## Leadership Council on Early Years (LCEY)

February 18, 2021 | 9:30 - 11:30am





# Welcome & Introduction

Emilie Amundson, Secretary Department of Children and Families



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

# **Approval of Minutes**

Prior meeting dates: February 26 and September 16, 2020



# Early Childhood Budget Update

Governor Evers & Nadya Pérez-Reyes, Assistant Secretary Department of Children and Families



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

# **Preschool Development Grant Updates**

Erin Arango-Escalante, Administrator DCF Division of Early Care and Education



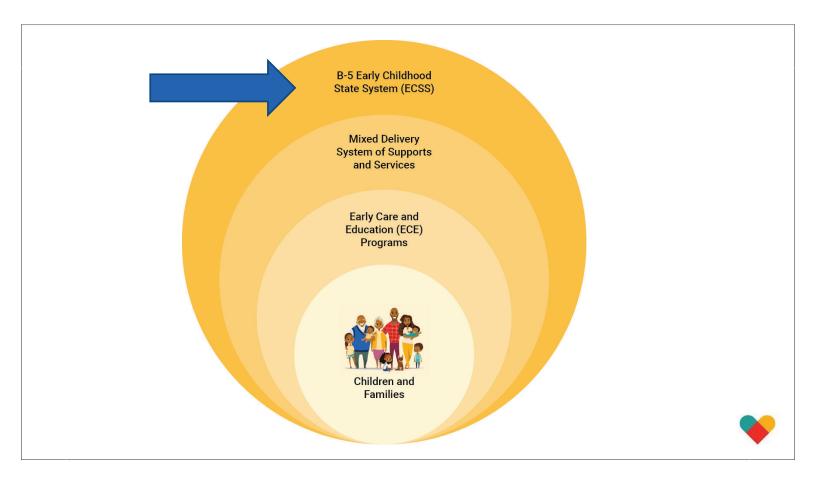
## **PDG Current Status**

### Year 1 Planning Grant (2020-21)

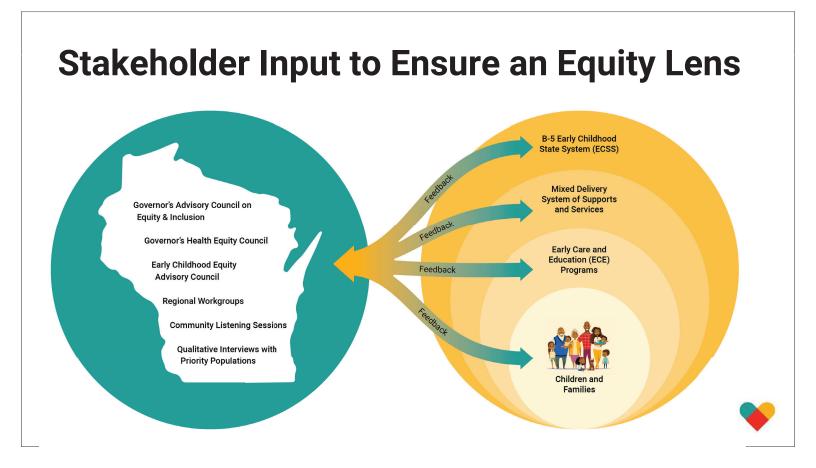
- Initial Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan released Fall 2020
- No Cost Extension granted to complete Planning Grant activities in 2021

### Years 2-4 Renewal Grant (2021-23)









## What are equity and inclusion in ECE?

Equity exists when...

children, families, and the ECE workforce experience culturally and linguistically responsive interactions that nurture their full range of social, emotional, cognitive, physical and linguistic abilities; that reflect and model fundamental principles of fairness and justice; and reduce inequity.

Inclusion is...

the right of every infant and young child and their family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities, and society.

Adapted from: National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), WHO







# **Practicing Equity at DPI**

Sheila Briggs, Assistant State Superintendent Department of Public Instruction



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

# Equity in Early Childhood

- Promoting Early Childhood Conferences (PEC)
- Young Learners American Indian Language Grant.
- Culturally Responsive Tribal Early Childhood Project Early Childhood First Nations Strategic Planning Meetings Early Childhood First Nations Webinar Lecture Series Early Childhood Tribal Symposiums Virtual Wisconsin Act 31 Implementation: American Indian Studies Trainings
- Promote equal opportunity for all young children, ages birth through 8 years.



# **Equity in Early Childhood**

## Dr. Sherri Killins Stewart



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families



Advancing Opportunities for Children, Families and Communities: Equity, Leadership, and Early Childhood Systems Development

Leadership Council on Early Years, February 18, 2021



### The BUILD Initiative

- Provides tailored and timely technical assistance to state agency leaders and the Leadership Team as defined in partner states.
- State liaison who is an expert in early childhood systems building and, other experts in the field, on the range of the early childhood system.
- Supports state agencies and division or departmental leaders working to ensure diversity and equity in all aspects of early childhood systems building.
- Supports states in using the qualitative and quantitative data to inform and drive decision making, quality improvement, removal of barriers, and monitoring and distribution of state resources.

Informs and influences state and national conversations and policy decisions by highlighting emerging issues, innovative approaches, best practices, and results from the field.

- Facilitates learning communities that share the latest research and promising practices.
- Serves as a knowledge broker by shining a light on promising early childhood systems efforts and highlighting new ideas and successful innovations.

