

**State Early Childhood Advisory Councils: State Profiles**  
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The Improving Head Start Act of 2007 called for the establishment of state early childhood advisory councils to improve the quality, availability, and coordination of programs and services for children ages birth to five. Among other activities, the councils are charged with

- developing recommendations to increase access to high quality early childhood care and education programs;
- conducting a periodic needs assessment of the quality and availability of programs; and
- advising state policymakers on the development of a comprehensive early childhood data system, a statewide professional development system, and research-based early learning standards.

In 2010, councils in 45 states and five territories applied for and received a total of \$1.1 billion in noncompetitive three-year start-up grants through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Each state's funding allocation was determined by an assessment of state census and family income data, with no state receiving less than \$500,000. States contributed a 70 percent match. To be eligible for funding, governors were required to formally designate a council and appoint its leadership.

In partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Governors' Association, Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) developed detailed profiles of the councils in states and territories receiving federal grants. Each profile provides an overview of a state council, including its administering agency, history, membership, activities and priorities for the ARRA grant, and communication strategies. Information in the profiles is based a review of state ARRA grant applications, as well as updates provided by council leadership in April 2011.



**ALABAMA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Alabama Early Childhood Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Alabama Department of Children’s Affairs

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Alabama stakeholders formed a statewide advisory council housed at the Alabama Department of Children’s Affairs (DCA) in 2008. In February 2010, Governor Bob Riley formally designated the DCA as the agency to lead the early childhood advisory council, meeting the requirements of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 42

**Chair(s) of Council:** The council is co-chaired by the commissioner of the Alabama Department of Children’s Affairs and the governor’s policy advisor.

**Subcommittees:**

- Assessments and analysis
- Longitudinal data
- Program and professional development
- Special projects
- Outreach, recruitment, and sustainability

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner, Alabama Department of Human Resources
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent, Alabama State Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent of public schools
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three representatives from local providers
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three representatives from Head Start and Early Head Start programs
<i>State director of Head Start</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director of Children’s Affairs–

<i>collaboration</i>		Head Start Collaboration Office
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
<i>Coordinator of Part B of IDEA, Part 619</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative, Special Education, Alabama Department of Education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health
<b>Representative from governor’s office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Designated legislator
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from the chamber of commerce and from Alabama Power
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, Alabama Association of Young Children; representatives from Childcare Resources, VOICES for Alabama’s Children, A+ Education Partnership, Alabama School Readiness Alliance, ASBA, Parent-Teacher Association, AHSA, APC, Alabama Pediatrics Association, and Success by Six–Tuscaloosa
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Home visiting programs</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from home visiting programs
<b>Judge</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Juvenile judge
<b>Other state agency representatives</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Additional representatives from: the departments of human resources, public health, mental health and rehabilitation services, child abuse and neglect prevention, and education

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has the following goals for the federal grant period:

- Increase the overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care and early education programs. The council will promote improved parental understanding of the importance of quality early care and education and community partnerships to better serve children with disabilities, particularly from underserved or rural communities.
- Establish or improve core elements of the state early childhood system, such as a statewide unified data system. The council will work to develop a unified data collection system that incorporates data across multiple early childhood programs to identify gaps in services, promote access, and to connect with families around children’s developmental milestones. A quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) will be another function of this system and a focus of the council’s activities.
- Establish or improve statewide professional development system and career ladder for early childhood educators. Key strategies include developing a professional registry, creating a searchable database of professional development opportunities, and maintaining comprehensive data on the early childhood workforce. Funds will also support ongoing work of T.E.A.C.H. scholarships for early childhood professionals. In addition, the council will identify which training opportunities in the state have the greatest impact.
- Establish, enhance, or improve high-quality state early learning standards. The council will focus on aligning existing early childhood standards to create a unified approach to development and learning. The council will also support the provision of training and education that is based on the standards.
- Assess the capacity and effectiveness of two- and four-year institutions of higher education toward supporting the development of early childhood educators. The council will partner with the Alabama School Readiness Alliance to assess the early childhood offerings of higher education institutions and to create strong articulation agreements between 2- and 4-year colleges and universities.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K-3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

Funds from the state education trust fund supporting state pre-k program

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will meet three times a year and will have an opportunity to approve recommendations brought before them.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.children.alabama.gov>

**AMERICAN SAMOA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

American Samoa Children’s Cabinet

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Office of the Governor

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

The Governor of American Samoa named an early childhood advisory council in 2010 with plans to formally establish it by executive order as a governor’s children’s cabinet.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 8

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
First lady of American Samoa

**Subcommittees:**  
Not specified.

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State director, American Samoa Department of Human and Social Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State director, America Samoa Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State director, American Samoa Department of Education
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State director, American Samoa Department of Education
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State coordinator, Maternal Child Health Program, American Samoa Department of Health
<i>Coordinator of Part B of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State coordinator, Maternal Child Health Program, American Samoa Department of Health
<b>Representative from governor’s office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	First lady of American Samoa
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General manager of a private company
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>OTHER</b>		
Click here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Click here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council will focus on four key areas:

- Early learning standards advancement in early care and education (ECE) centers;
- Systems integration in information technology;
- Coordinated planning and budgeting among all agencies to fully leverage resources; and
- Professional development enhancements.

During the grant period, the council will complete four objectives:

- Develop and implement a plan on early childhood education and care for children from birth to school entry. Stakeholders will develop the plan and identify areas for action by the council. The council will report to the legislature once a year on its accomplishments.
- Demonstrate improvement in at least two core elements of the early childhood system, as measured by a needs assessment. The council will conduct the needs assessment, integrate information technology systems to track and analyze early childhood education and child care participants, and evaluate results.
- Increase by 30 percent the number of early childhood professionals who meet core teaching standards as measured by a certification examination. The council will review and adjust existing core standards/early learning guidelines and publish and distribute them to early childhood providers. Other key strategies include recruiting, maintaining, and supporting providers in earning professional certificates and associate’s degrees.
- Increase participation in available child care and early childhood education programs by 10 percent each project year. Key strategies include promoting program standards to attract new clients, conducting outreach to villages and churches, and monitoring centers to ensure accurate enrollment and attendance records.

<b>Council’s Proposed Federally-Funded Activities</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family/community engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development,	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers,	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs,	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners,	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3,	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

Salaries and benefits of existing early childhood staff and teachers.

**WEBSITE**

None

## ARIZONA

### **COUNCIL NAME**

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board (ECDHB)

### **DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board (ECDHB)

### **COUNCIL HISTORY**

In November 2006, Arizona voters passed Proposition 203, a citizen's initiative that funds early childhood development and health programs. The proposition also created the Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board (ECDHB), otherwise known as "First Things First", to plan and build a statewide early childhood system. In 2008, Arizona's governor designated ECDHB to serve as the state advisory council, to meet the requirements of the federal Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007. As part of the ECDHB structure, there are 31 regional partnership councils located across the state, with more than 300 volunteers serving as council members. ECDHB convened the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force in 2010 to provide recommendations for a comprehensive systems approach.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:**

**Chair(s) of Council:** The council is chaired by the vice president and chief customer officer of an energy corporation.

**Subcommittees:**

- Program Committee
- Health Subcommittee
- Family Support Subcommittee
- Early Learning Subcommittee

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Arizona Department of Economic Security
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent of public instruction
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All 31 regional councils have a K-12 administrator as a member.
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Represented on state board and many regional councils
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All 31 regional councils have a child care provider as a member.
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Many regional councils have representatives from Head Start in their membership.
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Represented on state board and program subcommittees
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Arizona Department of Economic Security
<i>Coordinator of Part B of IDEA</i>		Superintendent of public instruction
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Arizona Department of Health Services
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Represented on state board and program subcommittees
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All 31 regional councils have a parent as a member.
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regional councils have tribal representation, when a tribe is located in the region.
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Represented on state board and program subcommittees
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All 31 regional councils have a business representative as a member.
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All 31 regional councils have a philanthropic representative.
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Represented on state board and committees.
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>ECDHB representatives</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council’s primary goal, through federal support, is to promote the quality of and access to early care and education programs in the state. Specifically, funds will support two key areas of focus:

- Quality First Pilot Study: Quality First is Arizona’s quality rating and improvement system. State leaders have already developed a framework for determining program quality on a five “star” scale. In 2010-2011, the council has implemented a rigorous pilot study to test whether the framework is a valid measure of quality. The pilot study will inform statewide implementation of Quality First in July 2011.
- Standards and Guidelines: Development, Dissemination, and Provider Training: The council will develop infant/toddler development guidelines that complement two existing documents: early learning standards describing agreed upon outcomes for children three to five years old; and program guidelines for high quality early education: birth through kindergarten. The council will promote dissemination and use of the three documents to serve as the foundation for professional development efforts in the state. Key strategies include: designing standards-based professional development curriculum, training providers of professional development, and training all Quality First providers.

In addition, the council will also use federal funds to implement the recommendations of the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force, with technical assistance and consultation from state and national experts.

**Council’s Proposed Federally Funded Activities**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Promote family and community engagement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

First Things First (ECDHB) receives more than \$130 million annually in state tobacco revenue.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

All meetings are open to the public. Meeting minutes, resource documents and findings are posted on a public website. The council also solicits public feedback through online surveys and community forums. The first taskforce report was published in May 2011

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

By statute, First Things First’s governance structure has two levels: the state board and 31 regional partnership councils. The state board is charged with overall responsibility for statewide planning and infrastructure building, stewardship of tobacco tax revenues and other funds, and evaluation. The partnership councils are responsible for regional planning, assessment of regional needs and assets, and developing and allocating funds that support regional strategies.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.azftf.gov/>

**ARKANSAS**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Arkansas Department of Human Services/ Office of the Governor

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Governor Mike Beebe designated the existing Arkansas Early Childhood Commission as the state’s early childhood advisory council in 2008. During the 2009 legislative session, the General Assembly added the required members as outlined in the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 24

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is chaired by the director of a state home visiting program.

**Subcommittees:**

- Finance
- Appeal panel selection
- Nominating
- Program

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State child care administrator (serves as staff to the council)
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special assistant to commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Administrator and teacher from public school districts
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adjunct faculty
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three child care program directors
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three program directors representing Head Start, Early Head Start, and migrant/seasonal

		Head Start
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Head Start Collaboration Office
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider of services to children with disabilities
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Newborn screening medical director
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chairs, House Subcommittee on Children and Youth and House Committee on Education, or their designees; chairs, Senate Committee for Children and Senate Committee on Education, or their designees
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parent of child attending a child care or early education program
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migrant/seasonal Head Start program director
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two members of the business community
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Members of Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics and American Academy of Family Physicians
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Home visiting</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPIY)
<b>Early childhood professional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early childhood professional developmental trainer
<b>Department of Career Education</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Department of Career Education
<b>Mental/behavioral health provider</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social/emotional clinical provider

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council’s primary goal is to implement a unified data system for early childhood education. To do so, the council will first assess current data available throughout all programs in Arkansas, identify data systems from which to pull information, and identify data gaps. A questionnaire sent to childhood care providers will inform the assessment of data gaps. The council will next identify technical requirements to build a web-based unified data system and contract with specialist to develop and test the system. Finally, the council will launch the web-based data system and educate early childhood educators about the site and how it can be used to their benefit. The council will also use the website launch to educate the public more broadly about the importance of quality early childhood education.

The council identified the following additional goals to guide their work:

- Increase the number of infants and toddlers served in quality, licensed centers annually;
- Increase parental involvement in the child’s education;
- Support implementation of the Quality Rating Improvements System;
- Strengthen and expand local and state partnerships with other agencies and organizations for connected action; and
- Create an integrated system of professional development.

**Council’s Proposed Federally Funded Activities**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State general revenues supporting pre-k program.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

Statewide public hearings will be held in tandem with the council meetings. The council will share information on what is happening in early childhood through many forms of advertising and educational dissemination.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council is working to align its efforts with Arkansas’s federal Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant, which is managed by the state’s department of human services through the division of child care and early childhood education. The ECCS coordinator is a member of the council, and the council members support implementation of the ECCS state plan.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare/services/aecc/>

**CALIFORNIA****COUNCIL NAME**

California Early Learning Advisory Council
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**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

California Department of Education
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**COUNCIL HISTORY**

<p>On November 9, 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued an executive order establishing the California Early Learning Advisory Council. The Council will build on past work by the California Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Council (CAEL QIS), created in 2008 to make recommendations to the legislature on the development of an early learning quality improvement system. The CAEL QIS Advisory Committee ended in December 2010, and its members now serve on the council.</p>
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**MEMBERSHIP**

<p><b>Number of members:</b> 19</p>
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**Chair(s) of Council:**

The council will have three individuals, or their designees, as co-chairs:

- Secretary of education or designee
- Superintendent of public instruction or designee
- Chairperson of the California Children and Families Commission

**Subcommittees:**

Not specified.

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, California Department of Education, Child Development Division
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board member, California State Board of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kindergarten teacher and local district superintendent
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Associate director, California State University Chancellor's Office

<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief operating officer and executive director, early childhood programs
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director of county office of education
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, California State Head Start Collaboration Office
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consultant
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Former deputy secretary, Office of the Secretary of Education (pending)
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assembly member
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foundation director
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
OTHER		
<b>California Children and Families Commission</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, California Children and Families Commission
<b>Los Angeles Unified Preschool</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief executive officer
<b>Other state agency representatives</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from California Departments of Social Services and Finance
<b>WestEd [AQ:What is?]</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Infant/toddler specialist

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council’s primary objectives fall into three broad categories:

1. To develop a comprehensive plan for an integrated system, with a focus on school preparedness and access to high-quality early education and care. Specific activities will include:
  - Developing and sharing a broad vision for an early learning system;
  - Analyzing existing early childhood offerings and professional development programs, to provide a baseline of where the state’s early childhood work stands;
  - Developing a road map to carry out the state’s vision, including yearly benchmarks;
  - Making recommendations on strategies to improve program quality;
  - Identifying barriers to implementation in federal or state law; and
  - Designing a process for periodically updating the comprehensive plan and needs assessment.
  
2. To connect with children and families. The council will develop a unified early childhood data system to provide parents and educators better information on how to improve child outcomes. The design will include assignment and tracking of a unique identifier for children from birth to age five that will expand or link to identifiers for children in the K–12 system.
  
3. To implement a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) that will improve the quality of interactions in early learning settings. Key tasks include:
  - Developing a common course of study for early childhood professionals in higher education, based on California’s Early Childhood Educator Competencies; and
  - Implementing QRIS pilot projects with an embedded evaluation and a focus on how QRIS can be made accessible to families.

**Council’s Proposed Federally Funded Activities**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	☒
Promote coordination across programs.	☒
Increase access to programs.	☒
Develop data system.	☒

Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State revenues supporting council staff and activities, professional development, a child care retention project, local child care planning councils, and pre-k programs

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will meet between four and six times a year and will provide opportunities for public comment throughout the three-year grant period.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.calelac.org/>

**COLORADO**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Colorado Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC)

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Office of the Governor

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Governor Bill Ritter established the ECLC through executive order in 2010 to meet the federal requirements for an early childhood advisory council. In June 2010, the legislature codified the council. The council is housed in the lieutenant governor’s office.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 29

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council has three chairs representing business; private, nonprofit entities,;and public entities.

**Subcommittees:**

- Financing and economic development committee
- Data needs committee
- Assessment and insights committee
- Program quality, coordination, and alignment committee

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy executive director, Division of Children, Youth and Families, Colorado Department of Human Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy commissioner for learning and results, Colorado Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief operating officer, Denver Public Schools
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	University dean; professor; deputy

		director, Colorado Department of Higher Education; and chair of Early Childhood Education, Special Education, Reading and Educational Technology, Metro State University
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President of two multisite early care and education service providers
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from three local programs that administer Head Start
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Head Start State Collaboration
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director of county Part C program
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Directors, Center for Health, Families and Communities; Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; and program administrator, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Governor's Office for Information Technology
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Four state representatives, two from each chamber, representing the majority and minority parties.
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two parent representatives
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Four businesspersons and representative from local chamber of commerce
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senior program officer, Rose Community Foundation
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President and CEO, Colorado Children's Campaign; directors of local faith-based organization, community health center, center serving children with special needs, and youth health clinics
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Local government</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, two county departments of social services

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The mission of the council is to ensure a comprehensive, high-quality, and sustainable early childhood system that supports the vision of all young children being valued, healthy, and thriving. To this end, the council has established the following three goals:

- Increase public-private and federal-state-local coordination and alignment of early childhood services, supports, and infrastructure to improve outcomes for children. This will include cost modeling for comprehensive early childhood services, an annual children’s budget, governance and sustainability planning, and forming a business/economic development leadership team.
- Create a unified interagency data system that measures progress and informs planning, policy development, and funding of early childhood supports, services, and infrastructure. Key strategies will include developing a vision or mission and goals for an interagency data system; creating an inventory of existing data systems; identifying infrastructure needs and costs; establishing a data system governance model and processes for sharing data; and auditing and assessing data system performance.
- Increase the quality and capacity of early childhood services, as well as access to them. This includes adoption of early childhood indicators of well-being, a needs assessment on the quality and availability of early childhood services, a professional development system, and development of a comprehensive early childhood policy agenda, including a focus on infants and toddlers.

The council will also conduct a comprehensive community assessment of the infrastructure and capacity needs to connect, integrate, and improve early learning, family support, mental health, and health across the birth-to-age-eight continuum and will work to implement the state’s early childhood strategic plan.

**Council’s Proposed Federally-Funded Activities**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family/community engagement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K-3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State general revenues for the Colorado Preschool Program and Tony Grapsas Youth Services Fund and in-kind donations of goods and services.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

Full council meetings will be held at least four times annually, will be open to the public, and will include time for public comment. Monthly committee meetings are also open to the public.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council will work closely with the Governor’s Education Leadership Council, which serves as a state forum to discuss policy issues ranging from school readiness to college completion. Both entities are housed in the lieutenant governor’s office.

Colorado funds a system of 30 local early childhood councils, each responsible for identifying and addressing barriers to a comprehensive early childhood system. The council will work closely with these local entities.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=LeftLtGov%2FLLGLayo ut&cid=1251573580422&pagename=LLGWrapper>

**CONNECTICUT**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Connecticut State Department of Education

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Governor Jodi Rell established the Early Childhood Research and Policy Council by executive order in February 2006. The council developed an early childhood investment plan and guided the state’s early childhood budget for the 2008–2009 biennium. Because of the state fiscal crisis, the governor dissolved the council in March 2009. In January 2010, the governor designated the newly reconstituted Connecticut Early Childhood Cabinet as the state’s early childhood advisory council, pursuant to the federal Head Start Act of 2007.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 17

**Chair(s) of Council:** The council is chaired by the president and chief executive officer of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), the state’s leading business organization.

**Subcommittees:**  
There will be committees focused on each of the four priority areas: data, early learning standards, professional development/workforce; and families/home visitation.

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy commissioner, Connecticut Department of Social Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bureau chief, Connecticut Department of Education, Bureau of Teaching and Learning
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director of early childhood

		education at a community college
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, early childhood education center
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Currently vacant, awaiting reappointment
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State director of Head Start Collaboration
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Birth to Three Systems, Connecticut Department of Developmental Services
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bureau chief, Connecticut Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Health program associate who is the program manager for the federal Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant; and mental health consultant, Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Member, House of Representatives, and senator
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Currently vacant, an appointment has been made, awaiting confirmation letter.
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, Connecticut Business and Industry Association
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Other state agencies and commissions</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Connecticut Commission on Children; director, Fiscal and Policy Section, Office of Policy and Management

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

Connecticut’s four priority areas are quality data systems, early learning standards, workforce/professional development, and family involvement/home visitation.

- Quality Data Systems. Increase integration, quality, and accessibility of early childhood data for the benefit of all stakeholders. Tasks include assigning a unique identifier to young children, programs, and staff; developing data architecture to enable data sharing across agencies; and facilitating an MOU concerning deliverables and data accessibility.
- Early Learning Standards. By September 2013, Connecticut will adopt comprehensive and multidomain early learning standards that reflect a progression from birth through age 5, aligned with kindergarten–Grade 12 standards.
- Workforce/Professional Development. To promote a highly qualified and effective workforce, key tasks include providing scholarship funds for staff in all settings, updating child care licensing requirements, and increasing the capacity of higher education to prepare early childhood education workforce.
- Families Involvement/Home Visitation. To foster and partner with families and communities, the council will educate early childhood professionals on the importance of parents as partners. The cabinet will also provide a comprehensive system of parenting education, promote parent leaders, and coordinate home visitation services.

**Council’s Proposed Federally Funded Activities**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

In-kind matching funds from the departments of education, developmental disabilities, public health, and higher education and the Connecticut Commission on Children, as well as business.

