

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NEW REPORT DETAILS BUDGET, ROLL-OUT FOR SAINT PAUL EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE**

Saint Paul, April 24, 2024 – The Saint Paul Children's Collaborative has released a report prepared by Denver-based MetrixIQ and Emmy Liss Strategies that provides a budget model, projections of children to be served, and detailed design considerations for the proposed early learning initiative in Saint Paul. The initiative, which will be on the ballot in November 2024, would provide early learning subsidies for Saint Paul's lowest income children, from birth to five years old.

"This report provides a level of detail that has been needed to help the Saint Paul community see how this program would serve families with young children," says Laurie Davis, Saint Paul Children's Collaborative co-director. "The Saint Paul Children's Collaborative has been involved in crafting this program since 2017, and it's gratifying to see this clear analysis of the nearly 7,000 Saint Paul children who would benefit directly from this program over a decade."

"We've been in design mode for a number of years," says Nicolee Mensing, Senior Director of Head Start & Early Head Start at Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties and chair of the board of the Saint Paul Children's Collaborative. "This report provides an excellent roadmap for making this initiative a reality."

The report includes, among other recommendations:

- Budget for years 1-10, including staffing, enrollment, marketing, evaluation and quality improvement
- Projections for the number of children who will be served each year, including an estimate that nearly 7,000 children will be served over a decade
- Enrollment process map
- Implementation timeline

"Cities around the country are stepping up to make sure their kids get off to a great start, because early learning is the best investment we can make in our community," says Saint Paul Councilmember Rebecca Noecker and member of the board of the Saint Paul Children's Collaborative. "The consultants provide excellent examples from other cities and extensive research to inform their proposals for Saint Paul."

MetrixIQ and Emmy Liss Strategies will be presenting the report to the board of the Saint Paul Children's Collaborative on May 8, 2024 from 8-9 am, via Zoom (register [here](#)). The public and press are welcome to attend.

*The Saint Paul Children's Collaborative's mission is to mobilize the influence and resources of the city, county, school district, and community to improve outcomes for young people in Saint Paul. Board members include representatives from the community, the Saint Paul City Council, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, Saint Paul Public Schools, and Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties.*

*MetrixIQ is a national leader in the design, implementation, and operation of publicly funded early childhood programs. Since 2009 MetrixIQ has distributed \$800 million in public early care and education funding to more than 350,000 families.*

*Emmy Liss is an experienced public sector leader with over a decade of experience in strategy, planning, and operations, and a focus on early childhood education. As an independent consultant, Emmy advises state and local leaders and other organizations on early care and education and does related writing and research work. Previously, she served as the Chief Operating Officer for New York City's early childhood education program, building an early childhood education system that now serves nearly 100,000 children from birth to five.*

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