**Introduction**

In order to begin the cost estimation process for building a system of comprehensive supports and services for young children and their families, we must first come to some agreement as to the service elements that would comprise this system. Service elements are different than specific programs that may more accurately reflect a particular type of need. Service elements are also different than funding streams. For example, early care and learning opportunities are a service element within a comprehensive early childhood system; while UPK and Head Start are specific programs that fall within that element. This distinction between service elements and specific programs can be blurry, but the question about which specific programs will be included as part of each element can be resolved as we work through the process. What is important now is to figure out the elements that we feel need to be part of a comprehensive system. This will allow us to begin the cost estimation process. **Throughout the process, refinements will be made and decisions made will be reconsidered.** Our current job is not to develop the final list, just the list needed to get started. No decisions are final; the work has yet to begin.

Below you will find three charts that group service elements into three categories:

- **Initial elements –** These are the elements for which we would seek agreement are the ones that we should focus on first. For the most part, they are elements that include services focused exclusively on young children and their families as opposed to services like health insurance which are focused on a wider population.
- **Secondary elements –** While important, these elements would not receive immediate attention. Some like primary health insurance maybe outside of our purview or our ability to influence. Others like immunizations and prenatal care are covered by health insurance and it would not make sense to address until we see how health care reform affects the financing and need for these services outside of primary care.
- **Entitlement programs –** There are a number of elements that include services that are provided as entitlements. While these elements are critical components of the system of services, they do not lend themselves as easily to cost estimation, and in some cases fall beyond the purview of this group. We may want to consider these elements in out future work on the cost model.

## HEALTHY CHILDREN

| INITIAL ELEMENTS | EXPLANATORY NOTES |
|---|---|
| Oral health care | Need to consider the extent to which it is not covered in health care reform. |
| Mental health consultation | |
| Child mental health assessment & treatment | |
| Health promotion | |
| Nutrition | |
| Maternal depression screening | Need to consider the extent to which it is not covered in health care reform. |
| **SECONDARY ELEMENTS** | **EXPLANATORY NOTES** |
| Health Insurance, including coverage for physical/dental/MH | While health insurance is a critical support, health care reform may obviate the need for us to address expansion. |
| Targeted prenatal care | Health care reform should gradually reduce the need for targeted prenatal care programs. However, until all adult women of child-bearing age are connected to a medical home, some need for these services will continue to exist.  At this point, it may not be possible to determine what the need will be. |
| Immunizations | Covered in health care reform, need to revisit |
| Universal maternity and well-child care | Covered in health care reform, need to revisit. |

| STRONG FAMILIES | |
|---|---|
| **INITIAL ELEMENTS** | **EXPLANATORY NOTES** |
| Family allowance/Paid family leave | |
| Universal screening for family support | |
| Child welfare preventive services | Can include home visiting and parent education as part of the array of services |
| Parent information & education programs | |
| Home visiting | |
| **SECONDARY ELEMENTS** | **EXPLANATORY NOTES** |
| Family literacy support | While there is strong evaluation data for New York's Even Start program there is not much positive data on family literacy approaches in general. New federal literacy programs may replace the need for family literacy services.  Need to revaluate at later point |
| **ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM ELEMENTS** | **EXPLANATORY NOTES** |
| Child welfare (i.e., child abuse investigation; foster care; support for kinship care; adoption  services) | |

## EARLY LEARNING

| INITIAL ELEMENTS | EXPLANATORY NOTES |
|---|---|
| Early care and learning opportunities | Assumes program options that vary in intensity (hours provided), quality, and comprehensiveness of the services that are provided to children and families including all sources of funding (e.g., CCDBG, Title XX, Head Start, UPK, parent fees, and so forth). |
| Early learning professional development | |
| Early learning quality improvement | |
| Early learning program licensing and regulation | |
| Family information and referral services | Includes services provided by CCR&Rs and a broader range of information provided to families |

| ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM ELEMENTS | EXPLANATORY NOTES |
|---|---|
| Services for Children with Disabilities | |

## COORDINATED AND RESPONSIVE SYSTEMS

| INITIAL ELEMENTS | EXPLANATORY NOTES |
|---|---|
| Early learning program governance | |
| Quality improvement | |
| Data systems | |
| Program evaluation and research | |
| Non early learning program-based educational opportunities (children's libraries, museums) | |