



# Early Childhood State Advisory Councils

Status  
Report  
2013



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Administration for Children & Families

# Webinar on State Advisory Councils

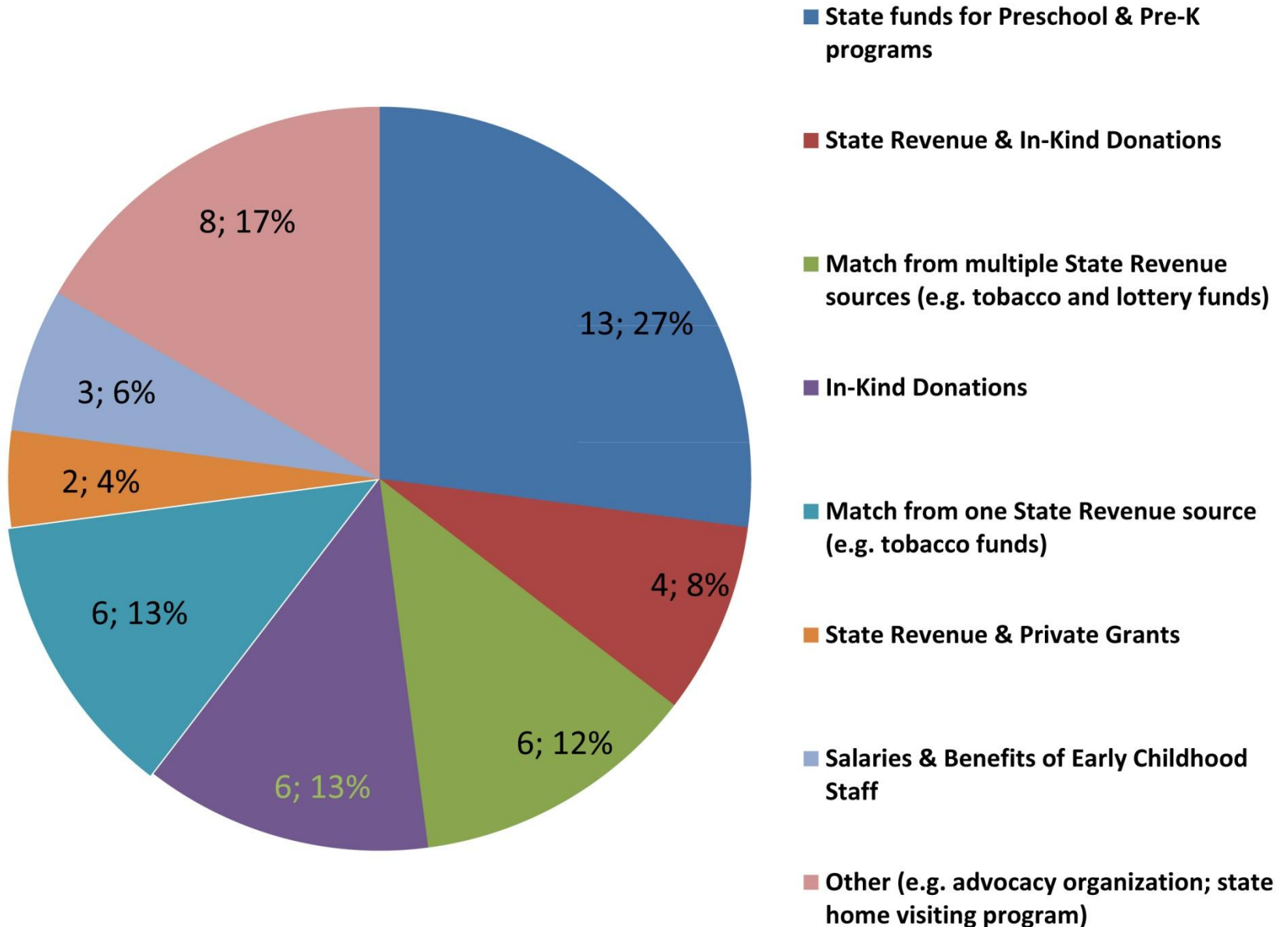
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# Background

