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**CONTACT**  
Molly O'Connor,  
Director of Communications  
206.621.5562; [molly@thrivebyfivewa.org](mailto:molly@thrivebyfivewa.org)

## **NEW THRIVE BY FIVE WASHINGTON CEO NAMED** King County early learning leader to head statewide public-private partnership

**SEATTLE** – Nina Auerbach, founding CEO of King County’s Child Care Resources, has been named president and CEO of Thrive by Five Washington. She will start in early November.

Established in 2006, Thrive by Five Washington is a public-private partnership working to create the early learning supports, services and systems that Washington children and families need, so that every child has positive and quality early learning experiences and a fair chance to succeed in school and thrive in life.

“Nina is a well-known, knowledgeable and trusted early learning leader in Washington,” said Bill Gates, Sr., co-chair of Thrive’s Board of Directors. “She has been a supportive partner to Thrive in the past and will be a great leader going forward.”

Auerbach leaves Child Care Resources, a non-profit agency that helps parents find child care and provides resources and supports to child care providers, after 18 years as the agency’s first CEO. The agency started with 15 staff members and a \$500,000 budget. It now has a \$7 million annual budget and a staff of 50.

“Nina has everything we want in a new CEO for Thrive,” said Rep. Ruth Kagi, Thrive board member and head of the CEO search committee. “She has a deep understanding of and commitment to early learning issues in Washington state, a track record of success in working with public and private partners in the community and, most importantly, a genuine desire to improve the quality of early learning for every child in the state.”

Auerbach said the state’s growing focus on early learning issues makes it an exciting time to join Thrive.

“Early learning rose to a state priority about two years ago, and it needs to stay a priority, even during tough economic times,” she said. “In its short time, Thrive has helped raise awareness about early learning issues and brought together people and resources to start making the critical changes our state needs in early learning. But there is much more work to do.”

(more)

Lenda Crawford  
Acting President & CEO

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[www.thrivebyfivewa.org](http://www.thrivebyfivewa.org)

1218 Third Avenue, 8th Floor, Seattle WA 98101 Phone: 206.621.5555 Fax: 206.652.0761

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Auerbach's community work includes serving as co-chair of SOAR, a King County collaborative of more than 40 organizations working together to improve the education of children age birth to 18. She's also co-chair of the Rotary Club of Seattle's Youth, Schools and Early Learning Committee and a member of the Washington Women's Foundation.

Among the awards Auerbach has received for her leadership include Parent Map magazine's Local Superhero Award, the Phenomenal Woman Award from the Jewish Women's Endowment Fund, the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Workplace Flexibility and the Prism Award for commitment to coaching as a leadership strategy.

Auerbach's background is as a family and child therapist. She has a Master of Social Work from Smith College (Mass.), a MBA from the University of Washington and certification in executive coaching.

Auerbach replaces Dr. Graciela Italiano-Thomas, who left Thrive in August.

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***Thrive by Five Washington***

*Thrive by Five Washington partners with parents, early learning professionals, communities, philanthropic organizations, businesses and government to develop a sustainable system for statewide early learning improvement. [www.thrivebyfivewa.org](http://www.thrivebyfivewa.org)*

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