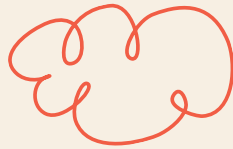


# Innovation & Advocacy Fund

The Think Small Board of Directors launched a special “Innovation and Advocacy Fund.”

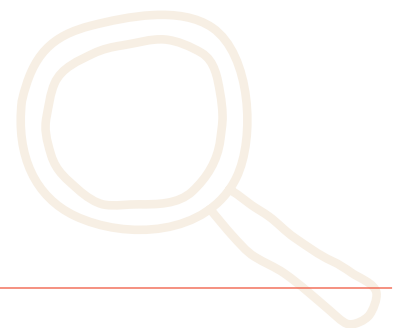
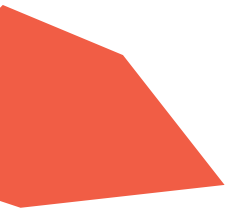
The goals of the fund are to rebuild the

struggling child care sector with qualn(goe1 op46 ( wis47s )JTJ ET EMC /P <</Lang (en-US)/MCID 126 >>B7C B



# Policy and Advocacy

The following were accomplished during the 2023 legislative session during which Think Small united stakeholders, provided thought leadership, and organized grassroots support behind the agenda which ultimately passed.



# Think Small Institute

In just its second year of operation, Think Small Institute has established our place in the ECE workforce by creating and delivering high-quality professional development. Think Small Institute serves educators in Minnesota, but also across the county. Our professional development is designed for a national audience and multidisciplinary professionals.

The following is course enrollment information for 2023:

103

CDA bundle enrollments

451

Instructor Led Training (ILT) enrollments

2,159

Partner (Cypherworx profit-share) eLearning enrollments

186

TSI exclusive eLearning enrollments

2,814

Total 2023 course enrollments

TSI launched seven eLearning courses:

- Building Your Team (2 hours)
- From Hurting to Healing: Creating Trauma-Sensitive and Healing-Centered Early Childhood Programs (12 hours)
- From Hurting to Healing: Creating Trauma-Sensitive and Healing-Centered Family Child Care Programs (10 hours)
- Hidden Hazards in the Home (2 hours)
- Teaching Off Trail (2 hours)
- Overcoming Teacher Burnout in Early Childhood: Exploring Advanced Strategies (2 hours)
- Overcoming Teacher Burnout in Early Childhood: Strategies for Change (2 hours)

Four Instructor-Led Trainings were developed, along with a Training of Trainers event held in June. Sixteen Minnesota-approved trainers attended. Those trainers have four more courses to offer educators in Minnesota.

- Courageous Conversations: Discussing a Child's Development with Family
- Designing for Diversity: Creating Social-Emotional Spaces that Reflect Children's Lives
- Interventions for Preventing Suspensions and Expulsions Through Behavioral Observation and Documentation
- Lacing, Tracing, and Erasing: Fine Motor Skill Development and Early Childhood

## Library:

The Debra S. Fish Library received funding from DHS to pilot a resource hub project linking children's librarians with Wayfinder navigators and ECE resources to promote capacity building in non-Greater Twin Cities metro communities. Child Care Wayfinder is a one-stop navigation network for starting and growing child care programs in Minnesota. Wayfinder provides personalized support and resources to help early childhood educators gain the skills necessary to run effective programs. Partner library systems included Two Harbors, International Falls, Duluth, and St. Cloud. A digital toolkit was started that includes or will include information about the Wayfinder program, Parent Aware ratings and processes, and promoting literacy with young children, a roadmap for selecting books with diversity and for specific thematic units, and more. The funding of this project allowed for participation in the Minnesota Library Association conference and the purchase of sturdy containers for transporting/lending in addition to additional resources for the library.