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### Goals

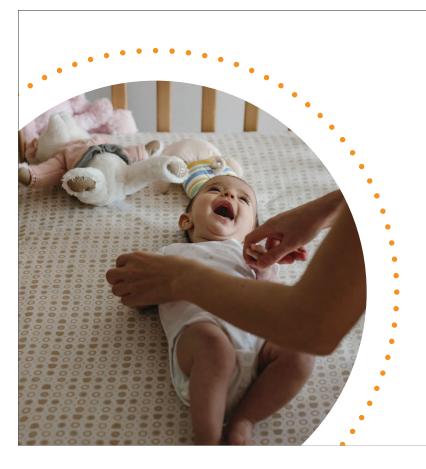
- To offer a framework for advancing equity for young children and their families.
- To support the integration equity as a verb into program, policies and practice efforts in health care and public health, early learning, economic support e.g., employment, housing.
- To be guided by and responsive to feedback from those intended to benefit from policy, practice and programs.

### Build

### Commitments to the Equity Conversation

- Critical Thinking—look for what challenges your thinking rather than what confirms you are right.
- Humility—come as learner, not expert.
- Dialogue—think and make meaning together.
- Hope—believe that a better future is possible.

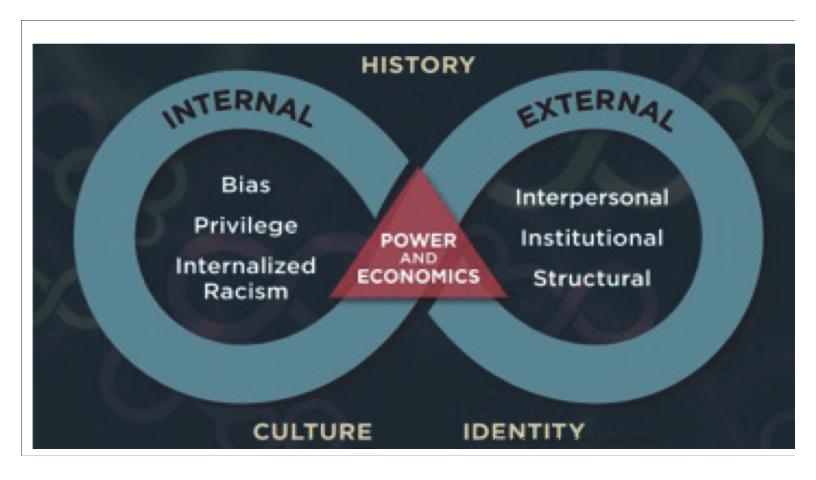
Source: "Courageous Conversations About Race: A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools" (Chapter 4 pp. 58-65); Glenn Singleton and Curtis Linton. Corwin Press, 2006



### Framework

### Diversity, Inclusion and Equity



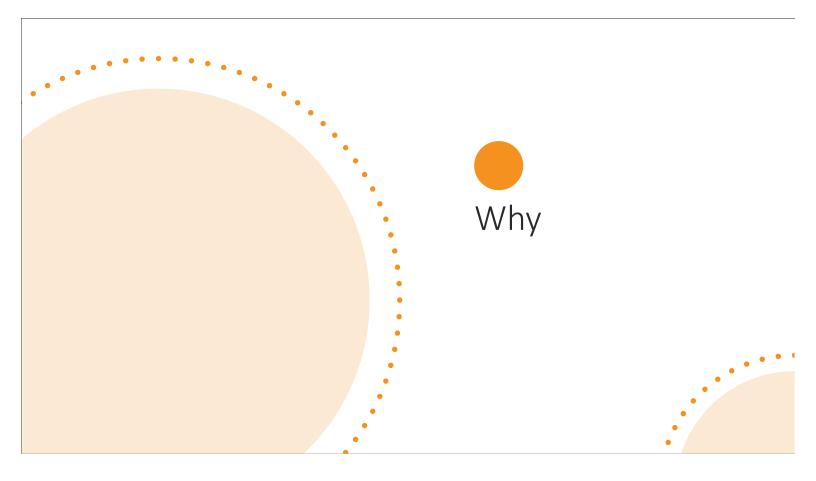


### Equity Leadership Proposition

Ensuring racial and economic equity for young children including ensuring:

- (a) Increasing opportunities for children and adults who care for very young children of color and in poverty and
- (b) removing barriers to those opportunities that support optimal growth and development;
- (c) that resources, burdens, and rewards are distributed in ways that remove and do not exacerbate inequities; so that those with the greatest challenges are adequately maintained and not further disadvantaged; and
- (d) Mechanisms are in place to determine who is advantaged and disadvantaged by initiatives, policies and programs designed to advance equity and dismantle inequities.

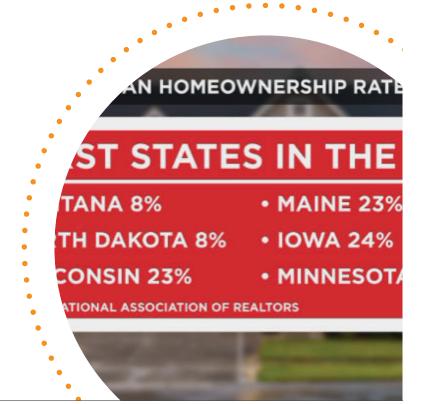
### Build



We have to do more,' Wisconsin has nation's 3rd worst African-American homeownership rate

Source: Columbus Dispatch (https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/2020/09/25/hungeramong-ohio-families-increasing-covid-19-pandemicpersists/3519850001/)





COVID-19 pandemic changes child care landscape for providers, parents trying to return to work

Source: Wisconsin Public Radio(https://madison.com/wsj/business/covid-19pandemic-changes-child-care-landscape-for-providersparents-trying-to-return-to-work/article\_c5cfab9d-af5d-5f05b0a2-e72c07902f09.html/





