

## Wednesday | April 30

---

### **8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Breakfast Available & Registration Open**

- First-Time Attendee Meet-Up (indicated by signage in Ballroom XL)
- Regional & Open Networking Tables

---

### **9:00 AM – 9:30 AM | Welcome**

- **Shannon Rudisill**, Executive Director, **ECFC**
- **Krystal Ivery**, Membership Engagement Associate, **ECFC**
- **Keami Harris**, Chief of Equity and Strategy, **ECFC**

---

### **9:30 AM-10:30 AM | Connection & Reflection Activity** **Defending Our Vision for Children and Families**

We'll begin with an intentional reflection on this moment, when diversity, equity, and inclusion are under attack, and consider how we can stand together. Through pairs and small groups, we'll make new and deeper connections. How can we support each other to uphold a future that embraces our great strength—families with different racial and ethnic heritages, languages, and family structures? How do we work together to defend our vision where all children and families are supported to thrive?

Introduction by:

- **Rev. Terrance M. McKinley**, Vice President, Movement Building & Strategy, **National Black Child Development Institute**

Pair Share Introduction:

- **Denise Castillo Dell Isola**, Program Director, Early Childhood, **Irving Harris Foundation**
- **Mica Whitfield**, Co-President & CEO, **9to5**

---

### **10:30 AM – 11:00 AM | Break**

---

### **Follow ECFC**



[early-childhood-funders-collaborative](https://www.linkedin.com/company/early-childhood-funders-collaborative)



[ecfunders7209](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfunders7209)



[ecfunders.org](https://www.ecfunders.org)

Stay connected for updates, insights, and stories from the ECFC community.

**Share your thoughts and photos using #ECFCconnect!**



## ECFC Spring 2025 Member Meeting

April 30–May 1 | Alexandria, VA

**Hotel AKA Alexandria**

*ALL MEALS/EVENTS IN BALLROOM XL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED*

---

Wednesday | April 30

---

### 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Topical Discussion Huddles

The Raising Child Care Fund and Racial Justice and Equity Fund grantee partners will host discussions on what's happening in intersecting issues and communities.

Introduction: **Leng Leng Chancey**, Director, **Racial Justice and Equity Fund, ECFC**

SPACE 1	Immigrant and Latino Families & Communities
SPACE 2	Child Care and Head Start <i>(including the early childhood workforce)</i>
SPACE 3	Maternal and child health <i>(including maternal mental health, birth workers, doulas, and community health workers)</i>
BALLROOM XL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Foster Care and Kinship Guardianship</li><li>▪ Meeting Families' Basic Needs</li><li>▪ Rural Communities</li><li>▪ Elections, Voting &amp; Civic Engagement</li><li>▪ Early Childhood &amp; Climate Justice <i>(including impacts of extreme weather, disaster relief, and utility costs)</i></li></ul>

---

### 12 PM – 1 PM | Lunch, Regional & Open Networking Tables

---

**Find Handouts, Speaker Bios & More:**





## ECFC Spring 2025 Member Meeting

April 30–May 1 | Alexandria, VA

**Hotel AKA Alexandria**

*ALL MEALS/EVENTS IN BALLROOM XL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED*

---

Wednesday | April 30

---

### **1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Collective Power: Resilience & Winning in Difficult Times Panel**

We are constantly trying to quantify what power building means and how we affect systems change. Often, we gravitate toward large outcomes and forget to celebrate smaller wins along the way. The fallacy is that we over-promise and build expectations on the backs of those on the ground serving vulnerable communities every day.

Now more than ever, when grantees and communities are under attack, we need to examine what systems change means for our communities, and what it means to keep moving towards change.

Real systems change begins at the individual level: when individuals become politicized by the issues that impact their lives, when they begin rallying others and building relationships person to person, person to neighborhood, and across neighborhoods and communities; building momentum for collective power. Drawing on lessons and examples from grantee partners and ECFC members, this session will consider: how we define and celebrate wins (big and small); allowing imperfect practices so we can continue to learn from every strategies we employ to move forward; and if winning is the end goal, what will it take for us to get there?

Introduction: **Rachel Schumacher**, Director, The Raising Child Care Fund, ECFC

#### **Discussants:**

- (Facilitator): **Teresa Granillo**, Chief Executive Officer, **AVANCE**; Racial Justice and Equity Fund Grants Committee
- **Sherrell Byrd**, Co-Founder/ Executive Director, **SOWEGA Rising**, GA SOWEGA Rising Coalition
- **Amy Jo Hutchison**, Campaign Director, West Virginia, **MomsRising**
- **Monica Hobbs Vinluan**, Senior Program Officer, **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**

---

**2:30 PM – 3:00 PM | Break**

---

Wednesday | April 30

---

**3:00 PM – 4:30 PM | Collective Power Strategy Breakouts**

Through a mix of formats, we will explore examples of strategies and tools that help us move towards collective power and "winning."

