



First Things First Strategic Direction Systems Approach

“Large scale social change requires broad cross sector coordination, yet the social sector remains focused on isolated interventions of individual organizations.” John Kania and Mark Kramer

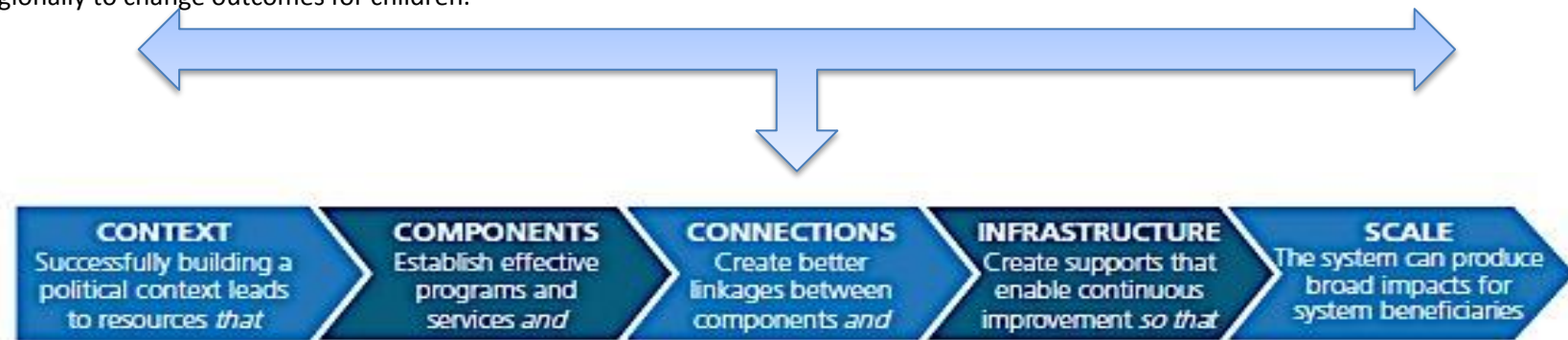
If We:	We Create:	Resulting In:	Achieving:
Develop and fund high quality services for children and families that are necessary but not yet available	Coordinated, high-quality service system for young children	Early Learning All children have access to high quality, culturally responsive early care & education.	All Arizona’s children are ready to succeed in school and in life.
Strengthen already existing high quality services for children		Family Support/Literacy All families have the information, services & supports they need to help children achieve their fullest potential.	
Partner to build a system of early childhood services and information for families		Early Childhood Professional Development All child care/education & health professionals are well prepared, highly skilled and compensated commensurate with their education & experience.	
		Health All children have access to high quality preventive & continuous health care to promote physical, mental, oral and nutritional health.	
Lead through the synergy of statewide and local strategic planning	Leadership capacity and infrastructure to create and sustain the high-quality service system	Early Childhood System The early childhood system is high quality, child & family centered, coordinated, integrated & comprehensive.	
Harness data and technology to build infrastructure and support data-based decision making and accountability			
Shift the brand and awareness of early childhood in Arizona		Public Awareness All Arizonans understand the importance of the early years & recognize the influence of early childhood development, health & education on Arizona’s economy & quality of life and, as a result, substantially support early childhood development, health, and education both politically and financially.	

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The 10 School Readiness Indicators are progress measures toward implementing the FTF priority roles and achieving the goals and Arizona Early Childhood System outcomes.



The framework below serves as a construct to engage in a systems building discussions to advance the strategic direction both statewide and regionally to change outcomes for children.



Changing the political environment that surrounds the system and affects its success	Establishing high-performing and quality programs and services	Creating strong and effective linkage across the system	Developing the supports the system needs to function effectively and with quality	Ensuring the system is comprehensive and works for all children
- Policy changes that expand or enhance programs - Funding streams that are more flexible across programs - Public engagement or mobilization - New advocates or champions - New knowledge and perspectives	- Expanded program reach or coverage - Improved program quality - Increased operational efficiency - New programs or services	- Coordinated eligibility assessments and applications - Referrals occurring from one program to another - Joint planning across system components - Shared data systems for tracking individuals	- Consistent standards of quality across the system - Education and training to ensure an appropriately skilled systems workforce - Technical assistance to support systems development - Defined roles and mechanisms for accountability - Infrastructure needed for sustainability	- Availability of programs and services throughout a geographic region - A comprehensive array of programs and services for system beneficiaries - Long-term financial security to maintain the system over time - Shifts in system ownership, meaning that a broad array of people involved in the system, especially those on the frontlines, assume responsibility for maintaining the system

Adapted from Coffman, J. (2007). *A Framework for Evaluation Systems Initiatives*. <http://www.buildinitiative.org/files/BuildInitiativefullreport.pdf>

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	Strengths	Gaps	Leverage Points	Challenges or Barriers	Action—what to accomplish (outcome and what will get us there)	Priority Level
Context: Changing the political environment that surrounds the system and affects its success						
Components: Establishing high-performing and quality programs and services						
Connections: Creating strong and effective linkage across the system						
Infrastructure: Developing the supports the system needs to function effectively and with quality						
Scale: Ensuring the system is comprehensive and works for all children						