Our core values are deeply rooted in the early childhood profession and upheld in all our interactions and initiatives:

**Core Values**

- Appreciate early childhood as a unique and critical stage of development.
- Base our work on knowledge of how children develop and learn.
- Appreciate and support the bond between the child and family.
- Recognize that children are best understood and supported in the context of family, culture, community and society.
- Respect the dignity, worth and uniqueness of each individual (child, family member and those who work on behalf of young children).
- Respect diversity in children, families and those who work on behalf of young children.
- Recognize that children and adults achieve their full potential in the context of relationships that are based on trust and respect.

**Core Beliefs**

**Excellence and Innovation**—We are imaginative risk takers willing to challenge assumptions while being accountable and fiscally responsible.

**Transparency**—We act with openness and clarity.

**Reflection**—We consider multiple sources of evidence and diverse perspectives to review past performance, note progress and successes, and engage in continuous quality improvement.

**Equity and Opportunity**—We advocate for policies, practices and systems that promote full and inclusive participation. We work to remove biases that create barriers and limit the potential of children, families and those who work on behalf of young children.

**Collaborative Relationships**—We lead through collaborative partnerships. We commit time and effort to ensure diverse participation and more effective outcomes. We act with integrity, respect and trust.
High-Quality Early Learning

Goal: Children birth through age 8 have equitable access to developmentally appropriate, high-quality early learning.

Desired Results:
1 • Increase the number of developmentally appropriate high-quality early learning programs for children birth through age 8.
2 • Identify collaborative relations with affiliates/partners to increase child care licensing and standards statewide.
3 • Position NAEYC Accreditation systems as the gold standard to build quality in state pre-K and quality rating and improvements systems.

The Profession

Goal: The early childhood education profession exemplifies excellence and is recognized as vital and performing a critical role in society.

Desired Results:
1 • Build relationships with key stakeholders, existing networks and secondary and higher education to increase birth through age 8 professional engagement with Idaho AEYC.
2 • Skills, knowledge, competencies and qualifications are agreed upon and used to define early care and education profession.
3 • Early childhood professionals are diverse, effective educators and leaders working within a compensation and recognition system that supports their excellence.
4 • Professional development and preparation systems support seamless progression for early care and education professionals to advance their education, professional learning and careers.

Organizational Advancement

Goal: Idaho AEYC is a highly valued, credible and visible organization.

Desired Results:
1 • Early childhood educators seek Idaho AEYC as their desired professional association.
2 • Emerging and diverse early childhood educators are drawn to the value Idaho AEYC presents in its membership benefits.
3 • Overall member engagement and satisfaction increases across geography and demographics.
4 • Idaho AEYC is seen by state leaders and influence brokers as the primary organization regarding early childhood education matters.
Organizational Excellence

Goal: Idaho AEYC reflects excellence in all aspects of organizational health and vitality.

Desired Results:

1. Idaho AEYC operates at the highest capacity, effectively serving early childhood professionals at the local and state levels.

2. Idaho AEYC’s governance structure is strong and its board members are accountable for the diversity, effectiveness, fiscal health, and sustainability of the organization.

3. Idaho AEYC staff report a shared understanding and accountability for a high-performing, inclusive organization, including an understanding of the vision, mission and values supported through professional development opportunities.

4. Members, customers and staff report Idaho AEYC’s information and communication technology systems are reliable, user-friendly, support their work effectively and meet their needs.

Leadership and Innovation

Goal: Through collaborative relationships, Idaho AEYC cultivates leadership and innovative strategies that propel the field, profession and systems of early learning.

Desired Results:

1. Idaho AEYC strives to maintain and sustain strong leadership capacity throughout the organization, its membership, volunteers and staff.

2. Early childhood programs and professionals throughout Idaho have access to Idaho AEYC’s resources, content and early childhood systems expertise. All work is grounded in sound fiscal and legal business practices.

3. Idaho AEYC continues to serve as a catalyst and consensus builder for complex and controversial issues to generate new knowledge and understanding.

4. Idaho AEYC is a reliable and productive collaborator and partner.