SELA is made possible through the generous support of the United Way of the Greater Seacoast and Great North Advantage, and start-up funding was also provided by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the Otto Fund and the NH Community Development Finance Authority. Other friends supporting our work include the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund and Early Learning NH.  The wide range of services and member benefits of SELA are designed to bring high quality solutions to the challenges early childhood education (ECE) programs face every day. By bringing programs these discounted services and access to expertise and materials that they need but do not often have in-house, programs save time and money. These savings can then be reinvested into important quality improvement initiatives. In the past two years many cost savings benefits have been added for employees of member programs.

Here are some of the ways Growing Places benefits from active involvement in SELA:  
- $5,200 annual savings on our GP commercial insurance (property, liability, accident and workers         compensation insurances)  
- A GP teacher is saving $630 annually on personal auto and home insurance  
- Deep discounts on heating fuel for our buildings and for our staff  
- $1,000 saved per year on our cleaning services  
- $2,200 saving on our annual audit  
- A plumber on site within one hour when a plumbing emergency arose  
- GP teachers attended a three-credit fall semester class at Great Bay Community College. Thanks to a grant SELA secured from the NH Job Training Fund for member programs, it cost only $242 per teacher.  
- Completion of a grant funded health and wellness initiative; member programs collaborated on staff training and policy enhancement around nutrition and physical activity practices in their programs.  
- Ongoing collaborative staff training which saves GP time and money.

The Components of SELA:  
1.) Great North Advantage - Great North Advantage is a management service and property management company that has been in business for more than 25 years. They procure SELA members with very competitive bids on a wide range of services, including commercial insurance, auto & home insurance for employees, heating fuel for SELA member programs and employees, cleaning services, auditor, trash collection, and any facility improvement or maintenance projects.

2.) ECE Shared Resources - Early Learning NH and CCA for Social Good in Manchester partnered to bring the ECE Shared Resources platform to New Hampshire. Early Childhood programs and their staff can access a wealth of tools, services, trainings and cost savings that help them save money & operate more efficiently. Members also gain enormous buying power by joining a national pool of buyers. This online resource ensures that members do not do not have to spend hours searching for the best practices.

3.) Shared Services Learning Collaborative - Members of SELA meet monthly to share ideas, discuss current member benefits,  brainstorm new benefits, and stay abreast of challenges. On an ongoing basis, members are encouraged to bring their ideas for new shared opportunities in professional  development, staffing, fund development, and more.

We are excited and proud that our innovative work is being watched closely at the state and national level.  We have presented at the National Shared Service conference coordinated by Opportunities Exchange (<http://opportunities-exchange.org/>) and continue to provide support and guidance to other newly forming Alliances around the country.