### **COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

Stakeholders will have an opportunity to attend council meetings and participate in working groups. In addition, the council will provide information to the public, including announcements, relevant documents, and council products, through a website and early childhood and will schedule public forums and hearings as needed.

### **WEBSITE**

<http://www.ctearlychildhood.org>

**DELAWARE**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Delaware State Advisory Council on Early Childhood

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Delaware Department of Education

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In 2001, Delaware’s governor established the Delaware Early Care and Education Council by executive order. In 2007, the council was codified through legislative action and renamed the Delaware Early Childhood Council (ECC). In June 2010, the Delaware legislature again renamed the council as the Delaware State Advisory Council on Early Childhood and required the council to meet the specifications of the Head Start Act of 2007.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 19

**Chair(s) of Council**  
The chair is a professor of public policy at the University of Delaware.

**Subcommittees:**

- Emotional wellness committee
- Delaware Stars advisory committee
- Professional development advisory committee

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized members required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Delaware Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative focused on early childhood professional development, Section 619 of IDEA, and state early learning guidelines
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A higher education representative

		who also serves on the P-20 Council
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two center-based early care and education providers and one home-based provider
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from DHHS.
<i>Coordinator of Part B of IDEA</i>		
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from DHHS.
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from General Assembly
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Delaware Head Start/Early Childhood Assistance Program Association, statewide resource and referral agency, children's advocacy organizations, and Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children (DEAYC)
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Other state agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)
<b>Community members</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two community members

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

Delaware’s council has four primary goals:

1. Promoting school preparedness for children from birth to school entry. The council will implement a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Survey and support dissemination, use, and data collection on outcomes. Results from the survey will inform planning for future professional development opportunities for early childhood professionals. The state will also commission a complete review and analysis of the state’s infant/toddler and preschool learning guidelines.
  
2. Supporting professional development, recruitment, and retention initiatives for early childhood educators.  
 Key strategies will include:
  - Implementing a tiered system of professional development;
  - Establishing a training approval process;
  - Exploring strategies to embed the early learning guidelines and early childhood competencies into course syllabi across settings; and
  - Supporting and expanding the T.E.A.C.H program.
  
3. Enhancing existing early childhood education and development programs and services. Key strategies include a needs assessment, with particular attention to low-income, at-risk, and underserved populations, and the development of a unified data collection system.
  
4. Carrying out other activities consistent with the state’s plans and application. They include revising the *Early Success* plan, improving coordination of existing programs, improving the council website, and creating a Policy Manual to formalize the Council’s functions.

**Council’s Proposed Federally-Funded Activities**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

In-kind matching funds derived from current positions that staff and support the council. The positions are funded with state general revenues.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will create a statewide network of early childhood providers that spans the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, with the goal of greater provider participation in council activities. The council will also create a website to improve access to information for early childhood programs and agencies and to provide a mechanism for input from the community.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council sits below the Delaware Interagency Resource Management Committee, a consortium of six state agencies. The Delaware Department of Education will staff the council.

**WEBSITE**

[http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students\\_family/earlychildhood/decc.shtml](http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/earlychildhood/decc.shtml)

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

D.C. Early Childhood Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Division of Early Childhood Education

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In May 2010, Mayor Adrian Fenty issued an order establishing the D.C. Early Childhood Advisory Council and indicated that administrative support for the council will be provided by OSSE. OSSE is currently awaiting final membership decisions from newly elected Mayor Vincent Gray.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 28

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
Mayor Gray will appoint a chair to the council.

**Subcommittees:**

- Children with special needs
- Infants and toddlers
- Professional development
- Capacity building

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized members required by federal statute)</i>		
MEMBER TYPE	INCLUSION	MEMBER DESCRIPTION
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State superintendent of education; and assistant superintendent, early childhood education, D.C. OSSE
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State superintendent of education; and assistant superintendent of education, early childhood education, D.C. OSSE
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assistant superintendent of early childhood education, D.C. OSSE; director of early childhood education for D.C. Public Schools; and executive

		director, D.C. Public Charter School Board
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President and CEO, Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area; and professor of human development and psychoeducational studies
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Member to be appointed
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, D.C. Head Start Association Board
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head Start collaboration coordinator
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assistant superintendent for special education, D.C. OSSE
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Director, Early Stages, D.C. Public Schools
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, D.C. Department of Health and director, D.C. Department of Mental Health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Member to be appointed
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Federal City Council
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local funders
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from United Planning Organization, D.C. Appleseed, Great Start for D.C., and D.C. Action for Children, Washington Area Child Care Consortium, Children's Law Center, Building Hope Inc, Family Child Care Provider Association, Association of Hispanic Child Care Providers
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Public charter schools board</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, D.C. Public Charter Schools Board
<b>Other District agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Department of Human Services; director, Child and Family Services Administration; and administrator, Income Maintenance Administration
<b>National organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Council of La Raza, National Black Child Development

	Institute, and National Association for the Education of Young Children
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**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has four priority areas:

- Infant and toddler services. To enhance the quality and capacity of available services for infants and toddlers in the District of Columbia.
- Children with special needs. To enhance the quality and capacity of available services for children with special needs.
- Workforce and professional development. To ensure that the District has a comprehensive workforce and professional development system that fully supports high-quality services to all children in the District.
- Capacity building. To ensure that the early childhood community is meeting current needs and has a solid foundation for long-term sustainability.

The council will approach all four priority areas through three phases: (1) research; (2) development of recommendations and creation of an action plan; and (3) a three-pronged communications strategy—reaching out to the mayor and the press, early childhood providers, and the broader community.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State general revenue for pre-k funding assistance and expansion grants.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will meet a minimum of three times per year and convene public community forums on a quarterly basis to share recent achievements and solicit community feedback. The council will also host a series of meetings to engage early care and education providers, business and philanthropic communities, and the general community, as well as a web portal to help parents obtain information on early childhood services.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The OSSE, which will staff the council, oversees all levels of education in D.C., including child care and early education. OSSE administers publicly funded programs implemented in partnership with community-based organizations and government agencies.

**WEBSITE**

None

**FLORIDA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Florida State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In 2010, Governor Charlie Crist established the Florida Advisory Council on Early Education and Care to serve as a coordinating council to the existing Florida Children and Youth Cabinet. The Florida Children and Youth Cabinet was established by state legislation in 2007 and is currently housed within the Executive Office of the Governor. The cabinet represents all state agencies that serve children and youth from birth to 18 years, including the departments of health, children and families, education, health care administration, and workforce innovation.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 13

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council does not currently have an acting chair. The former lieutenant governor filled the position and served as the chair of the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet until January 2011. At this time, both chair positions are awaiting appointments.

**Subcommittees:**  
Not specified.

Advisory Council Membership <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
MEMBER TYPE	INCLUSION	MEMBER DESCRIPTION
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation’s Office of Early Learning
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Florida Department of Education, Just Read, <i>Florida!</i>
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School board member and

		superintendent
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Professor of early childhood education
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preschool director
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migrant Head Start administrator and operations director of Head Start program.
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director of Florida Head Start State Collaboration
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief of staff, Florida Department of Health
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legislative planning director, Florida Department of Health ;and assistant secretary for mental health and substance abuse, Florida Department of Children and Families
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migrant Head Start administrator
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Private consultant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Former state representative

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

Key council priorities include:

- Increasing overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care and early education programs. The council will commission research studies to better understand the scope of services offered to children from birth to age five, including a statewide workforce study and needs assessment with emphasis on special populations. Results of such studies will inform decisions by the council on how to improve the coordination of services. The council will also commission a study to inventory existing public awareness campaigns.
- Establishing core elements of the state early childhood system, such as a statewide unified data system. The council will contribute to the development of an improved early childhood data system, strengthen connections with the state's K–12 data system, and develop capacity to support program assessment and improvement. Specific tasks include commissioning a study on the development of a unique data identifier for children in the early learning system and a plan for incorporating Early Head Start and Head Start data in the scope of the unified data system.
- Establishing and improving the statewide professional development system and career advancement plans for early childhood educators. The council will commission an evaluation of the emerging statewide professional development system to analyze gaps and identify opportunities for improvement, with emphasis on accessibility and equity. Results will be used to plan for enhancements to the Career Pathways, strengthen informal and formal coursework supporting the Career Pathways, and generate articulation agreements across the informal and formal pathways within the professional development system.
- Assessing capacity and effectiveness of institutes of higher education toward supporting the development of early childhood educators. The council will facilitate the creation and implementation of articulation agreements throughout the statewide professional development system. Specific tasks include facilitating work groups within and across state colleges and universities to address and overcome challenges, creating sample articulation agreements between state colleges and universities, and developing strategies to support the articulation of informal training coursework into college credit. Additionally, the council will contract for the development of a universal course catalog for formal degree pathways for ECE professionals.
- High-quality state early learning standards. The council will improve existing standards and expand their use statewide. Specifically the council will support the creation of online training modules for entry-level practitioners, advanced practitioners, and program administrators or directors.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State general revenues supporting pre-k programs and in-kind contractual projects to support the council’s mission

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will meet the day before each Children and Youth Cabinet meeting and more often in person or by conference call, as needed. Meetings will be announced, and members of the public will be invited to attend.

The Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation's Office of Early Learning works closely with 31 early learning coalitions, serving the state's 67 counties. Each coalition is a nonprofit organization responsible for the delivery of child care and early learning programs locally. An existing advisory council established in statute, the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC), is composed of the governor-appointed board chairs of each early learning coalition, one member who serves at the pleasure of the president of the senate, and one member who serves at the pleasure of the speaker of the house of representatives.

The purpose of ELAC is to submit recommendations to the Department of Education and the Agency for Workforce Innovation on early learning policy. Florida's many coordinating councils are tied together by a liaison who has been assigned the responsibilities of the Head Start Advisory Council grant and who is housed within the Agency for Workforce Innovation's Office of Early Learning. The goal is to ensure that the work of each body—the Children and Youth Cabinet, the Advisory Council on Early Education and Care, and ELAC—informs the work of the others, so as to build a unified, coordinated, early childhood system statewide.

**WEBSITE**

Not currently available.

**GEORGIA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Georgia State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In 2009, Governor Sonny Perdue created the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care by executive order. The lead agency for the council is Bright from the Start: Georgia’s Department of Early Care and Learning, a stand-alone agency with authority over early childhood programs. Bright from the Start was established in 2004. Newly elected governor Nathan Deal will be appointing new members to the council in 2011.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 19

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The commissioner of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning chairs the council.

**Subcommittees:**  
Not specified.

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal funding)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner, assistant commissioner, and board member, Georgia Bright from the Start
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State superintendent of schools
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School district superintendent
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dean of college of education at a state university
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local pre-k director
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, Georgia Head Start Association
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Head Start Collaboration
<i>State agency responsible for</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner, Georgia

<i>programs under Part C of IDEA</i>		Department of Human Services
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner, Georgia Department of Human Services
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Interim commissioner, Georgia Department of Community Health; commissioner, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Studies
<b>Representative from governor’s office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education policy advisor
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vice president, Georgia Power Community and Economic Development
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foundation trustee
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Georgia Family Connection Partnership
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Governor’s Office for Children and Families</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director
<b>Military</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Flight chief at air force base; and children and youth services family child care program director at army base

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has three primary objectives:

- Improving program quality. Strategies include conducting a needs assessment; reviewing gaps between the state’s vision and current reality; and making recommendations to improve:
  - Staff qualifications and higher education capacity;
  - Program oversight and monitoring;
  - Health screening and healthy development;
  - Standards and professional development;
  - Curriculum;
  - Assessment; and
  - Coordination and integration.
- Empowering parents. Strategies include improving parent outreach and communication across early childhood programs, consulting with existing parent advisory councils, and developing a plan to inform parents about publicly funded services.
- Unifying and coordinating data. The council will conduct a data gap analysis, support a consultant to design the technical architecture for a unified system, and provide cost estimates and recommendations for implementation.

Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### **SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State general revenue currently used for state teacher training, child care licensing, and monitoring and maintaining data.

#### **COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

*In June 2010, the council approved a draft outline of the comprehensive plan, identifying key principles to be included in the final plan. The council conducted four public meetings throughout the state to receive public comment on the draft, and council staff synthesized comments for the council's review.*

#### **UNIQUE FEATURES**

The first lady's Children's Cabinet in Georgia brings together representatives from education, health, human services, and juvenile justice agencies. Governor Perdue's executive order establishing the council requires that members of the cabinet be active participants on the council.

**WEBSITE**

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/Default.aspx>

**GUAM**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Guam Early Learning Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

University of Guam, Office of Academic and Student Affairs

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In April 2008, Governor Felix Camacho signed an executive order establishing the Guam Early Learning Council. Governor Camacho designated the University of Guam, Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Education, Research, and Service (Guam CEDDERS) as the lead agency to coordinated council activities. Guam CEDDERS has facilitated Guam’s Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan for the past five years.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 25

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is co-chaired by Guam’s first lady and the director of Guam CEDDERS.

**Subcommittees:**  
None

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS); child human services administrator, DPHSS; and administrator, Bureau of Social Services Administration, DPHSS
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent, Guam Department of Education (GDOE).
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Guam does not have local education agencies.
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Department chair for education, Guam Community College

<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two owners, child care and learning centers
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Guam Head Start, GDOE
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guam does not have a director of Head Start collaboration.
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assistant superintendent, Guam Division of Special Education (GDOE)
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Associate superintendent of special education, Division of Special Education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chairperson, Guam System of Care Council; and Director and Deputy Director, Department of Mental Health Substance Abuse (DMHSA)
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special assistant on health education, Office of the Governor
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senator and Speaker, Guam Legislature
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parent representative from Guam's System of Care Council
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Guam CEDDERS, Guam PIRC, Catholic Social Services, Sanctuary Inc., and Guam Child Care and Development Association
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>First lady</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	First lady
<b>Judicial system</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Judge
<b>Mayor's Council of Guam</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President and vice president
<b>Other territorial agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Guam Department of Labor and Fair Employment; officer, One Stop Career Center, Guam Department of Labor
<b>Medical provider</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pediatrician
<b>Hospital representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Administrator/CEO, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

Guam’s council has the following objectives:

- Governance, system collaboration, and sustainability. The council will consider recommending a new, coordinated early childhood governance structure, such as a children’s cabinet or bureau.
- Social marketing. Stakeholder representatives will develop a social marketing campaign to advocate for supports and services for young children. Representatives will share real-life stories about the value of quality early childhood education through meetings, summits, CDs, posters, and brochures.
- Early learning guidelines and training. The council will update the Guam early learning guidelines and provide training on the guidelines to licensed child care providers, families, and the community. Outreach to the community will include culturally competent and accessible family-child learning materials and workshops using translators in widely spoken languages.
- Data systems. The council aims to provide a data collection and sharing process based on 37 existing performance indicators for the territory’s early learning systems.
- Professional development. The council will implement a professional development plan, including assessing training needs and planning and implementing early childhood training across agencies and programs.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K-3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

In-kind contributions, including facility rental, recreational facilities, office space, utilities, space for council quarterly meetings and public awareness activities in public malls.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council meets quarterly. Each meeting includes in its agenda the opportunity for public input from anyone interested in attending and submitting or delivering prepared statements. On an annual basis, the council will report on the overall status of early childhood to the governor, the Guam Legislature, agencies supporting and facilitating early childhood initiatives, and the public.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The following Guam early childhood programs report progress to the council:

- Head Start program
- Guam Positive Parents Together: Parent Information Resource Center
- Project Tinituhon: Guam’s Early Childhood Comprehensive System Project
- Project Bisita I Familia: Guam’s Infant and Early Childhood Home Visitation Program
- Project Karinū: Guam’s Early Childhood System of Care
- Guam Early Intervention System/ Special Education Preschool Program

**WEBSITE**

None.

**HAWAII**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Hawaii Early Learning Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

The council is currently attached administratively to Hawaii Department of Education, but not “housed” there.

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

It is anticipated that Governor Neil Abercrombie will designate the Hawaii Early Learning Council as the state advisory council through an executive order in April 2011. The early learning council was first created in statute in a 2008 special session of the state legislature, as a 14-member body with representatives from the public and private sector.

In April 2010, former Governor Linda Lingle had designated a different entity—the Hawaii Inter-departmental Council (IDC)—as the statewide early childhood advisory council, to meet the requirements of the federal Head Start Act. Through Governor Abercrombie’s executive order, the IDC will be rescinded and will no longer exist. The Hawaii Early Learning Council will receive Hawaii’s federal ARRA funds and will implement grant activities. Once the Hawaii Early Learning Council becomes the official early childhood advisory council in Hawaii, state leaders will expand proposed activities and priorities beyond what was originally proposed in the state’s federal application.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 14

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is chaired by the headmaster of a private elementary school. The co-chair is the CEO of a private school covering pre-k through grade 12.

**Subcommittees:**

- Governance
- Direct Services
- Qualified Professionals
- Data
- Quality
- Public Will/Finance

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
MEMBER TYPE	INCLUSION	MEMBER DESCRIPTION

<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Hawaii Department of Human Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent of schools, Hawaii Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent of schools, Hawaii Department of Education
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, University of Hawaii at Manoa
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three early childhood program providers representing center-based, family child care, and family/child interaction learning programs
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head Start program provider
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Hawaii Head Start State Collaboration Office
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Hawaii Department of Health
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent of schools, Hawaii Department of Education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Hawaii Department of Health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>		
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>		
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>		
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Philanthropy representative
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Hawaii Association of Independent Schools
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>County representatives</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two representatives from Hawaii Council of Mayors
<b>Kamehameha Schools</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CEO

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has four primary goals for the federal grant period:

- Expand program participation. Key tasks include developing a plan to increase the early childhood system’s capacity, conducting a needs assessment, and expanding services on Neighbor Islands.
- Ensure quality, with focus on increasing the number of accredited facilities. The council will develop a plan for expanding accreditation to home and center-based early care and learning programs and develop a process for identifying needed improvements to facilities. In partnership with the philanthropic community, the council will support facility improvements. Finally, the council will develop a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS).
- Implement a comprehensive professional development system. The council will adopt, revise, or expand core competencies for early education practitioners, early childhood coursework offerings, the registry approval process, a career lattice and framework, and strategies to improve access to higher education.
- Provide outreach and training on the use of early learning standards. The council will publish standards and support their use for teacher preparation programs and practitioners, regulatory agencies, evaluators, system planners, and parents.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K-3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

In-kind contributions through Good Beginnings Alliance, Kamehameha Schools, and Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will meet periodically at a time designated by the council members. The council will seek neighbor island participation through the use of videoconferencing.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council will oversee the development of four county-level local councils.

**WEBSITE**

None.

## ILLINOIS

### **COUNCIL NAME**

Illinois Early Learning Council

### **DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

The Illinois Department of Human Services is the fiscal agent for the federal grant. The Illinois Office of Early Childhood Development, Office of the Governor, provides coordination and staffing for the council.

### **COUNCIL HISTORY**

In 2003, the Illinois General Assembly founded the Illinois Early Learning Council to guide the development of a statewide early childhood education and care system. In 2009, Governor Pat Quinn designated the council to carry out the requirements of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 and created the Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD), housed in the governor's office. OECD guides the efforts of the council in advancing a comprehensive, statewide early childhood system. The council is currently in the midst of a strategic planning process that may enhance some activities and priorities listed in this profile.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 71

**Chair(s) of Council:**

The council is co-chaired. Currently the positions are held by the president of the nonprofit Ounce of Prevention Fund and the deputy chief of staff to the governor.

