The educational achievement gap is large, growing, and spans a wide socio-economic gradient.

Source: Reardon (2011)
Much of the gap measured across primary schooling are present at school-entry.

Source: Reardon (2011)
U.S. workers lack access to paid family leave – especially lower income workers.

Large disparities by family income in use of early learning programs, especially for youngest children.

Rates of center-based ECE for children ages 0 to 5, by family income and child age, 2011

Source: Chaudry, Morrissey, Weiland, and Yoshikawa (2017)
Children from low-income families experience lower quality in center-based care at age 4.

Source: Chaudry, Morrissey, Weiland, Yoshikawa (2017)
Educational investments in the early years have greatest benefit – but we do too little.

Federal and State/Local Spending on Children, by age

- Ages 0-2: Federal $4,138, State $4,023, Total $12,161
- Ages 3-5: Federal $4,579, State $3,723, Total $8,302
- Ages 6-17: Federal $10,430, State $1,277, Total $11,707

Average per child annual public expenditure for education in U.S.

- Before K: $1,350
- K-12: $12,400

Source: Edelstein et al. 2013
Source: Kena et al. 2016
Average cognitive and achievement skill impact at the end of preschool program treatment.

Source: Magnuson & Duncan, 2016, The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences
Cradle to Kindergarten:
A new plan for early childhood that gives all children a fair shot.

- **Paid parental leave** as social insurance for children and working parents.
- Reliable **guarantee of child care assistance** for working families to assure all children can access good, stable early care and learning opportunities.
- **Universal early education** that starts at age 3.
- **Re-imagine Head Start** to begin early and provide continuous development services to the most vulnerable children until school entry.
### A 10-year investment plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Existing Funding &amp; Service Levels</th>
<th>Cradle to Kindergarten Funding &amp; Service Levels</th>
<th>New Investments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funding (in billions)</td>
<td>Number Served (annually)</td>
<td>Funding (in billions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public paid parental leave</td>
<td>$0.9</td>
<td>$19.0</td>
<td>$19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>~330,000 (8% of newborns in US)</td>
<td>3,400,000 (85% of newborns in US)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Subsidies/Assurance</td>
<td>$13.9</td>
<td>$30.2</td>
<td>$16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>~730,000</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child &amp; Dependent Care Tax Credit</td>
<td>$6.2 (states)</td>
<td>$33.0</td>
<td>$26.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,050,000* (13% of 3 &amp; 4 year olds)</td>
<td>3,000,000^ (38% of 3 &amp; 4 year olds in US)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A New Head Start for Infants and Toddlers</td>
<td>$9.0</td>
<td>$17.2</td>
<td>$8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>960,000 (5% of birth to 5 in US)</td>
<td>1,125,000 (825,000 (7%) children under 3 &amp; 300,000 (4%) 3s &amp; 4s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total New Public Investments (federal and state)</td>
<td>$30.0</td>
<td>$99.4</td>
<td>$70.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,600,000</td>
<td>9,300,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Of this number 450,000 children receive Head Start and/or Child Care Subsidy Funding in combination with public preschool funds

^Of this number 700,000 children would receive Head Start and/or Child Care Subsidy Funding in combination with public preschool funds