- **Authority:**
  - Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007
- **Support:**
  - One-time \$100 million in funds from 2009 ARRA dollars
- **Overarching Goals:**
  - **Ensure** statewide **collaboration** and **coordination** among the wide array of early childhood programs and services in the State
  - **Facilitate** the development or enhancement of a **high-quality, comprehensive state early childhood system**
  - **Advance** the goal of **integrated services** for children

# Sources of State Match for SAC Grant

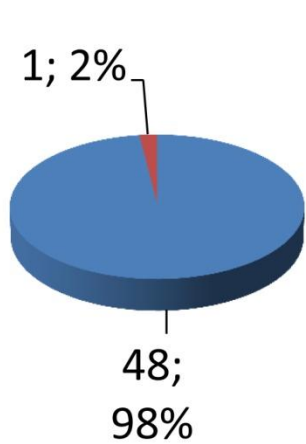


# Required SAC Membership Representatives:

- Representative of the State agency responsible for child care
- Representative of the State educational agency
- Representative of the local educational agencies
- Representative of institutions of higher education in the State
- Representative of local providers of early childhood education and development services
- Representative from Head Start agencies located in the State, including Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs as well as Indian Head Start
- State Director of Head Start Collaboration
- Representative of the State agency responsible for the programs under Section 619 OR Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Representative of the State agency responsible for health OR mental health

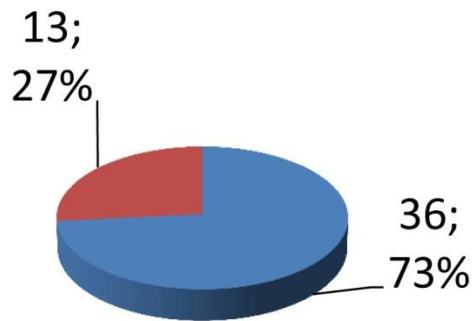
# Early Intervention/Special Education Representation

**Part C  
Representation on  
SAC**



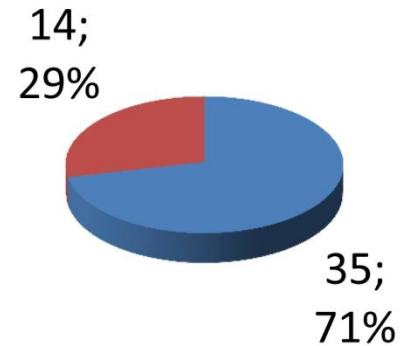
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**Part B, Sec.619  
Representation on  
SAC**



■ With  
■ Without

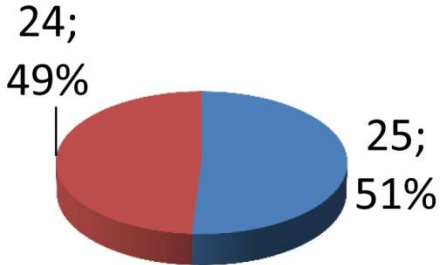
**Both**



■ With  
■ Without

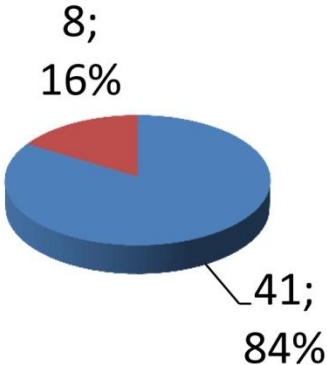
# Mental Health/Health Representation

### Mental Health Representation on State Advisory Councils



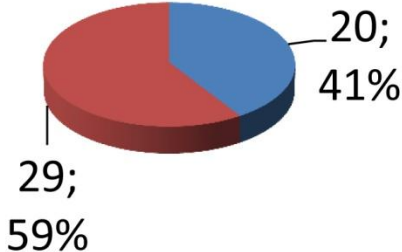
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### Health Representation on State Advisory Councils