**Subcommittees:**

- Early childhood data work group
- Home visiting task force
- Infant and toddler committee
- Linguistic and cultural diversity committee
- Oversight and coordination committee
- Public awareness committee
- Space capacity committee
- Special populations committee
- Workforce development committee
- Executive committee

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
MEMBER TYPE	INCLUSION	MEMBER DESCRIPTION
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary, assistant secretary, and bureau chief, Illinois Department of Human Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent, board member, and division administrator, Illinois State Board of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Four representatives, including superintendents and early education administrators
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Illinois Board of Higher Education, and president, Illinois Community College Board
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ten local providers of early childhood development
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Six Head Start centers
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Illinois Head Start Collaboration Office
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Division administrator, Illinois State Board of Education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Illinois Department of Public Health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy chief of staff
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State senator
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parent
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business representative
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from three foundations
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	42 members representing state, local, and national organizations
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Local government</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from city human services agencies
<b>Other state agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director and chief, Latino affairs, Department of Children and Family Services
<b>Federal agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regional administrator, Administration for Children and Families, federal Department of Health and Human Services

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has four overarching goals: (1) Increase participation for underserved populations; (2) increase coordination across programs, services, and administrating agencies; (3) develop a comprehensive data system; and (4) advance the professional development system. To promote these goals, the council will use federal funds to implement the following objectives:

- Engage vulnerable children and families in high-quality early childhood education:. The council will undertake a Hard-to-Reach Pilot Project, providing competitive grants to support innovative models to engage isolated families and increase participation of children from underrepresented or special populations in quality programs.
- Increase early childhood facilities in underserved communities. The council will provide outreach and technical assistance to organizations or municipalities to help them successfully apply for existing state grants for building and renovation of early care and education facilities.
- Increase community collaborations and partnerships. The council will build awareness of the importance of community partnerships and provide technical assistance to local partnerships.
- Develop an early childhood data system. The council will develop and begin to implement a plan to create a unified data system that integrates current systems and provides new data on Illinois’s birth-to-five programs.
- Develop birth-to-three accreditation support. The council will support state-funded home visiting programs in completing their respective national program credentialing processes, with the goals of both improving program quality and aligning data collection.
- Strengthen birth-to-three monitoring system. The council will support development of a monitoring system for the state block grant–funded birth-to-three programs.
- Strengthen professional development system. The council will strengthen the professional development system by (1) funding scholarships to early childhood practitioners, and (2) providing intensive faculty institutes to higher education faculty on effectively preparing the early childhood workforce.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	☒
Promote coordination across programs.	☒
Increase access to programs.	☒
Develop data system.	☒
Improve professional development system.	☒

Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infant and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

In-kind contributions from the state-funded Early Childhood Block Grant, Chicago Coalition for Site Administered Programs, Education Council LCC, Illinois Action for Children, Illinois Federation of Teachers, INCCRRA, McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership, Ounce of Prevention Fund, Positive Parenting Dupage, and Voices for Illinois Children.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council is required to report annually to the governor and the general assembly on progress toward its goals. The full council meets three times per year to approve any recommendations brought before the council committees. Council committees meet more frequently (usually monthly). One of the full council meetings each year will be used to hold a public hearing on grant activities.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD), housed within the governor’s office, coordinates and guides the work of the council and collaborates with state and federal agencies on implementation issues related to council recommendations. OECD provides staffing support to the full council, the executive committee, and the oversight and coordination committee. The council’s other eight committees are staffed by five nonprofit organizations with specific knowledge of committee work.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www2.illinois.gov/earlychildhood/Pages/default.aspx>

## IOWA

### **COUNCIL NAME**

Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders Alliance

### **DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Iowa Department of Management

### **COUNCIL HISTORY**

Since 1998, the Iowa Community Empowerment Board, composed of state agency heads and gubernatorial appointees, has supported 58 local Empowerment Boards representing 99 counties in developing and implementing strategic plans focused on the healthy development of children from birth to age five. In 2001, Iowa leaders founded Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Stakeholders, an alliance of stakeholders focused on building a coordinated state early childhood system. The ECI Stakeholders was designated as Iowa's early childhood advisory council in 2009. In 2010, the Iowa General Assembly passed the Early Childhood Iowa Initiative, merging the Iowa Community Empowerment Board and ECI Stakeholders into one coordinated, state and local system-building effort identified as the Early Childhood Iowa. This entity now serves as the state's early childhood advisory council.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** On average, 100 people attend council meetings.

**Chair(s) of Council:** The council does not have a chair.

**Subcommittees:**

- Diversity advisory committee
- Governance, planning, and administration component group
- Professional development component group
- Results accountability component group
- Resources and funding component group
- Quality services and programs component group
- Public engagement component group
- Congress (conference planning) group
- Policy and fiscal assessment committee
- State agency liaison team
- Co-chairs group

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
MEMBER TYPE	INCLUSION	MEMBER DESCRIPTION
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Iowa Department of Human Services, Child Care Bureau
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Iowa Department of Education, Early Childhood Bureau
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from area education agency
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All three state regents are represented.
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preschool providers and representative from child care resource and referral agency
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Iowa Head Start Directors Association
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director of Head Start Collaboration, Iowa Department of Education
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lead Part C staff person at department of education
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early childhood bureau chief, Iowa Department of Education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Community health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has adopted a vision that all children, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful. Toward that end, they developed indicators, goals, and strategies in five key “result areas” that guide their work. The result areas are: healthy children, children ready to succeed in school, safe and supportive communities, secure and nurturing families, and secure and nurturing early care and education environments.

During the federal grant period, the council plans to carry out the following activities:

- Create an ECI systems coordinator position. This individual will coordinate the system-building efforts outlined in the Early Childhood Iowa Strategic Plan.
- Conduct a needs assessment. The assessment will focus on gaps between resources and services and will inform strategic planning and the state and local level.
- Develop a framework for an early childhood data system. A cross-agency data work group will identify data needs, assess existing data, and identify recommendations to improve, link, and integrate data systems.
- Fully implement ECI’s professional development framework. A professional development system coordinator will lead efforts to implement an existing professional development framework. Four teams representing professional development needs of various sectors (early learning, early intervention, health/mental health/nutrition, and family support) will adopt and implement strategies for an integrated professional development network. Finally, the council will review and update the Iowa Early Learning Standards.
- Facilitate the development or enhancement of high-quality early care, health, and education programs to improve school readiness. The council will strengthen coordination across agencies and implement strategies to improve program quality. An ECI Parent Summit will identify recommendations for systems improvement from parents and families. ECI will be also moving forward with implementation of the Diversity Advisory Committee’s strategic plan.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State funds supporting professional development for the early childhood workforce.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The ECI Stakeholders Alliance meets quarterly. Stakeholders in the alliance have an open invitation to join meetings. Communication occurs through written updates, e-mail correspondence, a website, and component group participation, in addition to the quarterly meetings.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council was designed as an open confederation of stakeholders and is open to anyone who chooses to participate.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/>

**KANSAS**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Since 2005, the Early Learning Coordinating Council (ELCC) has provided leadership and guidance for the development and implementation of the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (KECCS) Plan. In 2010, Governor Mark Parkinson designated the ELCC as the state early childhood advisory council to meet the requirements of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007. The body was renamed the Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) and is housed within the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund (KCCTF).

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 21

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is in the process of selecting a chair.

**Subcommittees:**

- Professional development planning workgroup and
- Data collection workgroup

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Economic and Employment Support
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coordinator, Kansas State Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent, local school district
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, Kansas Board of

		Regents
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, local family resource center
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, local Head Start program
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Head Start Collaboration Office
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chair, Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Family Health
<b>Representative from governor’s office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy Director, Office of the Governor
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senator and state representative
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parent representative
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CEO, business community
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, philanthropic community
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from: Kansas Coalition for School Readiness, American Academy of Pediatrics, statewide resource and referral agency
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Other statewide entities</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Kansas Children’s Cabinet, and director, Kansas Health Policy Authority
<b>Other state agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Prevention Services

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council will support the following five goals:

- A statewide system of integrated services is available to support families with young children in Kansas. The council will identify opportunities for and barriers to coordination across programs, assess existing coordination activities, and identify models of integrated service delivery. The council will identify methods for unified reporting among early childhood programs supported by federal, state, and local funds.
- Early childhood professionals will be supported in ongoing education, training, and career advancement through a coordinated professional development system. Key strategies include developing a crosswalk of professional development standards, identifying and enhancing preservice and in-service training requirements, implementing a professional development registry, assessing the capacity and effectiveness of the current system, and increasing the number of early childhood professionals with credentials. The council will also review practices from other states.
- A coordinated, birth-through-20 longitudinal data system will be available to support both evidence-based practices and research efforts. The council will convene an early childhood data collection workgroup to identify data that can be added to a state-level data warehouse.
- Early care and education providers will use the Kansas Early Learning Guidelines and Standards and evidence-based practices in program planning and service delivery to increase the number of children entering kindergarten ready to learn. The council will develop, and train providers to use, the Kansas Early Learning Guidelines and Standards. In addition, the council will encourage providers to align curriculum and assessment with the standards and guidelines.
- Planning for a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS). The council will review QRIS models from other states, determine the feasibility of implementing a system in Kansas, and identify links to existing efforts, including early learning standards and professional development.

**Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

The Early Childhood Block Grant, funded through the Children’s Initiative Funds (with support from the master tobacco settlement).

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council and its subcommittees will meet monthly. Semiannual Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (KECCS) meetings offer an opportunity for early childhood stakeholders to share information, access training opportunities, and provide feedback on state activities. Council documents will be distributed broadly through the KECCS website. The council will contract with a marketing and communications consultant to develop a communications strategy, to provide guidance around coordination of meetings that involve the same early childhood partners, and to provide guidance about consolidating existing state early childhood newsletters.

### **UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council is housed within the KCCTF, which oversees the Children's Initiatives Fund, derived from the state's 1999 master tobacco settlement and state fees that support an array of children's services. The KCCTF will contract with the Institute for Educational Research and Public Services, at the University of Kansas, to manage council activities.

The council is also the leadership body for the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan, Project Launch, Head Start Collaboration, and other statewide early childhood initiatives.

### **WEBSITE**

<http://www.kschildrenscabinet.org/index.htm>

**KENTUCKY**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Office of the Governor

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In 2010, through executive order, Kentucky’s Governor Steve Beshear reorganized the existing Early Childhood Development Authority (ECDA) to meet the requirements of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 and renamed it the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council. The council will continue ECDA’s historical role of administering tobacco settlement funds for early childhood programs, known as the KIDS NOW initiative.

While the ECDA had been housed in the Kentucky Department of Education, the council is now within the office of the governor and has the authority to work across state agencies to promote a state early childhood policy agenda.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 21

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
This will be a voluntary position filled from the private or nonprofit sector

**Subcommittees:**

- Professional development
- Longitudinal data
- School readiness definition
- KIDS NOW Initiative (tobacco-settlement funds)

Advisory Council Membership		
MEMBER TYPE	INCLUSION	MEMBER DESCRIPTION
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services or designee
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary of Kentucky Education

		and Workforce Development Cabinet or designee
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent of local school district
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kentucky director of Head Start collaboration
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Kentucky Department of Public Health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nonvoting ex officio member from the Senate and House of Representatives
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parent
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seven private sector members, at least one from each congressional district
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early childhood development advocate
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Community members</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three citizens at large, appointed by the governor

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council will address several key goals:

- Increase collaboration and coordination between programs and agencies of the early care and education system. The council is focused on collaboration at the local level through existing Community Early Childhood Councils (CECCs), at the regional level by embedding collaborative skills in the professional development system, and through public-private and cross-agency coordination at the state level.
- Increase school readiness. The council will revalidate early childhood standards and ensure that standards and the state’s school readiness definition are widely understood and effectively used. The council will also support development of a longitudinal data system to measure school readiness.
- Improve access to high-quality early care and education. The council will engage in a number of strategies to promote access to low-income families and special populations, including a statewide communications plan, and in efforts to improve program quality and access for children with behavioral or mental health challenges and disabilities, English language learners, and homeless families.
- Develop and implement a high-quality professional development system. The council will develop and implement a high-quality professional development system, will work to align pre-service and in-service systems, and will promote articulation agreements.
- Develop cross-sector longitudinal data systems. The council will identify the type and level of data to be included in a longitudinal system, identify sustainable maintenance funding for the system, and establish processes for data entry, extraction, and reporting.
- Increase provider enrollment and progress through the quality rating and improvement system (QRIS). The council will provide mini-grants to early care and education providers to enroll in, and increase their rating in, the QRIS.

**Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family/community engagement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State general funds for pre-k programs.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will meet regularly, and meetings will be open to the public. Meeting minutes will be posted online. Kentucky’s strategic plan is available on the department of education website and is linked to a survey tool to gather public comment. The council also communicates with the public through a network of local early childhood councils.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

A Governor’s Taskforce on Early Childhood Development and Care was established by executive order in 2009 and called to provide recommendations to the governor on the formation of a unified vision for the state early childhood system. Recommendations from the taskforce informed the council’s governance structure, goals, and action plan.

The council is charged with carrying out the KIDS Now initiative, which has been in place in Kentucky since 1999. Through KIDS NOW, the council administers 25 percent of Kentucky’s tobacco settlement funds, which have been earmarked for early childhood development. The council is also working to implement a long-term KIDS NOW strategic plan that addresses state efforts to promote maternal and child health, support families, and enhance early care and education. Finally, as part of the KIDS NOW initiative, the council works closely with community early childhood councils that bring together community stakeholders to improve outcomes for young children.

**WEBSITE**

<http://educationcabinet.ky.gov/eceadvisorycouncil.htm>

**LOUISIANA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

BrightStart

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

The designated entity is Louisiana’s Early Childhood Comprehensive System Grant Initiative, known as BrightStart. BrightStart is conducted under the auspices and guidance of the state children’s cabinet and its advisory board. Louisiana’s Department of Children and Family Services is the fiscal agent for federal funds.

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Since 2004, BrightStart has carried out the state’s early childhood comprehensive systems planning effort, supported by the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau. A 2008 legislative concurrent resolution required all state agencies serving young children to participate in BrightStart. In 2010, Governor Bobby Jindal designated BrightStart as Louisiana’s early childhood advisory council, to meet the requirements of the Head Start Act of 2007. The existing BrightStart steering committee was expanded, renamed the BrightStart Advisory Council, and will serve as the council. The council is currently finalizing a new governance structure.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 29

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is chaired by the director of BrightStart, who also directs the Tulane Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.

**Subcommittees:**

- Systems planning and data committee
- Professional development committee
- Family support infrastructure and child safety committee

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy secretary; director, prevention and protection services; and child care administrator, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief of literacy, Louisiana Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Member, city school board
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vice president for academic

		affairs, Louisiana Community and Technical College System
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Owner, child development center
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head Start director
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Louisiana Head Start Collaboration Project
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coordinator, Part C- Early Steps, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Maternal and Child Health Program, and medical director, Louisiana Office of Behavioral Health; director, Children's Special Health Services; and deputy director, Medicaid Program, DHH
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director of Louisiana Children's Cabinet
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State senator and representative
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parent representative to be added
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Capital One University of New Orleans Charter School Network; local children's coalition; Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families; Equity and Inclusion Campaign; and American Academy of Pediatrics
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Board of Elementary and Secondary Education</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director
<b>Louisiana Interagency Coordinating Council</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director
<b>Other state agencies/commissions</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Louisiana's Division of Administration, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, Louisiana Children's Trust Fund, and the Louisiana Department of Economic Development

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council's work is guided by two goals: (1) to maintain and strengthen service systems integration and partnerships to enhance children's ability to enter school healthy and ready to learn; and (2) to build an early childhood system that addresses access to medical care, mental health/social-emotional development, early care and education, parenting education/family support, and child safety. To advance these goals, the council will carry out eight objectives over the next three years:

- Create a planning framework that will address strategic planning, ongoing needs assessment, barriers to collaboration, outreach, standards, and promotion/marketing of the importance of early childhood. Outputs include an updated strategic plan, a "Risk and Reach report" on early childhood programs, and a BrightStart website and social marketing campaign. The council also plans to pilot the Early Development Instrument (EDI) to measure children's outcomes at a community/neighborhood level.
- Create a professional development plan and early learning standards. The council will create and implement a professional development plan that will address professional standards, articulation, data, and financing. The council will also assist in the revision of Early Learning Guidelines and Program Standards: Birth to Three and incorporate those standards and the existing Standards for Programs Serving Four-Year-Old Children, into the professional development system.
- Create a statewide unified early childhood data system. The council will develop a framework for a statewide, unified data system that is coordinated with existing P-20 data system efforts in the state. At the end of the three-year grant period, the council will draft a request for proposals for data system development.
- Improve birth outcomes through interconception care. The council will collaborate with a DHH effort called the Birth Outcomes Project to address adverse birth outcomes by identifying at-risk prenatal or postnatal women and linking them to improved health services.
- Support mental health and social-emotional development. Louisiana's Early Childhood Supports and Services (ECSS) is a prevention and intervention program that serves children from birth to five at risk of social, emotional, and developmental problems. The council will expand the clinical consultations to ECSS teams and provide trainings in infant and early childhood mental health.
- Support high-quality early education through the diverse delivery of pre-k. The council will work with stakeholders at the state and community levels to promote delivery of public pre-k through private child care and Head Start settings, in an effort both to lower facilities costs and to promote quality and accountability across early childhood settings.
- Support infrastructure and training for parenting education. The council established Louisiana Parent Education Network (LAPEN) in 2008 as a statewide association for parent educators. The council will assist LAPEN by building infrastructure, technical support, and trainings and ensuring fidelity to evidence-based parent education models.
- Improve child safety. The council will promote collaboration among diverse state initiatives to promote child safety and reduce risk of abuse and neglect of infants, toddlers, and preschool children. Strategies include promotion of a parenting newsletter, a survey of agency policies and regulations, and training and webinars on child safety.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

Louisiana’s school readiness tax credits and refundable child care credit.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

There will be at least two regional meetings/public hearings each year, with an opportunity for public comment. The council will take public comments under consideration and modify grant activities as necessary

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council is chaired and staffed through a university research center.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.brightstartla.org/>

**MAINE**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Maine Children’s Growth Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

The Maine Children’s Growth Cabinet was created by statute in 2008 and is the successor to the Maine Task Force on Early Childhood. In 2010, Governor John Baldacci designated the Children’s Growth Cabinet as the statewide advisory council to meet the requirements of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007. The council carries out the federally funded Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) planning efforts and is tasked with implementing the state’s *Invest Early in Maine* plan.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 33

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is co-chaired by the senior program director at the Maine Development Foundation and the superintendent for a regional school unit.

**Subcommittees:**

- Communications/public outreach
- Legislative/policy
- Data and resource mapping
- Finance
- Early care and education
- Family
- Health

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner, Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Acting commissioner, Maine

		Department of Education
<b>Local education agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District superintendent
<b>Institutions of higher education</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative, university system
<b>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local provider
<b>Head Start agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head Start agency
<b>State director of Head Start collaboration</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head Start collaboration director
<b>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part B/C coordinator, Maine Department of Education
<b>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part B/C coordinator, Maine Department of Education
<b>State agency responsible for health or mental health</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Title V (Maternal and Child Health) representative, DHHS
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be determined
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two Senate members and two House members, each representing the two major parties
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two parents of young children
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tribal representative
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives, Statewide Association of Business and Industry, Economic Growth Council, and Business Roundtable on Early Childhood Investment
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two private funders
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Maine Children's Trust, Maine Children's Alliance, Maine Development Foundation, United Ways of Maine, Maine Association for Infant Mental Health
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Child Care Advisory Council</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Member
<b>Labor union</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative, SEIU Kids First
<b>Attorney general's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attorney general or designee
<b>Law enforcement</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Member of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Maine chapter

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council will use the three-year federal grant to focus on a single cross-cutting strategy: improving the flow of information to Maine parents. Activities fall under two phases:

- Phase I: Information Gathering. The council will conduct interviews with a diverse group of parents and with health and early care and education providers to assess what information parents currently receive. The council will also review the results of a survey of parent education programs. A Phase I report will identify what metrics the council should use to measure the success of parent engagement outreach and how data systems can support evaluation of parent engagement.
- Phase II: Closing the Gap. The council will address the deficiencies in current parent outreach strategies, as identified in Phase I. Strategies may include redesigning websites, creating new outreach materials, or training providers on how to communicate with parents.

In addition to the proposed parent information strategy, the council will fulfill its other statutory responsibilities, including the following:

- Conducting a needs assessment, paying specific attention to the needs of parents;
- Identifying opportunities for collaboration and coordination to better support parents;
- Increase overall participation of children in programs by raising parental awareness;
- Developing recommendations for a unified data system that meets parent needs;
- Developing recommendations for a professional development system that trains providers to engage and interact with parents;
- Assessing capacity and effectiveness of higher education to support providers in interacting with parents; and
- Making recommendations for improvements in early learning standards and how to share the standards with parents.

Through its committees, the council will also use federal funds to (1) promote systems of health care to prevent adverse childhood experiences and screen children in all domains of development; (2) lead a public policy and communications campaign about the value of early childhood investments; and (3) align standards and practices across programs, including Head Start, Early Head Start, child care, pre-k, and home visiting.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State funds for home visiting programs and grants from foundations.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council is required by statute to meet at least six times a year. Meetings of the council and its committees are open to the public. The council also plans to hold public hearing on the needs assessment.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for coordinating the work of the council. The Maine Development Foundation (MDF) will act as the fiscal agent for the council consultants until a public-private partnership has been created. Two statewide organizations—the Maine Children’s Alliance and the Maine Children’s Trust Fund—will serve as consultants to the council.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.maineecgc.org>

**MARYLAND**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Maryland Early Childhood Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

For over a decade, Maryland stakeholders have worked together to develop a statewide early childhood system. In 2000, Maryland established the Leadership in Action Program, which developed a legislatively required, five-year, state early childhood action plan. In 2002, the early childhood education committee of the Governor’s Children’s Cabinet was formed to guide implementation of the five-year plan. In 2005, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) established the Division of Early Childhood Development (DECD) to administer all publicly funded early childhood programs, including child care. Finally, in 2008, Governor Martin O’Malley formed the Maryland Early Childhood Advisory Council by executive order, to serve as a successor to prior planning bodies to meet the requirements of the Head Start Act of 2007.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 31

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is chaired by the state superintendent of schools at MSDE.

