



# NOPREN

**Nutrition & Obesity Network**  
POLICY RESEARCH  EVALUATION

## EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKING GROUP

NOPREN is a thematic network of the Prevention Research Centers Program. NOPREN conducts nutrition- and obesity-related policy research and evaluation related to the effectiveness of policies that improve access to affordable, healthy foods and beverages in a variety of settings, including communities, workplaces, healthcare facilities, childcare institutions, and schools.

### ABOUT

The Early Childhood Working Group (EC) convenes a multi-disciplinary network of researchers and leaders from academia, non-profit organizations, government, and other funding agencies to develop and maintain learning collaborative(s) and provide a platform for information sharing and networking. The EC Working group aims to:

- Increase EC professionals' effectiveness in addressing issues in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, child development, and childhood obesity prevention research, policy and practice by providing a platform for collaboration and information sharing.
- Foster creativity and innovation in research and advocacy efforts by utilizing shared, objective methods to evaluate outcomes, ensuring efforts are not being duplicated and encouraging collaborations on research or advocacy projects.
- Advance knowledge-base and quality of EC research with special focus on low-income and racial/ethnic minority populations.

### KEY ACTIVITIES

- **Establish a research base to support changes to EC policies, environments, and practices in early childhood education, home, community, and clinical settings**
  - Identify gaps in the early childhood knowledge base as it relates to healthy eating, nutrition, childhood obesity, and optimal child development.
  - Build evidence to support changes to EC policies, environments, and practices in ECE, home, community, and clinical settings.
  - Increase the amount and quality of EC research (increased grants and publications).
  - Share information about funding for EC obesity prevention research and evaluation.
- **Build a vibrant, multidisciplinary network and support ongoing professional development within the EC community**
  - Recruit and support new investigators through collaboration in working groups, mentored leadership, building connections, and other opportunities.
  - Create opportunities for learning and collaboration (e.g., commissioned research projects, grants, publications, presentations).
  - Share information and resources among members of the workgroup (e.g., tools, methods, intervention materials).
  - Share information on research with minority, low income populations across childcare contexts.



- **Maintain a Nationwide Learning Collaborative**

- Support collaborative projects developed by the learning collaborative for continued learning and professional development.
- Identify, where possible, funding sources to support collaborative projects.
- Support engagement of members of learning collaborative in collaborative projects.
- Encourage members of the working group to share current projects they are working on with the learning collaborative

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