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Leading Change: UMass Launches Action Lab Focused on Re-inventing ECE

The COVID-19 pandemic has widely exposed what early care and education (ECE) professionals have long known: our ECE system is not sustainable in its current patchwork configuration. This summer, the Institute for Educational Leadership and Innovation at UMass Boston launched a webinar series, [Reinventing Child Care in Massachusetts](#) to facilitate a detailed discussion of what the sector needs. Presented by Opportunities Exchange and based on the issue brief [Reinvent vs. Rebuild: Let's Fix the Child Care System](#), the webinars highlighted some of the creative and innovative work already underway in Massachusetts, shared information about technologies that streamline ECE business operations and reduce costs, and offered problem solving approaches to address roadblocks and promote business models that strengthen ECE programs and improve child outcomes. Access to slide decks and recordings

can be found [here](#).

More than 700 ECE professionals and other stakeholders participated and attendees gathered online to share ideas for reinventing an ECE system that is high-quality, accessible to all families, provides professional compensation to educators based on their skill and experience, has sufficient resources for professional and leadership development, and addresses racial inequities. Following the webinar series, the Institute launched an Action Lab, facilitated by Vital Villages Networks with ECE stakeholders. They are meeting regularly through the end of this year to expand on the ideas put forth in the webinar series and generate additional ideas for reinventing ECE, with a focus on:

- What does policy that supports equitable ECE funding and compensation look like?
- What does equitable funding for ECE in Massachusetts look like?
- What information and infrastructure are needed for data-driven funding decisions?
- What does the equitable evolution of ECE in Massachusetts look like?

Collaboration between the Institute and Opportunities Exchange has allowed many of the ideas in our brief to be shared, analyzed, and used to spearhead real change in support of the ECE sector and the children and families served.

[CLICK HERE to read the Institute for Educational Leadership Blog](#)





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