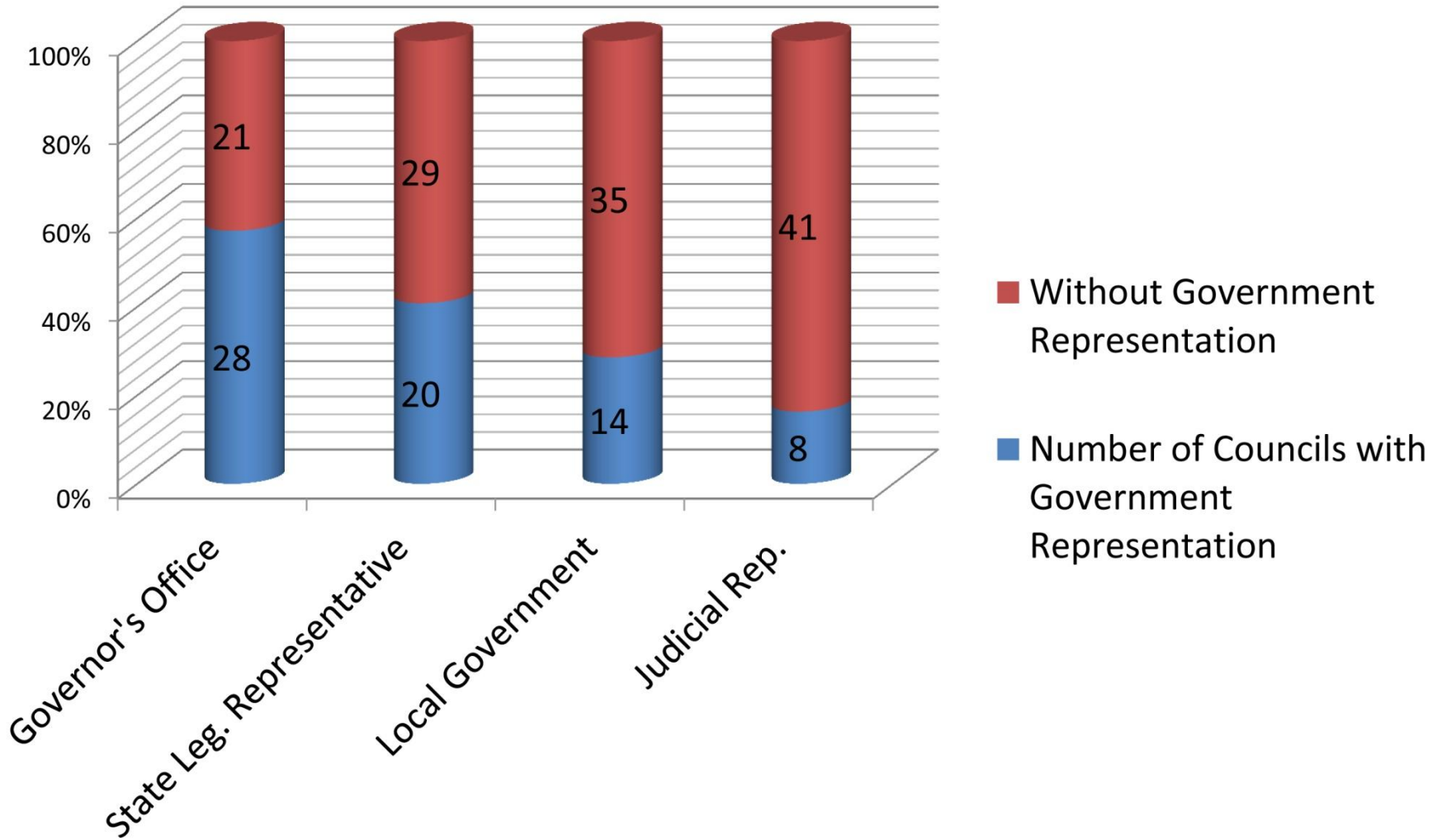
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### Both



