

# DCYF Early Learning Division Update

October 2022

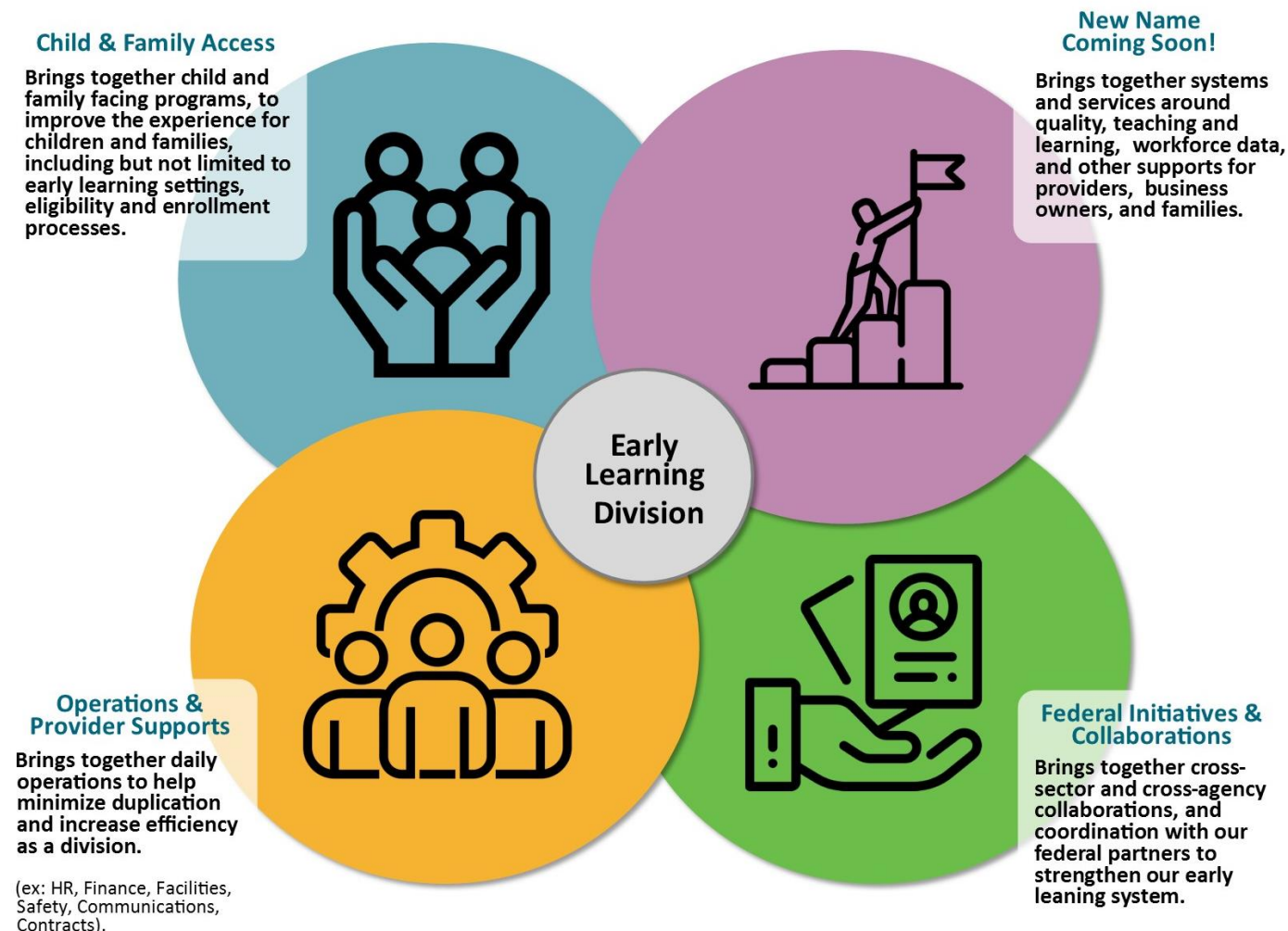
## Background

DCYF created the Early Learning Division in the fall of 2021. After a year of collaboration and reflection, we decided on a framework that aligns work in an effort to meet the needs of children, families, providers, and communities. This direction was informed by our executive leadership, division leadership, division staff, and a deep understanding of the challenges and barriers that families and providers experience when navigating systems and resources.

## October 2022 Division Update

Effective October 16, 2022, DCYF's Early Learning Division has a new organizational structure with four key areas. The change will help our staff and ensure children, families, and providers get what they need when they need it, with more clarity and fewer barriers. As we work through the transition on our end, **please continue to reach out to the same program contacts you do today.**

## DCYF Early Learning Division



## **What value does this new organizational structure bring?**

In designing the new structure, our intention is to:

- Improve the experience, access and services for those we serve: children, families, providers, and communities.
- Integrate services and supports inside and outside of DCYF, removing silos and reducing barriers.
- Support staff by leveraging strengths, capacity, and resources.

## **How will this advance Racial Equity and Social Justice?**

The Early Learning Division is committed to advancing racial equity and social justice (RESJ), which requires us to engage in complex and challenging conversations in order to shift our practices. We are working internally to grow and build our capacity to work alongside communities to create systems that are equitable.

## **How can the four areas be described?**

Below is brief summary about the focus of each of the four areas, with a focus on quality and advancing racial equity, which are foundational to the work of our division, and our agency.

- **Early Learning Division Operations and Provider Supports**
  - Brings together daily operations to help minimize duplication and increase efficiency as a division (ex: HR, Finance, Facilities, Safety, Communications, Contracts)
  - Oversees provider grants, health care benefits eligibility and opportunities, provider payment systems and needs, streamlines management of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the licensed family child care union.
- **Child and Family Access**
  - Brings together child and family facing programs, to improve the experiences for children and families, including but not limited to early learning settings, and eligibility and enrollment processes.
  - Oversees Child Care Subsidy, ECEAP/Early ECEAP and ECLIPSE.
- **Federal Initiatives and Collaborations**
  - Brings together cross-sector and cross-agency collaborations, and coordination with our federal partners to strengthen our early learning system.
  - Oversees Child Care Development Fund, Head Start Collaboration Office, and Preschool Development Grant.
- **DCYF Team “New Name Coming Soon”** (we welcome your thoughts as we find a new name!)
  - Brings together systems and services around quality, teaching and learning, workforce data, and other supports for providers, business owners, and families.
  - Oversees Early Achievers, MERIT, Professional Development, Workforce Development, Child Care Business Supports, Child Care Subsidy Staff Training, electronic Attendance, Early Learning System Navigators, Language Access, etc.