AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:
Ensuring Equitable High Quality Access

Iheoma U. Iruka, Ph.D.
HighScope Educational Research Foundation

February 7, 2018
Child Care and Early Education Policy Research Consortium
Arlington, VA
Black Child Population

- 3.4 million under age 6
- 68% low-income
15% have 3 or more ACES
ACEs + Historical and Contemporary Trauma?
Early Childhood Experiences Matter!

HighScope Perry Preschool Study

Carolina Abecedarian Study
Investment in ECE Yields Return 7-10%
Quality of early childhood experiences

75% in low-to-mid quality center-based programs

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of quality rating of child care arrangements of children at about 4 years of age, by type of arrangement and race/ethnicity: 2005-06

Quality of early childhood experiences

100% in low-to-mid quality home-based programs

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of quality rating of child care arrangements of children at about 4 years of age, by type of arrangement and race/ethnicity: 2005-06

Disparity in Workforce

- Less Educated
- Less Competent
- Less Adequately-Compensated
Black children excluded from ECE programs

3.6 Times
Addressing inequities

Access does not equate quality
Four principles towards equitable high-quality access

• Protection
• Affection
• Correction
• Connection
Protection

• Harm

• Violence

• Psychological Trauma
Affection

- Intentional Affirmation
- Caring
- Nurturance
Correction

- Support for Adaptive Behaviors
- Reconciliation
- Humanity
Connection

- Belonging
- Value
- Unique
Implementing PACC for Equitable High Quality Access
Implementing PACC for Equitable High Quality Access
Implementing PACC for Equitable High Quality Access