**Subcommittees:**  
There are three subcommittees focused on the three objectives of the council.

Advisory Council Membership <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
MEMBER TYPE	INCLUSION	MEMBER DESCRIPTION
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State superintendent of schools; assistant state superintendent, Division of Early Childhood Development; and director, Office of Child Care, MSDE
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State superintendent of schools

		and assistant state superintendent, Division of Early Childhood Development, MSDE
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supervisor, county-level pre-k and Head Start; supervisor, city pre-k and Part B; and elementary school principal in county school district
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early childhood education coordinator, community college
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from family child care, center-based child care, and an independent school (in both city and county locations)
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President of the association/county grantee
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Head Start Collaboration, MSDE
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Branch chief, Early Intervention and Education, MSDE
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Branch chief, Early Intervention and Education, MSDE
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director of child and adolescent services, early childhood administrator and the program administrator for early childhood at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governor's education policy advisor and executive director, Maryland Governor's Office for Children.
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three representatives from corporations/business
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	United Way of Maryland
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from eight state associations and four nonprofit initiatives
<b>OTHER:</b>		
<b>Other state agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from the departments of disabilities and human resources
<b>Local agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Local Management Boards Association, county health and human services

		agency, county community action committee, county public library, and city child care resource center.
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**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has three principal objectives.

1. All children, birth to age five, will have access to adequate and equitably funded quality early care and education (ECE) programs that meet the diverse needs of families. Strategies include maintaining the viability of quality ECE programs; developing transition strategies for children moving to public schools; using a diverse set of venues to meet demand for quality ECE; establishing a website for information on ECE career options; and implementing a unique student identifier for longitudinal data analysis.
  
2. Families of all young children will have access to the resources needed to be their child's first teacher. Strategies include encouraging jurisdictions to develop a coordinated network to provide information and resources to families; developing a statewide strategy to ensure transition among programs for young children and families; sponsoring community listening forums; expanding the communication plan; and supporting the reorganization of the home visiting structure.
  
3. The council will establish and strengthen programs and practices to better assess and meet children's health and mental health needs. Strategies include developing a methodology for statewide assessment of parents' perceptions of parent support resources; supporting expansion of a social-emotional learning training program; increasing the number of health providers accepting CHIP payment, including for children with special health needs; extending the Child and Adult Food Care program to informal child care providers; maintaining or increasing the number of early childhood mental health consultants; and supporting the establishment of a model medical home program.

The governor's executive order requires that the participating agencies in the council focus on:

- Identifying current trends and tracking progress;
- Monitoring the impact of state agency strategies related to the action plan;
- Developing quality benchmarks and measures of success;
- Promoting awareness of effective practices in early childhood education; and
- Coordinating all efforts outlined in the action plan.

**Council's Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family/community engagement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State general revenues for the Maryland Early Childhood Accreditation project and Preschool Service Grant.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will communicate with the public through community forums, established community-level early childhood networks, an existing school readiness business network, and a statewide event showcasing effective transition practices.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

In Maryland all publicly funded early childhood programs are housed in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The superintendent of schools at MSDE chairs the council.

**WEBSITE**

[www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/divisions/child\\_care/planning](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/divisions/child_care/planning)

**MASSACHUSETTS**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Massachusetts

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In March 2010, Governor Deval Patrick designated the Massachusetts Board of Early Education and Care as the statewide early childhood advisory council for the state. The council guides and supervises the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), a state agency established in 2005 to oversee all early education and care programs in the state.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 12

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is chaired by the chair of the Massachusetts Board of Education and Care, who is deputy director at Massachusetts Business Roundtable and also a parent.

**Subcommittees:**  
Not specified.

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary, Massachusetts Executive Office of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early childhood coordinator ; and expert in preschool evaluation/assessment
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary, Massachusetts

		Executive Office of Education
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two early education providers
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early education provider
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary, Massachusetts Executive Office of Education
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Designee by secretary, Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services; child psychologist; and doctor.
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy director of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable; physician
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy director of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
OTHER		
<b>At-large representatives</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two at-large representatives

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has six key areas of focus:

- Early childhood data development systems and use. The council will support development of an integrated Early Childhood Information System (ECIS), which will use unique child, workforce, and program identifiers and offer the analytic capacity to examine and report on data on children’s needs and program participation. The ECIS link to a broader P–20 data system, currently in development.
- Needs assessment. The council will design and implement the required needs assessment with a special emphasis on multi-risk families with infants and toddlers.
- Birth to age 8 (B–8) community planning; pre-k–grade 3 partnerships. The council will provide funds and technical assistance to support community-level B–8 strategic plans in target communities, anchored in local data on child and family needs. The council will also develop a comprehensive Pre-k–3 framework and support targeted communities in developing practice and policy changes for curriculum alignment, joint professional development, and student “readiness” portfolios.
- Early education/higher education workforce preparation partnership. The council will develop an early education and care workforce preparation data infrastructure partnership with the department of higher education and with public/private higher education institutions. Data collected will include higher education program offerings, student-level data, and transfer, articulation, and credit information.
- Policy and best practices: children/families with language challenges. The council will develop policy and practice guidelines and fund demonstration efforts for early education and care programs serving very young children with language challenges, including those with developmental delays and disabilities and those growing up in English learner families.
- ARRA Council implementation support and accountability. The council will provide consultation support to the commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Early Care and Learning to advance the council’s agenda and to integrate priorities within the comprehensive early childhood system supported by the department’s work.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement,	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

The information technology infrastructure of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council meets monthly, except in the summer, as part of regularly scheduled board of early education and care meetings. Meetings are open to the public and include time for public testimony. While the council often meets in Boston, meetings are also scheduled in other areas to allow for participation of stakeholders across the state.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

Governor Patrick’s Child and Youth Readiness Cabinet, co-chaired by the secretaries of education and health and human services, is tasked with building partnerships across public agencies to promote a P–20 education agenda. The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care is a partner in these efforts.

**WEBSITE**

[www.mass.gov/eec](http://www.mass.gov/eec)

**MICHIGAN**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Great Start Early Learning Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Michigan Early Childhood Investment Corporation

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In 2005, Governor Jennifer Granholm created the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC), a public, nonprofit corporation charged with leading the Great Start initiative, Michigan’s comprehensive early childhood system. In 2009, Governor Granholm established the Great Start Early Learning Advisory Council, to meet the requirements of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 and charged the ECIC to serve as its home.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 23

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is chaired by the president of the Steelcase Foundation.

**Subcommittees:**  
A subcommittee will focus on development of an early care and education quality rating and improvement system (QRIS).

Advisory Council Membership <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
MEMBER TYPE	INCLUSION	MEMBER DESCRIPTION
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Office of Early Education, Michigan Department of Human Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy superintendent, Michigan Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two school district superintendents
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Great Start Child Care Resource Center (university-based)
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Michigan Home Based Child Care Council

<b>Head Start agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head Start program director
<b>State director of Head Start collaboration</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Michigan Head Start Collaboration office
<b>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services, Michigan Department of Education
<b>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services, Michigan Department of Education
<b>State agency responsible for health or mental health</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Division of Family and Community Health, Michigan Department of Community Health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three parent representatives
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tribal early childhood program manager
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Michigan Migrant Head Start
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two representatives from foundations
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Michigan Human Services Association and Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children.
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Early Childhood Investment Corporation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vice president, Great Start System Planning and Evaluation
<b>Local Great Start Collaborative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, local Great Start Collaborative
<b>Child Care Regional Resource Center</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from regional center
<b>Health care system</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Center for Healthcare Transformation, University of Michigan Health Care System

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

Michigan’s Great Start Initiative supports a comprehensive early childhood system, including health, social-emotional health, child care and early education, and family support. The council will focus on the child care and early education component of this broader initiative and will specifically address four goals in this domain:

- Increased number of low-income young children who participate in high-quality settings. To accomplish this goal, the council will
  - Provide intensive technical assistance and funding to local school readiness consortia to expand high-quality program sites, provide “scholarships” to low-income families, develop partnership for full-day, full-year programming, and assess and promote program quality;
  - Develop and disseminate a policy paper outlining strategies to expand access to inclusive early learning opportunities for young children with special needs; and
  - Support development of a statewide quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) by developing necessary information technology and data collection systems and funding and evaluating demonstration projects.
- Aligned early learning and development standards that lead to school readiness and guide curriculum and program development pre-k–3. The council will align and expand existing standards and expectations documents into a unified pre-k–3 continuum. Implementation of standards will include consumer and parent education and professional development for early childhood and early elementary educators.
- An evidence-based system of professional development. The council will oversee the implementation of a statewide professional development system and will partner with community colleges to develop online early childhood degree options.
- A coordinated early childhood data infrastructure. The council will expand Great Start CONNECT, an existing data system, to include data on early childhood workforce and professional development opportunities. The council will map the existing flow of data between state agencies, implement formal data sharing agreements in response to the map, and implement a universal child identifier.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	☒
Promote coordination across programs.	☒
Increase access to programs.	☒
Develop data system.	☒
Improve professional development system.	☒

Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State general revenues for the Great Start Readiness Program Grants.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

Membership information, meeting minutes, the federal application, and any reports developed by the council will be available to the public on the council website. The council will solicit public input through its annual needs assessment.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

Michigan’s Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) is a public-private partnership with support from state agencies and private funders. ECIC funds local Great Start Collaboratives and Great Start Parent Coalitions to build early childhood systems in Michigan communities. ECIC also supports Great Start Child Care Regional Resource Centers to promote access to quality child care opportunities. Representatives from these local and regional entities serve on the council. These entities will also play a role in carrying out council activities.

**WEBSITE**

<http://greatstartforkids.org/content/elac>

**MINNESOTA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Minnesota’s Early Learning Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Minnesota Department of Education

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Minnesota’s first early childhood advisory council was created in 2008. The first council articulated guiding principles and developed a preliminary strategic plan. In March 2011, Governor Mark Dayton issued a new executive order expanding the function to include care and education services birth to grade three, expanding the number of participants to 30 and adding a focus on school readiness, reading by third grade and closing the achievement gap.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** Up to 30

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
A chair of the council will be appointed by the governor.

**Subcommittees:**

- Accountability committee
- Access and finance committee
- Professional development committee
- Early learning standards committee

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner of human services or designee
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner of education or designee
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives of local school districts
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative of higher education
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Providers of early childhood supports and services
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individuals with Head Start

		expertise
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State Head Start Collaboration director
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner of education or designee
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner of education or designee
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner of health or designee
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Four members of the legislature
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individuals whose families receive early childhood supports or services
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Members of the business community
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives of the philanthropic community
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individuals from nonprofits involved in early childhood issues
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Local government</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative of local government groups

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

<p>The council will focus on the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities for, and address barriers to the coordination of federal and state early childhood policies and procedures that impact the well-being of Minnesota's youngest children.</li> <li>• Coordinate resources available to make affordable, quality early childhood education and care available to all children.</li> <li>• Assure that every child arrives at kindergarten ready for school.</li> <li>• Identify and promote proven strategies to help close the achievement gap so that all students in Minnesota have full opportunities to succeed. Strategies include, but are not limited to, quality early education, all day kindergarten and reading by grade three initiatives.</li> <li>• Support design of an interface to unify data for the indicators in the Minnesota early care and education accountability system so that policy makers and others will have better access to measures of school readiness.</li> <li>• Focus limited resources on children most at risk for school failure.</li> </ul>
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<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K-3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State general revenue for Head Start and school readiness programs.
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### **COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

A web-based forum will invite stakeholder comments from across the state. Public hearings and quarterly council meetings provide additional opportunities for public comment.

### **UNIQUE FEATURES**

Minnesota's departments of education and human services will provide staff support for the work of the council and will contract management for projects to outside consultants.

### **WEBSITE**

[http://education.state.mn.us/mde/Learning\\_Support/Early\\_Learning\\_Services/Adv\\_Groups/Early\\_Child\\_Adv\\_Council/index.html](http://education.state.mn.us/mde/Learning_Support/Early_Learning_Services/Adv_Groups/Early_Child_Adv_Council/index.html)

**MISSISSIPPI**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Mississippi Early Childhood Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Mississippi Governor’s Office

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In April 2008, Governor Haley Barbour established the Early Childhood Advisory Council by executive order.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 20

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The director of Mississippi State University’s Early Childhood Institute chairs the council.

**Subcommittees:**

- Data
- Provider registry
- Consolidated services
- Health access
- Workforce development

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy administrator for programs, Mississippi Department of Human Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Associate state superintendent of education, Mississippi Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Center for Families and Children, local school district
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Associate commissioner of higher education; and professor of child and family development
<i>Local providers of early childhood</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Child care provider; and

<i>education/development services</i>		representative from child care resource and referral agency
<b>Head Start agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two Head Start agency directors
<b>State director of Head Start collaboration</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State director of Head Start Collaboration
<b>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Mississippi Department of Health, First Steps Intervention Program
<b>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>State agency responsible for health or mental health</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Division director, Child Care Facilities Licensure Division, Mississippi Department of Health; and director, Bureau of Interdisciplinary Programs, Mississippi Department of Mental Health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	K-12 education policy advisor, Office of the Governor
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Head Start agency director
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Manager, policy, public and government affairs, Chevron
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Children's Defense Fund, Delta Health Alliance, and Mississippi Center for Education Innovation, and Mississippi Head Start Association
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Early Childhood Advisory Council</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has six goals for the grant period:

- To maintain the current presence within the governor’s office to support continued development of an early care and education system. The council will employ an executive director, who will be directly supervised by the governor’s chief of staff and the director of the Office for Children and Youth at the Mississippi Department of Human Services.
- To develop a data sharing system. The council will form a data committee to develop policy/research questions to guide data system development. Next steps include studying current data systems, developing core data elements necessary to answer critical policy questions, and implementing a coordinated system. The council will also develop training procedures for users of the data system and will obtain memoranda of understanding from participating agencies to guarantee that data sharing processes are sustained and used.
- To sponsor an interagency work process study to optimize early childhood education, health, and well-being services. The council will list and describe all current early childhood services and research successful coordinated service delivery models. Based on this analysis, the council will implement a pilot service coordination project in four communities, evaluate the project’s success, and implement statewide.
- To develop and implement a voluntary registration process and quality rating and improvement process for family child care providers. The council will lead development of a voluntary registration process and quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) for family child care providers.
- To develop and implement a career ladder for early care and education teachers, with a method of providing compensation for career advancements. The council will develop a financial feasibility study on benefits and compensation levels for early childhood education (ECE) teachers, build a career ladder for ECE teachers, pilot financial incentives through a TEACH program, and provide teachers with supply kits to help them obtain a credential and CDA. The council will also support alignment and articulation between two-year and 4four-year degree programs in early childhood education.
- To develop a review of state health resources and practices for children from birth to four years of age, for the purposes of streamlining current practices, making them more efficient, and highlighting underserved areas of the state. The council will explore strategies to expand health services, such as creating incentives to bring trained providers into underserved areas, exploring innovative options to deliver health services (for example, telemedicine, mobile units), and promoting a “medical home” concept.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

Funds from the Center for Education Innovation, Chevron, and the Children's Defense Fund.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

Quarterly council meetings are open to the public, and meeting dates are posted on the Council website, with a process for receiving public comment. The council will make an annual report to the governor and the general public regarding progress made on accomplishing the objectives stated in the plan. As components of the plan are implemented, focus groups of interested stakeholders will have an opportunity to discuss activities that have a direct impact on them.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council is administered jointly by the office of the governor and the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

**WEBSITE**

[www.msecac.wordpress.com](http://www.msecac.wordpress.com)

**MISSOURI**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood (CBEC)

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Missouri Department of Social Services

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

The CBEC was established by statute in August 2004 as a public-private entity charged with coordinating a state system of early childhood programs and services. The CBEC’s statutory authority is established within the Missouri Children’s Service Commission, whose membership is composed of agency heads and legislators.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 18

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is chaired by a senior research analyst/writer for a national early childhood organization. The vice-chair is director of Missouri’s Head Start Collaboration office.

**Subcommittees:**  
The council has five issue-focused workgroups that include council members and other stakeholders:

- Early childhood programs workgroup (which includes a professional development subgroup)
- Parent/family engagement workgroup
- Health workgroup
- Mental health and social-emotional development workgroup
- Home visiting workgroup

In addition, subcommittees of council members address operational issues, such as the development of council by-laws.

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Missouri Department of Social Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Missouri

		Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with focus on IDEA, Part C
<b>Local education agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Institutions of higher education</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Center for Family Policy and Research at the University of Missouri, Columbia
<b>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Past president of local United Way and director of Metropolitan Council on Early Learning in Kansas City
<b>Head Start agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Metropolitan Council on Early Learning in Kansas City
<b>State director of Head Start collaboration</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Missouri State Head Start Collaboration Office
<b>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with focus on IDEA, Part C
<b>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>State agency responsible for health or mental health</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Missouri Department of Mental Health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governor's office staff
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business leader
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from: Missouri Child Care Resource and Referral Network
OTHER		
<b>Judiciary</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Family and Community Trust Board</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board member
<b>Home visiting programs</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two representatives from home visiting programs

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council is dedicated to ensuring that Missouri’s early childhood programs are comprehensive, coordinated, accessible, adequately funded, and of the highest quality, to meet the needs and promote the well-being of all young children and their families. To accomplish its mission, the council has selected the following four areas of focus for their federally funded activities:

- Early childhood programs. The council will carry out three objectives related to early childhood programs:
  - To continue progress in developing an early childhood data system, including contracting with a partner group to link local Head Start data collection into a state data system;
  - To establish early learning guidelines for children birth to five; and
  - To advance development of a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS), including linking existing resources and professional development to the QRIS.
- Parent/family leadership and engagement.
- Health.
- Mental health and social-emotional development.

In the latter three areas, the council will convene workgroups to prepare measurable action steps to advance the council’s strategic plan goals and then work to implement the action steps. The council will also support development of an infant /toddler development checklist, a kindergarten entry assessment, and a P–20 data system.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs..	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

Two private foundations, in-kind staff time, and volunteer time from partnering groups. In addition, match funds will be derived from the state Early Childhood Development Act, Parents as Teachers program, the Children’s Trust Fund, and University of Missouri QRIS work and in-kind support from the departments of social services and corrections.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council solicited public comments on its strategic plan both online and through in-person meetings. The council will release quarterly reports that include meeting minutes and a description of progress made toward the goals in the strategic plan. A final report at the end of the three-year grant period will list the council’s accomplishments.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council operates separately but in tandem with the state’s Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems plan and steering committee, with several members overlapping. The council chair has a formal role on the state’s P–20 Council.

**WEBSITE**

<http://dss.mo.gov/cbec/>

**MONTANA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Montana’s Best Beginnings State Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Since 1996, an early childhood advisory council in Montana has advised on the state’s use of federal early childhood grants, including: Child Care and Development Fund activities, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Child and Adult Food Care Program, and the Head Start Collaboration grant. In 2010, Governor Brian Schweitzer restructured the existing council to meet the requirements of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 and renamed it “Best Beginnings.” Members will be appointed through a DPPHS agency order.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** To be determined.

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
To be determined.

**Subcommittees:**

- Professional development
- High-quality early care and education
- Supporting families
- Health and social-emotional health
- Strategic communications, outreach, and public awareness

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Montana Early Childhood Services Bureau chief
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet member, Montana Office of Public Instruction
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified

<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from: a center, a group home, and a family child care
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Montana Head Start Association
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified.
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disability Services administrator
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Montana Office of Public Instruction, Cabinet P-20 Advisor
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disability Services administrator
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Montana Early Childhood Services Bureau chief is representative to governor's office
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tribal CCDF (7 tribes)
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business/state workforce investment board
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Montana Child Care Association, the Child Care Resource and Referral Network, and the Montana Association for and the Education and Young Children
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Statewide Program Coordinators</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coordinators of social-emotional health, health consultant, and professional development initiatives
<b>Child and Adult Care Food Program sponsors</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified.
<b>Formalized local councils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from local councils
<b>Other state agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from child care licensing, public assistance, child protective services, and department of labor and industry
<b>Organized labor/union</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council’s objectives fall into five categories: governance, collaboration and coordination; high-quality early childhood education; family support and parent leadership; health; and social, emotional, and mental health.