■ With  
■ Without

# Types of Government Represented (Not Required by Law)



# Other Types of Membership Found in SACs (Not Required by Law)

- **Business representatives (65%)**
- **Foundation representatives (64%)**
- **Governor's office representatives (57%)**
- State Legislators' office representatives
- **Parents (55%)**
- Statewide and community organizations
- **Tribal representatives (20%)**
- **Migrant representatives (20%)**
- Home visiting/Early Head Start/Infant-Toddler Specialist
- Judicial /law enforcement
- Commerce/workforce development/labor unions/career education
- Health care providers
- Local government/mayors' offices
- State governance structures (e.g. Children's Cabinet)
- Early Childhood Coordinated Services (ECCS)
- Resource and Referral agency
- Professional development specialist
- **Military child care (27%)**



# Committee Formation (selected groups)

- Professional Development/Workforce – 22 (45%)
- Data – 20 (41%)
- Public Will/ Outreach & Communications – 13 (27%)
- Family Support/Home Visitation – 13 (27%)
- Finance/Economic Development & Sustainability– 11 (22%)
- Quality/QRIS – 10 (20%)
- Health - 10 (20%)
- Mental Health – 6 (12%)

# SAC Challenges & Opportunities

- Gubernatorial Transitions
- State Legislative Budget Authority
- Additional State Requirements
- State Procurement Procedures
- State Approval to Hire Staff
- Restructuring of Government and SACs
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Technology Challenges in Data Systems Development



**SAC Legislative Requirement 1:** Conduct periodic **statewide needs assessments** on quality and availability of high quality care.

- Descriptive Data
- Geographic/Community Assessment
- Prevalence of Risk Factors Assessment
- Perspectives from Families & Early Childhood Professionals

**SAC Legislative Requirement 2:** Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, **collaboration and coordination** among Federally-funded and State-funded early childhood programs and services.

Advisory Group Combination

Local Collaboration Models

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

Leveraging of Statewide Initiatives

Leveraging of K-12 Initiatives

Use of Other State Funds

**SAC Legislative Requirement 3:** Develop recommendations for increasing participation of children in early care and education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations.

- Research
- Innovative Grants
- Home Visiting Expansion
- Legislation
- Committee Formation

**SAC Legislative Requirement 4:** Develop recommendations for establishing a unified data collection system.

- Data Coordination
- Data Mapping & Gap Analysis
- Unique Identifiers Policy Development
- Data Sharing
- Design Questions Development
- Link Head Start and Early Head Start to P-20 Systems

## **SAC Legislative Requirement 5:** Develop recommendations for creating or enhancing a statewide professional development system and career ladder.

- Scholarships
- Developing Core Knowledge and Competencies Framework
- Career Lattice
- Professional Development Registry
- Resources for Trainers
- Topical Trainings: SACs have provided professional development trainings on various topical areas:
  - working with young children with visual impairment;
  - supporting parent educators;
  - conducting trainings on cultural competence and diversity;
  - providing workshops to teachers on early learning guidelines
- Alignment of Early Childhood Professional Development Plans

**SAC Legislative Requirement 6:** Develop recommendations for assessing the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year institutes of higher education in supporting the career development of early childhood educators.

- Assessing Higher Education Capacity
- Alignment of Coursework & Competencies to State Early Learning Systems
- Investing in Innovation
- Agreements Established with Higher Ed



