

EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITY ACT GRANTEES

Thirty-one Early Learning Opportunity Act (ELOA) grants have been awarded for Fiscal Year (FY) 2002. Listed below are the recipient organizations/fiscal agents and the title of their project. The District of Columbia and communities in 22 States, including one Federally Recognized Indian Tribe, received grants ranging from \$440,823 to \$1 million.

In FY 2002, each of the grantees will promote enhancing early childhood literacy as a part of their project. Examples of their implementation strategies include: promoting effective parenting; providing education and training for parents, providers, and caregivers to facilitate child development; promoting learning readiness; and developing better linkages among service providers within local communities. Several grantees plan to establish better connections between health and child care programs to expand the availability of care for special populations including infants and toddlers, children with special needs, and families that require non-standard hour care. Many grantees will work to improve quality child care through recruitment and retention incentives, and increased compensation for providers. The project period for all FY 2002 ELOA grants is September 30, 2002 through February 28, 2004 (17 months).

<p>Beaufort County Council on behalf of the Beaufort County Early Childhood Coalition Beaufort County, SC</p> <p>Contact: Jim Glasson (843) 982-3040</p>	<p><i>Beaufort County Early Childhood Coalition</i> Project addresses four of seven priorities for young children identified in the Coalition's strategic plan including: enhancing early literacy, promoting skills development and learning readiness by caregivers, effective parenting, and linkage development among early learning programs and health care services. Utilizing an outcome-based logic model, the priorities will be addressed through collaborative approaches with libraries and home visitation programs, increased family support/parent educators (<i>Parents As Teachers</i>), and data collection and management for increased coordination and expansion of services.</p>
<p>Broome County Community College on behalf of the Broome County Early Childhood Coalition Binghamton, NY</p> <p>Contact: Barbara Nilsen (607) 778-5029</p>	<p><i>Building Brighter Futures for Broome</i> The project is a joint venture between the local public schools, county health department, community college, and private healthcare system. Goals are to: improve early literacy readiness and early childhood development by linking home visiting programs and center-based child care; increase the number of parent educators providing literacy-based education activities for child care staff and families; expand professional development opportunities for providers; and utilize the child care environment for health screenings, education, and support services.</p>
<p>Cambridge Public Schools on behalf of Cambridge 0- 8 Council Cambridge, MA</p> <p>Contact: Beverly Simon (617) 864-8885</p>	<p><i>Accelerating Language and Literacy for Children, Families, and Providers</i> The project will enhance early childhood education, early language and literacy, and family services by focusing on direct parent and child services, professional development, and building the capacity to assess literacy. Improved communication between parents and children and language/literacy skills of parents will be developed.</p>