Black, Latino COVID-19 disparities bring attention to broad health inequities

Source: Wisconsin State Journal https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/health-med-fit/blacklatino-covid-19-disparities-bring-attention-to-broad-healthinequities/article\_4b5f367c-6b0a-58db-a711-046c4008b66d.html

Build



State Report: Housing, Child Care Shortages Among Challenges For Rural Wisconsin Communities

> Source: Wisconsin Public Radio <u>https://www.wpr.org/state-report-housing-child-care-</u> shortages-among-challenges-rural-wisconsin-communities





Facing Uncertainty, Wisconsin Tribe Switches To Indian Health Service For Vaccine Shipments

Source: Wisconsin Public Radio https://www.wpr.org/facinguncertainty-wisconsin-tribe-switches-indian-health-servicevaccine-shipments

Build



### Zip Codes and Opportunities: Race and Place

Children and families in urban, suburban, and rural "zip codes" do not have access to the opportunity structures that middle and upper-class children experience. The reduced opportunity structures available to children of color and in poverty shape their lives from birth to end of life.

- Systemic disinvestment in communities;
- Segregation by class and race and ethnicity;
- High poverty low wealth
- Policies that perpetuate inequity (e.g., not financing needed high quality programs for all children)



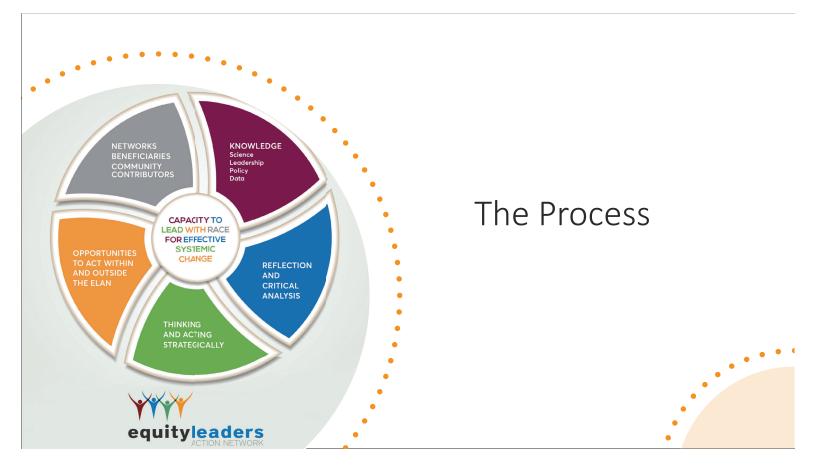
#### OPPORTUNITY STRUCTURES NOT AVAILABLE TO ALL CHILDREN

- Employment: Adequate income, benefits, working conditions
- Environmental safety
- "Good" health
- Maternal and infant well-being; lowmortality
- High-quality nutrition
- High-quality early care and education and K-12 schools
- Post-secondary career prep.
- Technology access and support
- Housing security
- Child welfare involvement
- Criminal justice system fairness
- Freedom from fear







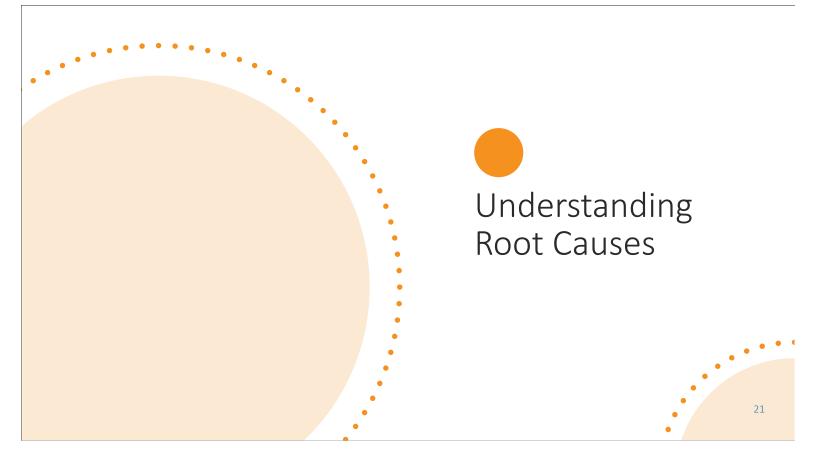


Equity & Inclusion Lens: An Equity and Inclusion Lens is a transformative tool used to:
Identify systemic and institutionalized racism, bias, disparity and inequality in practices, policies, procedures and programming
Analyze data and information for racism, bias, disparity and inequity In order to:
Move towards more equitable and inclusive planning, programming, decision-making and resource allocating
Ensure that everyone, particularly members of underrepresented groups (communities of color, low socioeconomic populations, vulnerable populations, people with disabilities and other disenfranchised peoples) are included as equal participants at every level of policy, procedure and program processes
Work to equalize power in decision-making and opportunities for self-governance So that: all Wisconsin children and youth are safe and loved members of thriving families and communities.

### Five Characteristics of the Process for Leading for Equity

- Understanding root causes of inequity in early childhood systems
- Using Data: to plan, to decide, to monitor.
- Taking Action
- Working with people, programs, and structures.
- Roles, Responsibilities and Influence of Leaders and Leadership.

## Build



### Facing Our Country's History is Essential Racial Equity

- Race is a **social construction** without significant biological significance.
- Inequality is **grounded in historic disenfranchisement** and exclusion of groups, especially Blacks, American Indians, Latinx people, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- The legacy of this history in the present is reflected in higher levels of poverty, segregation, and barriers to opportunities (e.g., high quality child care and education, adequate health care).

