The Minnesota Model for Early Childhood Development: A Market/Parent-Based Approach

Strong Foundations: The Economic Futures of Kids and Communities
Federal Reserve System Community Development Research Conference
March 23-24, 2017

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Benefits far exceed costs
Perry Preschool – Costs and benefits over 62 years

Source: Schweinhart, et al. (2005)
Return on Investment
Evidence from longitudinal early childhood studies

- Perry Preschool
  - Schweinhart: $16 to $1
  - Heckman: $7–$12 to $1

- Abecedarian Educational Child Care
  - Barnett: $4 to $1
  - Heckman: $7 to $1

- Chicago Child-Parent Center
  - Reynolds: $10 to $1

- Elmira Prenatal/Early Infancy Project
  - Karoly: $5 to $1

Sources: Garcia, Heckman, Leaf, & Prados (2016); Heckman, Moon, Pinto, Savelyez, & Yavitz (2010); Karoly, et al. (1998); Masse & Barnett (2002); Reynolds, Temple, White, Ou, & Robertson (2011); Schweinhart, et al. (2005)
Early childhood development: A high-return, low-risk investment

- **Rolnick-Grunewald:**
  - Total annual rate of return: 16%–18%
  - Public annual rate of return: 12%–16%

- **Heckman:**
  - Total annual rate of return: 7%–13%

Source: Garcia, Heckman, Leaf, & Prados (2016); Heckman, Moon, Pinto, Savelyez, & Yavitz (2010); Rolnick & Grunewald (2003)
Principles for bringing early childhood development to scale

- Start early
- Target most vulnerable children and families
- Engage and empower parents
- Assess and improve quality
- Flexible and culturally sensitive
- Long-term commitment
Minnesota Model in theory

- Start as early as prenatal with home-visiting parent mentors
- Scholarships awarded to low-income families
- Scholarships can only be used at high-quality rated programs
- Rated programs can be center-based or home-based, public or private, for-profit or not-for-profit
- Scholarships generally available ages 3 and 4; earlier for children with higher risk factors
The Saint Paul

Early Childhood Scholarship Program

Helping Families Get High-Quality Child Care and Early Education

Now enrolling 3-year-old children in Saint Paul’s Frogtown and North End neighborhoods!
St. Paul Early Learning Scholarship Pilot Evaluation

- Children showed significant increases in language, literacy, and early math skills, ranging from small to large effects
- Number of high-quality providers increased 85%
- Over 80% of interviewed parents talked with child’s teacher about behavior and accomplishments and home-based activities

Source: Gaylor, Spiker, Williamson, & Ferguson (2011)
Early Learning Scholarship Expansion

- Minnesota’s Race-to-the-Top: 4 Transformation Zones, $11.4 million 2012-2016
- Minnesota legislature: Increased funding from $4 million in 2011 to $60 million in 2015, reaching over 8,000 children
Sources