- Governance, collaboration and coordination. Tasks include developing comprehensive needs assessment; supporting local entities to develop community-level early childhood councils; and creating a statewide strategic plan and communications/outreach plan.
- High-quality early childhood education. Strategies in this domain include revising early learning guidelines to align with kindergarten standards; field testing a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS); and building a professional development system. Other activities include promoting access to low-income and other underrepresented groups and strengthening informal care provider networks.
- Family support and parent leadership. The council will identify gaps, duplication, and models statewide related to home visitation and family support. The council will also develop innovative approaches to support children and families in transitions between programs and into public school.
- Health. The council will strengthen collaborative relationships among local public health authorities and early care and education services, and work to increase immunizations in the state. The council will also focus on increasing access to dental care and developing physical activity and nutrition guidelines for early childhood.
- Social, emotional and mental health. The council will expand the Center on Emotional Foundations of Learning (CSEFEL) model for practitioners and parents. The council will also identify early childhood mental health professionals statewide and link them with young children with behavioral needs.

The council will also fund, and provide technical assistance to, six community councils to promote early childhood systems coordination at the local level.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State revenues for child care scholarships (subsidies) and general revenue and maintenance-of-effort funds for child protective services, child care; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Head Start Collaboration, retroactive transfer to Title IV – E Foster Care and Federal Medical Assistance Percentage match.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

Council meetings will take place at least three times a year and committees may meet more often. Community councils will meet at least four times a year. All state and local meetings will include public posting of agendas, minutes, and reports and will offer opportunities for public comment. The council plans to gather public comment on its strategic plan at least annually.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council coordinator will provide regular briefings to the governor’s subcabinet, which is composed of various agency directors. The subcabinet will organize around broader early childhood systems issues, as needed, to support the strategic plan.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/advisorycouncil.shtml>

**NEBRASKA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Nebraska Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Nebraska Department of Education, Head Start Collaboration Office

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

The Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC) was established through statute in 2000 to address the needs of all young children in Nebraska. ECICC is jointly managed by the departments of health and human services and education, with consultation and involvement from the Head Start-State Collaboration Office. In 2010, Governor Dave Heineman designated ECICC to meet the requirements of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007. The Head Start-State Collaboration Office, housed in the Nebraska Department of Education, was designated by the governor to manage the federal state advisory council funds and to be the primary point of contact for the council.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 32

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is chaired by a member who does not represent a lead state agency. The vice chairperson will be a member of the council, nominated by the current chair.

**Subcommittees:**

- Gaps and barriers committee (focused on gaps and barriers in meeting the needs of children with disabilities and underrepresented populations)
- Legislative and communications committee
- Early childhood systems committee

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Child Care Subsidy Administration
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Co-administrator of the Office of Early Childhood Education, Nebraska Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Four representatives from local

		education agencies
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from University of Nebraska
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Family and center-based child care providers and a child/youth service provider
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two representatives from Head Start agencies
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State director of Head Start Collaboration
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Nebraska Department of Education, Early Intervention
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from DHHS, Medicaid and Long-Term Care, and Children's Behavioral Health divisions
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seven parents of children with disabilities; one parent of children without disabilities
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from tribal Head Start
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children
OTHER		
<b>Health professional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pediatrician/psychiatry residency
<b>Other state agency representatives</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Nebraska's Departments of Insurance; Health and Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services; and Department of Education, Homeless Education
<b>Local public health agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local public health service provider
<b>Early childhood professional development</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from the Nebraska Early Childhood Training Center

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council identified two priority areas:

Priority area 1: Promote school readiness for preschool children. The council will lead a research-based public information effort focused on early care and education providers and schools regarding “school preparedness” and “prepared schools,” emphasizing the importance of emotionally supportive and instructionally rich interactions between teachers, children, and peers.

Priority 2: Develop recommendations for a unified early childhood data system that can inform the state regarding early childhood program effectiveness and children’s success in school and life. The council will identify policy implications that could enhance or impede the development of a unified data system (in part, through hosting a data summit), secure an early childhood database analyst, and field test a unified system.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### **SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State general revenue for the Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment Fund, the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, state early childhood grant programs and the state data coalition.

### **COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

Each quarterly council meeting includes public comment and input sessions. The agenda for all meetings is posted on the council's website. The council also conducts an annual traveling meeting to various locations in the state and invites a panel of local providers to present information on early childhood services in their part of the state. The council submits a biennial report to the governor on the status of early childhood. Copies of the report are provided to all council members, the legislature, and key agency leadership.

### **UNIQUE FEATURES**

In addition to meeting the requirements of the Head Start Act of 2007, the council has a number of statutory obligations, per Nebraska law passed in 2000. They include the following:

- Facilitating collaboration with federally administered Head Start;
- Making recommendations to state agencies on early childhood needs, priorities, and policies;
- Making recommendations to the lead agency or agencies that prepare and submit applications for federal funding;
- Reviewing new or proposed revisions to rules and regulations governing the regulation or licensing of early childhood care and education programs;
- Studying and recommending additional resources for early childhood care and education programs; and
- Reporting biennially to the governor and legislature on the status of early intervention and early care and education in the state.

The council also serves as the interagency coordinating council for federally funded early intervention programs and therefore meets the federal requirement that 20 percent of members be parents of children with disabilities.

### **WEBSITE**

<http://www.education.ne.gov/ecicc/>

## NEVADA

### **COUNCIL NAME**

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### **DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

### **COUNCIL HISTORY**

Nevada began planning to develop an early childhood advisory council with a 2009 grant from the National Governors Association, Center for Best Practices. Through this process, stakeholders of four existing councils or boards overseeing projects serving young children and their families convened to determine the feasibility of merging into a new advisory council. Those entities are the Interagency Coordinating Council, Head Start State Collaboration Partnership Committee, the Maternal Child Health Advisory Board, and the Child Care Council.

At the end of the planning process, the four entities decided to remain independent to maintain their integrity and original intent, but that each would have representation on a new early childhood council. In September 2009, Governor Gibbons signed an executive order establishing Nevada's Early Childhood Advisory Council to meet the requirements of the Head Start Act. The governor empowered the DHHS director's office as the appointing authority. The council convened for the first time in early 2010 and has held a strategic planning retreat.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 13

**Chair(s) of Council:**

There is currently not a chair, but the council is considering appointing officers.

**Subcommittees:**

- Data workgroup
- Public awareness workgroup
- Local ECAC workgroup
- Professional development workgroup
- Child care workgroup
- Health workgroup
- Mental health workgroup
- Parent education workgroup
- Family support workgroup

(Workgroups include non-council members.)

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief, Child Care and Development Program, Nevada Department of Workforce and Social Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early childhood education consultant
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early childhood program administrator, county school district
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	University representative with focus on early childhood special education
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from a child care provider association
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individual appointed by Nevada Head Start Association
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head Start Collaboration director
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State Part C coordinator
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early childhood special education consultant
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early Childhood Mental Health clinical manager, Nevada Department of Children and Family Services
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parent of child attending preschool program
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Businessperson
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Public health</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pediatrics Department chief, Southwest Medical Association
Click here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

Nevada’s council has adopted the vision, “Nevada’s children will be safe, healthy, and thriving during the first eight years of life, and the system will support children and families in achieving their full potential.” Through the federal grant, the council will support the following key activities:

- Fiscal mapping project. The council will create a funding map of federal, state, and private expenditures on programs and services for young children and their families and analyze the effectiveness of current funding for Nevada’s system, highlighting the diversification and adequacy of existing funding, the stability and flexibility of available programs and funding sources, and issues related to coordinating funding from multiple public and private sources.
- Needs assessment. The council will conduct a statewide assessment of the availability of quality early care and education programs, using valid and reliable tools. The report will be used as a baseline for a statewide quality rating and improvement system and help stakeholders understand what quality improvement efforts will best prepare Nevada’s youngest children to enter school.
- School readiness initiative. The council will study the feasibility of developing a state early childhood data collection system based on findings of the Early Childhood Data Collaborative. The project includes working with local school districts to determine their willingness to use one school readiness tool enabling long-term data tracking, for use in decision and policy making.
- Comprehensive early childhood plan. The council will develop a plan, including estimated costs, to provide comprehensive services to children in frontier, rural, and urban areas of Nevada, so that their health, mental health, parent education, family support, and early care and education needs are met, to promote children’s readiness for school entry.

Other priorities for the council include promoting collaboration across programs, increasing access to early childhood services, developing a unified data system, building a professional development system for the early childhood workforce, and implementing early learning standards.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family/community engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State general funds used for salaries and benefits for Nevada Early Intervention Services.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will lead a public awareness campaign, including developing a brand and communicating through written materials, a website, and social networking tools. Quarterly council meetings are open to the public, and minutes are shared online.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The Nevada Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office, housed in the director’s office of the department of health and human services, coordinates activities of the council and also manages federal Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grants, allowing for close alignment across grant activities. The council will, for example, oversee the development of local early childhood advisory councils, funded through the federal ECCS grant.

**WEBSITE**

[http://www.dhhs.nv.gov/HeadStart\\_NECAdivisoryCouncil.htm](http://www.dhhs.nv.gov/HeadStart_NECAdivisoryCouncil.htm)

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**COUNCIL NAME**

New Hampshire Early Childhood Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

The nonprofit organization Early Learning New Hampshire was designated by the governor to coordinate council activities. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services is the fiscal agent for the federal grant.

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

The newly formed New Hampshire Early Childhood Advisory Council began formally as a steering committee in January 2010, with approval of the governor. Members are charged with determining the final structure for the council and beginning to address the responsibilities specified in the Head Start Act of 2007. The council’s activities build on several years of early childhood system-building work, starting with the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems planning process, and including the New Hampshire Child Care Advisory Council five-year plan, and cross-agency meetings hosted by Early Learning New Hampshire. The council conducted a web-based survey to solicit public input and produced a strategic report in July 2010.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 32 seated members and three at-large seats.

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
To be determined.

**Subcommittees:**  
Standing committees and time-limited tasks forces and workgroups will be determined based on need. The council plans to convene committees to meet its functional goals, including: professional development, public awareness, early childhood data system, and funding and sustainability.

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Administrator, Child Development Bureau, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Children, Youth and Families

<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Program specialist; early childhood specialist; and preschool special education consultant, New Hampshire Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Principal of an elementary school appointed by the state principals' association.
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives of two and four-year institutions
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative of the New Hampshire infant mental health teams
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative of the New Hampshire Head Start Directors' Association
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Administrator, New Hampshire Head Start Collaboration Office
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coordinator, Family-Centered Early Supports and Services, DHHS, Bureau of Developmental Services
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Education, Part B, 619 of IDEA
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Title V administrator and early childhood special projects coordinator, New Hampshire DHHS, Maternal and Child Health Section
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative of New Hampshire House of Representatives and Senate
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chair, Head Start Parent Advisory Council, and parent representatives from New Hampshire PTA, and the New Hampshire Parent Information Center
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business representative
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be determined
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from: New Hampshire (NH) CCAC; New Hampshire Interagency Coordinating Council; Family Support NH; Early Learning New Hampshire; NH Association for

		Infant Mental Health; NH Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems; NH Children’s Alliance; and NH Pediatrics Society.
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Other State Agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from DHHS bureau of behavioral health, office of minority health, division of family assistance, and child care licensing. Representatives from DOE working with children in poverty and representative from the judicial branch.

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council will focus on achieving four major goals, based on recommendations from previous system-building efforts, a 2010 needs assessment, and federal requirements:

- Strengthen New Hampshire’s early childhood infrastructure by assuring that the newly formed council has the authority and mandate to fulfill its mission and sustain its work. Tasks include finalizing governance structure and the role of key partners, introducing legislation to enact the council, hiring staff, and exploring funding opportunities. The council will also work with state leaders to consider the creation of an interagency early childhood agency or a children’s cabinet.
- Coordinate the development and implementation of an integrated and comprehensive strategic plan through coordinated needs assessments and a statewide planning process.
- Develop a framework to evaluate the council’s outcomes and impacts through both evaluation and a unified data system. The council will implement a plan to document outcomes and impacts and use the information to inform its work.
- Foster public awareness of, promote access to, and build commitment for quality early childhood programs and services through a public engagement and media campaign with the business and philanthropic communities. The council will also assess existing state early childhood policies and identify and support changes in policies to promote access to quality early childhood programs.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State funds for child care scholarships.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

Council meetings are held every month and are hosted by Early Learning New Hampshire. The council will host a public hearing once a year to share information and gather feedback on priorities and activities. A website is being developed to enhance and add to communication strategies.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

Early Learning New Hampshire, a private, nonprofit organization, is tasked with coordinating council activities. This designation allows the council to remain independent from state government, while stakeholders determine a final governance structure. Preliminary council structure and membership described in the federal application may change over time.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.earlylearningnh.org/>

**NEW JERSEY**

**COUNCIL NAME**

New Jersey Council for Young Children

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

New Jersey Department of Education

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

The council was established by executive order in January 2010 to meet the requirements of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007. The council will build on early childhood systems-building work that began in 2003 through the BUILD Initiative, a national effort to support comprehensive, state early childhood services.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 25

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The director of early childhood education at the New Jersey Department of Education chairs the council.

**Subcommittees:** The council’s subcommittees have work plans designed to meet objectives and complete tasks identified by the council. Subcommittees address the following areas:

- Coordinated information systems development and use, including needs assessment
- Improved outreach through public-private partnerships
- Birth through age 8 (B–8) learning and development standards and B–8 program standards
- Workforce development
- Comprehensive B–8 program improvement system
- Strategic communications and information exchange
- Council support and public accountability

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assistant director, child care operations, Division of Family

		Development, New Jersey Department of Human Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Office of Preschool Education, Division of Early Childhood Education, New Jersey Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two school district superintendents
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community college president; professor; and research center director
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, child care center on air force base
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, New Jersey Head Start Association
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Jersey Head Start Collaboration director
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from the New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Office of Preschool Education, Division of Early Childhood Education, New Jersey Department of Education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships, Department of Children and Families; and Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Health Services, New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services.
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The council is exploring involving parents in the council, potentially by adding a parent representative.
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy for Child and Family Development Program, New Jersey Migrant Head Start
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Businessperson
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foundation executive director
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Catholic Charities; Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators; Association for the Children of

		New Jersey; National Institute for Early Education Research; New Jersey Association for the Education of Young Children; New Jersey Head Start Directors' Association; and YCS Institute for Infant and Preschool Mental Health
OTHER		
Other state agencies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has seven goals, developed through its 2010 strategic report:

- Coordinated information systems development and use, including needs assessment. The council will map existing datasets, develop a framework for a new information system, implement a unique child ID, and implement a coordinated data system. The council will also map regulations across state agencies.
- Improved outreach through public-private partnerships. The council will evaluate and improve outreach through partnerships and target underserved populations, including: homeless children, English language learners, and children with special needs.
- B-8 early learning and development standards and B-8 program standards. The council will develop infant/toddler early learning and developmental standards aligned with preschool through grade three standards; adopt kindergarten program standards aligned with preschool standards; and cross-walk all existing program standards.
- Workforce development. Tasks include mapping professional development opportunities; developing and implementing a workforce registry; reviewing and improving the content and delivery of higher education and professional development programs; and expanding requirements and learning opportunities for early childhood leaders.
- Comprehensive B-8 program improvement system. The council will plan for a continuous quality improvement system and adoption of a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS). They will map and assess quality in a sample of infant and toddler programs and employ unique child IDs to track the impact of program quality over time.
- Strategic communications and information exchange. The council will expand subcommittee participation, promote family involvement and input, and launch a public education campaign.
- Council support and public accountability. The council will ensure that its progress is documented and that challenges are identified and brought to council members for resolution. Reports and presentations will be provided to key stakeholders.

<b>Council's Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family/community engagement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants/toddlers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State general revenue for the pre-k program.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will engage additional stakeholders in its work through participation in subcommittees. An interactive website will solicit feedback on the work of the council. The council will also identify mechanisms for input and feedback from families and ensure that families are involved in the development and implementation of council activities.

### **UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council is described in the application for federal funding as a “separate body located in but not of” the New Jersey Department of Education.

The department of education’s early childhood division, which serves as a fiscal agent for the council, is responsible for the alignment of preschool through third grade.

### **WEBSITE**

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/njcyc/>

**NEW MEXICO**

**COUNCIL NAME**

New Mexico Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

New Mexico Child Development Board, housed within the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In July 2009, Governor Bill Richardson designated the New Mexico Child Development Board to serve as the state early childhood advisory council. The Child Development Board was established by statute in 1989; the governor appoints members to oversee coordination of services for young children. The council will build on past early childhood system-building efforts in the state, including a 2003 report from the Early Childhood Alignment Taskforce and the development of a state plan for an early learning system.

In 2011, the legislature passed the Early Childhood Care and Education Act, which would establish the membership and the role and responsibilities of the council in statute and establish a fund to fulfill the council’s responsibilities. The act also outlines essential components of a high-quality system of early learning in New Mexico. The act was initiated by a partnership of business leaders and is currently awaiting the signature of Governor Susana Martinez.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 30

**Chair(s) of Council:** The council is currently developing bylaws, which will establish a process for selection of a chair.

**Subcommittees:**  
Ad hoc committees and taskforces will be established.

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet secretary or designee; deputy director, early childhood services; and Child Care Bureau chief, New Mexico Children,

		Youth, and Families Department (CYFD)
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet secretary or designee; and New Mexico Pre-K Program manager, New Mexico Public Education Department
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public school early childhood administrator
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from university early childhood education professional development program
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Child care center owner and director, faith based child care center
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, New Mexico Head Start Association
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head Start Collaboration director, CYFD
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Family Infant Toddler Program Bureau chief, Department of Health
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet secretary or designee; and Maternal Child Health Bureau chief, New Mexico Department of Health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Children's Cabinet director
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two representatives from foundations
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from a local social service agency, New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children, NM Child Care and Education Association, and special education programs.
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Child Development Board members</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seven members of the New Mexico Child Development Board,
<b>Other state agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet secretary or designee, New Mexico Human Services Department; Home Visiting and Infant Mental Health Program

		manager, CYFD; New Mexico Pre-K program manager, CYFD; and Family Nutrition Bureau chief, CYFD.
<b>National Indian Parent Information Center</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regional trainer

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council’s goal is that every child in New Mexico will have an equal opportunity for success in school, based on equitable access to an aligned and high-quality early learning system. To achieve that goal, the council has five objectives:

- Establish an integrated data system, with two primary components that will allow the council to correlate results with accountability measures—a unique identifier system and a data warehouse.
- Establish an aligned early learning system, so that all families have consistent access to a seamless continuum of appropriate services. That includes aligning assessment, reporting, and program and learning standards; fully implementing early learning guidelines; and building a coordinated system of professional development and training/technical assistance.
- Increase participation of children, particular those at risk of school failure, in the highest-quality programs. Strategies include a needs assessment, a communications plan, and expanded availability of high-quality programs.
- Establish family support as a recognized early learning system and ensure that a continuum of family supports is equitably available to all families. The council will establish a clear definition of family support, inventory existing programs, and make recommendations to fill gaps in services.
- Align the early learning system with the public education (k–3) system, as the foundation for a P–20 educational system. An interagency workgroup will lead the “Ready Schools” initiative, which will identify and promote transition initiatives, and identify alignment issues in standards, curriculum, and professional development.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Improve professional development system	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State funds for T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships and the statewide system of early childhood training and technical assistance.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will hold open meetings on a quarterly basis. Two retreats will be held to address specific issues in more depth. Workgroups will meet continually throughout the state on a variety of topics and will include practitioners, families, and other stakeholders throughout the state. Annual public hearings will provide an opportunity to share progress and key products and to receive public input.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council is housed within the governor-appointed New Mexico Child Development Board, which provides oversight over programs within the Office of Child Development in the New Mexico Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

The council is part of a larger state infrastructure focused on children's issues in New Mexico. The New Mexico Children's Cabinet consists of cabinet secretaries from 13 state agencies and is chaired by the lieutenant governor. The cabinet publishes an annual children's budget and report card, tracking children's outcomes. The cabinet's director is a member of the council.

The early childhood coordinator (a position funded through the state's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant) serves as a liaison to the cabinet, through an Executive Committee. The committee is composed of a smaller group of department secretaries who meet regularly regarding children's issues.

The Executive Committee oversees the Early Childhood Collaborative, composed of program managers from programs serving children from birth to age eight, and focuses on coordinating early childhood systems issues across state agencies. Because of its composition, the collaborative has a broader scope than the council.

**WEBSITE**

None

**NEW YORK**

**COUNCIL NAME**

New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

New York State Office of Children and Families, Council on Children and Families

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

The Council on Children and Families (CCF) was established in law in 1977 as an independent state entity to coordinate state health, education, and human services agencies and provide more effective systems of care for children and families. In 2003, CCF was administratively merged with the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS); however, CCF continues to report directly to the governor. CCF provides staff support for the Governor’s Children’s Cabinet and its advisory board.

