Foundations of an Early Childhood System:

- **FUNDING**: Coordinated planning and financing is required to maximize use of existing resources and identify opportunities for strategic investments to build and sustain quality early childhood services.

- **GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP**: Good governance increases coordination and fosters accountability and transparency in the early childhood system.

- **QUALITY STANDARDS**: Having quality standards for programs and providers, and a means to monitor them, is critical for good outcomes. Strategic financing can also support quality.

- **DATA SYSTEMS**: Good data is necessary to inform policy, show the reach and impact of programs and services, and target investments to what works.

- **ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH**: An early childhood system should be responsive to the needs of stakeholders and value families as partners in determining needs and priorities for the early childhood system.

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**: A skilled workforce - from early childhood educators to occupational therapists and pediatricians - is essential. Every state needs strategies to attract, retain, and support a strong and diverse early childhood workforce.

Indicators of a Strong Early Childhood System:

- **HEALTHY MOMS & CHILDREN**
- **SAFE CHILDREN & SUPPORTED FAMILIES**
- **SCHOOL READINESS & SUCCESS**