



## STATE PARTNERS

### Arizona

Arizona has a task force dedicated to implementation of the new CCDBG reauthorization requirements. In addition to the work to implement the required components, the task force will examine how Arizona can align receipt of public dollars to meet higher minimum quality standards in child care. Currently, the quality floor in Arizona is licensing standards (basic health and safety), and this project seeks to raise that quality floor to be in alignment with the state QRIS and other recognized quality standards (such as Head Start and national accreditation models). Children's Action Alliance, a statewide children's advocacy organization, receives funding to provide administrative and staffing support to the project.

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### Colorado

Clayton Early Learning, the Colorado Children's Campaign, and Executives Partnering to Invest in Children collaborate to advance state-level early childhood policy, with Clayton taking the lead on early care and learning expertise, the Campaign taking the lead on policy development and advocacy with the legislature, and EPIC providing business leader engagement and support. Using the Birth Through Eight State Policy Framework as a guide, the Colorado partners are focused on building a comprehensive early childhood system in Colorado, which is responsive to the current political climate and the needs of the early childhood community. They will focus on building their state capacity to expand pre-k via stakeholder engagement and development of a strategic plan, pursuing strategies and investments to increase family supports and the capacity of informal caregivers, promoting a healthy start for all kids with particular focus on mental and behavioral health, and completing the implementation of legislative reforms to the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program.

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## Florida

Our Florida partners will focus on two policy areas:

1. Raising the quality of child care by embedding standards in the statute, and tying reimbursement rates to quality; and
2. Building public awareness about the importance of the infant and toddler (0-3) years by launching a FIRST 1000 DAYS campaign, a Help Me Grow program, and advocating for increase funding for early intervention (Part C).

They have specifically requested technical assistance from CLASP and Build on child care policy, and from the Council for a Strong American on raising public awareness about the infant-toddler years.

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## Georgia

The Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) is a statewide advocacy organization that works closely with state agencies, including the Department of Public Health and Department of Early Learning, to implement policy change, advocate for early learning in the GA General Assembly, and engage civic leaders. GEEARS' advocacy priorities in 2015-16 are to make high quality early education programs in Georgia more accessible and affordable, as well as to build out a birth to 3 policy platform. GEEARS will receive technical assistance from Louise Stoney (financing strategies), CSA and CED (mobilizing unlikely messengers), ZTT and Build (0-3 policy agenda) and CLASP (CCDBG implementation).

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## Illinois

The Illinois partners established the following three goals, with public and private sector input.

1. Establish a clear action plan for Illinois' early childhood systems building efforts, and determine the roles of the ELC, the state Inter-Agency Team and state agencies, and the Office of Early Childhood Development in moving the plan forward.
2. Continue implementation and coordination of major federal initiatives and state strategic action plans within the context of Illinois' broad early childhood vision, including the Pre-school expansion grant, the MIECHV grant, the RTT-ELC grant, the EHS-CC partnerships, and the state's Community Systems strategic plan, mental health strategic plan, and ELC approved health recommendations.
3. Better understand and address prioritization of the most vulnerable children and families to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of high quality early learning programs and supports throughout the state that can be effectively accessed. This includes the development of the child care state plan related to the new CCDBG law.

The Illinois partners will receive technical assistance from Karen Ponder on the governance and system integration priorities, and CLASP on the implementation of CCDBG.

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## Kansas

Kansas Action for Children will focus on improving access to high quality early childhood programs and services. Staff will work on strengthening child care rules and regulations, modifying TANF policies and procedures, and preserving public investments in early childhood programs. Strategies will include building consensus through opportunities presented by the reauthorization of the CCDBG; conducting a child care workforce study to inform the public dialogue about the availability and affordability of child care in Kansas; identifying opportunities to mitigate the impact of the HOPE Act on children and families; and mobilizing constituents in support of quality early education in Kansas.

