



## **ECD YEAR IN REVIEW REPORT** AUGUST 2019 - AUGUST 2020

### **Mission Statement:**

ACF's Office of Early Childhood Development (ECD) will act as a catalyst to create a collective impact and support the early learning and care of our nation's children and their families.

**2019-2020 Goal:** ECD is known as the "Go To" Office within ACF for interagency and public-private partnerships that improve the early care and learning environments for children and their families.

**Outcome Measures:** 1) To prioritize early childhood development across ACF programs through collaboration and leveraging partnership opportunities through programs, policy and technical assistance from two programs to 12 programs by December 31, 2020. 2) To increase early childhood collective impacts that connect federal early childhood programs and at least two external public and private partners to influence and leverage resources to improve early childhood development outcomes by December 31, 2020.

### **September**

12<sup>th</sup> - **ECD Open House** - ECD hosted an in-person Networking Open House for ACF/HHS staff in the Central Office at the HHS Switzer Building in DC. Many staff attended.

12<sup>th</sup> - **ACF Early Childhood Collaborative** - Launched the ACF Early Childhood Collaborative, comprised of **35 representatives from 16 ACF offices, including Regional Office staff across 4 regions**. Meets monthly and identifies priorities for collaboration and coordination.

12<sup>th</sup> - **Supporting Working Families Roundtables on Increasing Access to High-Quality Child Care** - ECD facilitated partnerships across HHS, ACF (Central and Regional Offices) and the White House to plan and implement **10 Supporting Working Families Roundtables on Increasing Access to High-Quality Child Care** from September - November 2019.

One key accomplishment was executing a successful Roundtable and site visit to a local child care and Head Start program in Kansas City, MO with Advisor Ivanka Trump, Secretary Azar, Governor Parson, Senator Blunt, and Assistant Secretary Johnson.

Reached **3.5 million people** through TV, print, and social media associated with the Kansas City Roundtable alone.

More than **900 participants** attended the 10 Roundtables across the country – including 214 parents; 169 child care providers; 96 employers; 203 state, local, and tribal government officials; 115 child care workforce development professionals; 57 philanthropic organizations; and 75 additional individuals.

***September Dates and Locations of Roundtables:***

9/12: **Region 1** *Location:* Hartford, CT

9/20: **Region 2** *Location:* Vineland, NJ

9/19: **Region 3** *Location:* Philadelphia, PA

9/26: **Region 4** *Location:* Birmingham, AL

**October**

3<sup>rd</sup> - **Catalyzing Early Childhood: A Film Festival to Spark Action** - ECD hosted our **first external event**. This event used films to organize around the issue of early childhood development. The event hosted **80 stakeholders** including national, state, and local leaders, researchers, philanthropy, parents, and federal staff working in early childhood, prevention, human services, education, and health.

17<sup>th</sup> - **ACF Early Childhood Collaborative - Monthly Meeting**  
**First Collaborative Project; Spring 2020** "Prioritizing Early Childhood Development across ACF to Strengthen Families and Promote Economic Mobility"

**Supporting Working Families Roundtables on Increasing Access to High-Quality Child Care**

***October Dates and Locations of Roundtables***

10/3: **Region 6** *Location:* Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX

10/7: **Region 5** *Location:* Columbus, OH

10/10: **Region 7** *Location:* Kansas City, MO

10/29: **Region 9** *Location:* Sacramento, CA

**November**

**Supporting Working Families Roundtables on Increasing Access to High-Quality Child Care**

***November Date and Location of Roundtables***

11/4: **Region 10** *Location:* Seattle, WA

11/18: **Region 8** *Location:* Arapahoe County, CO

13<sup>th</sup> - Dr. Bergeron presented at the **National Governor's Association Prenatal to Age Three Policy Academy Cross-State Convening** in Charleston, SC with leadership teams from six states (AL, CO, KY, LA, MD, MO) funded by the Pritzker Children's Initiative.

21<sup>st</sup> - **ACF Early Childhood Collaborative - Monthly Meeting**

Focus Topic: Calendar Exercise for 2020: What are relevant meetings or conferences that your office is hosting in 2020 that might have opportunities for early childhood intersections?

**December**

19<sup>th</sup> - **ACF Early Childhood Collaborative - Monthly Meeting**

Focus Topic: Collaboration Assessment to assess the quality of the collaboration across ACF partners

21<sup>st</sup> - ECD assisted the White House in preparing for the **White House Summit on Child Care and Paid Leave** by recommending parents, providers and employers from the Roundtables to participate and present.

