2020 Policy Priorities by Imperative

Imperative 1: Promote the health, development and well-being of all Detroit children

- Implement a universal screening and referral and service system, provided in compliance with federal law for minimum service requirements and based on the child's needs and family choice
- Implement policies and programs that reduce food insecurity
- Support efforts to maintain or increase preventative and integrated health care coverage for children, their parents or caregivers

Imperative 2: Support parents and caregivers as children's first teachers and champions

- Increase entry eligibility for childcare subsidies from 130% to 150% FPL
- Consider the feasibility of increasing Michigan's Earned Income tax Credit (EITC)
- Promote living wage initiatives
- Increased identification and quality development support of license-exempt childcare ("kinship" care)

Imperative 3: Increase the overall quality of Detroit's early childhood programs

- Develop an early childhood workforce strategy
  - Pursue compensation and retention strategies to reduce turnover and support children's learning
  - Support pathways to higher education degrees via adapted programs that meet the needs of Detroit's early childhood workforce
  - Increase access to and affordability of higher education through financial aid programs and scholarships
- Develop formal partnership agreements between the early childhood and K-12 systems for a continuum of educators' development and family supports

Imperative 4: Guarantee safe and inspiring learning environments for our children

- Allow funding specifically for improving Detroit's early childhood facilities
- Reduce child care and education deserts with targeted investments in neighborhoods of high-need
- Incorporate facility quality into statewide measurements of early childhood program quality

Imperative 5: Create tools and resources to better coordinate systems that impact early childhood

- Integrate early childhood data collection, analysis and utilization
- Create a public or public-private coordinating mechanism for early childhood in Detroit to:
  - Expand enrollment in and access to high quality childcare and education programs
  - Provide ease of access for families to needed and integrated early child development and family support services

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Imperative 6: Find new ways to fund early childhood, and make better use of current resources

- Maximize all federal and state funding for childcare by augmenting the caseload consensus model and strengthening the budget process used to determine childcare funding levels
    - Raise childcare subsidy reimbursement rates as a first step
    - Shift reimbursement policy to move to contracts long-term
- Allow automatic eligibility for childcare subsidies for all residents earning low wages, following the example for the school lunch program
- Create a local public funding mechanism for early childhood in Detroit to supplement state and federal resources

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