



## 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**

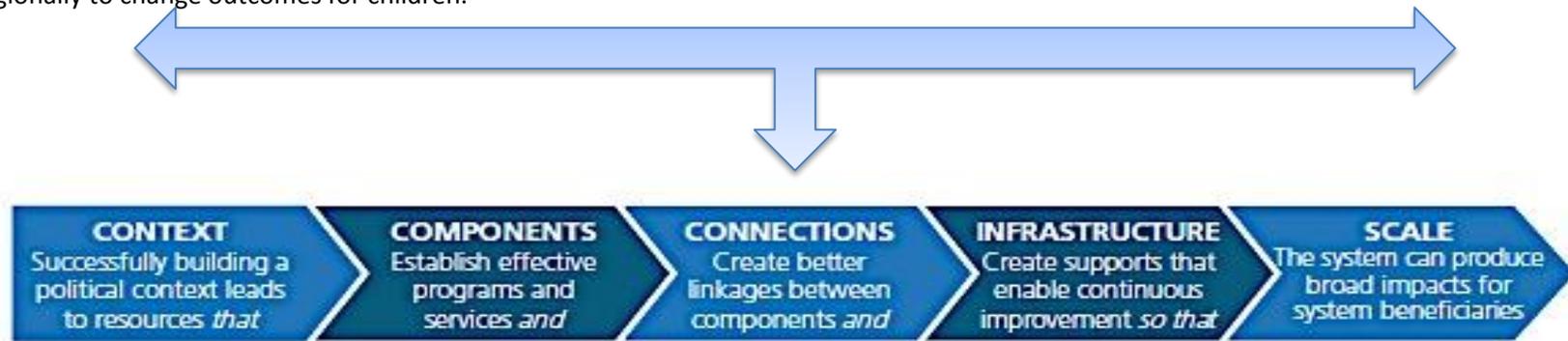
If We:	We Create:	Resulting In:	Achieving:
<b>Develop and fund</b> high quality services for children and families that are necessary but not yet available	Coordinated, high-quality service system for young children	<b>Early Learning</b> All children have access to high quality, culturally responsive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

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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.



<b>Changing the political environment that surrounds the system and affects its success</b>	<b>Establishing high-performing and quality programs and services</b>	<b>Creating strong and effective linkage across the system</b>	<b>Developing the supports the system needs to function effectively and with quality</b>	<b>Ensuring the system is comprehensive and works for all children</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy changes that expand or enhance programs</li> <li>• Funding streams that are more flexible across programs</li> <li>• Public engagement or mobilization</li> <li>• New advocates or champions</li> <li>• New knowledge and perspectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded program reach or coverage</li> <li>• Improved program quality</li> <li>• Increased operational efficiency</li> <li>• New programs or services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated eligibility assessments and applications</li> <li>• Referrals occurring from one program to another</li> <li>• Joint planning across system components</li> <li>• Shared data systems for tracking individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent standards of quality across the system</li> <li>• Education and training to ensure an appropriately skilled systems workforce</li> <li>• Technical assistance to support systems development</li> <li>• Defined roles and mechanisms for accountability</li> <li>• Infrastructure needed for sustainability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of programs and services throughout a geographic region</li> <li>• A comprehensive array of programs and services for system beneficiaries</li> <li>• Long-term financial security to maintain the system over time</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

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

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	System Questions	Strengths	Gaps	Leverage Points	Challenges or Barriers	Action—what to accomplish (outcome and what will get us there)	Priority Level
<b>Context:</b> Successfully building a political context leads to resources that...							
<b>Components:</b> Establish effective programs and services and...							
<b>Connections:</b> Create better linkages between components and...							
<b>Infrastructure:</b> Create supports that enable continuous improvement so that...							
<b>Scale:</b> the system can produce broad impacts for system beneficiaries...							