ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN
Right from the Start is a legislative and budget campaign to advance state policies for babies, young children, and families in Rhode Island. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, many Rhode Island families with young children were struggling. State policy change is needed to make young children's potential our priority and lay the foundation needed for children's success and a strong state economy.

2022 LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET PRIORITIES

- **RI Child Care is Essential Act** *(H-7177/S-2681)*: Help more families access high-quality, reliable, affordable child care through the Child Care Assistance Program by increasing rates and expanding family eligibility. Safe, healthy, and high-quality child care options are essential for parents to work and for children to thrive.

- **RI Early Educator Investment Act** *(H-7283/S-2235)*: Develop goals and strategies to improve early educator compensation. Stagnant and uncompetitive wages are causing staffing challenges and reducing access to high-quality child care, Early Intervention, and family home visiting services.

- **RI Pre-K & Head Start**: Prepare to expand high-quality preschool in diverse delivery settings (child care, Head Start, and public schools) so all 3- and 4-year-olds will be able to participate.

- **Early Intervention & First Connections** *(H-7628/S-2546)*: Update Medicaid rates that have been frozen for 20 years so programs can retain and recruit skilled staff, eliminate waiting lists, and serve infants and toddlers with developmental challenges.

- **Paid Family Leave program** *(H-7444)*: Add weeks and improve wage replacement rates to help families care for babies. All new parents need adequate time and income to care for newborns, adoptive, and foster children at home for at least 12 weeks.

- **Cover All Kids** *(H7484, S-2187)*: Ensure all children in Rhode Island have health insurance, regardless of immigration status.

- **Maternal Health Care** *(H-7290, S-2202)*: Extend Medicaid through 12-months postpartum, regardless of immigration status, so new moms can have consistent health care and mental health care.

- **Infant/Early Childhood Mental Wellness** *(H-7801, S-2614)*: Develop Medicaid strategies to improve screening, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of infant/early childhood mental health challenges for children from birth through age 5.

- **Revenue for Rhode Island** *(H-7440, S-2264)*: Increase state general revenue to fund essential services and programs that young families and children need to thrive.

- **Let RI Vote** *(H-7100/S-2007 & H-7225/S-2216)*: Let's make it easier for Rhode Island's busy parents to vote by mail or early in-person.

CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE

- Beautiful Beginnings
- Economic Progress Institute
- Latino Policy Institute
- Parents Leading for Educational Equity (PLEE)
- Rhode Island Association for Infant Mental Health
- Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children
- Rhode Island Head Start Association
- Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

[www.rightfromthestartri.org](http://www.rightfromthestartri.org)