In April 2009, Governor David Paterson directed the children’s cabinet to reorganize its advisory board and establish an early childhood advisory council to meet the requirements of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 47

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is co-chaired by the deputy director of CCF and the executive director of the New York City Early Childhood Professional Development Institute.

**Subcommittees:**

- Finance workgroup
- Data development workgroup
- Promoting healthy development workgroup
- Strong families workgroup
- Workforce development workgroup
- Quality improvement workgroup

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from New York State (NYS) Office of Children

		and Family Services, Division of Child Care Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from NYS Education Department, Early Education and Reading Initiatives
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from New York State United Teachers, Council of School Supervisors and Administrators; New York City Department of Education, Early Childhood Services; and NYS Council of School Superintendents
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from a medical college; the NYS Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators; City University of New York; and American Associate Degree Early Childhood Educators
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Five local providers; and representatives from NYS Prekindergarten Administrators Association; a child care union; the NYS Family Child Care Association; Docs for Tots NY; Early Care and Learning Council. Parent Child Home Program, Center for Children’s Initiatives; Committee on Hispanic Children and Families; Children’s Aid Society; Astor Services for Children and Families; and Health and Welfare Council of Long Island
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NYS Head Start Association
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head Start Collaboration director
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from NYS Department of Health, Early Intervention Program.
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from NYS Education Department, Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities.
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from NYS Office of Mental Health, Division of Children and Family Services.
<b>Representative from governor’s office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from NYS Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Council (invited)
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Migrant and Seasonal Head Start
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from two foundations
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Prevent Child Abuse New York, the Early Years Institute; NYS Association for the Education of Young Children; National center for Children in Poverty; Early Childhood Policy Research; United Way of NYS; Fight Crime Invest in Kids NY; and NY Public Welfare Association
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Professional development</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from professional development institute
<b>Other state agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Welfare Services; and NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance- Division of Child Support Enforcement
<b>Local government</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from NYC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services and NYC Agency for Children Services

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council's vision is that all New York children are healthy, learning and thriving in families that are supported by a full complement of the resources essential for healthy development. From its broader strategic plan, the council selected eight priority objectives for the federal grant period:

- Align current early care and education (ECE) programs into a unified and integrated system. Key strategies include developing and/or implementing uniform program standards, early learning standards, workforce standards, and a common system of program monitoring. The council will also facilitate expansion of QRIS and recommend funding, legislative, and regulatory changes to support early learning service integration.
- Increase the knowledge and competencies of the ECE workforce. The council will finalize and disseminate a career lattice and a core body of knowledge framework, and implement a workforce registry. The council will also recommend improvements in workforce recruitment and retention, teacher preparation, and transitions from two-year to four-year institutions of higher education.
- Increase public-private investments in early childhood and blend with existing investments to maximize impact. Strategies include developing an early childhood cost model, collecting data on existing funding, analyzing barriers to maximizing existing resources, and identifying new financing strategies.
- Increase early childhood program accountability through program standards and outcome indicators. The council will make recommendations for the development of a unified early childhood data system, based on a report on existing data systems, a determination of the key policy questions that the system should answer, and an analysis of the expertise and financing necessary for implementation.
- Increase opportunities for all families to gain the knowledge, skills, confidence, and social support to nurture the health, safety, and positive development of children. Strategies include developing a parenting education certificate program and creating and disseminating a New Parent Kit.
- Increase the proportion of at-risk families identified and provided with needed support. The council will support development of a universal family screening tool and make recommendations for how it can be used. It will also develop a work plan to build a system of comprehensive home visiting programs.
- Promote optimal health and development, including social-emotional development. Strategies include an environmental scan of existing social-emotional development supports and activities and development and pilot testing of a social-emotional development training model.
- Provide children with safe and healthy environments. The council will strengthen and expand efforts to promote health and safety in ECE settings and develop a web-based clearinghouse for training resources.

<b>Council's Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants/toddlers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State funds for the universal pre-k program.
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**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

Council meetings will be held four times per year and will focus on reviewing the status of the council work plan and updating as necessary. Council workgroups will convene regularly to implement the activities described in the work plan. Public hearings will be held once a year. The council strategic report has been posted to the CCF website and was vetted through an online public hearing. The council will retain a communications consultant to develop a public outreach plan and build awareness of its work.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council is a public-private partnership, led by co-chairs from CCF and the NYC Early Childhood Professional Development Institute. The council is jointly staffed by CCF and the Shuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy (SCAA).

CCF provides staff support to the Governor's Children's Cabinet and reports directly to the governor. CCF administers other federally funded early childhood initiatives, including the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative, the Head Start Collaboration Project, and Project LAUNCH.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.ccf.state.ny.us/initiatives/ECACHome.htm>

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

North Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

North Carolina Office of the Governor

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In 2010, Governor Bev Perdue designated the Governor’s Policy Office as the agency responsible for managing the Early Childhood Advisory Council.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** The executive order permits membership up to 30; there are currently approximately 25 members.

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is chaired by the executive director of Guilford Child Development, in Greensboro, North Carolina, a former member of Congress.

**Subcommittees:**  
The early childhood systems resource committee will identify strategies to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of services for young children and their families. In addition, the council will establish ad hoc committees to focus on specific topics, as needed, and long-term subcommittees in response to specific areas of focus, such as the federal home visiting grant. These committees may include individuals who are not members of the council.

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); and director, Division of Child Development, DHHS
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Office of Early Learning, North Carolina Public Schools, and chair, state board of education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be appointed

<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, North Carolina Community Colleges; and president, University of North Carolina system
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Down East Partnership for Children
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Guilford Child Development
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, North Carolina Head Start Collaboration
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief, Women and Children's Health, Division of Public Health, DHHS
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Office for Early Learning, North Carolina, Department of Public Instruction
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief, Women and Children's Health, Division of Public Health, DHHS
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governor's senior policy advisor on early childhood
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be appointed
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bank executive vice president and other nonspecified member(s)
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foundation representatives
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from: Child Care Services Association
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Healthcare provider</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medical director, child health center, and two pediatricians
<b>Other state agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Division of Social Services, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
<b>North Carolina Partnership for Children</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President and board chair
<b>Early childhood consultant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National early childhood consultant
<b>Judge</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superior court judge

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

North Carolina’s council has five major goals for its initial efforts. In year 1, the council will focus on strategic planning (goal #1). Year 2 and 3 activities may change, based on that strategic planning process.

- Develop a strategic plan. Tasks include formalizing the structure and operation of the council, conducting a needs assessment, and developing a comprehensive three-year plan addressing three early childhood sectors—families, health, and early care and education (ECE). The council will use a results-based accountability framework.
- Strengthen awareness and commitment. The council will develop a communications plan and convene a statewide meeting to discuss the strategic plan and steps toward accomplishing its goals.
- Strengthen the quality of programs and expand opportunities. The council will make policy and budget recommendations to the governor and other policymakers and identify and pilot developmental screening and referral systems. Other potential areas of focus include infant/toddler program quality and family strengthening programs. The council will also focus on effectively implementing and scaling up evidence-based practices
- Strengthen coordination and collaboration. The council’s Systems Resource Committee will identify strategies to strengthen coordination and improve efficiency of state-funded services. The council will also award grants to community colleges to become accredited by NAEYC and develop articulation agreements with four-year programs.
- Support implementation of an integrated data system. The council will identify existing data integration efforts, develop the data systems portion of the strategic plan, and make recommendations to the governor and other policymakers.

**Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	☒
Promote coordination across programs.	☒
Increase access to programs.	☒
Develop data system.	☒
Improve professional development system.	☒
Assess capacity of higher education.	☒

Improve early learning standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State funding for the WAGES program, which provides education-based salary supplements to early childhood educators.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council is scheduled to meet a minimum of three times a year. The council solicited input on the strategic plan through a public hearing and by posting the plan on the governor’s website. The council will provide annual opportunities for public hearings and public comment on its goals, plans, and activities. These opportunities for public input will be advertised on the governor’s website and through listservs and other networks. Finally, the council has undertaken a public awareness campaign to increase public understanding and commitment to early childhood issues and outcomes.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.governor.state.nc.us/forms/earlyChildhoodAdCouncil.aspx>

**OHIO****COUNCIL NAME**

Ohio Early Childhood Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Governor Ted Strickland designated ODJFS as the lead agency for the Early Childhood Advisory Council in June 2010.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 47

**Chair(s) of Council:**

Senior program officer for human services, George Gund Foundation

**Subcommittees:**

- Accountability
- Communications
- Needs assessment
- Early care and education
- Comprehensive health
- Family support
- Special needs

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local government representative
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be determined
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local school board member and a superintendent of an education service center
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from community college and two universities
<i>Local providers of early childhood</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two representatives

<i>education/development services</i>		
<b>Head Start agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Ohio Head Start Association
<b>State director of Head Start collaboration</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head Start Collaboration Office
<b>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local government representative
<b>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local government representative
<b>State agency responsible for health or mental health</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local government representative
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two members, House of Representatives
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Texas Migrant Council
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Ohio Business Roundtable
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three foundation representatives
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Akron Summit Community Action; American Academy of Pediatrics-Ohio Chapter; Success by Six; Ohio Job and Family Service Directors Association; Ohio Association of Childcare Providers; Invest in Children; TruMahCol Association for the Education of Young Children; South Central Ohio Educational Service Center; United Way Greater Cincinnati; Center for Innovative Practices; groundwork; Starting Point; Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association; Voices for Ohio's Children; Public Children Services Association of Ohio; Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children; and Ohio Afterschool Network
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Local government</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from county agencies, including Help Me Grow, board of developmental disabilities; health department; department of job and family services; board of education; and

		Family and Children First Council.
<b>Advocate</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Healthcare provider</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from children’s hospital and a pediatrician
<b>Union</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Union representative
<b>State Board of Education</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Member
<b>Office of U.S. Senator</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council will focus on seven strategies related to strengthening Ohio’s early childhood system:

- Strengthen the capacity of the council to influence policy direction and funding support for the early childhood system. Tasks include building staff capacity, creating a system for providing policy recommendations, and measuring success through data collection and evaluation.
- Support the development of a new administrative structure and funding plan for the early childhood system. The council will influence the transition of programs and services to a proposed Center for Early Childhood Development in the Ohio Department of Education and advocate for ongoing funding.
- Increase overall participation of children in early childhood programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations. Tasks include identifying barriers to access, recommending policy changes and opportunities to increase participation of children with special needs and social-emotional concerns, and tracking success in increased participation over time.
- Support development and implementation of high-quality early childhood standards. The council will lead efforts to ensure that infant/toddler and preschool standards are integrated and aligned with K–12 standards and inclusive of all domains of development. The council will also research state accountability systems.
- Support establishment of a statewide, unified data system and accountability system. The council will provide expertise and oversight to combine existing data collection and accountability systems into a unified system. Tasks include conducting periodic needs assessments, establishing benchmarks for accountability, linking to longitudinal Pk–12 data system, and providing data-driven policy recommendations.
- Develop and implement an internal and external communications plan. The plan will inform stakeholders and families of ongoing progress, gather community input in achieving the council’s goals, and share information at the community level.
- Further develop Ohio’s statewide early childhood professional development system and career ladder. Tasks include assessing capacity and effectiveness of institutions of higher education, developing early childhood administrator credential, measuring ongoing progress, and hosting an annual conference.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State funding for Help Me Grow, the state’s home visiting and early intervention services for children from birth to age three.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will develop and implement an internal and external communications plan that will inform stakeholders and families of ongoing progress, gather community input in achieving the council’s goals, and share information at the community level.

**WEBSITE**

None.

**OKLAHOMA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR) Board

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

The Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR) was established by state law in 2003 to oversee funding for Smart Start community and state-level early childhood initiatives. In 2008, Governor Brad Henry designated OPSR as the state early childhood advisory council, to meet the requirements of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 32

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
 This council is chaired by a pediatrician with Children’s Hospital at the Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center, who was appointed as a private sector representative. The chair serves a two-year term and is elected by council members.

**Subcommittees:**

- Executive committee
- Quality, access, standards, and accountability workgroup
- Community mobilization committee
- Data systems and coordination workgroup
- Public engagement workgroup
- Special populations workgroup
- Policy and workgroup coordination committee
- Professional development and workforce workgroup

Council workgroups include public and private stakeholders who are not members of the council.

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Oklahoma Department of Human Services

<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State superintendent of public instruction, Oklahoma State Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early childhood transition specialist, local public school district
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chancellor, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; university professor; and university dean
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, child development center and Educare center
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head Start/Early Head Start director
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Oklahoma Head Start Collaboration Office
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from department of education
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from department of education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State commissioner of health, Oklahoma State Department of Health; and state commissioner of mental health, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet secretary for education has been designated as the representative from the governor's office.
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two parents of children under age six
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business representative
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foundation representative
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Junior League of Oklahoma City; Child Care Inc.; Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa; and Little Dixie Community Action Agency
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Other state agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Directors, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology; Department of Libraries; Department of Rehabilitation Services; Department of Commerce; Commission on

		Children and Youth; and Department of Human Services
<b>Community volunteer</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two community volunteers
<b>Health care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two pediatricians; and chief executive officer, Oklahoma Health Care Authority
<b>Oklahoma Educational Television Authority</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

<p>There are four primary objectives for the next three years of the council’s work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Develop recommendations for a school readiness definition and pilot a school readiness assessment.</u></li> <li>• <u>Conduct a statewide needs assessment</u> concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs, prioritizing infant and toddler programs. Findings from the needs assessment will inform recommendations to increase the overall participation of children in the early childhood programs, including outreach to special populations.</li> <li>• <u>Develop recommendations for a cross-sector professional development system.</u> This will include assessing the capacity and effectiveness of two- and four-year institutions of higher education to prepare the early childhood workforce. <u>Develop recommendations for a statewide, coordinated longitudinal data system.</u> Tasks will include signing a memorandum of understanding with an interagency team of data experts and charging a workgroup with developing recommendations.</li> </ul>
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<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State funds for the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council meets ten times per year, with an annual meeting in June. All meetings are open and posted on the secretary of state’s website. Workgroups meet quarterly, at minimum. The Policy and Workgroup Coordination Committee will oversee a public hearing process for all recommendations from the council. The council will expand the existing Smart Start Oklahoma website and develop printed materials to communicate the council’s work to the public.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

OPSR oversees \$2 million in state funds through the Oklahoma Department of Human Services budget for community mobilization and state-level coordination projects. Five state agencies are charged with providing administrative support to the partnership. The department of human services provides in-kind support to the partnership, and the department of health provides in-kind staffing through the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems state coordinator.

In partnership with a private foundation, a network of business leaders has been established as Oklahoma Champions for Early Opportunities (OK-CEO) to encourage investment in early childhood across the business community.

**WEBSITE**

<http://smartstartok.org/>

**OREGON****COUNCIL NAME**

Oregon Early Childhood Matters Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Oregon's Office of the Governor

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In May 2010, Governor Ted Kulongoski issued an executive order to establish the Early Childhood Matters Advisory Council and meet the requirements of the Head Start Act. The council is charged with developing a strategic report and investment plan and providing policy recommendations to the governor. The council will build on past early childhood system-building efforts, including a 2001 state children's plan, a 2008 governor's early childhood summit, and the development of state working groups to develop action plans in the areas of early learning, family support, and children's health.

Oregon's new governor, John Kitzhaber, has made systemic education reform a top priority of his administration, with particular focus on children from birth to age 5. An early childhood and family investment transition team was appointed in December 2010 and submitted a report with recommendations for early childhood priorities in three areas: early identification and support, shared measurement and accountability, and budget and governance. An early learning design team is now charged with preparing an action plan and legislative and nonlegislative recommendations to implement the plan.

Governor Kitzhaber has proposed creating a new education investment board that will address the continuum of needs for children from birth to age 21 and will include separate councils focused on early learning, K-12, and postsecondary education. If approved by the 2011 legislature, the new early learning council will be responsible for oversight and implementation of the design team recommendations and will take on the responsibilities of Early Childhood Matters Advisory Council. It is the intent of the new administration to ensure that the early learning council adheres to the requirements in the Head Start Act for membership and activities. The existing executive order issued by Oregon's previous governor has not been rescinded and remains in effect for purposes of continuity during the transition to this new state infrastructure.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 25

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
 The chair and vice chair are appointed by the governor. The council is chaired by the governor’s senior policy advisor, and the vice chair is the director of Head Start Collaboration.

**Subcommittees:**

- Early learning matters standing committee
- Family matters standing committee
- Health matters standing committee

Co-chairs workgroup (made up of the co-chairs of the three standing committees and other leading stakeholders)

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Child care administrator, Department of Employment
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assistant superintendent of public instruction, Office of Student Learning and Partnership, Oregon Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elementary school principal with early childhood program partnership
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from community college and state university
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Oregon Association for the Education of Youth Children
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Oregon Head Start Association
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head Start Collaboration director
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assistant superintendent of public instruction, Office of Student Learning and Partnership, Oregon Department of Education
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assistant superintendent of public instruction, Office of Student Learning and Partnership, Oregon Department of Education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Administrator, Office of Family and Maternal Health, Division of Public Health
<b>Representative from governor’s</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governor’s policy advisor

<b>office</b>		
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State representative and state senator
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parent representative(s)
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Native American tribal representative
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migrant/seasonal farm worker representative
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from business
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from foundation
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>State agency responsible for children's planning</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chair, Oregon Commission on Children and Families
<b>Early childhood research/data</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Education NW
<b>Child advocacy</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Children's Institute
<b>Medical community</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TBD
<b>Dental community</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TBD
<b>Mental health community</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early childhood mental health consultant
<b>Other state agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from DHS, Children Adults and Families

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has eight goals for the federal grant period, including the seven responsibilities required by federal statute:

- To conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment describing the quality and availability of early childhood education and care programs.
- To identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among early childhood programs.
- To increase overall participation in early childhood programs by promoting collaboration and partnerships and providing outreach to underrepresented and special populations.
- To establish a statewide unified data collection system. Strategies include building on existing data resources across agencies; identifying and adopting a set of leading indicators for the early childhood system; and examining the potential for tracking data from birth to grade 12.
- To develop statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators by promoting and expanding the existing career lattice, the Oregon Registry.
- To assess the capacity and effectiveness of two- and four-year institutions of higher education in supporting the development of early childhood educators. The council will continue progress on articulation agreements and career advancement plans, including a clear system for educators to move from credentials to associate and bachelor’s degrees.
- To make improvements in state early learning standards. The council will review child outcome guidelines to ensure alignment with existing early childhood programs and K–12 standards and embed the standards throughout the early childhood system (birth to grade 3).
- Continue development of the statewide early childhood system plan to guide implementation of a comprehensive, coordinated, culturally proficient and sustainable early childhood system aligned with measurable outcomes and indicators.

In addition, Oregon’s council will develop and implement a school readiness assessment tool and develop an early childhood education and care comprehensive budget.

**Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	☒
Promote coordination across programs.	☒
Increase access to programs.	☒

Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

Support from the Oregon Community Foundation and the Oregon Children’s Institute.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will hold public input sessions around the state, as well as statewide webinars. The communication plan will include a website and periodic newsletters, to keep the early childhood community informed and engaged in the work of the council and its committees. The council will convene quarterly, and its committees will convene monthly or bimonthly.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council’s co-chairs workgroup is led by the governor-appointed chair and vice chair and includes the co-chairs of the council’s three committees, key private partners, and the leaders of other state early childhood initiatives. The workgroup reviews recommendations from the three standing committees to develop a strategic report and multi-year investment plan.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.oregon.gov/OCCF/Mission/Progs/progec/miprogec.shtml>

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Pennsylvania Early Learning Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Public Welfare

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

The Early Learning Council was established by executive order in September 2009 and serves as an advisory body to OCDEL.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 78

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The Deputy Secretary of OCDEL is to serve as co-chair of the council, along with another individual appointed by the governor.