### Build

Interlocking Deep Structural Factors that Support Inequality in Early Childhood Systems

- Wealth gap
- Segregated communities
- Segregated, poorly resourced educational systems
- Opportunity and achievement gaps; educational attainment
- Employment structures: gender inequality in wage structures
- Immigration policies and enforcement

- Health/mental health disparities
- Child welfare policies
- Housing policies and costs eviction and homelessness
- Criminal justice: mass incarceration, policing
- "Strategic racism": strategic manipulation of racial animus

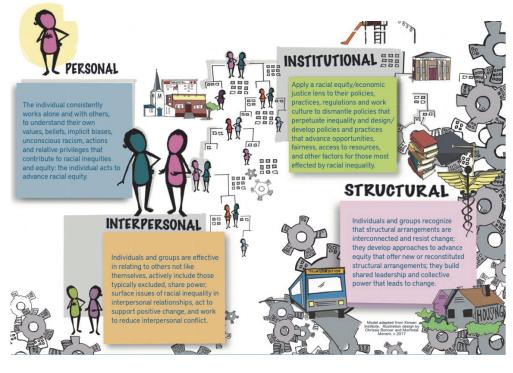


#### Personal Level of Change

Individuals work along with others to understand their own values, beliefs, implicit biases, unconscious racism, actions and relative privileges that contribute to racial inequities and economic injustice. The individual acts to advance racial and economic equity.

#### Implications, address:

- Personal history with others
- Racial socialization
- Implicit and explicit bias
- Othering and exclusion
- Belonging and inclusion





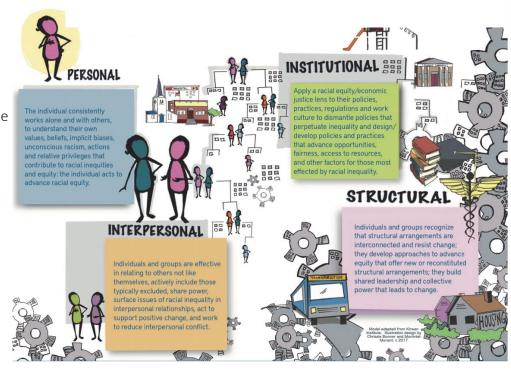
#### **Interpersonal Level of Change**

The leader is effective in relating to groups and individuals, such as parents and guardians, community leaders not like themselves, actively including those typically excluded, willing to share power, able to surface issues of racial and economic inequality in interpersonal relationships, actively supportive of change, and working to reduce interpersonal conflict and for increased inclusion and understanding.

Implications:

- Transformational engagement
- Strength perspectives





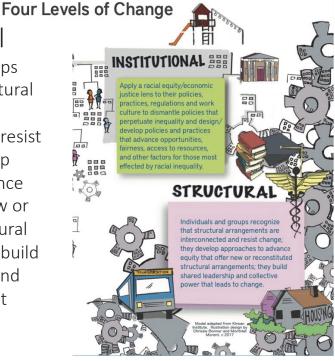
### Institutional

Apply a racial equity and economic justice lens to their policies, practices, regulations and work culture to dismantle those that perpetuate inequality, and design and development policies and practices that advance opportunities, fairness, access to resources, and other factors for those most effected by racial and economic inequality

### Racial Equity in Early Childhood Systems

Structural Individuals and groups

recognize that structural arrangements are interconnected and resist change, they develop approaches to advance equity that offer new or reconstituted structural arrangements, they build shared leadership, and collective power that leads change.







### Opportunities to Act

### Stanford SOCIAL Informing and inspiring leaders of social change

### The Curb-Cut Effect

Laws and programs designed to benefit vulnerable groups, such as the disabled or people of color, often end up benefiting all of society.

By Angela Glover Blackwell Winter 2017

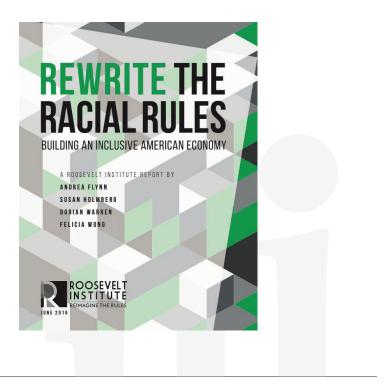




### Roosevelt Institute article, Rewrite Racial Rules

Roosevelt Institute article, *Rewrite Racial Rules*, which can be found here:

http://rooseveltinstitute.org/re write-racial-rules-buildinginclusive-american-economy/



## Build

### Federal-Tribal Relationship/Policy

#### Policy

- International Sovereign to international Sovereign
- Removal
- Reservation
- Assimilation
- Self Rule
- Termination (assimilation)
- Self Determination
- Self Governance

#### Relationship

- Protectorate
- Government to Government and trust
- Guardianship
- Renewal of Government to Government
- Termination of trust
- Renewal of Government
- Government to Government and trust

Source: https://bioneers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Wilkins2011.pdf



#### Critical Racial Equity Behaviors of Early Childhood Systems Leaders

- Leaders **understand the historical legacy and current reality of racism** and exclusion and work to build systems that are anti-racist, equitable, and inclusive.
- Leader's **act** identifying and using strategies and best practices to disrupt racially inequitable early childhood systems and to eliminate disparities and disproportionality.
- Leaders work across systems to disrupt systemic and structural inequities and to build alignment, support child development, and family well-being.
- Leaders intentionally work with and listen to the experiences and perspectives of those most effected by policies and programs to advance equity.