**January**

**Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Program** – ECD partnered with OCC and the **Department of Education to co-manage 4** of the grants (NY, PR, ID and NJ). ECD is also working on a summary of key themes from the applications.

9<sup>th</sup> - ECD partnered with ACF offices and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) for our **first-ever showcase event on Innovations in Early Childhood Development and Learning** at the 7th Annual **ED Games Expo 2020 at the Kennedy Center**. This showcase was part of a multi-day event sponsored by ED's Institute of Education Sciences which focused on games and technology targeted at children, parents, educators, funders and other stakeholders with more than **1000** people attending.

16<sup>th</sup> - **ACF Early Childhood Collaborative - Monthly Meeting**

Focus Topic: Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) resources

16<sup>th</sup> - ECD begins to lead and facilitate the longstanding **Early Childhood Federal Partners Workgroup** - a staff-level group comprised of more than 50 representatives from across 9 federal agencies and Departments who are focused on sharing resources and improving federally funded early childhood programs.

28<sup>th</sup> - ECD planned and facilitated the **ECD Learning Exchange** with the Ounce of Prevention on Early Care and Education Leadership. The meeting was attended by leadership and staff at ACF, OCC, OHS, OPRE, and ASPE.

**February**

12<sup>th</sup> - ECD collaborated with ACF staff and SAMHSA to plan and present at the ACF ANA Grantee Meeting Workshop with a session titled **“Building and Sustaining Tribal Early Learning Systems for Collective Impact”**.

20<sup>th</sup> - **ACF Early Childhood Collaborative - Monthly Meeting**  
Focus Topic: USDA Rural Development Community Facilities.

26<sup>th</sup> - **Early Childhood Federal Partners Workgroup**  
Focus Topic: Census Bureau Outreach for Families with Young Children.

### **March**

ECD launched the **Childcare Facilities Enhancement Collaboration** with USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Programs with a goal to **increase collaborative initiatives to improve partnerships for rural development.**

3<sup>rd</sup> - ECD launched the **Early Childhood Health and Well-being Federal Partners Leadership meeting** with leadership and staff from ACF, HHS and the Department of Education.

18<sup>th</sup> - **Early Childhood Federal Partners Workgroup**  
Focus Topic: Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Feedback Session

19<sup>th</sup> - **ACF Early Childhood Collaborative - Monthly Meeting**  
Focus Topic: Children's Bureau Primary Prevention Opportunities through the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

### **April - July Updates**

**Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Program (PDG B-5)** – ECD partnered with OCC and the Department of Education to serve as co-federal project managers for ID, NJ, NY, and PR.

**ECD Staff** - ECD hosted 2 undergraduate interns from the University of Utah and UC Berkeley, 2 graduate students from the University of Maryland, and 2 detailees during this 3 month period.

ECD staff led and participated in **ACF COVID-19** related taskforces and subgroups (e.g. ACF COVID-19 Human Services Task Force; Communications Strike Force; ACF Children's Services Impact Taskforce and subgroups: Emergency Child Care, Remote Services, and Long-Term Impacts of COVID-19 Crisis on Children and Families).

**ACF Tribal Early Childhood Working Group (TEC)** - ECD collaborated with ANA and other ACF offices to begin planning for the ACF Early Childhood Working Group.

### **April**

2<sup>nd</sup> - **Early Childhood Federal Partners Workgroup**  
Focus Topic: Children's Bureau and Primary Prevention/FFPSA Briefing and Opportunities

9<sup>th</sup> - ECD supported the establishment of Save the Children's **National Working Group on**

**Emergency Child Care** which brought together more than 60 federal, national, state, and local leaders to meet and identify urgent needs, shared learning, problem solving, and identify promising solutions around emergency child care and response to COVID-19. Four subgroups met weekly for the first two months and now monthly.

16<sup>th</sup> - **ACF Early Childhood Collaborative - Monthly Meeting**  
Focus Topic: Update - ACF COVID-19 Task Force and Strike Teams

27<sup>th</sup> - **Launch of ECD Twitter - @ECDGOV**  
twitter.com/ECDGov

29<sup>th</sup> - **ECD convened Early Childhood Health and Well-Being Federal Leadership Group**  
Focus Topic: COVID-19 Key Accomplishments and Options for Shared Action. Group expands to include US Department of Agriculture and Department of Labor leaders.

