



Early Childhood Action Strategy (Action Strategy)

Background

The Action Strategy is a public-private systems-building collaborative focused on improving outcomes for children, prenatal to age eight, across the domains of health, safety, care and education. The four primary outcomes the Action Strategy is working to improve are:

- Healthy and welcomed births
- On-track health and development
- Kindergarten readiness
- Success at third grade

Originally created in 2012 as part of a strategic planning process led by the Executive Office on Early learning ("EOEL"), the Action Strategy is now a robust, cooperative effort involving over 80 public and private partners.

Coordination and Convening

The Action Strategy has historically been convened by EOEL with funding and other backbone support provided by the Collaborative Leaders Network (CLN) and the Omidyar 'Ohana Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation. Pursuant to state law, EOEL transitioned to the Hawai'i State Department of Education (DOE) in July 2015, and the Action Strategy convening function was retained within the Office of the Governor until a more permanent location was identified.

Since the Action Strategy brings together partners from both within and outside of state government, and focuses on many wide-ranging priorities of early childhood development such as health, safe environments, healthy families, access to programs, and learning, the Ige Administration decided to move grant-funded positions to a nonprofit where they could best collaborate with public and private organizations. Starting in January 2016, the convening function will begin transitioning to CLN, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping leaders work together to resolve complex issues in different and durable ways.

This move will:

- Embed the coordinating function in an environment that encourages risk-taking, flexibility, collaboration, and experimentation;
- Increase the flexibility of the backbone organization to mobilize funding to support Action Strategy priorities;
- Provide for more stable, ongoing support of the Action Strategy across political cycles; and
- Allow for necessary differences and flexibility between long term Action Strategy priorities and those of public partners.



Moving Forward

Starting January 1, 2016, Karen Worthington will join CLN as a Project Coordinator supporting the Action Strategy. Kerrie Urosevich, currently Early Childhood Coordinator within the Office of the Governor, will transition to CLN as of February 1, 2016, as Action Strategy Coordinator.

The Ige Administration remains supportive of the principles and goals of the Action Strategy. Representatives of relevant state departments will continue to work on elements of the Action Strategy that are aligned with department priorities and will support the effort with department staff attending relevant meetings.

HCF and the Omidyar 'Ohana Fund are committed to continued grant funding that advances holistic early childhood initiatives that improve the health and well-being of our children and will continue offering support for convening, neighbor island travel, and early implementation funds for pilot projects.

FAQ

Why is the Action Strategy moving to a nonprofit organization?

The Action Strategy itself is not moving and remains a robust, public-private partnership. Rather, instead of being convened by the Office of the Governor, the Action Strategy will now be convened by CLN. CLN is well aligned with the principles and vision of the Action Strategy and has the goal of helping leaders work together to resolve complex issues in different and durable ways.

Will State employees continue to attend meetings and support the work?

The Ige Administration has reinforced its commitment to the Action Strategy with key directors setting the expectation that staff should continue to attend relevant meetings.

Who made the decision to move the Action Strategy?

The decision was made by the Ige Administration in an effort to find the best way to ensure continued success as the Action Strategy transitions into the implementation phase.

What is Collaborative Leaders Network?

CLN is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping leaders work together to resolve complex issues in different and durable ways. It consists of leaders and practitioners who believe that we have to approach Hawai'i's problems differently, and that collaborative methods offer the promise of real and lasting change.

What is a collaborative?

Collaboratives are a time-tested way to organize collective effort toward common goals. Collaboratives employ less hierarchy than 'modern' organizations, instead relying on voluntary commitments of members and regular conversation to keep advancing toward group goals.