Source: System leaders' characteristics resources have been developed by The BUILD Initiative through the leadership of Sherri Killins Stewart Ed. D., Aisha Ray Ph.D, and Michelle Stover Wright M.S. (version 3)



### Key Areas of Inquiry :

- In my work and responsibilities who is and is not benefiting from my state's/county's/organization's policies and programs?
- As a leader, what actions can I take to intentionally and consistently include those furthest from opportunity in my/our work?
- Do I intentionally engage those furthest from opportunity in understanding data, quantitative and qualitative, to advance shared equity goals?

### How to Take Action?

- Interpretation of the Policy
  - Clarification of current policy, rules, and regulations.
  - Enforcement of existing policy to ensure consistent implementation across the state.
  - Review of current investments.
- Modifications of Policy
  - Amendment to existing policy, rules, and regulations.
  - Development of new rules and regulations.
  - Modifications to existing resources to meet objectives.

- Modifications of Practices
  - Changes to where and how services are delivered.

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- Changes to how services are monitored.
- Quality improvements of services.
- Workforce/Leadership (public/private)
  - Capacity, e.g. skills, knowledge, abilities and/or number of actual staff.
  - Training and professional development.
  - Bias, cultural and linguistic competencies.
  - Diversity of workforce and leadership.
- New or Modification of Legislation (statutes)

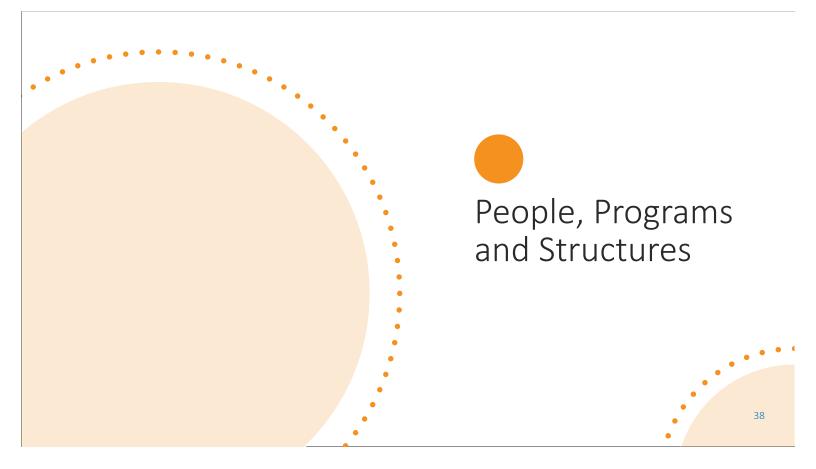


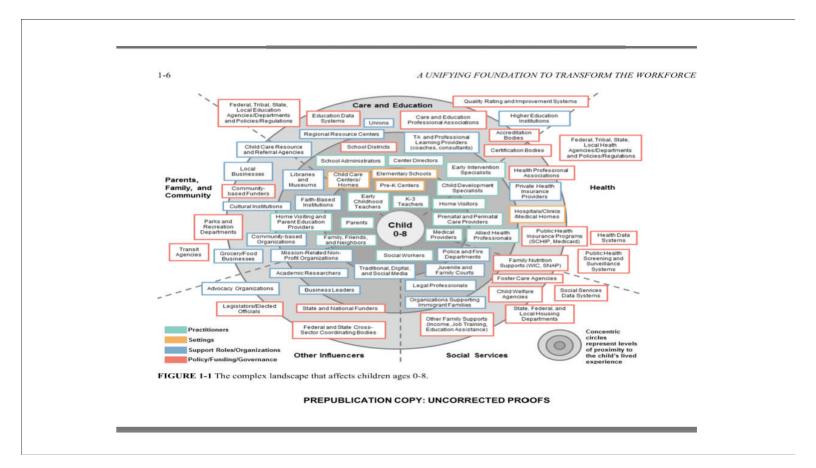
### Leaders

- Address racial inequality explicitly but not necessarily exclusively
- Focus on impacts rather than intentions
- Focus on structural and institutional equality rather than only personal prejudice
- Make equity an ongoing priority

## Build

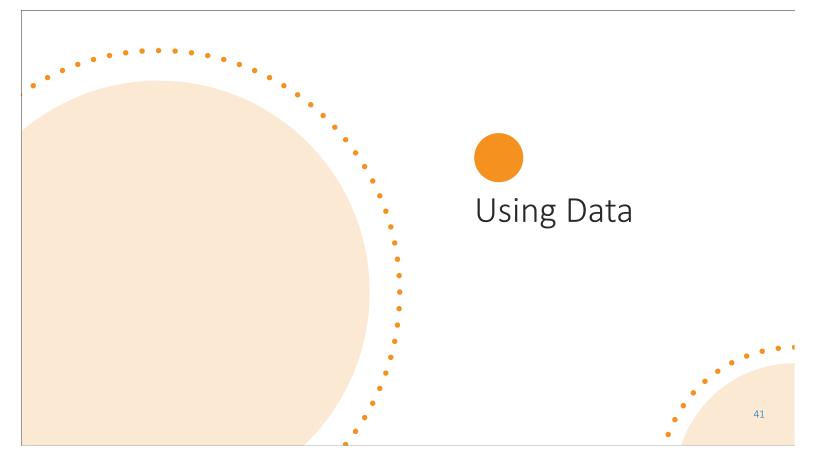






### **Cross Sector Leaders**

- Can't reduce inequities as a single leader alone—the intersecting ways inequities exists.
- Multiple ways of hearing the voices.
- Multiple methods and approaches to tackle the challenges.
- Different expertise, experiences, and resources contribute to the changes that are needed and increase awareness of what exists.
- Policy can be created, but implementation needs to be tailored.