	<p>Multi-lingual literacy home visitors and coach will be provided for prenatal and in-hospital visits. To support CDA certification and NAEYC accreditation, free credit and non-credit web-based literacy courses, workshops, literacy development will be provided to increase the capacity of providers to provide culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. A literacy assessment tool will be developed for use by early care and education providers to determine literacy levels.</p>
<p>Communities in Schools of Caldwell County, Inc. Lenoir, NC</p> <p>Contact: Carla Patterson (828) 754-8484</p>	<p><i>Early Learning Opportunities Movement</i></p> <p>To promote school readiness and early learning, activities and training will be provided including: mobile services to transport health and educational resources to the rural communities; and family resource centers established in faith-based facilities to promote effective parenting, enhance child development, and access to health and social services, including assessment and intervention components. Service providers will utilize an Internet-based private network to access a resource database, online referrals, and case histories. Nationally recognized programs for parent effectiveness, literacy, and health programs (e.g., <i>Parents As Teachers, Read to Me, Even Start</i>) will be utilized and expanded to accomplish project goals.</p>
<p>District of Columbia Department of Human Services Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Contact: Barbara Kamara (202)727-5500</p>	<p><i>DC Early Learning Opportunities Program</i></p> <p>The goal is to enhance early childhood development and literacy for children, birth through four years of age, by training, supporting, and linking parents, caregivers, child care providers/educators, faith-based providers, librarians, and health care providers in the three highest poverty councilmatic districts. Caregivers, parents, and librarians will be trained to implement <i>I Am Your Child</i> and <i>Building Language for Literacy</i> curriculum materials. The DC Child Care Health Care Corps will be used to link child care sites with pediatric health care providers.</p>
<p>Easter Seals of New Hampshire on behalf of the Early Learning Lasts a Lifetime Local Council of Southeastern New Hampshire Manchester, NH</p> <p>Contact: Pattie Rawding-Anderson (603) 623-8863</p>	<p><i>Links to Early Learning</i></p> <p>Major objectives are to: promote early childhood literacy through training and mentoring of providers and parents on the <i>Ladders to Literacy</i> curriculum; promote early learning and early identification of children with disabilities through developmental screenings, education, and support in health care centers and child protective services offices (<i>Baby Steps Program</i>); promote early literacy at home and in typical routines via public library partnerships (early learning kits), vision screening (Lions Club), materials dissemination (<i>Books for Babies and Beyond</i>); and promote widespread awareness through dissemination via cable television and other venues.</p>
<p>Economic Development and Industrial Corporation on behalf of the 0-8</p>	<p><i>Boston Learns: An Early Learning Literacy Collaborative for Children, Families and Educators</i></p> <p>An early care and education coalition in collaboration with the</p>

<p>Coalition Boston, MA</p> <p>Contact: Linda Camp (617) 918-5282</p>	<p>city's early literacy campaign (<i>ReadBoston</i>) to ensure school readiness will expand and enhance training of early care educators via distance learning (<i>HeadsUp! Reading</i>) and offer neighborhood-based training and parenting programs to promote early literacy, strong families, positive parenting, and the social/emotional development of children. Targeting three high need neighborhoods in Boston, the free services will integrate early literacy activities with family support, parenting, and child development, including home visiting services (<i>Parent Child Home Program</i>) to homeless families residing in temporary shelters.</p>
<p>Educational Service District 112 on behalf of the Support for Early Learning and Families Local Council Vancouver, WA</p> <p>Contact: Debbie Ham (360) 750-7500</p>	<p><i>Every Moment Counts: Achieving School Readiness in Clark County</i></p> <p>A broad-based collaboration of partners, linking the community's higher education institutions with the early childhood learning providers and local education agencies will be created. Current early childhood brain research will be translated for practical application in neighborhood-based child care and family support programs. Project elements include development of: neighborhood-based models that enhance childhood literacy and parent effectiveness; an innovative apprenticeship and training program to increase provider understanding of school readiness, health and safety, and healthy mental development; and a seamless system of early learning service delivery that is accountable, universal, and sustainable.</p>
<p>El Paso Community College on behalf of the Strong Families, Strong Future Council El Paso, TX</p> <p>Contact: Christina Gonzales (915) 831-4463</p>	<p><i>Using a Promotor de Salud to Promote Early Learning in At-Risk Populations along the US-MX Border</i></p> <p>The goal is to improve parent, caregiver, and provider knowledge about child development and literacy for the Spanish-speaking community of El Paso. Primary strategy utilizes community health workers (<i>promotores</i>) to recruit participants for New Mexico's 45-hour entry level course in Child Development and the Family Initiative for English Literacy, which will be provided at no cost. Training efforts will be coordinated by four major community organizations and agencies including: faith-based, public health, community college, and empowerment zone (housing). Participation by fathers will be emphasized and created through a partnership with <i>Padres del Norte</i>, a local fatherhood initiative.</p>
<p>Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Fairfax, VA</p> <p>Contact: Anne Goldstein (703) 324-8260</p>	<p><i>Fairfax Collaborative</i></p> <p>The Fairfax Collaborative, a partnership between local government, the public school system, faith-based organizations, community non-profit agencies, child care centers, and ethnic neighborhood groups, will be created. The Collaborative will be the vehicle by which early childhood literacy efforts, professional, and community capacity-building activities for a culturally diverse area will occur. Activities include: establishing an institute for early learning and emerging literacy; developing a literacy-specific professional</p>