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## Louisiana

The Louisiana Policy Institute for Children seeks to be a source of non-partisan, independent information on issues concerning children, ages birth through four. The Institute will provide policy proposals and advocacy to support state policies that advance access to high quality early care and education (ECE) for vulnerable children. Staff will focus on engaging business leaders across the state and educating newly elected state leaders to address four key areas of ECE policy: 1) increasing funding per child for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP); 2) changing CCAP policies to promote quality early learning; 3) identifying and addressing gaps in the implementation of the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Act (Act 3) that are preventing vulnerable children from accessing high- quality ECE; and 4) informing Louisiana's state plan for the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

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## Maine

The Maine Children's Alliance will build on the groundwork laid early in 2015 to lead and grow a broad coalition of diverse stakeholders to advance policies and new investments to promote the social emotional development of children from birth through age eight. This work is focused on reducing expulsions in early care and education settings, providing support and professional development, connecting children and families to mental health professionals or special education resources if necessary, and supporting parents to develop nurturing relationships with their children. MCA will use education and advocacy to take advantage of new federal requirements under CCDBG to improve Maine's child care policies to enhance access to high-quality early childhood services.

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## Massachusetts

Strategies for Children (SFC) is working to ensure that Massachusetts invests the resources needed to ensure all children, from birth to age five, can access high-quality early education programs that help prepare them for success in school and life. This year they will use research and communications to make the case for early learning as a critical component of the broader college/career educational continuum; quantify existing early education resources at the local level; and define and disseminate best practices. They will continue to foster leadership among state-level policymakers and at the local community level. SFC will host events, publish briefs, blogs, and conduct editorial outreach and social media as they advocate for:

- Pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds: by continuing to co-chair the campaign for 3- and 4-year-old pre-k starting with high need communities.
- Increased funding through the Coalition efforts with Building on What Works coalition that would create a new fund, which communities could use for early education among other things.
- Early literacy by participating on the Early Literacy Expert Panel which is co-chaired by Dr. Nonie Lesaux and Secretary of Education Jim Peyser and serving as a leader in the Campaign for Grade Level Reading.
- Implementation of standards, assessment, workforce policies, and comprehensive services as a partner in an interagency working group.
- Continue to education federal policymakers on the need for expanded funding for early learning.

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## Michigan

High quality child care and home visiting are now viewed by key leaders in Michigan as important to early literacy and third-grade reading proficiency. In this context, the Center for Michigan will convene early childhood advocates to discuss the best 0-3 policy options. They will educate policy makers about the need for wise expansion of high quality 0-3 programs and the importance of infant-toddler investment to help assure third-grade reading proficiency. Expected deliverables include a return-on-investment document for child care, and the endorsement of business leaders in wise new investment because of it's demonstrable value. The goal is to continue to build awareness on the value of wise 0-3 investments and to secure new resources for key evidence-based initiatives.

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# Nebraska

In the coming year, First Five Nebraska will work to:

1. Expand access to high-quality child care for at-risk infants and toddlers.
2. Change the perception of the child care subsidy program to a child development program.
3. Refine the Quality Rating and Improvement System, Step Up to Quality, by incorporating the results of initial evaluation data.

The Nebraska partners will accomplish this work with technical assistance supports from several Alliance partners. CLASP will provide support to maximize the opportunities provided by the reauthorization of CCDBG. Build and Louise Stoney will help on the continuous quality improvement of the QRIS. The Council for a Strong America will customize its reports and tools to focus on the importance of expanding access to quality services for infants and toddlers.

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# New Mexico

The New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership works with New Mexico Voices, and the New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children to:

1. Increase the State General Fund appropriations in support of early childhood care and education, home visiting, and state pre-k;
2. Increase knowledge about the true cost of providing quality early childhood programs and services;
3. Explore alternative financing strategies; and
4. Develop recommendation for an early childhood governance structure in New Mexico.

New Mexico partners will receive technical support from Alliance partners such as Karen Ponder (governance) and Louise Stoney (financing strategies).

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## New Jersey

Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) works to improve policies and programs for children from infancy to age 8 and their families by educating, informing and engaging leaders and the public on children's needs. After ACNJ releases their policy brief on chronic absenteeism later this summer, they will conduct direct outreach to key districts to improve district policies and practices. ACNJ will advocate for more effective teacher and administrator licensing and certification policies and practices, that better reflect the developmental and educational needs of young children by engaging our education partners, including NJ Assoc. of School Administrators, presenting recommendations to the NJ DOE and the NJ Principals and Supervisors Assoc. Third, ACNJ will engage business leaders in advocacy for preschool expansion and will educate legislators and legislative committee leadership. ACNJ will identify three NJ business leaders to join in advocating for preschool expansion in targeted districts. Lastly, ACNJ will continue to provide leadership for the State Advocates for Early Learning led by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT.

