

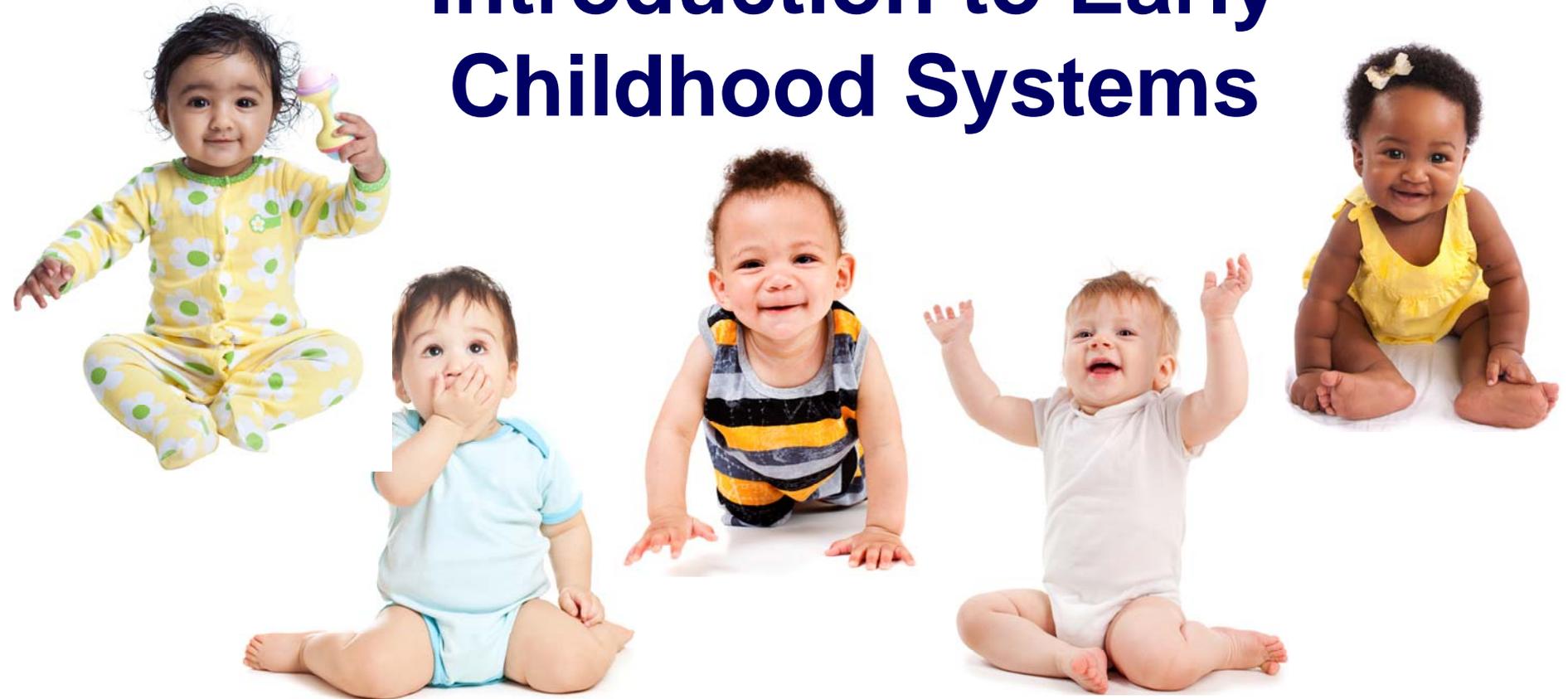


Massachusetts Home Visiting Initiative

A Department of Public Health led state agency collaborative

www.mass.gov/dph/homevisiting

Introduction to Early Childhood Systems





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Purpose

1. Understand why early childhood systems are important
2. Identify key state systems and initiatives that serve young children and families in MA
3. Identify information and referral resources for families of young children



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Why Early Childhood Systems Matter

- ❑ A child's brain begins developing before birth;
- ❑ A child's brain builds its foundation for developing relationships in early childhood.
- ❑ Science shows us that a child's early experiences, both positive and negative, affect:
 - ❑ The development of her brain and ability to learn
 - ❑ Her physical and mental health from childhood into adulthood
- ❑ Nobel prize winner James Heckman estimates that investments in high-quality early education produce a 10-16% rate of return.