## **May**

1<sup>st</sup> - **First ECD Field Catalysts Newsletter**  
tinyurl.com/ECDMayNewsletter

5<sup>th</sup> - ECD collaborated with the Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, to provide virtual professional development conferences targeted for teachers and other early care and learning professionals through an **Early Learning Conference** (held on May 5, with more than 2000 attendees) and a **Special Education Unconference** on May 20.

7<sup>th</sup> - **Early Childhood Federal Partners Workgroup**  
Focus Topic: Remote/Virtual Services and Technical Assistance in Early Childhood

15<sup>th</sup> - ECD partnered with Casey Family Programs and Early Childhood Funders Collaborative to plan and host a virtual meeting on May 15, ***Believing in Communities and Families - The Power of Support***, which brought together more than 60 representatives from federal agencies, philanthropy, parents, and other early childhood leaders, to engage in a dialogue and identify areas to develop and deepen public-private partnerships to strengthen families as they respond to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

21<sup>st</sup> - **ACF Early Childhood Collaborative - Monthly Meeting**  
Focus Topic: Innovative Solutions to Build Partnerships and Engage Potential Partners with Department of State, Office of Global Partnerships

28<sup>th</sup> - ECD collaborated with CB, MCHB, and OCC to develop and issue a **joint ACF-MCHB Interagency letter** to encourage family support, maternal and child health, and early childhood programs (including Head Start, home visiting, early intervention, and other early care and learning programs) to promote family strengthening and prevention strategies via virtual, electronic, telephonic, or other safe means during the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://tinyurl.com/ACFJointLetter>

## **June**

### **3rd - Ascend at the Aspen Institute Early Childhood Systems Virtual Roundtable Series**

Focus Topic: Strong Early Childhood Systems for Better Child and Family Outcomes - Dr. Bergeron presented on the importance of transition from early childhood programs to K-12

### **4<sup>th</sup> - Early Childhood Federal Partners Workgroup**

Focus Topic: Early Childhood Mental Health Supports to Strengthen Families

### **10<sup>th</sup> - ACF Tribal Consultation**

Dr. Bergeron co-led a listening session with ANA Commissioner and tribal leaders and representatives on the ACF priority of early childhood coordination and formally launched the Tribal Early Childhood Working Group.

### **18<sup>th</sup> - ACF Early Childhood Collaborative - Monthly Meeting**

Focus Topic: Dissemination Plan for early childhood partnership opportunities across ACF

## **July**

### **Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five**

Release of synthesis report of the 2019 PDG B-5 funded applications - [www.acf.hhs.gov/ece/earlylearning/preschool-development-grants](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ece/earlylearning/preschool-development-grants)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> - Early Childhood Federal Partners Workgroup**

Focus Topic: Early Childhood Technical Assistance Effectiveness & Coordination

### **15<sup>th</sup> - Early Childhood Health and Well-Being Leadership Quarterly Meeting**

Focus Topic: Early Childhood Federal Partners Logic Model: Shared Learning, Shared Action, Shared Impact and priority joint actions in 2020

### **16<sup>th</sup> - ACF Early Childhood Collaborative - Monthly Meeting**

Focus Topic: Radical Family Engagement

### **31<sup>st</sup> - ACF Tribal Early Childhood Working Group Meeting #1**

ECD and ANA partnered with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Community Development Program to host the first of three virtual meetings with more than 50 tribal leaders, stakeholders, and federal program administrators to discuss their ideal tribal early childhood system

## **August**

### **6<sup>th</sup> - ECD Field Catalysts Newsletter**

Topic: Early Childhood and Family Homelessness <https://www.smores.com/7nkjg>

**6<sup>th</sup> - Early Childhood Federal Partners Workgroup**

Focus Topic: Department of Education and Institute of Education Sciences Investments in Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Federal Partners subgroups were developed. Subgroup co-chairs include staff from ECD, ASPE, MCHB, and OSEP. The subgroups are as follows:

- Technical Assistance (special focus on COVID-19 and socio-emotional/trauma/mental health supports)
- Needs Assessment
- Performance Measures/Outcomes/Indicators
- Research

**12<sup>th</sup> - ECD Presentation to Office of Refugee Resettlement - Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise grant program**

Focus Topic: Importance of early childhood development and education in a family child care context

**20<sup>th</sup> - ACF Early Childhood Collaborative - Monthly Meeting**

Focus Topic: Provided a new web page on the ECD website that includes information on the purpose of the group and how offices are prioritizing early childhood development  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/e.cd/early-childhood-collaborative>

**28<sup>th</sup> - ACF Tribal Early Childhood Working Group Meeting #2 of 3**