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## New York

The Center for Children's Initiatives (CCI) mission is to assure every child in New York starts life with a foundation of health, care and learning to succeed in life. They will use Alliance funding to elevate early learning as a priority for policymakers and the public, from the prenatal period through third grade and to align their work in NY with the federal agenda. Funding will support the preparation of materials including policy analysis, research and advocacy. It will allow CCI to continue to keep state and local partners, coalitions and networks aware of the federal agenda and strategic opportunities for action to advance investment, sound policy and innovative approaches that integrate and improve early learning. That includes preparing materials and convening calls on the federal budget, as well as taking strategic advantage of emerging policy debates, including the ESEA, child health and home visiting. At the state level, CCI will continue to lead pre-k efforts with the Winning Beginning NY coalition and the Ready for Kindergarten campaign and work with the Campaign for Educational Equity at Teacher's to build momentum for making pre-K a right for all three and four year olds in New York.

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## Oregon

As the leading birth to 8 advocacy organization in Oregon, the Children's Institute plays a catalytic role building bridges across sectors and silos in early childhood, K-12 and the health system. They have been leaders in advocating for greater public and private resources to support transformation of Oregon's prenatal to third grade services. This grant will support a multi-pronged early learning, health and family engagement agenda at the site, regional and state levels. The goals include expanding the number communities statewide working to effectively integrate early childhood programs with the primary grades, increasing the number of children birth to five that are served in high-quality early learning programs; developing a health policy agenda and develop policies and standards to promote meaningful family engagement to increase school readiness and improve academic outcomes.

The workplan includes: Implementation of the 2015 mixed delivery pre-k legislation through administrative advocacy, rollout support with the RFP, and sharing lessons learned from early adopters. Improving preschool quality through development, alignment, and adoption of standards Development of a health agenda drawing from community health assessment, navigator efforts, and a developmental screening pilot fostering family engagement through QRIS rules, the mixed delivery preschool RFP, kindergarten transitions policy, and implementation of specific intervention and neighborhood strategies at their demonstration sites

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## Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) is a statewide, independent, non-partisan voice to improve the health, education and well-being of the Commonwealth's children. They will continue to advance public policies across health, learning and family support. These include: improving Pennsylvania's developmental screening rate using validated tools; expanding the availability of evidence-based home visiting strategies; assuring the availability of high-quality child care for low-income families; and, expanding the number of children enrolled in high-quality pre- kindergarten. PPC will accomplish each of these goals by employing four core advocacy strategies: research and analysis, strategic communications, mobilization and government relations.

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# Washington

The Children's Alliance is a multi-issue advocacy organization with 125 organizational members working to ensure that laws, policies and programs work for kids. Children's Alliance achieved a significant victory in 2015, securing new funding and policy to accelerate quality improvement and expand access with the passage of the historic Early Start Act. The Children's Alliance will focus on administrative advocacy related to implementation of the Early Start Act and other policy and funding changes from the 2015 legislative session. This will include analysis of policy adjustments needed in the 2016 legislative session. The Children's Alliance will also conduct federal advocacy to focus on growing congressional awareness and support for early learning.

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# Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families leads a coalition of partners focusing on key issues that include:

- Increase high-quality early care and education: Advocate for progress in the YoungStar quality rating system; track trends and develop recommendations for improvement and financing, leading to positive changes in policies and practices
- Expand infant/toddler services: Sharpen the focus on infants/toddlers, promoting broad-based priorities for action and gaining policymakers' support
- Improve child health: Promote child health policies that increase access to Medicaid coverage for children and families, and advocate successfully for changes in child care licensing rules to reduce child obesity
- Address racial disparities: Build on new community energy to establish a strategy to address racial disparities across Wisconsin

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# NATIONAL PARTNERS

## BUILD Initiative

The BUILD Initiative assists state leaders to develop policies and practices designed to assure a high-quality, comprehensive, equitable early childhood system of systems that supports the healthy development, care and learning of all children and that supports and engages their families.