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Early Childhood Systems: Coordination is Key

Because . . .

- ❑ Children get the supports and services they need;
- ❑ Families are supported: there's no wrong door to services;
- ❑ Families get consistent messages, common approaches, and coordinated plans;
- ❑ Staff know where and how to refer families and trust that families will get what they need;
- ❑ It avoids gaps in and duplication of services;
- ❑ Common data collection helps with service planning, quality improvement and targeting of resources.



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Who Are Our Youngest Citizens?

- Approximately **422,592** children birth to 5 in Massachusetts
- **13.8%** children under 6 live below the poverty line
- **70%** of pre-school aged children are enrolled in an early education program
- As many as **135,000** children, birth to 5, face one or more risk factors each day that could lead to toxic (long term & harmful) stress
- As many as **20,000** children birth to 5 face 3+ risk factors, that without intervention, are likely to lead to developmental delays





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Massachusetts' Early Childhood Vision

Governor Patrick's Executive Order #505: Establishes MA Readiness Cabinet & Four Core Beliefs and Expectations

- ❑ Each child deserves the best possible opportunity
- ❑ Education and development occur in families, neighborhoods, communities, schools and in the broader society
- ❑ Services and delivery systems must collectively address the needs of the whole child and his or her family
- ❑ Accomplishing this will depend upon a consistent, efficient and effective coordination of effort among governmental agencies





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In Massachusetts, New Federal Early Childhood Systems Investments

- **Massachusetts Home Visiting**
 - Identify and provide comprehensive evidence-based home visiting services to families who live in at risk communities
 - Improve service coordination for at risk communities
- **Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (ELC)(EEC):**
 - Strengthen quality of early education programs;
 - Increase families' access to local resources and support;
 - Strengthen training & skills of educators and providers;
 - Increase access to developmental screenings to identify children at risk and connect them to resources;



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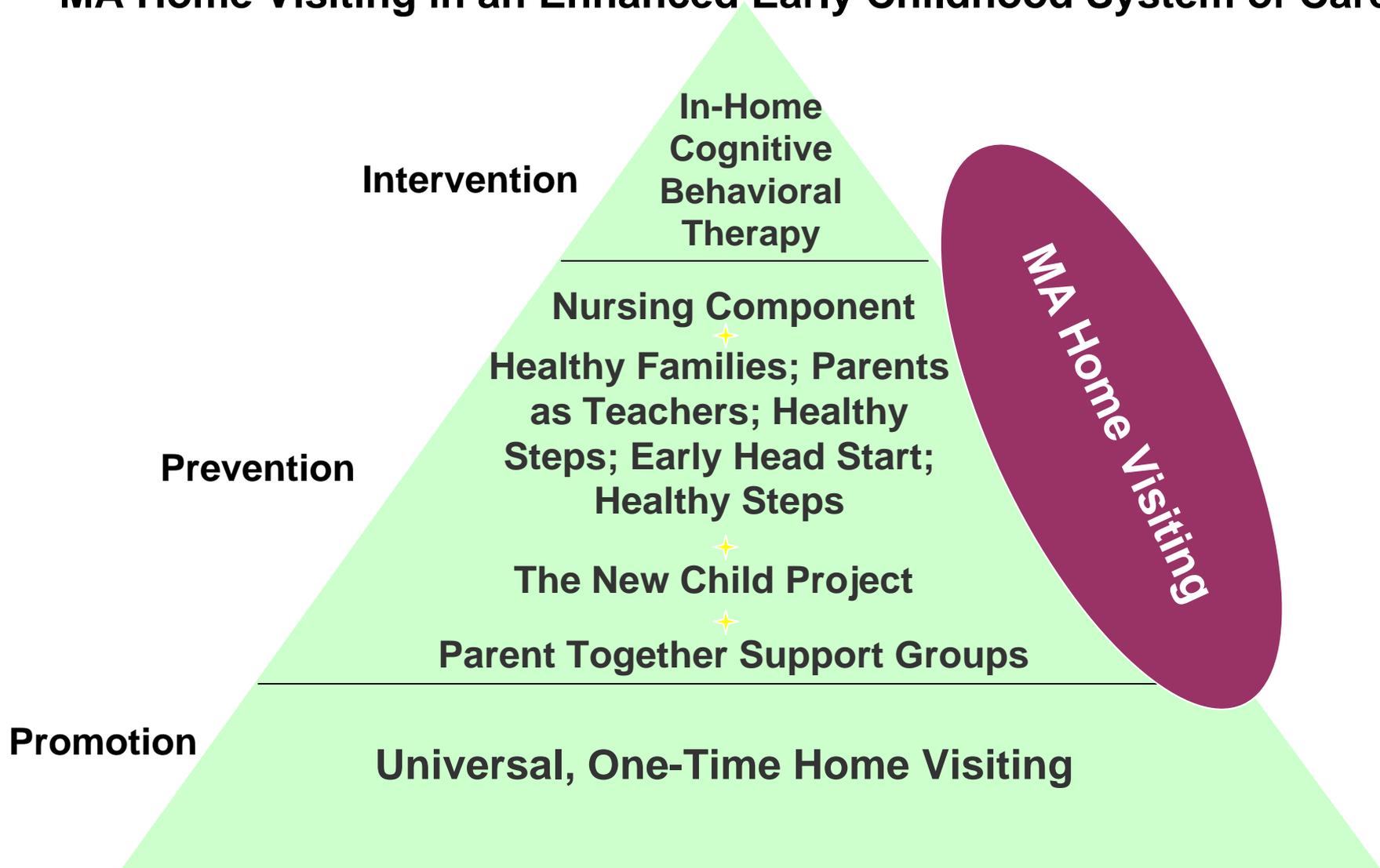
In Massachusetts, New Federal Early Childhood Systems Investments, continued