### Use data quantitative data to get you started

#### Multiple sources

- State
- Local
- Population level
- Program/Services Delivery (health, early learning, economic)

#### Multiple angles (economic, health, housing)

- Young child healthy development
- School readiness and success
- Children have access to healthy food
- Young children are safe
- Healthy and economically secure families
- Community conditions

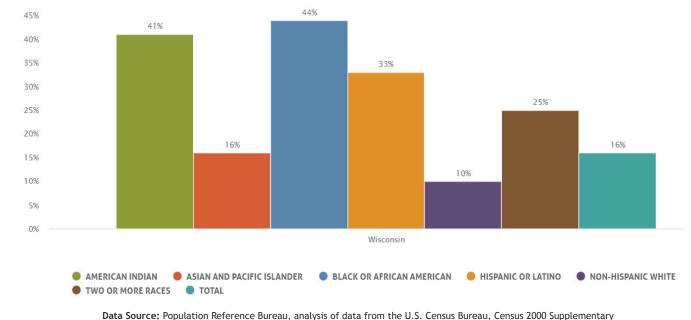
#### Multiple views

- Disaggregate race, geography
- Sort by states, counties, cities, neighborhoods or towns

### PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN: 2013 National Average 22% African American 39% American Indian 37% Asian and Pacific 14% Hispanic 33% Non-Hispanic White 14% Two or More Races 23%

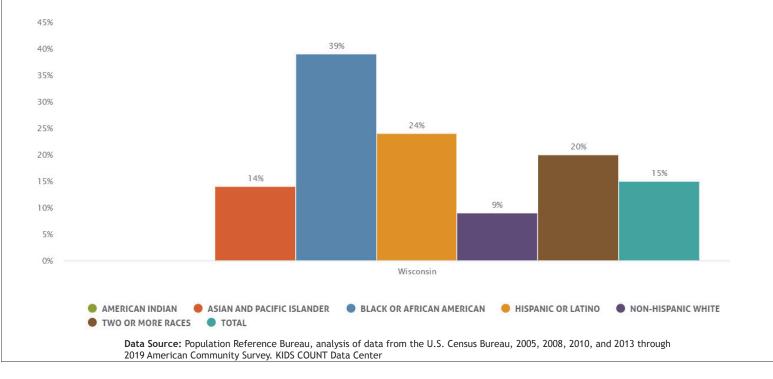
SOURCE U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey.

# Children (under the age of 18) in poverty by race and ethnicity in Wisconsin (2015)



Survey, 2001 Supplementary Survey, 2002 through 2019 American Community Survey. KIDSCOUNT Data Center

# Young Children (0-5) in poverty by race and ethnicity in Wisconsin (2015)



### 2017 RACE FOR RESULTS INDEX

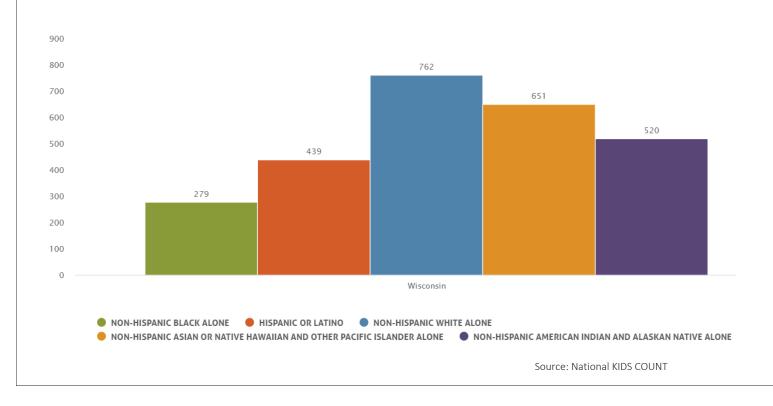
The Annie E. Casey Foundation has developed the Race for Results Index (value is between 0 and 1,000), which compares how children are progressing on key milestones across racial and ethnic groups at the national and state levels. The index is based on 12 indicators that measure a child's success in each stage of life, from birth to adulthood.

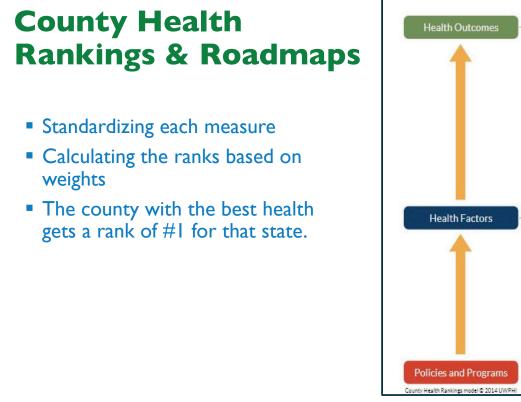
- Babies born at normal birthweight
- Children ages 3 to 5 enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten
- Fourth graders who scored at or above proficient in reading
- Eighth graders who scored at or above proficient in math
- Females ages 15 to 19 who delay childbearing until adulthood
- High school students graduating on time