BUILD will support states in their development, implementation and revision of quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS) to promote the early learning and development of young children, to clarify the relationship between QRIS and various outcomes, including child outcomes, and to address the ongoing racial, ethnic, cultural, home-language, and income-based disparities in school readiness. This work will be accomplished through customized technical assistance, cross-state learning tables, think tanks, web-based resources, and webinars. In addition, BUILD will augment its work building the capacity of leaders for equity with a strong focus on the connections between disparities and state policy formation or reform.

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## Center for Law and Social Policy

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) develops and advocates for policies that improve the lives of low-income people. They focus on policies that strengthen families and create pathways to education and work. Through careful research, analysis, and effective advocacy, CLASP develops and promotes new ideas, mobilizes advocates, and directly assists governments to put in place strategies that deliver results that matter.

CLASP will support the efforts of state advocates and policymakers to increase access to high-quality child care and early education for low-income children by providing expert technical assistance (TA), researching promising policies, and disseminating high-quality information and resources. Their work will focus on implementation of the CCDBG reauthorization; maternal depression and potential policies to promote partnerships between mental health and early childhood stakeholders; and racial disparities in access to child care and early education. Deliverables may include memos, briefs, or webinars reflecting TA needs and lessons learned in each area. CLASP will also provide TA to Alliance partners in Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Nebraska, Kansas, Maine, and Washington, per their request.

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## Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes

The Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) works to strengthen the capacity of State Education Agencies (SEAs) to lead sustained improvements in early learning opportunities and outcomes. CEELO works in partnership with SEAs, state and local early childhood leaders, and other federal and national technical assistance (TA) providers to promote innovation and accountability.

CEELO will focus on the early childhood workforce, working to promote effective teaching that improves children's learning. In partnership with the BUILD Initiative and NAEYC, they will support State Learning Tables focused on state policy to improve the quality of teaching. A second project will focus on the newly revised Head Start Performance Standards and potential barriers to aligning Head Start and state pre-k programs.

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## Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University

The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard (the Center) is building, synthesizing and translating the science of early childhood development and its implications for policy and practice. The Center helps policymakers, civic leaders and practitioners make knowledge-based decisions in education, health and human services by synthesizing findings from multiple fields of study, translating those findings into actionable concepts, and exploring new media forms to reach diverse audiences. In addition to translating science, their Frontiers of Innovation initiative Center is focused on innovative new strategies to improve outcomes for young children.

The Center will develop and disseminate research and tools to communicate the knowledge base around child development linked to explicit, science-driven theories of change. They will provide select TA to educate and inform state governors and legislators.

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## Child Trends

Child Trends is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides research on a range of early childhood care and education topics, and distributes that knowledge to state and federal policymakers, practitioners, media, researchers, and funders of early care programs.

Child Trends will provide a range of strategic research and communication services to advance funding and support for quality early childhood care and education at the state level. Their focus on communications includes: infusing early childhood research and

policy facts into social media through Twitter (YoungChildFacts), chats, toolkits, and blog posts; Publishing research-to-policy briefs that translate the research for a policymaker audience; and convening the communications directors from state organizations with the goal of sharing resources and strategies.

Child Trends is also the home of the Early Childhood Data Collaborative (ECDC). They will continue to raise awareness about the importance of integrated data system so that policymakers, practitioners, and parents have access to and consistently use quality early childhood data to make decisions that improve outcomes for young children.

These services draw on the expertise Child Trends has in early childhood research and communications at the national and state levels on topics such as quality care, QRIS, child care, dual-language learning, health, family involvement, and social-emotional learning.

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## Committee for Economic Development

The Committee for Economic Development (CED) is a non-profit, non-partisan business-led public policy organization that conducts research on major economic and social issues, and actively informs and engages the business community in an effort to achieve policy reform. CED works to engage business leaders to expand access to high quality child care and Pre-K and other early learning settings.

CED will increase knowledge and awareness about the importance of quality child care, engage employers in support of effective state policies and call for increased funds for quality child care and CCDBG implementation. CED will recruit business leaders to become spokespeople for quality early care settings, publish an updated position statement on child care, and will hold business forums in Arizona, California, Georgia, New York, and Wisconsin to raise awareness and engagement of business leaders, draft fact sheets, talking points, op-eds, letters-to-the editor, and use social media to raise visibility about the need for high quality child care. Sometimes it is not “what is said” that resonates with policymakers but “who says it.”