Introduction: **Rena Large**, Program Director, ECFC

SPACE 1

**Investing in C4 Strategies | 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

As the 2024 presidential campaign makes starkly clear, the outcome of elections matter—not just who leads the top of the ticket, but who is positioned to champion and implement the policies that shape our lives. Investments in 501(c)(4) organizations provide necessary political power to support and extend the work of 501(c)(3) entities to inform, educate, and advocate for equitable change. Yet legal or organizational constraints often prevent funders from incorporating this strategy into their portfolios. This session will provide concrete tips on how any funder can begin exploring this crucial tool to advance systems change. **Session hosts: Barbara Chow, Heising-Simons Foundation, Marie Hocker, Imaginable Futures, and Lisa Klein, Impact Fellows Action Fund.**

SPACE 2

**Communications Strategies | 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

In this moment, communication strategies are critical to amplify the narratives and stories that uplift the needs of children and families in ways that resonate in our current policy climate. Yet, we know that many funders and nonprofits lack communications capacity. In this session, we'll explore examples of strategies designed to change narratives, uplift stories, and connect with local media. **Discussion hosts: Shannon Cotsoradis, Buffet Early Childhood Fund and Sherice Brammer, ECFC Director of Communications** will co-host this discussion, including strategy examples from Imaginable Futures and Couch Family Foundation.

SPACE 3

**Strategies to Partner with Power Builders | 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

Directors of ECFC's two pooled funds will facilitate conversation about challenges community-based groups experience in their work and what they value in philanthropic partners. **Discussion hosts: Leng Leng Chancey, Director, Racial Justice and Equity Fund (ECFC) and Rachel Schumacher, Director, The Raising Child Care Fund (ECFC).**

BALLROOM XL **Open Networking Space**



## ECFC Spring 2025 Member Meeting

April 30–May 1 | Alexandria, VA

**Hotel AKA Alexandria**

*ALL MEALS/EVENTS IN BALLROOM XL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED*

---

### Wednesday | April 30

---

#### 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM | Break

#### 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM | Reception

We will conclude the day with ECFC's traditional Welcome and Networking Reception, including heavy appetizers for those who would like to join us in lieu of dinner.

- Welcome Comments: **Gerry Cobb**, Director, **Pritzker Children's Initiative**; ECFC Steering Committee Chair

### Thursday | May 1

---

#### 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Breakfast Available & Registration Open

- Regional & Open Networking Tables (BALLROOM XL)
- Early Relational Health Funders Breakfast Meet Up (SPACE 3)

#### 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM | Welcome & Introduction to ECFC's Policy Workgroup

- Introduction: **Shannon Rudisill**, Executive Director, **ECFC**

#### 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM | Fireside Chat: The Role of Philanthropy in Navigating Change with Public Sector Partners

Introduction: **Shannon Rudisill**, Executive Director, ECFC

ECFC and our Policy Workgroup have prioritized better understanding how Federal policy and budget changes will impact states and communities where young children and their families live, learn, and work. Private and public funders are facing the challenge of deploying resources in this era of uncertainty. How might we use this moment of disruption to rethink systems that work for all children and families? In every state, public administrators across education, health, child welfare, and family economic supports continue their work toward child and family well-being. This kickoff dialogue with **Reggie Bicha**, President and CEO, **American Public Human Services Association**, and **Steffanie Clothier**, Director, School Readiness at **Gary Community Ventures** will set the stage for our day of conversations.

#### 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM | Break & Hotel Check out

---



## ECFC Spring 2025 Member Meeting

April 30–May 1 | Alexandria, VA

**Hotel AKA Alexandria**

*ALL MEALS/EVENTS IN BALLROOM XL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED*

---

Thursday | May 1

---

### **11:00 AM – 12:15 PM | Tribal, State, and Local Governments: Delivering for Children and Families in a Time of Uncertainty**

ECFC members have a strong track record as partners and co-investors with public sector colleagues. How can we strengthen relationships with government leaders at all levels and across the political spectrum? What does this moment of disruption demand of us to be more effective and influential on behalf of young children and their families? Join us for a session with the top organizations representing Tribal, state, and local leaders to explore how philanthropy and government can collaborate effectively.

#### **Panelists:**

- **Facilitator: Steve ErkenBrack**, President and CEO, **Buell Foundation**
- **Jenna Bannon**, Associate Director, Children and Families Program, **National Conference of State Legislatures**
- **Tim Blute**, Director for the Center for Best Practices, **National Governors Association**
- **A.C. Locklear**, Chief Executive Officer, **National Indian Health Board**
- **Tonja Rucker**, Director, Early Childhood Success, Institute for Youth, Education, & Families, **National League of Cities**

---

### **12:15 PM – 1:15 PM | Lunch, Regional & Open Networking Tables**

---

### **1:15 PM – 2:15 PM | “What’s Happening” Huddles**

ECFC members and field experts will host discussions about what is happening in several sectors serving young children and families.

