# Family-Centered Design

## The Opportunity

**Family-Centered Design** helps communities elevate family and community voice in the design of early childhood systems. Through an 8-week pilot of the online Family-Centered Design course, a diverse team of participants learn concrete tools and strategies from human-centered design (HCD) that can be applied to any local system design challenge or opportunity.



## The Benefits & Impact

**Family-Centered Design leverages human-centered design strategies to elevate family and community voice in the design of early childhood systems.** This 8-week cohort-based online course is designed for teams of community leaders, parents, providers, and government employees to come together to gain an overview of human-centered design and understand *why* it is an important component of building equitable systems and *how* to use the HCD process and strategies to address challenges and opportunities in their communities. Participants receive extra support through weekly virtual coaching sessions. By the end of the course, participants will have a better understanding of the strategies and mindsets needed to engage in human-centered design, including:

- ❖ Best practices for gathering data from the community through interviews and observations

- ❖ Making sense of stories and data

- ❖ Brainstorming and ideation with community members

- ❖ Prototyping to test and refine new ideas

## The Experience

**Family-Centered Design is a collaborative, iterative experience** that balances power among the leaders, families, and providers in an early childhood system as they work together to reimagine system solutions. The Family-Centered Design course includes:

- Guidance on creating 4-5 teams of course participants that include a balanced representation of people directly affected by system success, including a minimum of 2 community members and a mix of system leaders, staff, and advocates (20-50 total participants)
- Weekly online course modules to be completed individually by course participants
- Guidance for live weekly engagement and collaboration among participants
- Optional weekly virtual coaching session available as needed for each team of participants (approx. 1 hour per week)

**At the completion of the Family-Centered Design course, participants will be equipped with practical strategies to bring the innovation of human-centered design to their community system's most pressing challenges.** Teams will adopt common language and ways of working together so they can lead their community in listening, redefining, imagining, and prototyping new solutions to increase equity and access within their system.

## The Partnership

**It takes a partnership to make the most of Family-Centered Design!**
Communities will:

- **Ongoing Collaboration**: Participate in a virtual kick-off meeting, review all eight modules of the online course, access coaching, and attend a final virtual wrap-up meeting.
- **Community Connections**: Lead the recruitment of participants from the community to create a cohort of teams (stipends will be provided for community members).
- **Point of Contact:** Choose one team lead for every participant team to liaise with the Start Early team, coordinate scheduling, and access support to ensure the success of each team.

## About Start Early Consulting

**Start Early Consulting** is a mission-driven team of early childhood experts that shares system leaders' commitment to positive, long-term outcomes for children and families. Our consulting is dedicated to ensuring the right policies, programs, funding, and supports are in place to prepare young children and their families for lifelong success.  Learn more at StartEarly.org/Consulting.