- **MassLAUNCH/MYCHILD EC Systems of Care:**
 - Promotes social emotional wellness of children birth to 8 in Boston;
 - Increases access to screening and assessment;
 - Integrates behavioral health into primary care settings;
 - Strengthens family support with a focus on social emotional well-being
- **MA Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Project (MECCS) (DPH):**
 - Coordinates systems of early education and care, health, mental health, family support and parent education



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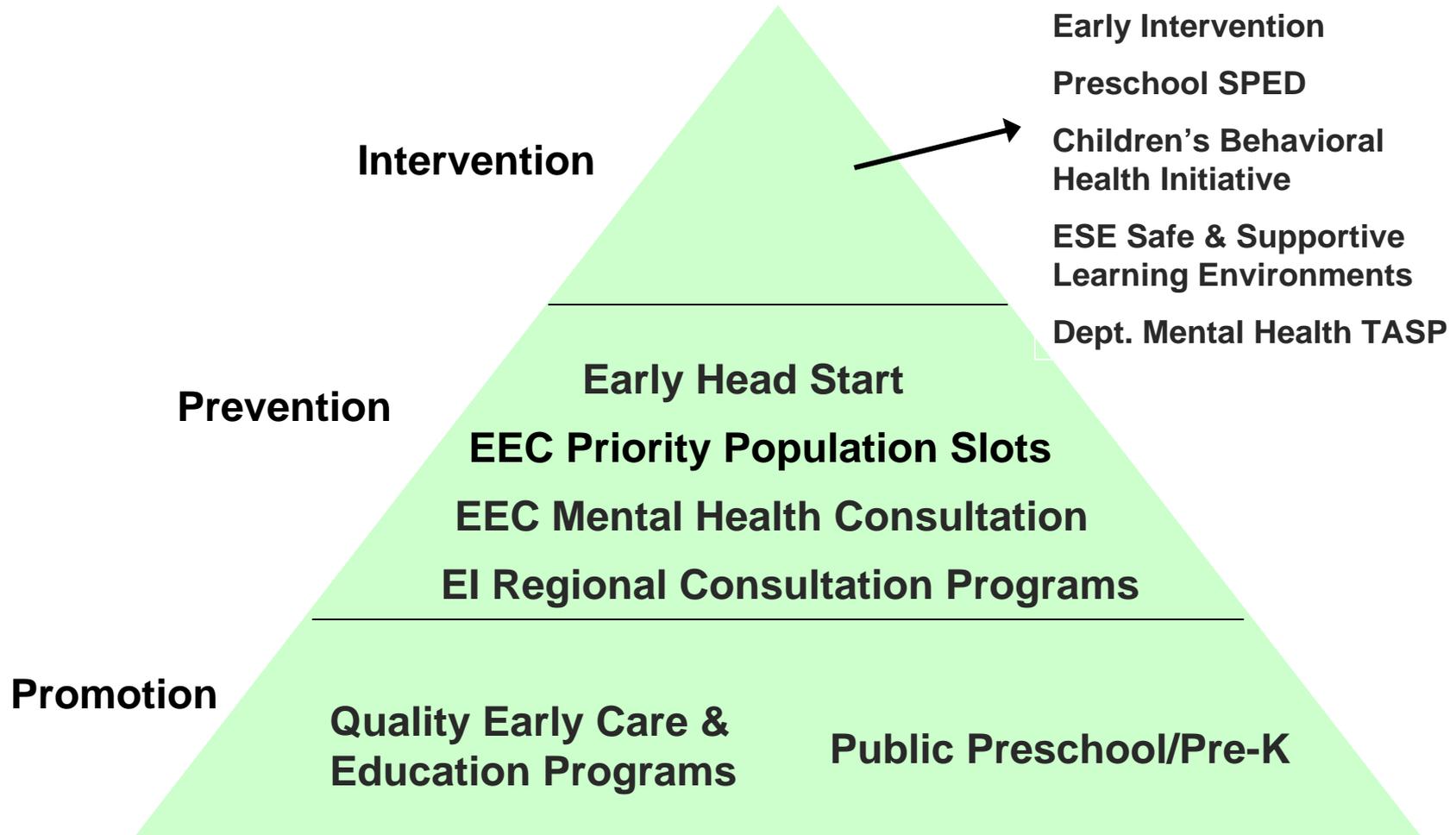
MA Home Visiting in an Enhanced Early Childhood System of Care





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MA Early Education and Care & Early Childhood Mental Health Services





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Massachusetts Family Support Services

