



**UPSTREAM RESOLUTION of ALIGNMENT
Aligning Early Learning Institute's Practices and Activities
With the Upstream Investments Initiative**

RESOLUTION of Early Learning Institute:

WHEREAS, the County of Sonoma is sponsoring a communitywide strategic initiative called Upstream Investments with the following **mission**: To facilitate the implementation of prevention-focused policies and interventions that increase equality and reduce monetary and societal costs for all residents of Sonoma County.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments **vision** for all residents of Sonoma County is that poverty is eliminated and all people have an equal opportunity for quality education and good health in nurturing home and community environments.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative is designed to target the following **factors**:

Social and economic factors

Poverty and racial/ethnic disparities
Community conditions
Public opinion, public policy, and laws

Family and individual factors

Family dysfunction
Negative peer influences
Early antisocial behavior

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to promote four community **goals**:

1. The whole community is engaged in supporting the healthy development of children.
2. Community members have access to education and training and are adequately prepared for the challenges of the future.
3. All community members are well sheltered, safe, and socially supported.
4. Sonoma County has a thriving diverse economy that produces economic security for all.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to expand **funding** for Model Upstream Programs and also seeks to promote **organizational practices** that support the Upstream Vision.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Strategic Initiative promotes the implementation of **outcomes-based practices** including Evidence-Based Practices, Promising Practices, and Emerging Practices.

WHEREAS, Twenty-two **indicators of success** will inform the community about the success of Upstream Investments.

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| 1. Reduced child maltreatment | 12. Improved higher education |
| 2. Reduced youth binge drinking | 13. Improved housing affordability |
| 3. Reduced youth drug use | 14. Reduced homelessness |
| 4. Reduced youth depression | 15. Reduced juvenile arrests |
| 5. Reduced youth tobacco use | 16. Reduced adult arrests |
| 6. Reduced teen births | 17. Reduced domestic violence |
| 7. Reduced obesity | 18. Reduced gang membership |
| 8. Improved pre-school attendance | 19. Improved youth connectedness |
| 9. Improved 3 rd grade reading | 20. Reduced poverty |
| 10. Improved 3 rd grade math | 21. Reduced unemployment |
| 11. Improved high school completion | 22. Improved health insurance rates |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Early Learning Institute shares the Upstream Investments **mission, goals**, commitment to improving the **indicators of success**, and **vision** and has aligned its organizational practices with the Upstream Investments Initiative as follows:

OUR MISSION: The Early Learning Institute is dedicated to providing and promoting developmental services, education and supports to young children, their families and their community.

All of ELI's programs are directed at children from birth to 5 years old and their families. The main indicators of success targeted by ELI's programs are numbers: 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 17, as listed above.

ELI plans to submit all our target programs to the **Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs**.

Given that our clients are all birth to 5 years old, ALL of the Organizational **funding** is dedicated to upstream investments.

ELI's organizational practices are to have community responsive programs that reflect the diversity of our clients and support optimal development – no matter how limited that developmental trajectory may seem. We support the development of the child, his/her parents and the family, in the most natural environment possible for the child, typically in their home. We also have supportive staff practices that encourage employee wellness. We advocate for family friendly policies and try to model those policies in our own work environment. We believe in a no-wrong-door policy when families contact us for support and services. And we believe in utilizing the most cost effective, best practice approach available. ELI is part of many collaboratives in the 0-5 service world. We believe in a system of care for children and families and work closely with community partners such as North Bay Regional Center, Sonoma County SELPA, California Parenting Institute, Public Health Nursing, Jewish Family Children Services and Petaluma People Services.

Approved and adopted on November 1, 2013. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted unanimously by the Executive Board of the Early Learning Institute.

Jennifer Dami, President
Michele Rogers, PhD Executive Director