	development quality improvement component with incentives; and creating, in partnership with faith-based community agencies, a provider recruitment campaign targeted at the diverse ethnic and language groups in the area.
<p>Family Connection Partnership, Inc. Atlanta, GA</p> <p>Contact: Julie Sharpe (229) 392-1809</p>	<p><i>South Georgia EXCEL(Excellence in Childcare and Early Learning)</i> A community-based system of collaborative service delivery will be created to increase early learning opportunities, enhance family literacy skills, increase access, and improve learning readiness of children. Building upon existing state and local innovative pilot programs and experiences with families, a coordinated system for early learning and school readiness will be strengthened. Elements of the service delivery model include: home visitation to parents and unlicensed child care providers; parent-child interaction at social and learning events; development of voluntary literacy programs; and linkages to existing services and supports (with focus on families with special needs.).</p>
<p>Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union on behalf of the Franklin County Early Childhood Advisory Council Swanton, VT</p> <p>Contact: Michelle Spence (802) 868-4457</p>	<p><i>The Franklin County Early Learning Opportunities Project</i> The project will develop stronger linkages between early care/education, health, and family support programs; assess early literacy levels; train child care providers (<i>Creative Curriculum</i>); implement <i>Touch Points</i> to optimize children’s development; and expand professional development system options. The plan also includes: purchasing a van that holds 4,000 books, providing 3,600 books to participants in the Women Infants and Children program, and giveaways at public libraries.</p>
<p>Good Beginnings Alliance Honolulu, HI</p> <p>Contact: Elizabeth Chun (808) 531-5502</p>	<p><i>Expanding Oahu's Early Learning Opportunities</i> To maximize healthy child development through the first five years of life, a partnership will expand the capacity of parents, licensed child care providers, and informal caregivers to improve young children’s early literacy, language, and comprehension skills; strengthen linkages among early learning programs, families, and health care service providers to improve child health; and increase the supply of licensed family child care homes. An alliance of the public and private sectors will pool resources to develop a college course on early literacy to train parents and informal caregivers using the “play and learn group” model, develop specific provider recruitment materials for the culturally diverse population, and provide child care site visits by pediatric interns.</p>
<p>Hampton Roads Partnership Norfolk, VA</p> <p>Contact: Barbara Wallace (757) 552-0293</p>	<p><i>Square One School Readiness Initiative</i> The project will address school readiness and early childhood literacy, and seek to improve the reading level of children entering kindergarten. Parents, other caregivers, home visiting staff, and child care providers will receive one-on-one coaching and training by literacy mentors. Multi-media methods will be used to increase public awareness regarding school readiness issues focusing on</p>