Intervention

F.O.R. Families

Community Support Line

Pediatric Palliative Care

SIDS Project

Early/Head Start

WIC

Prevention

Healthy Families

Teen Living Program

Family Resource Centers

MA Family Centers

Young Parents Program

Young Parents Service

EI Partnership Programs

TAFDC

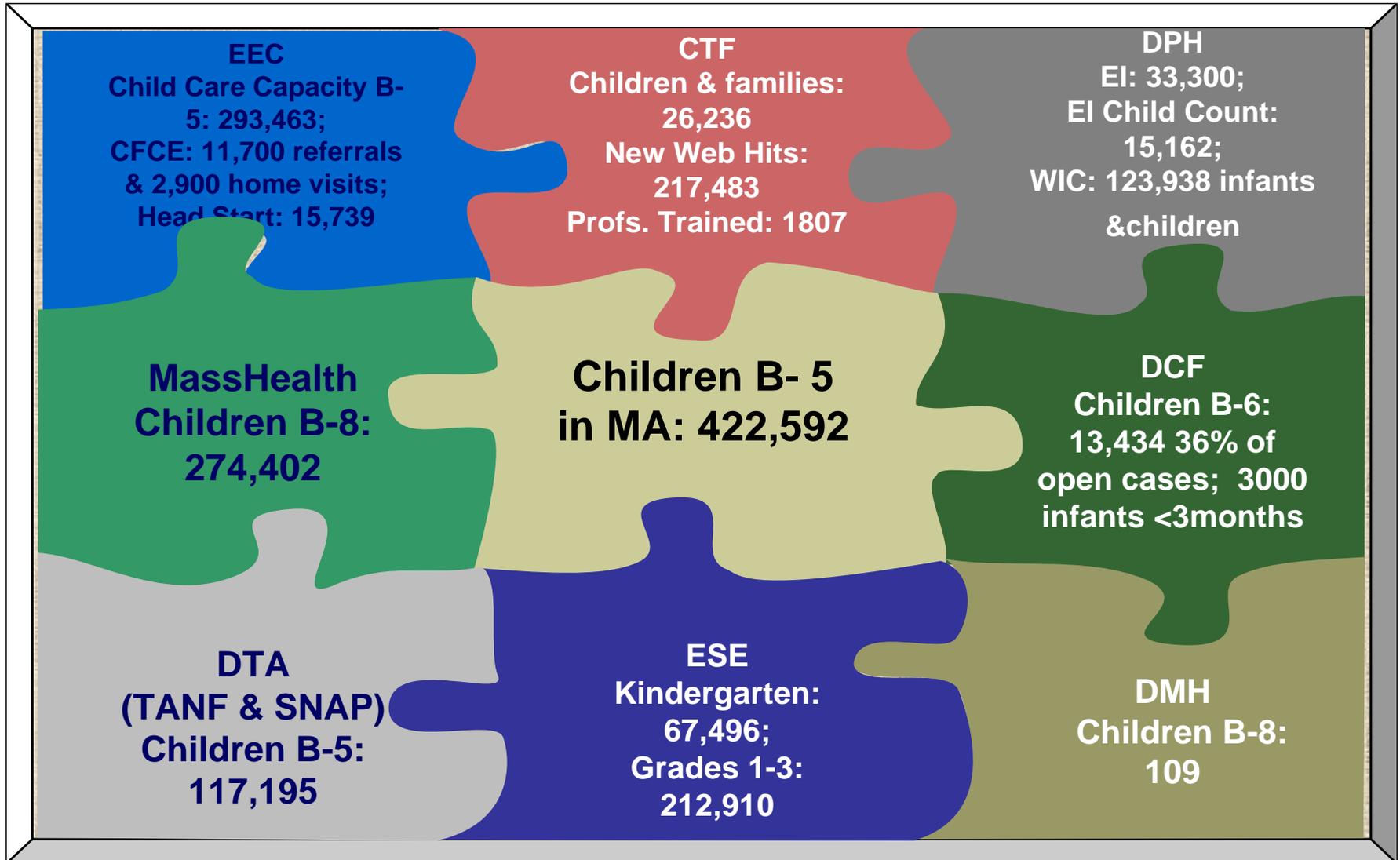
Promotion

EEC Coordinated Family and
Community Engagement Program



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State Agencies Serving Young Children





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State Agency Early Childhood Partnerships

- **Department of Children & Families (DCF)**
 - Family Resources Centers (with CTF)
 - Supportive Child Care (with EEC)
 - Massachusetts Trauma Project
- **Children's Trust Fund (CTF)**
 - Healthy Families Home Visiting (with DPH)
 - Strengthening Families (with DPH, DCF & EEC)
 - Family Support Training Centers



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State Agency Early Childhood Partnerships

□ Department of Public Health (DPH)

- Early Intervention - Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act
 - EI referrals for all children in DCF
 - Fresh Start: Services for families in substance abuse recovery
- LAUNCH/MYCHILD (with EOHHS)

□ Exec. Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)

- Children's Behavioral Health Initiative
 - Community-based services for children with serious emotional disturbances
 - Collaboration on early childhood mental health workforce development initiatives (with DPH)



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State Agency Early Childhood Partnerships

□ **Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Ed. (ESE)**

- Brain Building in Progress Training and Professional Learning Communities (with EEC)
- Data sharing agreements (with EEC)

□ **Dept. of Early Education & Care (EEC)**

- Early Learning Challenge: Agreements with DPH, DCF, Dept. of Mental Health & Dept. of Housing & Community Development to build state capacity for cross training and support for professionals serving young children
- Data sharing through the Early Childhood Information System



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Take Away Points

- ❑ Children's' early relationships and experiences matter.
- ❑ Effective interventions to support the social-emotional development of young children and their families exist.
- ❑ Both the nation and MA are investing in early childhood systems of care including: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge; MassLAUNCH/MYCHILD; MECCS; and MA Home Visiting.
- ❑ Over nine state agencies serve children under the age of eight and many children and families receive services from multiple agencies.



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REFERENCES

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2. Child population count from, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010
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5. National Center for Children in Poverty. Young Child Risk Calculator. <http://www.nccp.org/tools/risk>