

## IDP Submission Template<sup>1</sup> - Make Local Government Work For ECD!

### 1) What is the purpose of this document?

This document sets out a template for submissions to local municipalities Integrated Development Plan (IDP). An IDP is a documented plan which the local government is required to compile every five years to determine the development needs of the municipality. IDP is reviewed annually. This allows for new or amendments in projects or any other priorities. IDPs also direct municipal spending.

An IDP is a plan used in each municipality to give an overall framework for development - that is, what the municipality will focus on in terms of service delivery and community development. It takes into account the existing conditions, problems and resources available for development. If an issue is not raised in the IDP, it is unlikely that it will be planned and budgeted for by the municipality.

This template is a **guide for potential submissions**, but you do not have to submit this document exactly as it is, nor do you have to use this document to make a submission.

### 2) How do I use this document?

You can download the document as a Microsoft Word document. This IDP has also been written in more general terms. **ECD Practitioners/stakeholders may edit points to include specific concerns or challenges related or unrelated to what is in the template.**

We have included a draft cover letter where you should fill in details about yourself and the reasons why you are making a submission. Make edits where there are **Yellow Highlights**.

### 3) What do I do to submit this to the IDP?

Once you are happy with your submission, you can send it to your local municipality by email or you can physically deliver it to the municipal offices. It is important that you find out when the deadline for the submission is. **Submissions must be made as soon as possible because most municipalities' submission deadlines are in April.**

To find out who your councillor is, **SMS your ID number to 32245** (R1 per SMS). You can ask your ward councillor about the IDP process in your municipality, and the best way to participate (eg. where you should send your submission, and by when).

***In addition to making written submissions, you can also make oral submissions by finding out from your ward councillor when IDP public consultations in your community will be held.***

**We would love to know if you made a submission and found the document helpful. Please let us know by BCCing the Real Reform for ECD campaign in your email to local municipality:**  
[tshepo@equalitycollective.org.za](mailto:tshepo@equalitycollective.org.za)

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<sup>1</sup> This submission template has been developed with contributions from Real Reform for ECD's Steering Committee and ECD Forums supporting the campaign for real reform. This resource does not reflect the views of any particular individual or organisation.

[Name of Municipality] IDP ECD Submission

Submitted by: [name of person making the submission/ECD Principal]

Name of organisation/ECD Centre: [organisation/ECD centre's name]

Ward number: [Ward number where the organisation/ECD centre is located]

Subject: *Submission for the prioritisation of early childhood development (ECD) in the IDP*

Dear [Ward/Municipal Councillor] [Surname],

I am writing to make a submission to the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) Review process. By making this submission I hope to bring to the municipality's attention the challenges and needs of the early childhood development (ECD) sector in my municipality.

ECD refers to the period of childhood between birth and 5 years old, where the most rapid emotional, physical, and cognitive development takes place.<sup>2</sup> It is the most important developmental stage in a person's life. It is the foundation of individual development and good quality ECD experiences are necessary to ensure that children have an equal opportunity for future schooling and career opportunities. Early learning programmes (educares, creches, playgroups and pre-schools) provide essential services to families, and can make sure that young children receive the care and stimulation that will improve their opportunities throughout their lives.<sup>3</sup> We cannot say we are investing in the future of our community when families do not have access to affordable and quality ECD services for their children in their communities.

Research shows that providing ECD services improves the physical and mental health of children and reduces reliance on the healthcare system<sup>4</sup>; and enhances school readiness and related outcomes such as improved enrolment, retention, and academic performance<sup>5</sup>. For

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<sup>2</sup> Atmore, E. (2019). An interpretive analysis of the early childhood development policy trajectory in post-apartheid South Africa (Doctoral dissertation, Stellenbosch: Stellenbosch University).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Improving early childhood development: WHO guideline. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020

<sup>5</sup> Anderson, L. M., Shinn, C., Fullilove, M. T., Scrimshaw, S. C., Fielding, J. E., Normand, J., ... & Task Force on Community Preventive Services. (2003). The effectiveness of early childhood development programs: A systematic review. American journal of preventive medicine, 24(3), 32-46.

these reasons, this municipality should prioritise investment in ECD by supporting the inclusion of ECD into the IDP.

As the municipality plans its approach to local development in the 2023 IDP review process, the support for access to holistic, quality, well funded and inclusive ECD programmes should be included in these plans. Below we list challenges which prevent equitable access to ECD and request that remedies for these challenges be included in the 2023 municipality's IDP.

## **The Submission**

### **1. Pull down the barriers to registration**

The many steps, and the expensive nature involved in ECD registration leaves many ECD providers unregistered, unregulated and unable to access financial support from the state. The IDP should commit local government to the following:

- Providing a fee waiver or reduced fees for municipal processes for all ECD programmes (Council, Finance and Budget Office).
- To support ECD practitioners through the registration journey and ensuring that ECD practitioners are aware of conditional registration which is available to them.
- Have an in-house architect to be used by ECD practitioners at the expense of the municipality (Town Planning and other relevant departments).
- Implementing rapid procedures to address delays in the present registration process and ensure that feedback loops are closed. (Municipal Planning).

### **2. Build more spaces for ECD programmes and upgrade existing ECD programmes**

- The IDP should include clear annual targets and the allocation of appropriate funding for new builds and upgrades for ECD programmes (Infrastructure Department and Budget Office).
- The provision of basic services such as electricity and water and sanitation to ECD providers free of charge or at significantly reduced rates (Finance and Budget Office).
- The urgent identification of underutilised infrastructure as venues for ECD programmes and relevant departments to prepare a report to Council/Boards for the inclusion of ECD as a priority consideration in any leases. (municipal property company, city parks, MoE's)

### **3. Make ECD a local spending priority**

- Support ECD programmes by ensuring that where there are no delays with access to subsidies, the municipality is authorised to intervene and represent practitioners at provincial/national level.
- Local government to include in the IDP a budget to support ECD registration and the maintenance and development of ECD infrastructure.

### **4. Ensure ongoing support for the ECD sector**

- Establish a multi-disciplinary ECD task team which is made up of ECD stakeholders in the municipality. This could include, Department of Education representation, Health Department Representation, IDP Manager, ECD Forum representatives and other relevant stakeholders. This task team would be tasked with monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the IDP as it relates to ECD, and other municipal interventions aimed at improving and expanding access to ECD services

Thank you for your shared commitment to young children in our municipality. This submission is inspired by a broader campaign calling for Real Reform of the ECD sector. Our objective is to ensure an enabling legal, policy and regulatory environment for ECD so that all children can thrive. For more information visit [www.ecdreform.org.za](http://www.ecdreform.org.za)

Yours in ECD,

[Your name]

[CONTACT details]