	early literacy, parenting skills, quality child care, and children's health.
<p>Health Improvement Partnership of Spokane County on behalf of the Spokane Regional Child Care Initiative Spokane, WA</p> <p>Contact: Karen Seitz (509) 444-3088</p>	<p><i>Strengthening Early Learning In Spokane County</i></p> <p>The project is a county-wide multi-level effort that directly addresses strategies of support for parents of special needs children, accreditation of family child care homes, increased access to health care for children, behavior management, and systems collaboration. System-wide improvement in the quality, accessibility, and affordability of child care is a goal. Activities and programs will build upon existing planning initiatives by creating a framework for sustainable collaboration and system reform. Implementation strategies include: financial and technical assistance for family child care accreditation; blended funding to access child health services; videotaping for training parents and providers of children with special needs and/or challenging behaviors; and expansion of community-based service delivery through coordinated resource sharing, targeted referral, and local planning.</p>
<p>Heart of West Michigan United Way on behalf of the Kent County Family and Children's Coordinating Council Grand Rapids, MI</p> <p>Contact: Ron Apol (616) 752-8647</p>	<p><i>Connections for Children</i></p> <p>A collaborative service delivery model will be enhanced through community planning and improved coordination to: increase the capacity of parents and other caregivers to facilitate healthy development and early literacy skills; increase the availability of existing voluntary early childhood learning services; and build broad community support for early childhood learning. Activities include: the development of a long-term strategic plan to create a coordinated, integrated service system for children ages birth to five years; implementation and/or expansion of current training for caregivers and parents utilizing the <i>PLAY</i>, <i>Parents As Teachers</i>, <i>Growing Great Kids</i>, and <i>Healthy Start</i> curriculum models; and a local public education media campaign.</p>
<p>Huntington WV Housing Authority on behalf of the Cabell-Wayne Early Childhood Council Huntington, WV</p> <p>Contact: Jeanette Barker (304) 429-6167</p>	<p><i>ERASE (Education, Rurality, Accessibility, Service, and Economic) Barriers Project</i></p> <p>A collaborative approach will be used to: increase access to affordable child care by implementing a sliding fee scale; enhance the quality of programs by providing technical assistance and mentoring leading to accreditation; improve linkages between families and community resources through business involvement and partnerships; increase early childhood literacy skills through adoption and implementation of <i>Creative Curriculum</i> for training parents and early childhood providers; increase parent effectiveness with a focus on fatherhood involvement through a series of workshops, public service announcements, TV/radio talk show interviews; and to increase the number of project sites.</p>
<p>Lancaster County First Steps Lancaster, SC</p>	<p><i>Lancaster County First Steps</i></p> <p>Project goals are to: improve the quality of private child care for low-income families; increase parent access to quality early child</p>

<p>Contact: Lora Bryson (803) 286-8000</p>	<p>care; and improve the capacity of parents to promote child development and pre-literacy skills. Methodology includes: an early literacy home visitation (<i>Parent-Child Home Program</i>); a family-strengthening intervention program (<i>Early Childhood Families and Schools Together</i>); <i>Read to Me</i>, a program for teen mothers and their children; <i>Raising a Thinking Child</i>, an interpersonal problem solving skills program; an on-site child care training and mentoring component; and provision of health services at child care sites. An evaluation component will track implementation and monitor effectiveness of process and outcomes.</p>
<p>Lowell Public Schools District on behalf of the Lowell Community Partnership for Children Lowell, MA</p> <p>Contact: Karen Tewhey (978) 970-5410</p>	<p><i>Lowell Community Partnership for Children Early Learning Opportunities Initiative</i></p> <p>Goals are to provide quality early care and education services. Activities include: implementation of the <i>Building Language for Literacy</i> curriculum; expansion of a home-base literacy program (<i>The Parent-Child Home Program</i>), to families challenged by poverty, language barriers, and low education levels; enhancing a mental health initiative by strengthening linkages to the medical community; expanding a subsidized collaborative college career ladder to include professional development for caregivers of infants and toddlers; establishing a "Director's Institute" to identify and promote best practices in early learning and professional development for child care and Head Start administrators and teachers; and piloting a computerized assessment instrument, aligned with the state curriculum, to assist early childhood educators link instruction with individualized assessment results.</p>
<p>Mayor's Literacy Task Force Chandler, AZ</p> <p>Contact: Kim Rispoli (480) 782-2822</p>	<p><i>Chandler Steps to Learning Project</i></p> <p>The Initiative will coordinate and expand early learning programs to provide comprehensive, cohesive, and quality programs. Major goals are to: increase availability and accessibility of affordable early learning programs; increase awareness of early learning opportunities and their importance to the community; develop and implement effective site and home-based parenting programs; and improve the quality of early learning programs through professional development. Two early literacy approaches include <i>Books for Babies</i> and <i>Home Instruction for the Parents of Preschool Youngsters</i>. Parent education will be provided through <i>First Teacher</i> parenting workshops and Parent Resource Centers and developing "parenting collections" at four libraries.</p>
<p>Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition Miami, FL</p> <p>Contact: Juanita Armbrister</p>	<p><i>The Early Authors Program</i></p> <p>The overall objectives are to: increase the availability of programs and activities that support early childhood development, parent effectiveness, and school readiness; support parents and caregivers to incorporate early learning into the lives of young children, including those with special needs; increase the availability of</p>

