



WHAT IS IT?

- The Saint Paul Early Childhood Initiative is a Program designed to provide access to early care and education for Saint Paul's earliest learners, birth through kindergarten entry.

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

- Current funding sources do not meet the needs of children and families in Saint Paul, as nearly 80% live under 200% of the federal poverty level and are unable to access early care and education opportunities.
- Current program offerings spanning birth through kindergarten entry are limited in reach due to design.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

THE FUNDS

- Program funds would be derived from a special levy on property taxes.
- Based on 2025 projections, the estimated tax for a median income home of \$275k is \$15.91.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

- The Program would be governed by the Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE), who also governs and administers College Bound Saint Paul.
- Having full oversight of programming, OFE would contract for supports in the initial stages.
- An Early Childhood Advisory Commission comprised of community members would advise OFE on Program matters.

SERVICE DELIVERY

- Program funds would be available to Saint Paul residents and usable at licensed and legal non licensed centers and family providers having a business in Saint Paul.
- Family, Friend, and Neighbor providers would benefit from greater access to City programs and partnerships.

ELIGIBILITY AND SCALE

- All families living in Saint Paul are eligible to participate.
- More than 4042 children are estimated to participate in the first 10 years of the Program.
- The initial year of the Program will serve infants followed by toddlers and preschoolers in the second and third year.

UNIQUE PROGRAM FEATURES

- Program funding would be available for any scheduling option from part-time up to and including year-round, full- and extended day care.
- Participating providers would have access to Saint Paul specific professional learning experiences, licensing help, and an Early Childhood Resource Library.

WORKFORCE

- In collaboration with partners, providers would be supported with access to education and training opportunities, as well as licensing and entrepreneurial assistance.

