



Working Together for a Better Beginning

"In states that make it a priority to educate our youngest children...studies show students grow up more likely to read and do math at grade level, graduate high school, hold a job, form more stable families of their own. We know this works. So let's do what works and make sure none of our children start the race of life already behind."

—President Barack Obama, State of the Union, February 12, 2013

Early Childhood Development

Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

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Have you been to our website recently?

Learn more about the Office of Early Childhood Development and click [here](#).

The Affordable Care Act

Visit www.healthcare.gov



Logo of Health Insurance Marketplace, Have health insurance questions? which is linked to https://www.healthcare.gov/quick-answers/?fromLoc=MPBadge&utm_medium=widget&utm_content=120x130-en&utm_campaign=hcgov

New Affordable Care Act Webpage for Early Childhood

Special Assistant Elisabeth Mabus shared a new ACF web page which explains how the Affordable Care Act will impact early childhood programs

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month

Natural and manmade disasters can happen anywhere and at any time. Ensuring that all Americans, especially those with young children, are prepared for disasters is a top priority of the [Department of Health and Human Services](#). That is why we are teaming up to provide children, families, child care programs, and early childhood policy makers with the resources they need to prepare for-, respond to-, and recover from disasters.



This rich set of resources contains [activities](#) (to help families, early childhood programs, and policy makers prepare for disasters, developmentally appropriate books and games to help children cope after disasters, and State templates and guides for policy makers to use in developing, enhancing, or improving their State plans.

Check out this [new page](#) and [other resources](#)

Picture of family & teacher and 2 children

and read our recent [blog on Disaster Preparedness](#) and make sure you, your families, and the children you serve are READY!

We highlight below some of the great disaster and emergency preparedness resources from our partners! Check out these great resources from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA), [Ready.gov](#) site:

· [Plan to Protect Yourself & Your Family](#)

like Head Start and child care: [New Affordable Care Act Webpage for Early Childhood](#).

See resources for ECE providers at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/marketplace-resources-for-ece-providers>

Affordable Care Act and Latinos

Oct. 10: ACF's second webinar series during Hispanic Heritage Month will focus on the **Affordable Care Act's Health Insurance Marketplace**.

According to the Census Bureau, nearly 16 million Hispanics are uninsured. When key parts of the health care law take effect in 2014, there will be a new way for individuals, families and small businesses to get health insurance. ACF and the HHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships will host two webinars on the subject: "**Latinos and the Health Insurance Marketplace**" **Thursday, Oct. 10**. The English version will be presented from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. (EDT) and the Spanish version will be presented from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. (EDT). Register today: [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

Check out the ACF blogs

[The Real Stories of the Affordable Care Act](#)

ACF touches the lives of millions of people who will be newly eligible for Medicaid or for reduced-cost insurance. See how ACF grantees, along with activists and state agencies, are doing everything they can to reach them.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2013/09/t>

· [Infants and Young Children](#)

· [Military Family Preparedness](#)

ACF Welcomes Hurricane Sandy Coordinator

ACF welcomes Linda G. Greenberg, Ph.D. to the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary and Interdepartmental Liaison for [Early Childhood Development](#) as Social Science Analyst. In this role, Greenberg will coordinate the Hurricane Sandy funding and recovery efforts for the Department of Health and Human Services.

Greenberg is highly skilled in leading, executing and managing complex and multi-disciplinary projects at many organizational levels and has held policy and management positions within the Department of Health and Human Services for 15 years.

She comes to ACF with excellent experience most recently at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) where she was the program manager for a \$2.5 million contract for the HHS Federal External Review Process, as mandated by the Affordable Care Act. She has experience working collaboratively with multiple agencies to ensure consistency with federal regulations.

State Advisory Councils work on Sustainability

The State Advisory Council (SAC) grant was authorized by P.L. 110-134, the Improving Head Start Readiness Act of 2007, and funded through P.L. 111-5, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 for the period between 2010 and 2013. ARRA provided three-year, one-time funds in the amount of \$100 million for implementation of the State Advisory Councils.

By design, the Councils funds were intended to serve as start up funds. In fact, states receiving the grant were required to identify a sustainability plan for their Council work and work towards implementation.

The last blog on the [Councils](#) described some of the ways in which states strategically invested Council funds to build early childhood infrastructure as a form of sustainability. Since then states convened for a face-to-face meeting in Washington, DC this summer to further explore the issue of sustainability. During the meeting they discussed the current challenges they face, as well as successes and plans for the future.

The Councils identified that they will need to expand or build new relationships with partners that can help inform, support and sustain the Council work. For some states new partners will include representatives from private business, philanthropy, schools, the child welfare agency, pediatrics, child nutrition programs (e.g. Women

"Brain scientists tell us that the early years are when critical cognitive development takes place. Social scientists tell us that the investments we make in early childhood programs can have a huge payoff down the road."

Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services

[he-real-stories-of-the-affordable-care-act](#)

[Health Profession Opportunity Grants Program Celebrates Students' Success](#)

More than 10,000 students have completed health care occupational training programs.
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2013/08/health-profession-opportunity-grants-program-celebrates-students>

[A Week to Remember for Early Childhood Development](#)

A look at the work being done across the country to improve early childhood education and development.
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2013/08/a-week-to-remember-for-early-childhood-development>

[Tackling Native American Child Nutrition](#)

ACF programs are joining the fight for healthy and food secure American Indian and Alaska Native children and families.
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2013/08/tackling-native-american-child-nutrition>

[Obesity Rates Among Low-income Preschoolers Decreased in Many States](#)

During 2008–2011, 19 states and territories reported decreases in obesity prevalence among low-income preschoolers. Head Start and child care communities are essential allies in this National effort.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/news/obesity-rates-among-low-income-preschoolers-decreased-in-many-states>

[“I’m the guy you pay later”](#)

Infants & Children program), tribes, and local government (e.g. mayors).

Continue reading by clicking [here](#). To see the SAC Progress Report, April 2013, click [here](#).

RTT-ELC Applications Due Oct 16

The purpose of the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) program is to improve the quality of early learning and development and close the achievement gap for children with high needs. The RTT-ELC grant competition focuses on improving early learning and development for young children by supporting States' efforts to increase the number and percentage of low-income and disadvantaged children in each age group of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers enrolled in high-quality early learning and development programs; and designing and implementing an integrated system of high-quality early learning and development programs and services.

The Administration released the final application for the second Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) competition, which will provide approximately \$280 million in State-level competitive grants to improve early learning and development programs. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/resources/race-to-the-top>

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) conducted the first competition under the RTT–ELC program in FY 2011 and awarded grants to nine States (CA, DE, MA, MD, MN, NC, OH, RI, and WA). In FY 2012, the five next highest-rated applicants on the slate of high-scoring applications from the FY 2011 competition were funded at up to 50 percent of the funds each requested in their FY 2011 applications (CO, IL, NM, OR, and WI). In FY2012, supplemental funding was made available to 6 states bringing them up to 75 percent of the funds requested.



Photo of children with hands raised.

The Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge FY 2013 Competition Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions for Applicants are now posted at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/resources/race-to-the-top>.

The Race to the Top team held a Technical Assistance workshop for potential applicants on September 10th. See the link below to view. <http://edstream.ed.gov/webcast/Viewer/?peid=163628cf04414c72828d035ac4abd7a81d>. Another webinar will be held September 26, 2013 to provide answers to the questions that states have been submitting since the September 10 Workshop. RTT-ELC team will provide answers and clarifications at that time.

Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted by mail or hand delivery. The Departments strongly recommends the use of overnight mail. Applications postmarked on the deadline date but arriving late will not be read. The deadline for submission of applications is **October 16, 2013**.

For more information on RTT-ELC, please click on <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/programs/race-to-the-top>



Photo of a girl and boy walking on a road holding hands

Thousands of police chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors who are members of [Fight Crime: Invest in Kids](#) released a report – “[I’m the guy you pay later](#)” – that shows a proposed state-federal early childhood education partnership could reduce the number of people who are incarcerated nationwide by 200,000 every year and lead to \$75 billion in cost savings over 10 years.

Research

[New Reports Describe Patterns of Children’s Experiences in Child Welfare System](#)

These reports use data from the [National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being](#), a longitudinal study about the functioning, service needs, and service use of children who come in contact with the child welfare system. The study examines the well-being of children involved with child welfare agencies; captures information about the investigation of abuse or neglect that brought the child into the study; collects information about the child’s family; provides information about child welfare interventions and other services; and describes key characteristics of child development.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2013/09/two-new-reports-describe-patterns-of-childrens-experiences-in-child>

Learning From RTT-ELC APRs

In February 2013, the 9 phase 1 Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) Program grantee states (California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Washington) submitted the first [Annual Performance Reports](#) (APRs) for the grant program. The APRs document progress made during the first year of grant implementation (January 1 – December 31, 2012). Grantees wrote about lessons learned during the first grant year, and detailed the progress being made in each of the 5 RTT-ELC reform areas.

To highlight the important work being done in grantee states, the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development (ODAS-ECD) in the Administration for Children and Families has developed a series of three briefs. The briefs are by no means an exhaustive collection of all of the early childhood work being done in a particular state, but rather are a compilation of the work highlighted and documented by grantees themselves as being supported by RTT-ELC funds and meeting the stated RTT-ELC goals. See two of the briefs by clicking [here](#) and [here](#).

The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation

The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation is 6 part documentary series explores how a strong start for all our kids leads not only to better individual life course outcomes (learning, earning and physical and mental health) but also to a healthier, safer, better educated and more prosperous and equitable nation.

