

Introduction

In early education advocacy, representation matters. Through this project, Strategies for Children (SFC) will launch the inaugural cohort of an early education and care Speakers' Bureau—a diverse group of emerging leaders from the field, whom we will prepare and support to successfully speak for our field in public-speaking opportunities with the media and advocacy.

DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

The Speakers' Bureau will be a unique cohort of early educators, one that aims to represent the demographics of the ECE field in Massachusetts, and fill a systemic gap in our state, of having well-prepared and trained voices from the field to speak up and speak out on behalf of the field. We will recruit 20 individuals, primarily women, and half of whom identify as people of color.

**“We are the ones
we have been
waiting for.”**

June Jordan

SFC staff, in partnership with guest presenters, will deliver a series of seven training sessions via Zoom. We will cover all aspects of advocacy 101, including background on key decision makers, elected officials, and the legislative and budget process. We will practice writing testimony and public speaking for delivering testimony at public hearings. We will practice speaking on panels, at events, and speaking with reporters. We will bring an equity lens to this work, to support participants to tell their stories in their own words. We will help participants connect their personal stories to the bigger picture—programs, communities, policies and systems—so that personal stories connect with the larger landscape. We will also seek participants input to ensure training sessions cover their interests and meet their needs.

After completing the skill-building series, participants will be better prepared for any public-speaking engagements they come across in their careers, and will be “on call” to speak in a variety of events and platforms.

OVERVIEW OF SESSION CONTENT

Introductions & Knowing your ‘why?’

Advocacy 101 and why your influence matters

Equity in early education

Preparing for panels, events, and other public speaking engagements

Speaking with legislators and reporters

Reflections and conclusion

TIME COMMITMENT

From May 4–June 15, there will be seven Zoom sessions, held 6:00-7:30 pm on Tuesdays. Some readings and independent work will be assigned in between sessions.

WHO IS THE SPEAKERS' BUREAU FOR?

The ideal candidate will:

- Have a minimum of 5-8 years of experience in the early education and care field. This includes all form of EEC-licensed care, including family-child care and out-of-school time school-age care. Directors, classroom educators, and other staff.
- Be interested in advocacy, and using their voice to advocate for young children, families, and educators.
- Have some comfort with public speaking.
- We are interested in all forms of diversity. Our stated goal is to ensure a minimum of 10 of the 20 participants are educators of color, as BIPOC voices are often underrepresented in early education and care advocacy. We also strive for diversity in geography (region of state, urban/suburban/rural), and program type (group care, family child care, out-of-school time care).
- If you have past experience participating in an advocacy or leadership fellowship or course, or have extensive experience with public speaking and advocacy, then this Speakers' Bureau may not be for you. Please consider nominating a colleague with less experience.

SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS

A stipend of \$500 will be provided to participants upon full completion of the series. We are pleased to offer a total of 10.5 EEC professional development hours with certificates for all trainings.

HOW TO APPLY

To participate in the Speakers' Bureau, candidates must be recommended by a colleague, using [the nomination google form](#). Please work together on the response. Candidates may upload their resume to this form.

Nominations will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until **April 23**. Participants who are not accepted into the Speakers' Bureau may be placed on a waiting list.

For additional information, please email Marisa Fear, mfear@strategiesforchildren.org