#### **SPACE 1: What’s Happening With Safety Net Programs**

- Field Expert: **Ann Flagg**, former Director, Office of Family Assistance (OFA), Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Dept. Health and Human Services

#### **SPACE 2: What’s Happening in Maternal and Child Health**

- Field Expert: **Kanika Harris**, Executive Director, National Association to Advance Black Birth

#### **SPACE 3: What’s Happening in Education/Early Care and Education**

- Field Expert: **Katie Hamm**, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development, Administration for Children and Families



## ECFC Spring 2025 Member Meeting

April 30–May 1 | Alexandria, VA

**Hotel AKA Alexandria**

*ALL MEALS/EVENTS IN BALLROOM XL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED*

---

Thursday | May 1

---

**2:15 PM – 2:45 PM | Break**

---

**2:45 PM – 3:45 PM | Peer Learning & Connection Huddles**

Member-led opportunities for peer-sharing on initiatives planned or underway; common interests in aligned work or co-investing; and opportunities for funder action.

**BALLROOM XL | Equitable Governing of Early Childhood Systems:** The Heising-Simons and W.K. Kellogg Foundations have partnered with New Venture Fund to advance the Early Childhood Governance and Financing Project (ECGFP). Now entering its sixth year, ECGFP has insights into what it takes to govern early childhood systems effectively, informed by the eight states and territories supported by the project. Join discussion host **September Jarrett, Heising-Simons Foundation** to consider the importance of early childhood governance as a lever for creating impact and the role private funders can play.

**BALLROOM XL | Supporting Field Building Infrastructure in Home Visiting:** We all value and invest in evidence-based program models but sometimes fail to recognize and support the infrastructure that is essential for programs to scale impact. Join discussion host **Malia Ramler, Heising-Simons Foundation** to learn about protecting and leveraging existing home visiting infrastructure, and opportunities to scale and enhance home visiting services through support for the National Home Visiting Network and the National Home Visiting Data Yearbook.

**SPACE 1 | Raising Revenue for Child Care:** Gary Community Ventures, along with a coalition of Colorado funders and partners, is gearing up to take the next step in a statewide child care initiative designed to raise the state revenue needed to tackle the affordability crisis and incorporate solutions to the challenges of supply building and workforce in Colorado. **Steffanie Clothier** from **Gary Community Investments** will share insights from their journey and how they're putting the pieces together to win.

**SPACE 2 | Supporting Efforts to Improve the Count of Young Children in the Census:** The Annie E. Casey Foundation has worked closely with the Census Equity Initiative and helped fund Count All Kids to improve Census data that helps allocate federal funding for many programs serving young children. Join discussion hosts **Florencia Gutierrez, Casey Foundation** and **Debbie Stein, Count All Kids**, to consider how funders can support Count All Kids efforts in states and communities and why they should do so now.

**SPACE 3 | Making the Ideal Real:** Every child deserves access to high-quality, affordable early care and education from birth. Families must be trusted, early childhood educators respected and well-compensated, and administrators equipped to build and sustain thriving programs. The Bainum Family Foundation's *WeVision EarlyEd* initiative is not just reimagining child care, it is actively working with 22 solutions lab sites across 10 states and DC to replace outdated assumptions with bold, achievable solutions that align policy, funding, and mindsets. Join discussion hosts **Marica Cox Mitchell** and **Shayna Cook** from the **Bainum Family Foundation** to talk about how we move America forward and build the future child care system our country needs now.



## ECFC Spring 2025 Member Meeting

April 30–May 1 | Alexandria, VA

**Hotel AKA Alexandria**

*ALL MEALS/EVENTS IN BALLROOM XL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED*

---

## Thursday | May 1

---

**3:45 PM – 4:00 PM Break**

---

### **4:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Closing Session: Key Priorities for Philanthropy Action**

Funders for kids and families hold a lot of power, influence and expertise. Now more than ever we are called to become resource liberators, to use our influence and power to help move flexible resources and opportunities to grantees and communities to be responsive. The ECFC Policy Workgroup will share proposed collective actions for feedback from the ECFC membership and we will have time for reflection and discussion on how members can apply what we have learned in our individual and collective work.

---

### **Thank You to Our Planning Team**

We're grateful to our planning team for the time, thoughtfulness, and guidance they offered to help shape this convening.

- **Chrisanne Gayle**, Trust for Learning (DC)
- **Steve Erckenbrack**, Buell Foundation (CO)
- **Sarah Robinson**, Couch Family Foundation (NH)
- **Todd Shenk**, Casey Family Programs (WA)
- **Robyn Tedder**, EC Funders Alliance of SW Pennsylvania (PA)