Larry Adelman, the series creator and executive producer interviewed Deputy Assistant Secretary Linda Smith during the research phase when she was at Child Care Aware (formerly NACCRA). She continued to stay involved while at ACF.

The series that is being produced by California Newsreel and Vital Pictures is still in production. The Raising of America is slated for National PBS broadcast and DVD release in 2014.

The series is made up of an opening hour-long show followed by 5 supporting 30 minute episodes. Each of the five 30-minute supporting episodes delves into a particular aspect of Early Childhood health and development. They explore:

- The science of brain development
- The intergenerational impact of poverty
- How a trauma-informed approach can help heal young people who grew up in adverse circumstances
- How power and politics have led to where we are today

One episode is ready and it happens to be on early childhood! You can preview it online called: “*Are We Crazy About Our Kids?*” that explores the social and economic benefits of investing in high-quality early care and preschool.

[The Science of Children Birth to Age 8: Deepening and Broadening the Foundation for Success](#)

The Department of Health and Human Services is teaming up with the Department of Education and key players in the philanthropic community to fund a study titled "The Science of Children Birth to Age 8: Deepening and Broadening the Foundation for Success." The study, executed via The National Academies, will result in a consensus report on how the science of children's health, learning, and development from birth to age 8 can inform how we prepare a workforce to seamlessly support children's development and education, including standards and expectations, instructional practices, preparation and professional development, and family engagement across diverse contexts (e.g., rural/urban) and populations (e.g., immigrant children, dual language learners, children at risk for developmental delays and disabilities).

Sponsoring partners on the 18-month consensus study, [The Science of Children Birth to Age 8: Deepening and Broadening the Foundation for Success](#), include the [Administration for Children and Families](#), [Health Resources and Services Administration](#), [U.S. Department of Education](#), and philanthropic organizations. [Sign-up](#) to find out more about public meetings and get other updates.

The Vital Link: Early Childhood to High School Graduation

Ready Nation has released a new research brief "[The Vital Link: Early Childhood Investment is the First Step to High School Graduation](#)," which powerfully illustrates the correlation between access to early education and future educational success. The

Visit www.raisingofamerica.org for more information.

The Office of Child Care launches new CCTAN web site

The Office of Child Care (OCC) recently launched its *Child Care Technical Assistance Network (CCTAN) Web site*, now live at childcare.gov.

The Web site is a one-stop shop for all materials from the CCTAN National Centers and features resources created by OCC's technical assistance (TA) network on a variety of topics related to the administration of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program.

Highlights of the site include:

- [CCDF Data Explorer](#)—The interactive data explorer allows you to compare data among States and Territories and to track changes over time. Charts can also be downloaded for sharing.
- [State Profiles](#)—The profiles include detailed demographic information about the children, families, and child care in each State and Territory as well as contact information for the agencies involved in child care.
- [Fundamentals of CCDF Administration Website](#)—Broken down by topic and subtopic, the site is both a helpful resource for new CCDF lead agency program staff and a quick reference for a specific question.

In the coming weeks and months, OCC will add additional resources to the site. As OCC looks to develop new TA tools and materials, it looks forward to hearing about what resources would be helpful and how to improve the site. You can ask questions about the site or share feedback at childcare.gov/contact.

document also includes new research from several early childhood programs that clearly demonstrate their success in improving educational outcomes.

[Click here to view this brief.](#)

Head Start Awareness Month

On October 22, 1982, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed October Head Start Awareness Month. Thirty-one years after the proclamation, his words still inspire us to celebrate this great program: "Perhaps the most significant factor in the success of Head Start has been the involvement of **parents, volunteers, and the community**. Their commitment and the services provided by dedicated Head Start staff have been instrumental in creating a quality program that truly provides young children with a '*head start*' in life."

http://www.nhsa.org/head_start_awareness_month

Over 1.3 million adults volunteered in Head Start programs in 2011

More than 1.3 million adults volunteered in their local Head Start program in 2012. Of these, 867,000 were parents of Head Start children. Learn more about Head Start [here](#).

CLASP released a report, [Better for Babies: A Study of State Infant and Toddler Child Care Policies](#), that presents data from a recent state survey of child care subsidy, licensing, and quality enhancement policies. It provides a national picture of infant-toddler child care.





ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES



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<http://www.youtube.com/usgovacf>

RSS feed logo linked to <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/rss>

Twitter logo linked to <https://twitter.com/ACFHHS>

[Sign up](#) to receive the Early Childhood Development Newsletter. If you have questions or comments regarding the newsletter please contact: marsha.basloe@acf.hhs.gov

For more information on the Early Childhood Development Office at ACF, visit the website <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd>.

The Early Childhood Development newsletter contains links to other websites and news articles. These links represent just a few examples of the numerous reference materials currently available to the public. The opinions expressed in any articles or web pages do not necessarily reflect the positions or policies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Children and Families. The inclusion of resources should not be construed or interpreted as an endorsement of any private organization or business listed herein.

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