<p>(305) 646-7221</p>	<p>professional development activities; and facilitate the development of community-based systems of collaborative service delivery models characterized by resource sharing. Early literacy will be improved by engaging children, ages birth to five years, their families, and caregivers in centers and family child care homes in authoring books based on life experiences and cultural identity. The <i>HeadsUp! Reading</i> curriculum (English and Spanish) will be used with providers. The <i>Transformative Family Literacy Program</i> will be implemented to encourage strong language development in children. Workshops and home visits will be provided to families to promote effective parenting and early childhood development.</p>
<p>Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board Minneapolis, MN</p> <p>Contact: Carol Miller (612) 348-8983</p>	<p><i>Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board Readiness Initiative</i> Overall goal of the project is to improve, support, and better coordinate early learning opportunities for children through implementation of specific comprehensive learning strategies. Trainers and child care professionals will receive training on the revised <i>Minneapolis Public School Early Literacy Curriculum</i>, which includes components for working with infants and toddlers and informal caregivers. Scholarships and retention grants will be awarded to providers to increase their level of education and understanding of early literacy. The project and its adult and child participants will be evaluated and progress towards school readiness will be published in a state of young children annual report.</p>
<p>Osage Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Pawhuska, OK</p> <p>Contact: Patti Shook (918) 287-5307</p>	<p><i>Osage Nation Early Learning Center</i> The project will establish the Osage Nation Early Learning Center, a child and family support center. ONELC is a collaborative effort between the Osage Tribe, Pawhuska Literacy Council, OSU Cooperative Extension Services, Family Care Services, Head Start, and the public schools. The purpose of the ONELC is to enhance early childhood literacy, promote effective parenting, and develop linkages among early learning programs and health care services for young children. The approach includes parent and child interactive learning activities, parent education to develop effective parenting skills, pre-natal care classes, nutrition education, and child and adult health services. A book mobile will provide outreach and resources to outlying areas.</p>
<p>South Plains Community Action Association, Inc. on behalf of South Plains Early Childhood Council Levelland, TX</p> <p>Contact: Nancy Langdon (806) 744-3572</p>	<p><i>On the Road with Literacy</i> Project provides activities, training, and mentoring to promote early learning literacy for early childhood educators and parents across a 15 county rural area via a mobile van. Books will be distributed to children and made available to child care providers by visits of the mobile unit. Literacy staff will model appropriate story-telling and literacy skill development techniques while on-site at child care facilities. The project is designed to reduce barriers to training, increase availability and accessibility to quality early childhood</p>

