



# Child Care Helps America Work and Learn



Administration for Children & Families

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## Recovery Act Increases Enrollment and Quality Improvement in ACF Region IV

**W**hen Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) in February 2009, an additional \$2 billion investment in the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) presented the Child Care Bureau with the opportunity to expand our services to children and families across the country. The CCDF administrators in States, Territories, and Tribes have used this new funding to reach more children and families with child care financial assistance, support child care providers to reach higher levels of quality, and provide professional development opportunities for child care teachers. Our partners across the country have worked to find the best ways to address the unique child care needs in their States. The President has committed to an unprecedented level of transparency in the administration of Recovery Act programs. Data on how CCDF grantees are using their funds are available at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

I am pleased to introduce a new publication produced by the Child Care Bureau, *Child Care Helps America Work and Learn*. This new series will highlight some of the many Recovery Act-funded child care success stories from communities across the country that illustrate how we are working toward the shared goal of supporting children and families. We will highlight each of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) 10 regions as well as designate issues on particular investments being made with Recovery Act funds, including development of quality rating and improvement systems and programs for improving and increasing infant and toddler care and school-age care.

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## Tennessee Serves Thousands of Children Through the Recovery Act

*4,550 children served by scholarship program*

**T**he Child Care Recovery Scholarship program helps low-income families (who are working or enrolled in school full time) pay for child care services offered by licensed providers and Boys and Girls Clubs across the State. Tennessee expects the program to serve 2,450 more children, bringing the total to 7,000.

According to Governor Phil Bredesen, "This Recovery Act program is already helping provide safe, quality child care to thousands of Tennessee children. Our goal has been to reach as many children as possible and encourage families to utilize all the benefits available to them under this program."\*



\* TN.gov. (2009, October 21). *Thousands of children enrolled in child care recovery scholarship program: Slots still available*. Retrieved January 19, 2010, from <http://news.tennesseeanytimes.org/node/2921>

## Recovery Funding Supports Direct Services to Low-income Families

- 3,000 children in **Alabama** are able to continue receiving child care subsidies as a result of vouchers funded by the Recovery Act.
- 495 children in **Mississippi** are receiving certificates funded by the Recovery Act.
- 1,351 children in **South Carolina** are able to continue receiving child care subsidies as a result of vouchers funded by the Recovery Act.

# Child Care Helps America Work and Learn

## Florida Uses Recovery Act Funds for Early Learning Initiatives

*24,000 children served and 694 jobs created or retained with Recovery Act investments*

In April, Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovation Office of Early Learning received approximately \$105 million in supplemental CCDF dollars provided by the Recovery Act. To address the growing waiting list, the Governor's Office decided to invest these funds in grants for the 31 local nonprofit Early Learning Coalitions and Redland Christian Migrant Association, which implement the State's early learning programs. This investment will help programs serve more children, including those whose parents have lost their jobs and are looking for employment.

The impact of Florida's CCDF Recovery Act funds extends beyond families who receive child care subsidies. According to a press release from the Governor's Office, these funds may support as many as 15,000 child care providers, allowing them to retain their staff members and continue providing high-quality care.\* The Recovery Act funds will also help centers and home-based providers purchase materials and supplies, supporting Florida's economy as a whole.

Florida is also investing in larger projects to ensure funds help sustain long-term improvements, such as the Early Learning Information System (ELIS), a centralized technology system to improve the efficiency of Florida's early learning programs. ELIS will help improve fund management; enhance attendance tracking, performance tracking, and reporting; and improve child outcome analysis. In addition, Florida expects ELIS will help save the State \$28 million a year.



\* Governor's Press Office. (2009, April 17). *Florida's early learning program to receive \$105 million in stimulus funds*. Retrieved January 19, 2010, from <http://flarecovery.com/news/press-releases/floridas-early-learning-program-to-receive-105-million-in-stimulus-funds>

## CCDF Highlights in Region IV

### Recovery Act Investments Enhance Child Care Across the Southeast

- **Alabama** plans to use funds to provide more indepth technical assistance to providers to address children with special needs.
- **Georgia** has started planning projects for program quality initiatives.
- **Kentucky** has invested in quality initiatives with an emphasis on infant and toddler care.
- **Mississippi** is providing technical assistance to centers participating in a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention program for school-age children.
- **North Carolina** is investing in quality initiatives by providing scholarships to providers, enforcing licensing regulations, and providing technical assistance and professional development opportunities to providers.
- **South Carolina** plans to offer providers quality improvement grants.



Region IV States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) have been allocated a total of \$438,323,230 in Recovery Act funds.

## ABOUT THE RECOVERY ACT

The **Recovery Act** (Public Law 111-5) provided \$2 billion in supplemental funding to CCDF for grants to States, Territories, and Tribes for child care assistance to low-income families and investments for improving the quality and availability of child care. **Section 1512 of the Recovery Act** requires recipients of Recovery Act funds to submit quarterly reports detailing the use and impact of the funds, including jobs created and retained. The reports are available to the public at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

## About the Child Care Bureau

The **Child Care Bureau** administers the **CCDF** program, a multibillion-dollar Federal and State partnership to support access to high-quality child care for working families. The Child Care Bureau helps States, Territories, and Tribes administer their CCDF programs through program support, policy guidance, technical assistance, and research.