**Subcommittees:**  
There are five program committees for OCDEL-funded programs, such as child care and pre-k. There are six cross-sector committees:

- Early childhood mental health
- Early learning career prep and development
- Early learning network
- Infant toddler system
- Linkages and alignment for children’s education
- Parent council

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>State agency responsible for child care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy secretary, OCDEL
<b>State educational agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OCDEL staff
<b>Local education agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15 representatives
<b>Institutions of higher education</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11 representative from universities; one representative from a community college;

		Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges; and Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
<b>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from early childhood center
<b>Head Start agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two representatives from Pennsylvania Head Start Association
<b>State director of Head Start collaboration</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State designee for Head Start Collaboration
<b>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OCDEL staff
<b>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OCDEL staff
<b>State agency responsible for health or mental health</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three representatives
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from two foundations
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Public Citizens for Children and Youth; Child Care Providers United; PA Partnerships for Children; PA Child Care Association; Fight-Crime Invest in Kids Pennsylvania; PA Home Based Child Care Providers Association; PA American Academy of Pediatrics; Child Care Information Services of Westmoreland County; Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children; Community Services for Children Inc.; Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children; Pennsylvania School Boards Association; United Way of Berks County, Southeast Regional Key; Northeastern Child Care Services; Sarah A. Reed Children's Center; Community Engagement Team

		Union; Quality Child Care Coalition of Bucks County; Child Care Consultants Inc/CCIS of York County; The Alliance for Infants and Toddlers; Early Development and Education Institute; the Advocate’s Agenda, United Way of SE Pennsylvania; Ken-Crest Children and Family Services; PA State Education Association, PA Association of School Administrators; and Community Justice Project
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Health care provider</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh
<b>Early education system</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Pennsylvana Training and Technical Assistance Network and Pennsylvania Key (2)
<b>Local government</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from county children and youth services, mental health agency; city board of education; city office of mental retardation services; and Philadelphia mayor’s office
<b>Independent consultant</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council will use its federal grant to support five areas of early childhood system building:

- Unified data system, by enhancing analysis, help desk, and data auditing functions for an existing early childhood data system.
- Professional development integration, including expanded career lattice, training for technical assistance consultants, and professional development materials for family child care programs.
- Birth-to-five and K–12 continuum and transition, including researching national best practices, developing professional training on transition, examining the needs of special populations, developing products for parents, and supporting local school boards.
- Early education provider capacity—to promote public awareness of early care and education and support for OCDEL initiatives. Tasks include developing training modules on communications and facilitating mentoring and connections between providers and advocacy groups.
- Parental involvement in early education, through distribution of calendars with information on early learning and kindergarten readiness, translated into Spanish and possibly other languages.

<b>Council's Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State funding for the Pre-K Counts program.
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### **COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will meet at least twice a year and will hold public hearings and provide opportunities for public comment. The council will submit an annual report on its activities to the governor and legislature and will invite the governor, members of the legislature, and members of relevant state commissions to at least one briefing in each fiscal year.

### **UNIQUE FEATURES**

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), which houses the council, is part of both the department of education and the department of public welfare.

Complementing the council, the Governor's Early Learning Investment Commission is made up of business leaders and informs business, legislative, and civic leaders of the value of public investment in early childhood education.

### **WEBSITE**

None

**PUERTO RICO****COUNCIL NAME**

Early Childhood Advisory Board
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**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Administration for Integral Child Care and Development (ACUDEN)
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**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Puerto Rico's Governor Luis Fortuno established the Early Childhood Advisory Board as the territory's early childhood advisory council through executive order in 2009.
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**MEMBERSHIP**

<b>Number of members:</b> 11
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**Chair(s) of Council:**

Executive director, ACUDEN
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**Subcommittees:**

The council has designated a special committee to analyze, revise, and restructure child care licensing procedures in Puerto Rico to guarantee the alignment of the council's initiatives with licensing procedures.
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<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative, Puerto Rico Administration for Integral Child Care and Development (ACUDEN)
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative, Puerto Rico Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative, Puerto Rico Department of Education
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative, Higher Education Institute
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from organizations that offer Head Start
<i>State director of Head Start</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative, Puerto Rico Head

<i>collaboration</i>		Start Collaboration Office
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative, Puerto Rico Department of Health
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Puerto Rico Department of Education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative, Puerto Rico Department of Health and Mental Health and Addiction Services Administration
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
OTHER		
<b>Other agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Puerto Rico Department of the Family; Recreation and Sports; and an additional representative from education/postsecondary education

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

<p>The council has seven main objectives for the use of federal funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Implement the <i>Developing Learning Environments Program</i></u>, a technical assistance project (using a mentoring model) for informal day care providers to promote and guarantee school readiness in young children and to increase the quality of service</li> <li>• <u>Implement a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) piloting project</u> in a variety of early childhood programs to promote higher-quality learning environments.</li> <li>• <u>Analyze, evaluate, and restructure the licensing process</u> to promote and guarantee higher-quality environments for young children.</li> <li>• <u>Promote the implementation of early learning standards of excellence</u> in all early childhood programs to promote school readiness in young children through a train-the-trainer initiative.</li> <li>• <u>Develop a scholarship program</u> as part of the professional development system for the participants in the QRIS piloting project.</li> <li>• <u>Develop a data system</u> that will enable the state to obtain information about supply, demand, cost, financing, workforce, and quality of early childcare providers.</li> <li>• <u>Develop and implement a special project about social-emotional development</u> for parents participating of early childhood programs.</li> </ul>
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<b>Council’s Proposed Federally Funded Activities</b>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

Matching funds from a community mass media campaign focused on character education, state child care and state-funded personnel that will collaborate with the council, children’s mental health services financed by state funds, and training efforts with the department of education.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will meet at least six times during the year and communicate with the public through a website and annual public hearings.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.acuden.gobierno.pr>

**RHODE ISLAND**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Rhode Island Early Learning Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) is the state agency designated to manage the Council. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, a statewide nonprofit organization, coordinates the council’s day-to-day activities.

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Governor Donald Carcieri established the council in June 2010.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 24

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is co-chaired by the commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Education and the executive director of Rhode Island KIDS Count.

**Subcommittees:**  
A workgroup, appointed by the co-chairs, will meet four times per year to assist the council with its work. The workgroup is co-chaired by staff from Rhode Island KIDS Count, and RIDE and the Head Start Collaboration director.

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>State agency responsible for child care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Rhode Island Department of Human Services
<b>State educational agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner, Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE)
<b>Local education agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School district superintendent
<b>Institutions of higher education</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Professor
<b>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Four early childhood centers and representative from Family Child Care Homes of Rhode Island

<b>Head Start agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Rhode Island Head Start Association
<b>State director of Head Start collaboration</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Rhode Island Head Start Collaboration Office
<b>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Rhode Island Department of Human Services
<b>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner, RIDE
<b>State agency responsible for health or mental health</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Rhode Island Department of Health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education policy advisor
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President and CEO, Rhode Island Foundation, and president, United Way
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Rhode Island KIDS Count; RI Association for the Education of Young Children; Ready to Learn Providence; RI Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals; Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Child Care Facilities Fund; and Ready to Learn Providence
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Health care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pediatrician, Hasbro Children's Hospital
<b>Other agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has eight areas of focus for the grant period:

- Access. Specific goals include conducting periodic needs assessments, identifying opportunities for and barriers to collaboration and coordination, and recommending strategies to increase participation of underrepresented populations in high-quality early childhood programs.
- Program quality. The council will support continued expansion of the state quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) and develop effective supports and strategies (including financial incentives) to help programs achieve high-quality standards. The council will also implement incentives and professional development for programs to improve their outcomes using standardized program observation tools.
- Professional development. The council will develop recommendations for a statewide professional development and career advancement plan, including implementation of early learning standards and a focus on infant-toddler providers.
- Higher education. The council will assess the capacity and effectiveness of institutes of higher education to support early childhood educators and implement the TEACH workforce scholarship model statewide.
- Early learning standards. The council will make recommendations for improvements in early learning standards, ensure that standards are aligned with K–3 and used across diverse program settings, support trainings for providers, and consider adopting infant-toddler standards.
- Alignment of standards. Tasks include reviewing multiple program standards in place, identifying inconsistencies, and recommending alignment. The council will also support updates to child care center licensing regulation.
- Early childhood data systems. The council will develop recommendations for a unified birth-to-age-8 data infrastructure that includes information on children, programs, and workforce characteristics.
- Children’s learning and development. The council will enhance and expand methods and systems to track children’s learning and development, develop a kindergarten assessment system, and work to increase the percentage of children reading at grade level by third grade.

**Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	☒
Promote coordination across programs.	☒
Increase access to programs.	☒
Develop data system.	☒

Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State funding for pre-k programs.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will meet quarterly, and the workgroup will meet nine times per year. All meetings are open to the public and will include an opportunity for public input. Meeting schedules and important documents will be posted on public websites. Public hearings will be held as needed.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

Rhode Island has several other interagency coordinating bodies, including the Successful Start Steering Committee, Governor’s Pre-K to 16 Council, and the Permanent Legislative Committee on Child Care. The council will provide regular updates to the members of these groups. The council will develop a state plan that builds on the work of the Successful Start Early Childhood System Plan, developed through the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant.

The governor designated RIDE as the government agency responsible for managing the council and tasked Rhode Island KIDS Count with coordinating council activities.

**WEBSITE**

[www.earlylearningri.org](http://www.earlylearningri.org)

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council (SC-ECAC)

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Board of Trustees

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In February 2010, Governor Mark Sanford signed an executive order designating South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Board of Trustees as the South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council. The first action of the council was to establish and ratify a strategic plan.

First Steps to School Readiness is a public-private partnership developed through legislation and is now in its 11th year of operation. The director of First Steps coordinates the activities of the council.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 36

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is chaired by the governor of South Carolina. A vice chair represents the business community.

**Subcommittees:**

- State needs assessment and unified data
- State and federal coordination and increasing participation
- Professional development system and higher education supports
- Early learning standards and readiness measures

Advisory Council Membership		
MEMBER TYPE	INCLUSION	MEMBER DESCRIPTION
State agency responsible for child care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director and Child Care Block Grant administrator, South Carolina Department of Social Services

<b>State educational agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent of education, South Carolina Department of Education
<b>Local education agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from a local school district
<b>Institutions of higher education</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from technical college system and South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
<b>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Five early childhood educators (Head Start; child care; public, private, and faith-based providers)
<b>Head Start agency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, South Carolina Head Start Association and two local Head Start providers
<b>State director of Head Start collaboration</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, South Carolina Head Start Collaboration Office
<b>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Directors, South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Other Special Needs; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; and South Carolina First Steps
<b>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent of education, South Carolina Department of Education
<b>State agency responsible for health or mental health</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Directors, South Carolina Departments of Health and Human Services, Mental Health, and Health/Environmental Control
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governor
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two senators and two members, House of Representatives
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three parents of young children
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three representatives from business community
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Transportation Association of South Carolina, School Board Association, and United Way Association
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>First Steps</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director
<b>Medical/child care providers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three representatives
<b>Other state public agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Directors, South Carolina Departments of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, Transportation, Budget and Control Board, State

	Library, Child Care Regulatory Advisory Committee
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**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

Council activities during the grant period fall into two overarching categories: data-driven decision making and development of the early childhood workforce. Within each of the categories, the council will focus on advancement of state priorities by using community-level pilot/incubator sites.

- Data driven decision making. At the state level, an interagency data team will identify key policy questions, specific data linkages, permissions, or new data elements needed and test the utility of existing analytic tools. The council is also charged with the development of a measure of school readiness for South Carolina. In the local pilot sites, the council will support development of a community needs and capacity assessment tool and a resources planning tool. The council will provide technical assistance to support pilot communities’ use of data to identify barriers to services that promote school readiness. The pilot community work will inform state decisions on early childhood data systems.
- Developing the early childhood workforce. At the state level, key priorities include an early childhood workforce study and needs assessment and a statewide training plan and calendar. At the local level, the council will focus on identifying training and technical assistance opportunities on early learning standards, with a focus on literacy/language development, social-emotional development, and strengthening families. Pilot communities will also field test curricula aligned with standards.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote family/community engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL FUNDS**

State funds for the Child Development Education Pilot Program.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council makes use of technology and stakeholder networks to communicate its activities.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

First Steps consists of a state board and coordinating office and a network of 46 county partnerships, each with its own partnership board. First Steps leverages state dollars with federal and private funds to address service gaps for children statewide from birth to age five and oversees over \$40 million in funding for early childhood programs. First Steps is also the state’s lead agency for Part C IDEA and administers state-funded pre-kindergarten in community-based, nonpublic school settings.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.scfirststeps.org/>

## TENNESSEE

### **COUNCIL NAME**

Tennessee Early Childhood Advisory Council

### **DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Tennessee Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination through June 30, 2011, at which point the governor will designate another agency to house the council.

### **COUNCIL HISTORY**

In July 2010, Governor Phil Bredesen designated the Tennessee Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) Advisory Council as the state's early childhood advisory council. The Tennessee VPK Advisory Council was established with the enactment of the 2005 TN VPK Act to advise the state on policies in regard to access, standards, and implementation of the VPK program. The VPK Advisory Council previously consisted of 75 members representing all geographical areas of the state and all areas of early childhood care and education. The governor's 2010 executive order reorganized the council to broaden its focus to services for children from birth to age eight. The membership was streamlined and reorganized into an executive board and a steering committee, and additional members were added.

The Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination (GOCCC) will house the council through June 30, 2011, at which point the governor will designate a new agency to house the council. GOCCC was established in 2004 to coordinate a wide range of services for children, with a focus on physical and behavioral health services.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 15 members of executive committee; 28 members of steering committee

**Chair(s) of Council:**

The council will be chaired by a senior policy analyst in the Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination through June 30, 2011.

**Subcommittees:**

- Executive committee
- Steering committee
- Workgroups and/or committees with focused objectives, including
  - Readiness workgroup
  - Needs assessment workgroup
  - Workforce workgroup
  - Data management workgroup

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i> <i>Members of both executive committee and steering committee are listed below.</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Child Care Services, Tennessee Department of Human Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Office of Early Learning; and director, Early Childhood Programs, Tennessee Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LEA Pre-K coordinator
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from a two-year and a four-year higher education institution
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from child care resource and referral network
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Tennessee Head Start Association
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Head Start Collaboration Office
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Early Childhood Special Education, Tennessee Department of Education; and IDEA Part C coordinator, Tennessee Early Intervention Services
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Early Childhood Special Education, Tennessee Department of Education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maternal and Child Health operations manager; and director, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Tennessee Department of Health; assistant commissioner and mental health planner, Tennessee Department of Mental Health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Council coordinator, Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination; and policy analyst, Governor's Policy Office;
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be invited
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be invited
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be invited
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Act Early, Child Care Resource and Referral Network; Cover Kids; Prevent

		<p>Child Abuse Tennessee; Stand for Children; Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children; Tennessee Association for Early Education; Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance; Tennessee Family Child Care Alliance; Tennessee Urban Child Institute; Tennessee Public Libraries System, and Tennessee Voices for Children; and United Way</p>
<p><b>OTHER</b></p>		
<p><b>Other state agencies</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Representatives from the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services, Tennessee Adult and Family Services, Tennessee Department of Human Services, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and Tennessee Office of the Comptroller</p>
<p><b>Other statewide initiatives</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Representatives from Children’s Care Coordination; English Language Learners; Even Start Family Literacy Program; Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance and School-Based Support Services; and TENNCare</p>

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has six goals for the three-year grant period:

- Create a comprehensive early childhood system. Tasks include establishing the organizational structure of the council, a process for evaluating council activities, developing common standards and policies across programs, and a common definition of school readiness. The council will also support local early childhood advisory councils in creating birth-to-eight aligned systems at the community level and two early childhood summits to demonstrate effective collaborative models of delivering services.
- Conduct needs assessment. A comprehensive needs assessment will identify quality and accessibility of early childhood education, programs, and services for children from birth to school entry.
- Create coherent system of aligned early learning and program quality standards and assessments. Tasks include revising early learning standards to align with other standards (including K–12 education standards); implementing an early childhood accountability system audit; and researching, identifying, and selecting assessment tools.
- Develop a well-qualified early childhood workforce. Tasks include assessing and identifying the capacity of public higher education institutions to prepare early childhood educators, creating a unified professional development system, expanding scholarship opportunities, and supporting training institutes for Pk–3 educators.
- Assist in development of statewide longitudinal data system. The council will support efforts to incorporate early childhood data in an existing data system, coordinating with efforts funded by the Race to the Top grant.
- Improve health and mental health (including women’s preconception, prenatal, and postnatal health and children’s health). Tasks include identifying health needs, collaborating with home visiting programs, and creating core health and safety standards for all early childhood programs

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family/community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State funds for the voluntary pre-k program.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council’s proposed goals, objectives, and activities are posted on the various websites of participating state agencies. Public hearings were held in three regions of the state in late 2010 and will be held annually in coming years. Public input will inform modifications to proposed activities.

The executive and steering committees will meet quarterly, and the workgroups will meet as needed.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council will be composed of three tiers:

- An executive committee of individuals from nine state and legislative agencies will take the lead in working with a project director to manage the grant.
- A steering committee composed of program-level staff from a range of constituencies, such as schools, early care and education programs, and parents, will assist with carrying out activities identified in the grant and identifying ways to sustain work.
- Workgroups and/or committees will focus on specific objectives.

Workgroups will pair with one or more members of the steering committee to share their work and demonstrate congruency with the council goals. The steering committee will share the workgroup efforts with the executive committee to inform policy recommendations and decisions.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.tn.gov/goccc/index.html>

**TEXAS**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Texas Early Learning Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Children’s Learning Institute

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In December 2009, Governor Rick Perry designated the Children’s Learning Institute to serve as the state early childhood advisory council in Texas.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 19

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The director of statewide initiatives at the Children’s Learning Center and Texas State Center for Early Childhood Development, University of Texas Health Science Center, will chair the council.

**Subcommittees:**  
Four workgroups address the council’s priority areas:

- Parental outreach and communication
- Workforce and professional development
- Collaboration and standards
- Data systems and quality rating and improvement system (QRIS)

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Texas Department of Family and Protective Services; and Texas Workforce Commission
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Texas Education Agency
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two representatives
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three representatives from institutions of higher education
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three early care and education providers
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Four representative from Head

		Start agencies
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Texas state director of Head Start Collaboration
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Texas Education Agency
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Texas Department of State Health Services
<b>Representative from governor’s office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from local migrant/seasonal Head Start
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from: Mental Health America of Texas
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Early childhood comprehensive systems</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Texas Health and Human Services Commission
<b>Local city government</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council will focus on four priority areas:

- Parental outreach and communications. The council will conduct a needs assessment on the quality and availability of early childhood education and care and develop strategies for outreach to underrepresented and special populations.
- Early childhood workforce and professional development. The council will develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans, assess the capacity of two- and four-year institutions, and support professional development, recruitment, and retention of the workforce.
- Collaboration and standards. The council will develop integrated, early learning cross-sector guidelines to improve collaboration and coordination across programs and will conduct a pilot home-based school readiness project.
- Data systems and QRIS. The council will develop an integrated data collection system for diverse, mixed sector, early childhood related institutions, organizations, and programs. The council will also develop recommendations for a unified, high quality QRIS.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State general revenues for the Pre-kindergarten Early Start Grant, administered by the Texas Education Agency.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

Texas’s early childhood advisory council is housed within the Children’s Learning Institute at the University of Texas. The council chair is the director of statewide initiatives for the Children’s Learning Institute and manages a number of other statewide early childhood initiatives, including the Texas Head Start Collaboration Office.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.childrenslearninginstitute.org/our-programs/program-overview/state-advisory-council/>

**UTAH**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Utah Governor’s Early Childhood Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Utah Governor’s Child and Family Cabinet

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Since 2002, the Early Childhood Council has served as the advisory board for the state’s federal Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant (ECCS) project. In 2003, the council published Utah’s Early Childhood Blueprint for Progress. In 2007, Governor Jon Huntsman issued an executive order to establish the Governor’s Child and Family Cabinet, which now houses the council. The council recently held a Governor’s Summit on Early Childhood and created a five-year state action plan called “Ready to Succeed.”

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members: 18**

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
Not specified.

**Subcommittees:**  
The following subcommittees will include additional stakeholders who are not ECC members:

- Early childhood data systems
- Early care and education programs
- Social-emotional development and mental health
- Multicultural advisory group

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified

<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Utah State Director of Head Start Collaboration
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Representative from governor’s office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education director, Governor’s Office; and lieutenant governor
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two legislators
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Department of Human Services</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director
<b>Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director
<b>Corrections</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

Utah’s council has four goals for the grant period:

- Affirm early childhood as a state priority. Strategies include hiring a full-time coordinator to support the work of the council and identifying a state entity to be responsible for early childhood activities.
- Facilitate statewide distribution of available early childhood programs and services to support families and children birth to age five. The council will conduct a needs assessment and community forums to assess gaps and needs; pilot a “2-1-1 Help Me Grow” information phone line with United Way; support use of resources developed by the National Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), and assist in the implementation of a quality rating system.
- Build an early childhood data system to improve services for families with young children. The council will lead a planning process for development of a data warehouse.
- Promote and develop a statewide early childhood education system. Strategies include increasing exposure of early childhood education programs across Utah and developing and integrating statewide early childhood standards and assessments.

**Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State revenue for the UPSTART at-home preschool program.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will formally convene biannually to review progress and completion of goals and objectives. Subcommittees will meet more frequently.

