

October 9, 2020

Updates from the NC Early Education Coalition Board of Directors

New Organization Status, New staff, New Membership Structure

From Janice Price, Board President

NC Early Education Coalition Becomes a Nonprofit Organization

In July, the NC Early Education Coalition obtained a new organizational status and became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Coalition has operated as a 501(c)(6) membership association since its inception, relying on membership dues for the majority of our funding. With the new status, we'll be able to build a stronger Coalition through grants and additional donations, while still maintaining our membership structure and our focus on advocacy and lobbying.

You won't notice any changes in our mission to ensure that all young children have access to quality, affordable early education, or our work to support babies and families through the Think Babies™ NC Alliance. With this new status comes new opportunities to build a sustainable future for the Coalition and our collective work on behalf of young children and families.

Your donations are now tax deductible, and as always, making a gift to the Coalition will support work that is critical to making progress on issues impacting our state's youngest children. We need your help to continue to win new victories for young children, their families, and early care and education. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a big difference. [Please consider making a gift today to help us celebrate our new status!](#)

Restructuring and New Staff

We're expanding our early childhood team and are so excited to announce that Jani Kozlowski has joined us as the Early Childhood Policy Director! Jani brings more than 25 years of experience in the early care and education field, as well as extensive expertise in child care and Head Start, including professional development and workforce issues, early childhood policy, inclusion and disability services, outdoor planning and learning, infant/toddler care, and social emotional development. Most recently, Jani has worked at the national level with ZERO TO THREE providing technical assistance and training for states. Prior to her national work, she dedicated many years to the North Carolina early childhood system, serving as the Section Chief of the Program and Resources Section at the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education and as the Early Care and Education Specialist at the NC Partnership for Children. Jani has a Master's degree in child development and is a certified trainer for the WestEd Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers. Please join us in welcoming Jani Kozlowski to our team! She'll be reaching out to connect with you in the upcoming weeks.

Michele Rivest, our current Policy Director, will remain with the Coalition as the new Senior Campaign Director. In this role, Michele will serve as the policy team's lead staff and continue to work with the Board and our early childhood partners and advocates to set the strategic direction for our public policy campaign for the 2021-22 legislative session. Michele will also continue to provide policy and staff support for the Think Babies™ NC Alliance.

New Membership System Up and Running

We just launched our Fall Membership Drive, and we need you to make a commitment for young children today. They are depending on us to be their champion. Our work depends on you!

By becoming a member, you'll join thousands of early childhood advocates and professionals across the state who share your passion for young children and families. Our members are the heart and soul of our work and the best advocates we know. Your membership will help make us a stronger and more effective Coalition, working together to support North Carolina's young children, their families, their educators, and our early education system.

Membership dues start at \$30 for individuals and child care programs and \$150 for organizations. New members who join during the month of October will be entered into a special drawing for a \$75 Visa gift card.

We've also introduced a new online membership system to streamline the process of joining and maintaining your membership, provide access to members-only content, and help you take advantage of all of the benefits of joining the Coalition. We are excited for our current and future members to utilize this new system as we continue to find new ways to help support you in your advocacy efforts. [Visit our website to learn more and become a member today!](#)