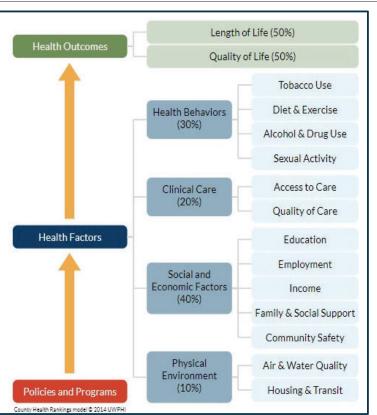
- Young adults ages 19 to 26 who are in school or working
- Young adults ages 25 to 29 who have completed an associate's degree or higher
- Children birth to 17 who live with a householder who has at least a high school diploma
- · Children birth to 17 who live in two-parent families
- Children birth to 17 who live in families with incomes at or above 200 percent of poverty
- Children birth to 17 who live in low-poverty areas (poverty <20 percent)</li>

Build

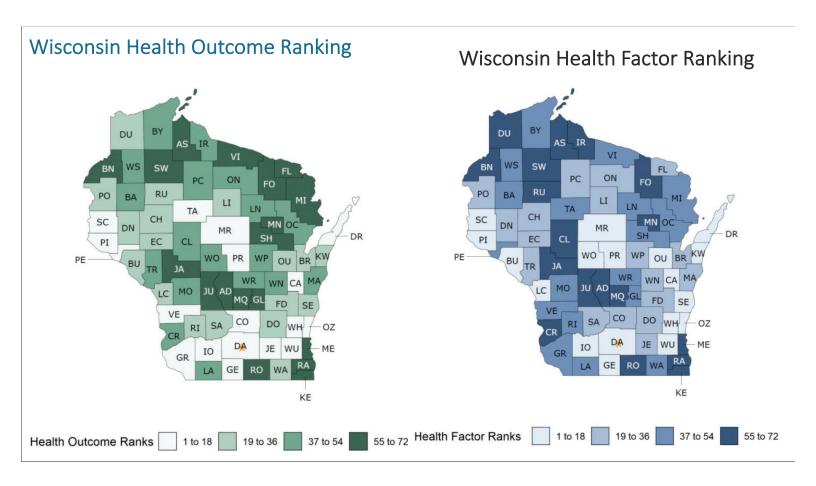
### Race for Results: Wisconsin (2017)







Source: http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/what-and-why-we-rank



### Data and the Process for Leading for Equity

Use data in planning, decision making and monitoring progress and effectiveness in advancing equity and child and family well-being.

- Data can be **quantitative and qualitative** (statistics and measures of wellbeing, family focus group data, interviews)
- Data is used to tell us **who is benefiting and not benefiting** from our early childhood policies, practices and systems.
- Data can inform the **identification of root causes** or explanations about disparate outcome of and access to systems, policies, practice.
- Data can work to **uncover strategies or actions** to address those root causes.
- Data is used to **continually monitor the impact of those strategies** across time. **Intended and unintended** impacts.



Making Inequity in Early Childhood Systems Visible: Start an Intentional Process



### Who are Beneficiaries?

- Children
- Families
- Workforce
- Providers
- Community leaders
- Local policy leaders

### Why Support Connection to Those We Intend to Benefit?

- Leaders often are far from those who they intend to benefit.
- Understanding "lived experience" of services, programs and initiatives is essential for continuous improvement.
- Voices narrow as you move farther from service delivery.
- Addressing equity requires the increase of many and varied opportunities.
- Leaders' own stories often drive their passion.
- Families, children and communities are not all situated the same.
- Our social networks are often not diverse.



### **Beneficiary Voice**

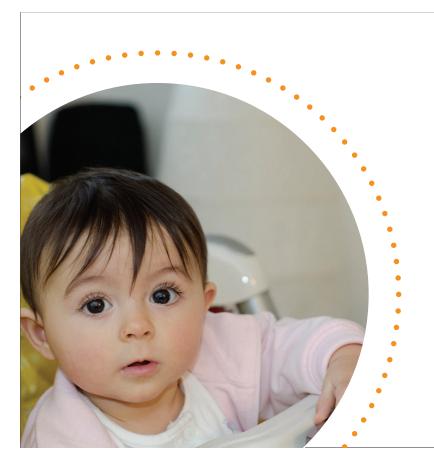
- To listen, understand, and learn about families' goals for their young children, providers' goals for their work with young children, services that work or don't work well, services that exist that they can't access, and where services and opportunities which support young children's growth and development just don't exist.
- To develop experiences with populations and groups that experience racial inequities and disparities, increasing the focus on institutional and structural barriers to achieving equitable outcomes for children and their families.
- To support exploration of how historically and today, individuals and communities have fought back, resisted, and organized for self-determination, inclusion, and fairness.
- To apply lessons learned to our own practice in order to ensure ongoing communication with children and families, and providers that are served by advocacy work.



### Feedback Loops

- Intentionally seek input directly from beneficiaries the families of young children who are intended to benefit from the programs and services offered.
- Engage in a cycle of improvement over time. A key strategy is listening and getting a more accurate, deeper understanding each time you present back to the community what the team heard and saw at the last visit.
- Share the challenges that your cross-sector team could not respond to and why, such as funding, eligibility, timeframes for change, area of responsibility, e.g., local vs. state, etc.
- Be honest about timelines and the pace at which government moves.





