



Understanding Costs of Early Care and Education: Key Developments and Next Steps for the Field

Child Care and Early Education Policy Consortium Meeting

June 28, 2023



Why this session?

- High-quality child care and early education is important for child development and for supporting families
- Ensuring the availability and accessibility of quality care requires public investment
- In order to promote funding levels that support access to high-quality ECE, we must continue to improve understanding of the costs of quality in ECE

Key developments you will hear about today

- Policy changes have spurred increased data collection efforts
 - *State efforts to conduct narrow cost analyses*, Katie Gonzalez and Pia Caronongan
- Cost modeling tools help estimate how costs may change when policies change
 - *Provider Cost of Quality Calculator*, Nina Johnson
- Improved understanding of how costs and allocation of resources vary between providers
 - *Findings from the ICHQ project*, Owen Schochet

Some questions to ponder as you listen

- Given these developments, what are key questions to grapple with next?
- In what other ways can cost modeling and cost data further our understanding of costs in ECE?
- What other supports are needed to facilitate use of cost modeling, tools, and data in decision-making?
- *Reflections and discussion, Francesca Wolf*