



## **Youth Research, Inc. Discusses Pilot Project Progress at 2022 SXSW EDU Conference**

YRI Executive Director, Cassie Pustilnik, recently presented at the 2022 SXSW EDU Conference on YRI's progress with its Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) pilot project funded by the Robin Hood Foundation. Kelvin Chan, Managing Director, Early Childhood, at Robin Hood Foundation facilitated the session, "Promoting Early Learning via Government Reform." Jennifer Havens, Chair, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at New York University Langone Health, and Doreen Thomann-Howe, Deputy Commissioner of Family Services at NYC Department of Homeless Services, also discussed the progress of their projects supported by the Robin Hood Foundation.



*Pictured Above: Jennifer Havens, Chair, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at New York University Langone Health, Kelvin Chan, Managing Director, Early Childhood, at Robin Hood Foundation, and Cassie Pustilnik, Executive Director at Youth Research, Inc. celebrate a successful session during the 2022 SXSW EDU Conference.*

During the presentation, the group discussed innovation and reform within government systems that regulate family shelters, childcare, and safety-net hospitals. Through strategic partnership and venture philanthropy, the Robin Hood Foundation and its government and nonprofit partners have made progress toward transforming these systems to support early learning. Participants discussed the ways each of their projects are working toward disrupting children's social inheritance of poverty through data-driven systems reform.

YRI's ECMHC project is helping New York State develop a new approach to offering social-emotional support to childcare providers. This support uses the Infant-Toddler Climate for Healthy Interactions for Learning Development (IT-CHILD), a tool developed by researchers at Yale, to help providers improve their relationships with the children they care for. YRI will work with a group of experts to use data collected about IT-CHILD to develop recommendations for the tools' use in ECMHC provisions throughout New York State. Ultimately, these

recommendations could have a broad systemic impact and may improve quality of care through leveraging child-caregiver interactions; reduce preschool expulsion; and reduce the impact of implicit bias on preschool discipline.

YRI is excited to share more about the impact of this project as it unfolds over the coming year.