### What Families and Providers Say

### What your heard...

- "Since we don't qualify for childcare assistance, because with our careers, we make too much money. But it's just enough money to pay for childcare. I mean, we have a mortgage and other bills to worry about too, and another child." – Rural white caregiver
- "You see these single parents or families from low-income, where they're really struggling. They're really, really struggling to make these payments because they're trying to balance between, okay, if I make this payment, right, my children are going to starve tonight. So now I'm going to have to not make this payment so that I can pay for our electricity bill, so our, you know, electricity or water doesn't get shut off or our heat doesn't get shut off, or I can afford formula for my child or what not." – Hmong provider
- "The system process almost feels disrespectful. I know our elders have great stories and knowledge, but due to regulations how can I ask them for a background check and not disrespect them?" – Tribal provider

#### What are Responsive Policy, Practice or Program Options

- Wages for Child Care Providers
- Percent of Income contribution for Child Care
- Single point of contact for services
- Front Line Workforce
- Practice of supervision of adults without background checks



### Four Frames that Perpetuate Racial Inequity

- Equal opportunity: employment, education, and wealth accumulation available to all; race is no longer a factor. Minimizing or denying the existence of on-going racial disparities. (Minimizing)
- **Personal responsibility and individualism**: people have control regardless of social position; individual behaviors and choices determine outcomes. Blaming the existence of disparities, when they are acknowledged, on pathologies in non-White groups and communities rather than on structural factors that privilege Whites. (Blaming)
- Natural Preference: asserting that factors central to racial privilege and racism (e.g., segregation) are merely normal reflections of each groups' preference to be with "their own kind." (Privilege)
- Meritocracy: resources and opportunities are distributed according to talent, effort and achievement, rather than wealth or privilege. Supporting the ideals of equality and meritocracy, while refusing to recognize that the playing field is not level for all in the society (Bonilla-Silva, 2014). (Ideals of Equality)

Sources: Leadership and Race How to Develop Leadership and Contributes to Racial Justice July 2010; Racism without Racist Color -Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequity in American, Eduardo Bonilla-Silva

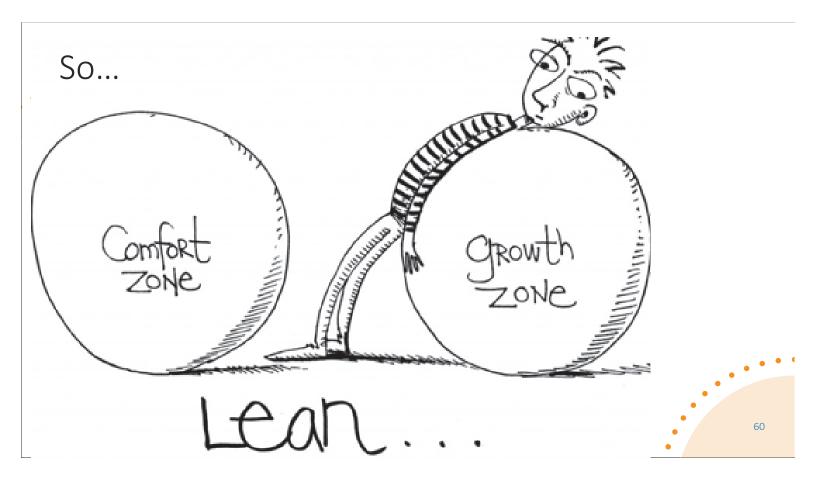


### Leading with Race Requires Systems Leadership

While many have a vision for equitable systems or equity in their own work efforts, achieving these goals requires:

- Deep commitment to the work of racial equity.
- Strong communication skills.
- Recognizing that problems are both "out there" and "in here"—self awareness of being part of the solution and the problem.
- Building and sustaining relationships, allowing collective work and wisdom to blossom, attention to process.
- Practice, practice, fail, reassess, practice, practice....learn.
- Use of tools, e.g., systems mapping, inquiry, consultancy, etc.
- Open boundaries, tables and spaces to "outsiders" open dialogue and work.
- Build networks.





### Resources

- Bichell, R. E. (2017, November 11). Scientists start to tease out the subtler ways racism hurts health [Transcript of radio segment]. Weekend Edition Saturday. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/11/11/562623815/scientists-start-to-tease-out-the-subtler-ways-racism-hurts-health">https://www.npr.org/sections/health</a> shots/2017/11/11/562623815/scientists-start-to-tease-out-the-subtler-ways-racism-hurts-health
- Bonilla-Silva, E. (2014). *Racism without racist: Color-blind racism and the persistence of racial inequality in American*. Lanham: Rowman& Littlefield.
- Flynn, A., Holmberg, S., Warren, D., & Wong, F. (2016). Rewrite the racial rules: Building an inclusive American economy. New York: Roosevelt Institute.
- Fullan, M. (2011). Choosing the wrong drivers for whole system reform. Center for Strategic Education. <u>www.cse.edu.au</u>
- Wilkins, D.E., <u>Stark</u>, H.K. (2011). A History of Federal Indian Policy. *American Indian Politics and the American Political System*. (pp. 121-134). Rowan and Littlefield.
- Alvin Schexinder. "Operationalizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in your Nonprofit." *Medium.*, August 30, 2017, <u>https://medium.com/greater-good-studio/tips-to-operationalize-diversity-equity-inclusion-practices-in-your-non-profit-organization-ed2c7c09a7cf</u>

### Contact

Sherri Killins Stewart Ed.D Director of System Alignment and Integration

Co-Director of State Services skillins@buildinitiative.org



www.buildinitiative.org

# Discussion

LCEY Members



# Wrap Up & Next Steps

Emilie Amundson, Secretary Department of Children and Families

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

## **LCEY Proposed Dates & Topics for 2021**

Date	Time	Tentative Topic
Wednesday, April 21	10:00am - noon	Economic Development
Tuesday, July 20	9:00 - 11:00am	Workforce
Thursday, Sept. 30	9:00 - 11:00am	Parents & Families



## Homework

- How are you meeting the needs of children and families? What data do you collect and analyze to evaluate this?
- How does your agency evaluate whether its work promotes equitable outcomes for children and families?





## Thank you!

**Questions/Comments:** wipdg@wisconsin.gov