**WEBSITE**

None

**VERMONT**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Vermont Department for Children and Families

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Vermont began system building through the federal Head Start Collaboration and Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) grants in the early 1990s. In 2002, a grant from the Smart Start Technical Assistance Center helped move these efforts forward. Building Bright Futures was created as a public-private partnership by executive order in 2006. In 2010, it was legislated into statute and designated the state’s early childhood advisory council. It serves to improve statewide early care, health, and education services.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** Maximum of 23, per state legislation.

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is co-chaired, with one chair selected from the members representing government agencies and the other selected from the at-large members.

**Subcommittees:**  
There are four standing committees:

- Strategic planning
- Legislative/policy
- Communications/marketing
- Professional preparedness and development

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary, Vermont Agency for Human Services and commissioner, Department for Children and Families
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner, Vermont

		Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supervisory union member and a school board member
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be determined
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two local center directors; plans to add a home-based and/or a school-based pre-k provider.
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local Head Start program director
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vermont Head Start Collaboration director
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner, Vermont Department of Children and Families
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early education coordinator, Vermont Department of Education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner, Vermont Department of Health; and commissioner, Department of Mental Health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senator and two House members
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, Vermont Business Roundtable and president of a marketing firm
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vermont Pre-K Collaborative funder representative
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children and Kids are Priority One
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Agency of Commerce and Community Development</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner or designee
<b>Union</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Health provider</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pediatrician
<b>Direct service provider</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vermont Children's Integrated Services intake coordinator

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has identified four overarching goals for the grant period:

- Increase overall participation of children in existing quality care and early education programs. This includes increasing the number of programs that meet quality standards, addressing affordability and transportation challenges, raising public awareness, and meeting the needs of underserved populations.
- Creating a unified, statewide early childhood data infrastructure that enables timely data collection, analysis, and dissemination. The council will develop a strategic plan for a comprehensive early childhood data infrastructure and begin implementing the plan.
- Expand the statewide professional development system and career ladder for early childhood educators. Strategies include sharing information on professional development opportunities; aligning Vermont’s core competencies and career ladder with job qualifications, credential requirements, and professional development; and expanding pathways to achieving required staff qualifications.
- Establish a continuum of high-quality early learning standards. The council will finalize early learning standards for infants and toddlers, support updating of standards for three- and four-year olds, and support dissemination and training on both sets of standards.

The council has also identified three priority indicators and objectives for the next 18-month period: (1) Percentage of young children in early care and education settings with quality recognition, either through national accreditation or the state quality rating and improvement system; (2) reduced rate of child abuse and neglect for children under age six; (3) percentage of children receiving developmental screening according to Bright Futures recommendations.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family/community engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

In-kind staff time of employees in the Vermont Department of Children and Families and Child Development Division.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will meet monthly. All meetings are open to the public. Regional Building Bright Futures councils meet quarterly or monthly.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

Building Bright Futures also involves 12 regional councils.

**WEBSITE**

<http://buildingbrightfutures.org/>

**U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**COUNCIL NAME**

U.S. Virgin Islands Early Childhood Advisory Committee

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Office of the Governor

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

The council was established through executive order in 2008 by Governor John P. de Jongh, Jr. It serves as a committee of the Governor’s Children and Family Council, which is chaired by the first lady.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 23

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is chaired by the director of the Family Connection, a program of the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands.

**Subcommittees:**  
There are six workgroups:

- Quality education
- Professional development
- Physical health and wellness
- Strengthening families
- Data
- Public awareness

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Administrator and director of licensing and quality services, U.S. Virgin Islands Office of Childcare and Regulatory Service
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deputy commissioner of curriculum and instruction, Virgin Islands Department of Education

<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three representatives from local school districts
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	University professor
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Early Head Start provider
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Preschool Programs, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The U.S. Virgin Islands does not have a Head Start collaboration director.
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Infants and Toddlers program, Virgin Islands Department of Health
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State director, Virgin Islands State Office of Special Education; and local district directors of special education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Virgin Islands Division of Mental Health, Alcoholism, and Drug Dependency Services; and director, Maternal and Child Health and Children with Special Health Care Needs, Virgin Islands Department of Health
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special assistant to the governor
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Family Connection, Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Caribbean Literacy Exchange, Virgin Islands Family Information Network on Disabilities and Conflict Resolution Organization for Peace, Virgin Islands Perinatal Inc., and Virgin Islands Behavioral Services
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Other public agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Virgin Islands Board of Education and Department of Justice
Click here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council identifies seven priorities:

1. Completion of the strategic planning process.
2. Increase the capacity of partnerships to coordinate, improve, and expand delivery of services and programs.
3. Increase access and participation of underserved populations in high-quality early childhood educational and nurturing environments.
4. Conduct periodic needs assessments on the quality and availability of early childhood programs.
5. Develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data system to track outcomes and indicators and inform the early childhood system.
6. Design and advance a professional development system.
7. Increase community awareness of council activities and the importance of early health and developmental experiences.

Other priorities may be identified as the council continues its work.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### **SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

The Virgin Islands Department of Human Services' Head Start funds.

#### **COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

Two public meetings were held on the council's strategic report. A strategic report will be developed annually with input from the community through public hearings. The council will meet at least quarterly, and more often as needed, to ensure that adequate progress is made on goals and objectives.

The council will also develop a website to share the activities of the council and initiate a public awareness media campaign on the importance of high-quality, early health and developmental experiences.

#### **UNIQUE FEATURES**

The current chair is also the director of a nonprofit program, the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands.

#### **WEBSITE**

None

**VIRGINIA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Virginia’s Early Childhood Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Virginia Department of Social Services

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Governor Tim Kaine created the Governor’s Working Group on Early Childhood Initiatives in 2006 to coordinate executive branch efforts on early childhood programs and strengthen public and private programs. In September 2009, Governor Kaine issued an executive order to establish the working group as Virginia’s early childhood advisory council. The entity was renamed Virginia’s Early Childhood Advisory Council.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 26

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is co-chaired by the secretary of education and the president of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.

**Subcommittees:**

- Needs and resource assessment
- Collaboration and coordination
- Data systems
- Professional development
- Sustainability

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Office of Early Childhood Development, and commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary of education; and superintendent of public instruction
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Superintendent, local school division

<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, state council for higher education; and chancellor, community college system
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two local early childhood education providers
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, local Head Start program
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, head Start collaboration office
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Development
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary of health and human services and commissioners from Virginia's Departments of Health, Medical Assistance Services, and Behavioral Health and Development
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governor's policy advisor
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, Virginia Early Childhood Foundation
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Virginia Economic Development Partnership
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Other state agencies</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretaries of commerce and trade and finance
Click here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council’s primary long-term goal is to support an integrated data system that provides links between services to support children and families and tracks child outcomes. Other key goals and activities fall in the following categories:

- Governance and finance. The council will promote statewide and local collaborative governance, coordinated public-private investments, accountability (through program standards and assessment), and a high-quality workforce. This will include support for a project to increase the capacity of local partnerships in Northern Virginia.
- Parent support and education. The council will increase access to quality information and support services and increase the quality of parenting support programs.
- Early care and education. The council will improve the quality, availability, and access to high-quality early care and education programs through strategies including a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS), alignment of standards, and coordinated service delivery.
- Health. Key objectives include fostering public and private sector initiatives to improve the affordability of health services and increasing access to health services.
- Public engagement. The council will promote public awareness of the benefits of early childhood programs among key state decision makers and local leaders and will promote collective action to alter early childhood systems and policies. The council will also inform the public of progress in implementing Smart Beginnings plan.

**Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State revenues supporting the Virginia Preschool Initiative.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will communicate regularly with stakeholders and the public by posting updates to the strategic plan and status reports on a public website. The council will also publish an annual online report of progress.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council brings together existing early childhood coordinating entities in the state. The council’s chairperson is the state secretary of education, and the co-chair is the president of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF), a public-private partnership that provides grants, training, and technical assistance to local Smart Beginnings coalitions. The council is staffed by the Virginia Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD), which collaborates with the departments of social services, education, and health to promote coordinated administration of early childhood programs.

OECD and VECF are also partnering in implementation of Virginia’s Plan for Smart Beginnings, a comprehensive plan developed through Virginia’s federal Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant.

**WEBSITE**

[www.smartbeginnings.org](http://www.smartbeginnings.org)

## WASHINGTON

### COUNCIL NAME

Washington Early Learning Advisory Council

### DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY

Washington Department of Early Learning (DEL)

### COUNCIL HISTORY

Washington's Department of Early Learning (DEL) was established in July 2006. The state's public-private partnership, Thrive by Five Washington, was also created in 2006. The Washington state legislature created the Early Learning Advisory Council in 2007 and charged the council and DEL to work together to develop a long-range early learning plan to ensure school readiness for all children in the state. This plan was developed in partnership between DEL, Thrive by Five, and the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The state's early learning plan was submitted to Governor Gregoire in draft form in December 2009, along with recommendations for the 2010 legislative session. DEL proposed legislation in 2011 to add additional permanent members to the council to fully comply with the Head Start Act.

### MEMBERSHIP

**Number of members:** 23

**Chair(s) of Council:**

The council is co-chaired by one representative of a state agency and one nongovernmental member, each elected by the council for a two-year term.

**Subcommittees:**

Not specified.

### COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND PRIORITIES

The council recognizes three core goals:

- Strengthen coordination role and overall effectiveness of the council. Strategies include establishing shared governance model at the state and local level to enhance collaboration and accountability and overseeing the state's comprehensive learning plan.
- Create implementation plan for a comprehensive statewide, integrated system of preparation and professional development for professionals working with children from birth to third grade. The council will develop final recommendations for a professional development system and develop alignment with the state quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) and other early childhood settings and services.
- Implement high-quality statewide early learning standards. The council will revise, and promote understanding and use of, standards; support development of a kindergarten readiness assessment; and create alignment and articulation with grades K-3.

The council will also use the federal grant to support grants, training, and technical assistance to school districts to support greater alignment between pre-k and K-3 education.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH**

Thrive by Five Washington and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

Included as part of the overall strategy, but is not discussed separately.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

Strong public-private partnerships in the state undergird this council.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.del.wa.gov/>

**WEST VIRGINIA**

**COUNCIL NAME**

West Virginia Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

Governor Joe Manchin issued an executive order in July 2010 establishing the West Virginia Early Childhood Advisory Council. The council will replace and expand on the existing Partners Implementing an Early Care and Education System (PIECES) Advisory Council. PIECES was formed in 2002 as an interagency group and was instrumental in implementing a state law establishing universal pre-k for four-year-olds.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 18

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is chaired by the cabinet secretary for the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts.

**Subcommittees:**  
The council has six subcommittees and an executive committee.

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Division of Early Care and Education, West Virginia Department of Human Resources
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet secretary; and assistant director, Office of School Readiness, West Virginia Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County superintendent of schools

<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, local child care provider
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, West Virginia Head Start Association
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, West Virginia Head Start Collaboration Office
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, West Virginia Birth to Three, Department of Health and Human Resources
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coordinator, Office of Special Programs, Extended and Early Learning, West Virginia Department of Education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coordinator, Early Childhood Health Project, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Appointment from business community
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Director, West Virginia KIDS COUNT Fund
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Early Head Start</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Early Head Start program
<b>In-home family education</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coordinator, Partners in Community Outreach
<b>Labor</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council’s mission is to create a high-quality, coordinated system of services that support early childhood development. The following are areas of focus for the federal grant period:

- Enhance collaboration and coordination among early childhood programs. The council will establish structures, processes, and staffing and strengthen links with local collaborative groups.
- Improve the quality and availability of early childhood services. Tasks include improving access to services (such as pre-k, birth-to-three programs, early childhood mental health) and increasing program quality, in part through a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) and through recommendations to address wage disparities.
- Expand use of early learning standards. The council will expand use of pre-k and infant/toddler early learning standards and include standards in professional education and development.
- Improve early childhood professional development and career advancement. The council will expand professional development opportunities at all credential levels and improve college-level preparation of early childhood educators.
- Increase parent knowledge. The council will increase parents’ knowledge about a range of services and supports they need for their families and strengthen parent leadership.
- System planning and evaluation based on sound data and research. The council will use data and research to improve the early childhood system and make recommendations toward a unified data system.
- Enhance communication with the public and policymakers. Tasks include a public awareness campaign to increase understanding of effective early childhood programs and policies, and establishing the council as a central clearinghouse of information on early childhood development research, policies, and programs.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State funding for pre-k programs.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will establish a website to serve as the communications hub, including up-to-date news, reports, resource information, and links. It will also disseminate information about early childhood programs in a variety of venues and formats, including presentations and reports to the governor and legislature. The council will provide multiple options for public input and comment regarding its plans and activities.

**WEBSITE**

[www.wvearlylearning.org](http://www.wvearlylearning.org)

**WISCONSIN**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Wisconsin Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

The Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners developed a system plan in 2009 that serves, together with a report from the Wisconsin School Readiness Indicators Initiative, as the foundation of the council’s strategic plan. In 2008, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families was created with a Division of Early Care and Education. In 2009, Governor Jim Doyle established the Early Childhood Advisory Council.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 30

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is co-chaired by the secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families and the state superintendent of public instruction.

**Subcommittees:**  
The council has ad hoc committees with the following areas of focus:

- Funding
- System assessment
- System design
- Data alignment/annual report
- Home visiting

A steering committee includes the chairs of the ad hoc committees in addition to key department staff.

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families; and director, Early Care and

		Education.
<i>State educational agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State superintendent, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; and two assistant state superintendents
<i>Local education agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director, Division of Early Childhood Education for city school district
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President, Wisconsin Technical College System; president, University of Wisconsin system; and president, Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board president, Wisconsin Child Care Administrators Association; and family child care provider
<i>Head Start agency</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive director, Wisconsin Head Start Association
<i>State director of Head Start collaboration</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wisconsin Head Start Collaboration Office
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Health Services
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Health Services
<b>Representative from governor's office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy advisor
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parent in Head Start Comprehensive Family Services
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Head Start
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migrant Head Start
<b>Business representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three business representatives
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two representatives from philanthropy
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Alliance for Infant Mental Health, Wisconsin Association of School Boards, Wisconsin Education Association Council, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, Supporting Families Together Association, local United Way, American Academy of Pediatrics, Wisconsin Chapter, Wisconsin Community Action Program Association, Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund,

		Hmong American Association of Portage County
OTHER		
Department of Corrections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary
U.S. Department of Justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal prosecutor

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council will focus on five areas of early childhood system building: standards, higher education, professional development, collaboration and integrated funding, and data and accountability. During the federal grant period, the council’s activities will support the following five outcomes:

- Early childhood system that provides access to quality early childhood experiences, including education, health, social-emotional health, parent education, and family support. Tasks include researching existing components of early childhood system and identifying policy implications, gaps, and information needs.
- Knowledge of quality and availability of early childhood services guiding policy and funding recommendations. The council will analyze data on strengths and gaps in early childhood program offerings and professional development system and report findings to policymakers.
- Collaboration as a primary strategy for developing and enhancing early childhood system. The council will document existing collaboration and barriers to collaboration and will promote links between professional development and higher education, an aligned professional development system, development of local councils, and coordination of data.
- Implementation of a strategic plan, informed by coordinated data system. Tasks include developing and disseminating a multiyear strategic plan and identifying tracking mechanisms to document progress.
- Alignment of strategic plan with state goals, initiatives, and funding opportunities. The council will align the plan with state agency goals, public policy initiatives and state and federal funding opportunities.

<b>Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period</b>	
<i>Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.</i>	
Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Assess capacity of higher education.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

The Department of Public Instruction Head Start State Supplemental program and in-kind support from staff working on the state’s longitudinal education data system.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The council will meet quarterly in year 1 and three times a year in the following years. Subcommittees will meet as needed. Minutes may be posted online. There will be an annual report released, in addition to an annual report to the governor and state legislature.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (WECCP) has been in existence for almost 20 years and has developed early childhood networks at the state, regional, and local levels. The council will build on the foundation of WECCP’s work to develop higher levels of collaboration and funding integration. The WECCP will work hand in hand with the council on projects and provide input on council efforts.

The council will also work in partnership with other coordinating bodies, including the IDEA Birth to Three Interagency Coordinating Council and the P–16 Leadership Council.

**WEBSITE**

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ecac/default.htm>

**WYOMING**

**COUNCIL NAME**

Wyoming Early Childhood State Advisory Council

**DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY**

Wyoming Department of Family Services

**COUNCIL HISTORY**

In June 2010, Governor Dave Freudenthal signed an executive order establishing the Wyoming Early Childhood State Advisory Council. The council builds on the past work of other early childhood coordinating bodies in the state, including: the Wyoming Early Childhood Partnership, the interagency Planning Team for At-Risk Children, and the Governor’s Early Childhood Development Council.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Number of members:** 26

**Chair(s) of Council:**  
The council is chaired by the director of a nonprofit child care center.

**Subcommittees:**

- Policy and legislation
- Needs assessment
- Sustainability

<b>Advisory Council Membership</b> <i>(Italicized member types required by federal statute)</i>		
<b>MEMBER TYPE</b>	<b>INCLUSION</b>	<b>MEMBER DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>State agency responsible for child care</i>	☒	Representative from Wyoming Department of Family Services
<i>State educational agency</i>	☒	Representative from Wyoming Department of Education
<i>Local education agency</i>	☒	Not specified
<i>Institutions of higher education</i>	☒	Representative from University of Wyoming and a community college
<i>Local providers of early childhood education/development services</i>	☒	Licensed child care provider and local child development services provider
<i>Head Start agency</i>	☒	Head Start representative
<i>State director of Head Start</i>	☒	Wyoming Head Start

<i>collaboration</i>		Collaboration director
<i>State agency responsible for programs under Part C of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Wyoming Department of Health
<i>Coordinator of Part B, 619 of IDEA</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Wyoming Department of Education
<i>State agency responsible for health or mental health</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative from Wyoming Department of Health
<b>Representative from Governor’s office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Legislator(s)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Parent representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Tribal representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Head Start, two members of tribes
<b>Migrant representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migrant Head Start
<b>Business representative</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Foundation representative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Statewide and community organizations</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representatives from Wyoming Early Childhood Partnership, early childhood advocacy organization
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Community health services</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Department of Workforce Services</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not specified
<b>Community members</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Four individuals working with young children and their families or with an interest in early care and education.

**COUNCIL ACTIVITIES and PRIORITIES**

The council has four immediate goals for the federal grant period:

- Create a strong council that will complete responsibilities in Head Start Act. Tasks include appointing and orienting members, holding quarterly meetings, and an annual public hearing.
- Conduct needs assessment and analyze assessment data, including opportunities and barriers to coordination.
- Develop recommendations to improve overall participation of children in early childhood programs, including outreach to underrepresented populations, and to develop a unified data collection system.
- Develop a plan to ensure council sustainability. Tasks include creating a charter for the council, recommending long-term funding mechanisms and statutory, policy, and/or executive order changes to achieve sustainability.

**Council’s Proposed Activities for Federal Grant Period**

*Note: This analysis reflects only state priorities cited in council action plans for the grant period. States may be addressing additional priorities as part of a broader early childhood policy agenda.*

Conduct needs assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote coordination across programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase access to programs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Develop data system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve professional development system.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assess capacity of higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve early learning standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote program quality improvement, for example, through quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote family and community engagement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on prenatal and child health.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on mental health and social-emotional development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on infants and toddlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on children with special needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on English language learners.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop links to grades K–3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on financing and sustainability.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct public awareness campaign.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOURCE OF STATE MATCH FOR FEDERAL GRANT**

State funds for Wyoming Quality Counts! at the Department of Workforce Services, which supports scholarships for higher education, and training grants and programs.

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

The Council will hold quarterly meetings in accordance with the state’s open meetings law and provide opportunities for public comment. An annual public hearing will be held on the council’s activities.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

The council will partner with and build on the work of existing early childhood coordinating bodies, including the following:

- The Wyoming Early Childhood Partnership, a public-private partnership founded in 2008, which has implemented an initiative to support local early childhood collaboration.
- The Planning Team for At-Risk Children (PTAC), an interagency group founded in 2009 to collaborate and communicate across agencies on issues concerning at-risk children and youth. The PTAC has an early care and education subcommittee.
- The Governor's Early Childhood Development Council, established by executive order in 1997 and reorganized in 2000. The council implemented a program to disseminate books to young children and was a partner in developing early learning guidelines but has not had sufficient membership to promote collaboration across agencies.
- The Early Intervention Council, with a focus on children birth to age five with disabilities.
- The Head Start Collaboration Office, which promotes partnerships between Head Start and other services in the state.

**WEBSITE**

None