

## **Abstract / Summary**

**Project Title: Connected for Success: A Family-Based Unified and Integrated Early Childhood System**

Applicant Name: Mississippi Community College Board

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The Mississippi system reimagines the state's approach to early care and learning and radically departs from its traditional provider-focused approach. The system is designed to place low-income families on a path to self-sufficiency and ensure their children can attend child care centers that provide high-quality services and learning experiences in a healthy and safe environment. The system is structured to promote the welfare, learning, and stability of young children through an integrated network of resources and services. Specifically, the Mississippi system focuses on:

- Connecting early care and learning programs and services within and between state agencies and private organizations to holistically support children and their families from birth to age 8 through the development and implementation of individual service plans.
- Forming a network of centers based on two designations: standard and comprehensive. The standard designation focuses on high-quality services in terms of curriculum, health and safety, and staff. The comprehensive designation builds on the standard designation and focuses on the continuity of high-quality care and learning as a child transitions from center to center and into the K-12 system.
- Infusing coaching and technical assistance into child care centers through Early Childhood Academies in order to level the playing field and achieve high-quality care and service for all children without being burdensome to child care providers.
- Connecting families to a network of human services, education, and workforce programs designed to eliminate barriers and provide training to achieve occupational goals.
- Relying on data-driven web and mobile technology to improve delivery of services to assist families anytime and anywhere and to maximize efficiency and effectiveness for continuous quality improvement of all services.

The overall vision for Mississippi system is to create a statewide structure that fosters the cognitive, physical, and socioemotional well-being of children 0-8 years old, preparing children for school, engages families in their children's learning, and cultivates the social integration of children.