The Case of Nonprofits: NPOs' Partnerships, and their Role in Shaping Early Childhood Education Policy in Washington State

Case Study Questions

History and context of the Nonprofit Sector

- What are some key events or trends that have shaped the history and development of Nonprofit organizing in the U.S.?
- Describe the definition, types, funding streams, and role in the economy of NPOs today.
- How do organizations registered as 501(c)(3) contrast to those registered as 501(c)(4)?

Nonprofits and working for social change

- What are the different levels in which nonprofits can interfere in the policy process and what roles can they take?
- Define coalitions and partnerships. What are their characteristics? How are they similar and in what ways do they differ?
- How can government-nonprofit partnerships be defined?
- What are the two defining dimensions of a partnership according to Brinkerhoff (2002)?

Developing Early Achievers

- What makes the interorganizational collaboration to develop Early Achievers a partnership?
- Describe the role NPOs played in this inter-organizational effort. How did the nature of NPOs' work to support or hinder the process?
- What were some of the strategic choices that characterized these efforts? What challenges surfaced along the way?
- Would you describe the partnerships that led to the development and establishment of Early Achievers as successful? Why or why not?

The Case of Nonprofits: Case Study Questions © EarlyEdU Alliance at the University of Washington