**SAC Legislative Requirement 7:** Make recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate.

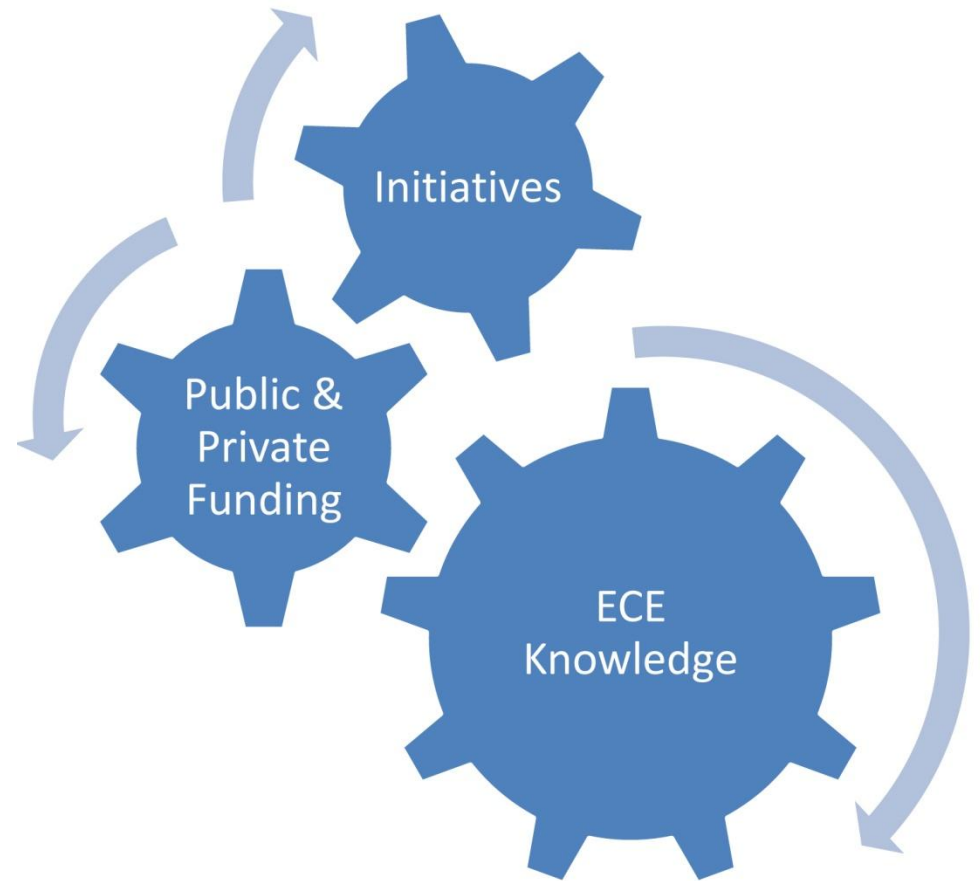
- Infant and toddler standards
- Cultural and linguistic considerations
- State early learning standards used for the education of early childhood professionals
- Alignment of early learning standards across programs
- Early Learning Standards for Parent and Community Engagement
- Early Learning Standards to Include Birth – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

# **Councils are Advancing Early Childhood Systems Beyond SAC Grant Requirements**

- Kindergarten Entry Assessment development**
- Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) development**
- Health & Mental Health activities**
- Parent & Family Engagement**

# Leveraging Knowledge, Funding & Initiatives

- Child Care
- Head Start
- ECCS
- MIECHV
- RTT-ELC
- Strengthening Families
- ICC
- Project Launch



# Leveraging the SAC and ECCS

## Examples:

- ECCS members led the writing and submission of the SAC applications
- ECCS body became the SAC and added required SAC members
- ECCS provides staff support to SAC
- SAC and ECCS members serve on each other's governing board, workgroups, or subcommittees to advise or provide input on implementation
- SAC and ECCS coordinate grants for alignment
- SAC is responsible for implementing ECCS plan

# Leveraging the SAC and MIECHV

- Alignment of priorities to avoid duplication
- Use of SAC as a sounding board
- Data systems development
- Building early childhood system capacity at the community level

# Leveraging the SAC and RTT-ELC

- States looked to their SAC plans and progress made to inform the development of their RTT-ELC applications (37 states)
- Developing RTT-ELC Applications helped states to reflect and refine the direction of their SAC work

# Contact

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