Our vision:

Our vision is of a Boston in which all children and young people are prepared to succeed in college, career and life.

We fervently believe that by combining our resources, expertise and influence around a single agenda, we will have a greater impact on Boston's cradle-to-career educational pipeline.

Our Mission

The Boston Opportunity Agenda is a public/private partnership that works urgently and strategically to transform the Boston education landscape from cradle to career. Our focus is on removing the systemic barriers that create unacceptable outcomes and lack of opportunity for historically oppressed and economically disadvantaged populations and creating a just, equitable education system.
B-8 Data Committee – Timeline

2017
- Data Committee
  - 61 Questions

2018
- EP Fellow/Data Manager

2019
- First State of EEC publication (Report)

2020
- Second State of EEC publication (Brief)

2021
- Third State of EEC publication (Brief)
Boston has cumulatively lost 9% of its seats since March 2020. (MA EEC data – BOA Analysis)
Boston saw a **40%** decline in the number of children receiving early intervention services.

(MA DPH data – City of Boston & BOA Analysis)
Almost every neighborhood experienced declines in the number of children receiving early intervention services.

Hyde Park, Mattapan, Roslindale, Roxbury, and West Roxbury all experienced an over 50% decline.

Note: the number of children receiving services declined at a greater rate than the number of eligible children referred. These trends are not solely due to smaller referral pools.
In February 2020, each child received roughly 22 hours of services on average per month. In February 2021, that average dropped to 5 hours.
The City of Boston (MOWA) secured regular annual fund for the Childcare Entrepreneur Fund after a successful pilot and supporting data from the first Birth-to-Eight report (Supply & Demand)

- Informed allocation from the City of Boston Resiliency Fund ($500,000 to emergency early educators)

- City of Boston Childcare Survey
Hi Jocelyn, Hope you were able to disconnect a bit on your time off! Pratima and I just had a great conversation with Evan Horowitz, Executive Director at Center. I just wanted to let you know that - THANKS TO YOU! - we were able to quickly connect with Jocelyn and get the data we needed for the south coast. I'll share more as we get further along in the analysis but I wanted to express my gratitude.

Evan

Hi Pratima and Fernanda -

Thank you for your time yesterday. John and I thoroughly enjoyed our conversation. It was very helpful to us. As I mentioned, I am writing to e-introduce you to Evan Horowitz, Executive Director at Center for State Policy Analysis. Evan has just signed on to conduct an early childhood education and care needs assessment for our region. I was telling Evan about the work of your organization, and we agreed that it may make sense for you to connect. I will let Evan take it from here.

With my best,
Sarah
QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

The Boston Opportunity Agenda
A Historic Education Partnership

FERNANDA.CAMPBELL@BOSTON.GOV
Launched in 2014, United Way's DRIVE initiative champions developmental screening for young children to ensure that all children enter school ready to learn and all families have access to the resources needed for children to be successful.
Creating A Brighter Future in Over 100 Communities

United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley Service Area

North Shore
Merrimack Valley
Greater Boston
South of Boston
Greater Attleboro & Taunton

United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley Footprint
DRIVE screen counts align with COVID trends

FY20 and FY21 had notable monthly differences correlating to changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

FY20 started off with high screening numbers and took a dip in the spring when closures in child care programs and community agencies took place.

FY21 we see the beginning of the year started off slow with programs just reopening and numbers began to pick up in the spring as covid cases decreased.
3,000+ Children Screened by DRIVE in FY21, Matching FY20 Reach

Despite the isolation of families with young children, many partners found ways to engage families through virtual learning and sharing of resources through social media and other online platforms.
ASQ:SE-2

ASQ:SE-2 FY20 Performance by Child Age Group

- Infant (2-10 Month Old): 20% Above, 23% Below, 57% Monitoring
- Toddler (12-22 Month Old): 23% Above, 23% Below, 54% Monitoring
- 2 Year Old: 23% Above, 24% Below, 53% Monitoring
- 3 Year Old: 24% Above, 25% Below, 52% Monitoring

Data is for Fiscal Year 2020. ASQ:SE-2 Overall, Children Aged 0-3 Years Old, DRIVE Partners Only. Child's most recent screen in FY.

ASQ:SE-2 FY21 Performance by Child Age Group

- Infant (2-10 Month Old): 24% Above, 20% Below, 55% Monitoring
- Toddler (12-22 Month Old): 27% Above, 27% Below, 45% Monitoring
- 2 Year Old: 24% Above, 24% Below, 52% Monitoring
- 3 Year Old: 19% Above, 23% Below, 58% Monitoring

Data is for Fiscal Year 2021. ASQ:SE-2 Overall, Children Aged 0-3 Years Old, DRIVE Partners Only. Child's most recent screen in FY.
More Children Should be Receiving Referrals

- Only Showing Children that scored Below on either for ASQ-3 or ASQ:SE-2
  - EI - Children Aged 0-35 Months
  - Special Ed: Children Aged 34+ Months
Areas of Focus for FY22 & Beyond

Screen Every Child is a collaboration with Boston Opportunity Agenda, United Way of MA Bay, Boston Family Engagement Network, and Boston Public Schools UPK. SEC will work to better serve Boston's young children and family's by expanding ASQ screenings across the city.

Reach & onboard new DRIVE partners to reach more communities by partnering with parent leaders, CBO's, schools, childcare centers, family child cares, housing developments, and family support organizations.

Expand DRIVE trainings to capture importance of sharing referrals and resources with families.

Collaborate with nonprofits, local and state agencies to work towards alignment of best practices.
Questions?

Jennifer DiCato, jdicato@supportunitedway.org

Carla Therriault, ctherriault@supportunitedway.org
Policy and Funding opportunities for Infants and Toddlers in Massachusetts
Current Opportunities, January 2022

Federal
- Recap of federal child care relief funds to-date (CARES, CRRSA, ARPA) by Mass. Taxpayers Foundation.

State
- 2021-2022 Legislative Session: Common Start bill and other early childhood bills, hearing on 11/23, bills awaiting report out by committee.
- Election year 2022

Other?
- Other state or federal opportunities:
- ZERO TO THREE, virtual Strolling Thunder, 5/17/22
- Beyond EEC/early ed. – opportunities for supporting our youngest children and their families?
- Local commitments to early childhood: mayors, superintendents, funders, etc.