

Study of Early Childhood Care and Education Workforce, 2010-2012

Overview

The purpose of this project, awarded to The National Academy of Sciences, is to establish a panel of independent experts to develop a study of the nation's Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) workforce. The primary objective is to provide an adequate description of the ECCE workforce outlining the parameters that define the population and the supports provided for early childhood teachers and caregivers.

The task order will consist of the appointment of a planning committee, with reports to be made available to research, policy, and practice communities. The National Academy of Sciences will also convene a planning meeting that will organize and convene a 2-day workshop to examine the following topics:

- Describe the size and composition of the ECCE workforce in different care and learning settings for young children (ages 0 to 5);
- Review the primary sources of training, recruitment, and compensation for this workforce;
- Identify key aspects of workforce structure and quality that are associated with caregiver/provider and teachers, child, and family outcomes
- Highlight challenges and gaps that require attention in striving to improve the capacity and quality of this workforce in developing quality environments for young children who are enrolled in child care and early learning programs; and
- Consider incentives and strategies to resolve these challenges and reduce disparities in ECCE settings.

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