young children about the importance of comprehensive health care
- Enroll more eligible children in public health insurance programs (Medicaid, SCHIP, Basic Health, SSI)
- Facilitate access to a Medical Home for all children (including medical, dental, mental health & vision services)
- Make developmental assessment & referral to Early Intervention (EI) accessible

#### SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL & MENTAL HEALTH

- Ensure that communications with all who work with young children emphasizing the importance of social, emotional & mental health
- Promote existing program's awareness & implementation of models of services & supports for young families that are effective, culturally competent & community-based
- Promote existing programs' awareness & implementation of practices that provide opportunities for social connectedness for families
- Promote caregivers' knowledge of social, emotional & mental health of young children
- Promote collaboration among policymakers, providers & other stakeholders

#### EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION/CHILD CARE

- Use Washington State Early Learning & Development Benchmarks as a tool to enhance the quality of early care & learning
- Improve the ability to evaluate & reward high-quality programs through development of Quality Rating system (QRS) & Tiered Reimbursement
- Promote children's health in early care & education programs (ongoing statewide collaborative effort: Healthy Children Care Washington - HCCW)
- Support high quality professional development services for caregivers
- Develop capacity within the early care & education systems to engage in family support
- Voluntary Universal Pre-K

#### PARENTING INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

- Provide information to parents & facilitate connection to needed services & supports
- Provide professional development programs, services & supports for professionals providing information & support to parents
- Strengthen & sustain the Washington Parenting Education Network (WAPEN)

### SYSTEM CHANGES

- Increased number and percentage of children who have medical insurance

- Increased availability of appropriate and coordinated mental health services for children

- Increased number and percentage of child care & preschool programs that are quality rated
- Increased wages for quality child care providers
- Increased systems' recognition of families' role as the primary nurturer of their children
- The public sees early childhood education, health & school readiness as a major contributor of economic growth
- Increased ability for parents and caregivers to access community resources and support networks

- Increased availability of parent education resources & services

### PARENT & CARE-GIVER CHANGES

- Increased understanding of the importance of comprehensive health care (including medical, dental, mental health & vision)
- Increased ability to recognize an emerging issue with their child's health or development and connect with appropriate services

- Improved understanding and practice of nurturing behaviors to promote children's optimal social-emotional development and mental health

- Increased understanding of what children need for optimal health & development (physical, social-emotional, cognitive & language)

- Increased stress-reduction skills
- Increased knowledge & skills to support children's health & development

### CHILD CHANGES

- Increased number and percentage of children that receive recommended preventive care (e.g., well-child, immunizations)
- Increased number and percentage of children who have access to comprehensive health care (including medical, dental, mental health, vision)

- Increased number and percentage of children entering kindergarten with social-emotional skills

- Increased number and percentage of children entering kindergarten healthy & ready for school, including: 1) physical well-being, health & motor development; 2) social & emotional development; 3) approaches toward learning; 4) cognition & general knowledge; and 5) language, communication & literacy

- Increased number and percentage of children who live in safe, stable & supportive families

## GOAL

CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY AND READY FOR SCHOOL



Family Support approach, strategy, or outcome

# VIRGINIA'S PLAN FOR SMART BEGINNINGS

