

The Sheltering Arms Foundation

Advocacy Organizations, Programs and Collaborations

Early Childhood



ChildCare Aware

ChildCare Aware, formerly the Minnesota Child Care Resource and Referral Network, is a statewide childcare resource and referral service for parents to identify, locate and obtain community based child care resources and for providers to obtain information and assistance on how to improve quality and service delivery. mnchildcare.org



Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota

Children's Defense Fund is an organization that works to ensure that all Minnesota children have health coverage, compile county by county data on the well-being of Minnesota's children and families, improve state tax policies and help frame state policy debates to consider the well-being of children in all public policy decision making. cdf-mn.org



Early Childhood Family Education

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) provides programs that focus on parent education of young children. Through ECFE, research on early brain development is presented as practical information for parents, starting with their child's birth.

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/fam/elsprog/index.htm>



MinneMinds

The MinneMinds campaign is a coalition effort to increase access to high quality early childhood programs for low income children in Minnesota. In the upcoming biennium, the campaign will seek additional funding to serve all eligible children and to increase opportunities to programs supporting families such as home visiting. minneminds.com



Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children

The Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children is a membership association of over 1,500 child development professionals that promotes the professional growth and development of those who are committed to the care and education of young children.

<http://mnaeyc-mnsaca.org/>



Minnesota Child Care Association

This organization is an advocate in conveying childcare center concerns to regulatory decision makers at the state and national levels. minnesotachildcareassociation.org



Minnesota Head Start Association

Head Start is a comprehensive federal and state funded program for low-income children and their families that works to improve school readiness, health and other family supports needed for young children to thrive. mnheadstart.org



Start Early Funders Coalition

The Start Early Funds Coalition is a network of Minnesota funders who support quality programs for children 0-8. It provides critical leadership and funding for research, program development, public policy and grant making to improve early childhood efforts in Minnesota and ensure children and families thrive. startearlyfundersmn.org



Think Small

Think small is an early childhood organization providing professional development, parent education, advocacy, financial support programs for providers and families and the Redleaf press. It was formed by the merger of Resources for Child caring and Ready4K. thinksmall.org



University of MN: Center for Early Education and Development

The Center for Early Education and Development (CEED) provides information regarding young children (birth to age eight), including children with special needs, in the areas of education, child care, child development, and family education. cehd.umn.edu



University of MN: Children, Youth and Family Consortium

Children, Youth and Family Consortium provides leadership on the U's Initiative on Children, Youth and Families, serving as a bridge to information and resources and connecting research, teaching, policy, community practice and partnerships. <http://www.extension.umn.edu/family/cyfc/>

Out of School Time



Ignite Afterschool

Ignite Afterschool is a collaborative alliance of leaders in practice, research and funding of youth-centered afterschool, summer and year-round learning and development opportunities. As one of 41 statewide networks funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Ignite Afterschool creates partnerships that actively engage key decision-makers in support of school-based/school-linked afterschool programs, particularly in underserved communities.

igniteafterschool.org



Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota

The Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota builds and supports mentoring programs in Minnesota. mpmn.org



Minnesota Alliance With Youth

The Minnesota Alliance with Youth is a convener, collaborator, and capacity builder on youth development in Minnesota. It is the Minnesota affiliate of the America's Promise Alliance. mnyouth.net



Minnesota School Age Care Alliance

The Minnesota School Age Care alliance is a statewide association established to promote quality out of school time programs and support the leadership and development of out of school time professionals.

mnaeyc-mnsaca.org



University of MN Extension: Center for Youth Development

The Center for Youth Development promotes positive out of school time experiences for youth across Minnesota through research, training and operating youth development programs

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/>



Youth Funders Network

The Minnesota Youth Funders network is a coalition of public and private funders of youth programs who work together to share research and best practices to promote quality in youth programs and to support the field of youth funding. <https://www.mcf.org/skills-networks/networks>



Youthprise

Youthprise is the new out of school time intermediary created by the McKnight Foundation to promote learning beyond the classroom and build systems and the youth field. youthprise.org

Children in Poverty



Visible Child Initiative (Family Housing Fund)

This Initiative seeks to end homelessness by investing in the healthy development and academic success of children who have known homelessness. Visiblechild.org



United Way's Faces of Poverty

United Way has identified the growing poverty gap as a critical issue with long-term consequences like developmental declines, difficulty in school, and poor health outcomes. To see the full Face of Poverty report:

<http://unitedfrontmn.org/facesofpoverty/>