	programs, and increase public awareness about the importance of early literacy development.
<p>The Clayton Foundation Denver, CO</p> <p>Contact: Cheryl Caldwell (303) 405-8207</p>	<p><i>Early Learning Opportunities Project</i> A collaborative service delivery model, characterized by local planning, will be used to link family support services and shared resources. A joint accountability five-year oversight plan will be developed to create an integrated and comprehensive system of diverse, high quality, early childhood education and child care services to enhance the development of young children so they are “ready to succeed” at school entry. Key components include: implementation of early childhood education standards in literacy, math, science concepts, and motor skills; creation of an experiential learning laboratory for early childhood educators and child care providers to learn integrative approaches to implement the standards; implementation of customized staff development plans; and involvement of parents in family literacy activities.</p>
<p>The Providence Plan, Inc. on behalf of the Ready to Learn Providence Local Council Providence, RI</p> <p>Contact: Andrew Bramson (401) 455-8880</p>	<p><i>Ready to Learn Providence</i> Project will improve early learning opportunities for all children by focusing on early childhood literacy and strengthening collaborations between early care and education providers, local and state agencies, and community-based organizations. Activities include provision of a family literacy program, a pre-kindergarten to kindergarten transition program, high quality provider professional development, and capacity building of community-based organizations. The library's <i>Learning and Reading Kit</i> program will be expanded and a Spanish version of the kits will be developed and disseminated.</p>
<p>Town of Manchester on behalf of the Manchester School Readiness Council Manchester, CT</p> <p>Contact: Melinda Gates (860) 647-3092</p>	<p><i>Manchester Early Learning Opportunities Project</i> Project builds on current services and programs provided to children, families, and early childhood professionals. Using a multi-faceted approach, the overall goal is to improve the quality of the early care system resulting in children who are better prepared to learn. Objectives include: improving child literacy and skill development; promoting effective parenting; developing linkages between health care, nutrition, and child care providers; and providing educational opportunities for both parents and early childhood professionals. Activities include site visits to child care settings by a children’s librarian and children’s museum curator. Participants will receive free, developmentally appropriate books.</p>
<p>United Way of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, Inc. Harrisonburg, VA</p> <p>Contact: Elissa McDonald (540) 434-6639</p>	<p><i>The Reading Road Show Early Literacy Initiative</i> The project, in partnership with child and family serving agencies, the public library and two television stations, will take early literacy activities to immigrant and low-income rural residents. The <i>Road Show</i> includes: the <i>Raising a Reader</i>® book lending program taken to families and child care providers by a Mobile Literacy Unit; the <i>Ready to Learn</i> initiative; building home libraries through</p>

	neighborhood workshops; home visitation for first-time parents; and an intensive media public awareness campaign.
<p>United Way of Southeastern Idaho Pocatello, ID</p> <p>Contact: Lorraine Clayton (208) 235-3119</p>	<p><i>Bannock County Ready To Learn Project</i></p> <p>The Project will enhance early literacy/early learning by increasing child care providers’ capacity to facilitate positive child development; and providing family education/resource/activities targeting low-income and high-risk families. A continuum of services include: home visiting; a mobile early learning unit; an interactive language development exhibit; summer literacy experiences; provider training and mentoring; neighborhood gatherings; and family support and parent training. Interfaith neighborhood volunteers will be recruited to promote community events.</p>
<p>Webster County Board of Education on behalf of the Early Care and Education Consortium Webster Springs, WV</p> <p>Contact: Amy Moll (304) 847-5638 x 117</p>	<p><i>More by Four – Ready by Five</i></p> <p>The goal is to create integrated, coordinated, family-focused, and affordable learning opportunities. Activities will target accessibility to child care, training, and family support activities. To increase accessibility transportation barriers will be decreased, state work/school TANF eligibility policies will be revised, and distance learning opportunities provided. Child care providers will obtain AA or BA degrees in early childhood education via a competency-based program of professional development. To enhance family linkages to early learning programs resources and services, a “one stop” service and evaluation system will be created. Parent supports will include parent-child learning activities, <i>Dad and Me</i> nights, and materials for families of a newborn.</p>
<p>Western Maine Centers for Children on behalf of Western Maine Access Wilton, ME</p> <p>Contact: Steven Russell Phone (207) 778-9484</p>	<p><i>Western Maine ACCESS Early Learning Opportunity Grant</i></p> <p>Project will build upon current infrastructure and collaborative relationships to enhance early childhood literacy, promote effective parenting, and strengthen the quality of learning environments. These goals will be addressed through the implementation of toddler, literacy, and father nurturing programs designed to strengthen parenting of infants, healthy marriages, and the role of fathers in the development of their children; and through CDA training, program accreditation, and financial incentives.</p>