Table of Contents

Foreword ............................................................................................................................................................................ 4

Highlighted Support for Early Childhood Investments ................................................................. 7

Summary of Philanthropic Opportunities ................................................................................................. 8

Part I: What does the research tell us about the importance of early childhood development?
What do we know about what works? .................................................................................................................. 10

Part II: What outcomes matter most for very young children? ................................................................. 15

Part III: What are the immediate barriers to achieving better outcomes for low-income children? .......................................................................................................................... 21

Part IV: What are the most effective investments philanthropy can make? ............................................ 30

  Strengthen public systems of early care and education at state and local levels to ensure continuous quality improvements .......................................................... 30

  Scale health and developmental screenings to connect parents and families with resources to optimize their children’s holistic development ........................................................................ 32

  Improve the training, continuing education, professional development, and compensation of early childhood educators ................................................................. 36

  Support greater access to high-quality evidence-based programs that help parents and families to foster their children’s development ...................................................... 39

  Promote ongoing program innovation and improvement, especially for those programs supporting parents and informal caregivers ........................................................................ 44

Postscript .................................................................................................................................................................... 46

Acknowledgments ....................................................................................................................................................... 47

Additional Commentary ........................................................................................................................................... 48

Appendix A: List of Interviewees ......................................................................................................................... 50

Appendix B: Sources .................................................................................................................................................. 52

Appendix C: ECLS-B Technical Appendix ......................................................................................................... 60