

Acknowledgments

This has been a truly collaborative project. We had the chance to learn and share experience with some of the leading funders in the early childhood field, including the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the George Kaiser Family Foundation, the Irving Harris Foundation, the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

We are indebted to Professor James Heckman at the University of Chicago, whose work has inspired and guided our own. Julia Isaacs at the Urban Institute and Katherine Magnuson at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, through their research at the Brookings Center on Children and Families, helped us better understand the existing data on kindergarten readiness and its socioeconomic determinants. Experienced policy makers and analysts—Libby Doggett, Shannon Rudisill, and Sara Mead, among many others—helped us identify promising local, state, and national intervention models. Elise Tosun, Christina Triantaphyllis, Chris Addy, Mike Levine, and Bradley Seeman at The Bridgespan Group provided invaluable help as thought partners, data analysts, and editors. We owe very special thanks to Joan Lombardi, Diana Rauner, and Phyllis Glink, who have lent their expertise, wisdom, and deep experience in the field throughout this project. A full list of individuals who contributed to this work is provided in [Appendix A](#). Finally, Jeff Schoenberg helped to guide and shape this research from its earliest days. We are grateful for his expertise throughout and for helping us to see this work to its fullest potential.

At the same time, the paper itself, especially the conclusions that it draws about investment opportunities, are ours alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of any of the individuals or organizations that we consulted in our research.