

**Activity Title:** New York State Blending and Braiding Guide

**Activity Background/Description:**

To share best practices related to maximizing funding for early care and education programs, the ECAC Finance Work Group will work with NYS Education Department to update the *Blending & Braiding Funds to Support Early Childhood Education Programs: A “How To” Guide* to include Prekindergarten and 4410 funding sources. The B5 team then will print and distribute these guides.

Initially, this Guide was written by the Sparks Policy Institute for the ECAC in October 2013 as a practical tool to support NYS early care and education providers to undertake a planning process that leads to a blended or braided fiscal model. The Guide walks organizations through several scenarios of blending and braiding as a fiscal strategy. It also contains detailed definitions on blending and braiding and actionable steps to develop blend and braid fiscal models. Although the information in this Guide is like the earlier Guide, this updated Guide will focus more on braiding and blending action steps and scenarios related to early childhood education programs (child care, Head Start, Early Head Start, and Prekindergarten).

**Implementation Timeline:** Summer 2019 – Fall 2019

**Additional Details:**

*Blending and Braiding Funds to Support Early Childhood Programs: A “How to Guide,”* NYS Council on Children and Families, 2019.

[https://www.ccf.ny.gov/files/9615/2934/9075/FINAL\\_NY\\_Child\\_Care\\_BlendBraid\\_Guide\\_4-17-18\\_W-Cover.pdf](https://www.ccf.ny.gov/files/9615/2934/9075/FINAL_NY_Child_Care_BlendBraid_Guide_4-17-18_W-Cover.pdf)

The braiding and blending tools in this Guide can be found on the Sparks Policy Institute website: <http://tools.sparkpolicy.com/?toolkit=toolkit-2>

**Cross-sector Partners:**

The ECAC Finance Work Group Team, NYS Education, NYS Early Learning and Council, NYS Head Start Collaboration, and NYS Office of Children and Family Services Division of Child Care.

**Contact(s) for Additional Information:**

Stephanie Woodard - [stephanie.woodard@ccf.ny.gov](mailto:stephanie.woodard@ccf.ny.gov)