



## **Homelessness Committee Meeting – Tour of Ellis Memorial July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

At this committee meeting, we briefly explored the association between housing, early education, and childcare as these pieces together impact a family's stability. Affordable housing and quality early education set the foundation for economic opportunity.

Early education centers located in proximity to affordable housing developments create significant benefits for working families resulting in attaining higher levels of education and increased lifetime earnings for children as well as greater workforce participation from parents. Additionally, when located near transit, families enjoy greater stability because of shorter commutes allowing for more enriching time together.

Ellis Memorial is an example of one such Early education center - located amidst affordable housing developments and near to a T stop.

The [Children's Investment Fund](#) (CIF), a part of [CEDAC](#) administers the Early Education and Out of School Time ([EEOST](#)) grant which was critical in the redevelopment of Ellis Memorial Early Education Center. For over 25 years, Children's Investment Fund has been providing technical expertise and financing to non-profit child care centers planning to improve or expand their facilities. Through the EEOST fund, appropriated as a part of the Housing Bond bill in 2018, CIF has funded 25 projects and impacted 2400 children.

[Ellis Memorial](#) Early Education Center is currently rated in the top 5% of early childhood providers in the Commonwealth by the Department of Early Education and

Care (EEC). By 2012, the Ellis Memorial building at 66 Berkeley st in Boston South End was in serious need for repairs or would lose its EEC accreditation.

With the help of EEOST funds of \$800,000 the project was able to raise other funds and carry out the redevelopment of the early ed center. This helped serve 167 children from Kindergarten to 7th grade.

The tour of Ellis Memorial walked the group through the building and its unique design that served children from varying age groups, coming from varying family incomes. It helped highlight the need for housing development of Early education centers and challenges of Early education workers who often struggle to find affordable housing themselves.