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## Council for a Strong America

The Council for a Strong America (CSA) is a network of unexpected messengers who champion research-based public investments that help at-risk children succeed. CSA mobilizes law enforcement leaders, retired admirals and generals, business executives, faith leaders, and elite athletes and coaches to call for state policies that prioritize greater investments in young children.

CSA's five sibling organizations (Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Mission: Readiness, ReadyNation, Shepherding the Next Generation, and Champions for America's Future) will identify, engage and mobilize new and existing unexpected messengers, conduct media campaigns, and carry out individual meetings with policymakers. CSA will work to protect and expand high quality birth through eight investments at the state level in collaboration with national and state allies.

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## NALEO Educational Fund

The role of the NALEO Educational Fund is to be the principal convener of Latino policymakers across all levels of office. By doing so they educate and build the skills of their members so that they understand the various issues of education policy including early learning policy and that they have the knowledge, governance, and leadership skills necessary to champion an education agenda in their respective jurisdictions.

NALEO Educational Fund develops the skills set of Latino state legislators through intensive leadership training that follows a curriculum that presents current and relevant information, including research evidence and best practice-based policy options; offers unique networking opportunities with policymakers from all levels of government; and enables policymakers to build strategic partnerships with education leaders, state advocacy organizations, and national and state experts on early learning. In addition, NALEO Educational Fund incorporates an equity lens throughout the entirety of its curriculum to ensure policymakers are prepared to analyze and develop educational policies that address the cultural, linguistic, and racial needs of vulnerable young children. NALEO Educational Fund will empower Latino state legislators to become early learning policy “champions” by providing them with the content knowledge and governance skills they need to promote innovative and successful state policies that will improve learning outcomes for vulnerable young children. They will

- Convene policymakers in Arizona, working with key Arizona policymakers and First Things First, the Children's Action Alliance, and CED
- Document commitments made/actions taken by their members
- Host a session and other engagement activities with lawmakers at the NALEO Annual Conference highlighting the importance of quality early childhood education including child care. Collaborate with Child Trends, National Center for Children in Poverty, and New America Foundation.
- Communicate with members through their digital networks, such as social media and their website, to highlight early learning.

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# National Academy for State Health Policy

National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is an independent academy of state health policymakers dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice. A non-profit and non-partisan organization, NASHP provides a forum for constructive work across branches and agencies of state government on critical health issues. They convene state leaders to solve problems and share solutions; conduct policy analyses and research; disseminate information on state policies and programs; and provide technical assistance to states.

NASHP supports active state-to-state exchange and collaborative learning by convening state officials working on issues that impact early child development via web, audio, and in-person meetings and through mechanisms such as workgroups and electronic discussion forums. They facilitate dialogue between, and serve as an information resource for, state and federal program administrators and policymakers, as well as advocates, researchers and other stakeholders. NASHP will focus on two activities to promote healthy child development:

- Research and knowledge to develop policy briefs exploring opportunities for cross-systems collaboration and financing to promote healthy child development on two of these topics: children's mental health, home visiting, developmental screening or care coordination.
- Convene select Alliance state partners and state health policy makers including state officials from Medicaid or public health agencies, to discuss and explore opportunities to support young children's health and development through health care reform. The meeting will focus on promising practices with specific examples such as early childhood mental health, screening and pediatric integrated care models emerging from State Innovation Model or similar activities.

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# National Association for the Education of Young Children

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children. NAEYC promotes high quality learning for all children ages birth through age 8 by connecting research, policy and practice.

Two NAEYC projects will advance a national policy agenda to support and advance a strong early childhood profession.

1. Professional Development System Indicators tool. NAEYC will disseminate a set of indicators with complementary multimedia resources that examine state progress in 0-8 professional development system integration; quality assurances; workforce diversity, inclusion and access; and compensation parity.

2. Defining the Early Childhood Education Profession. NAEYC will convene a national task force to establish a definition of the early childhood education profession. Input from NAEYC affiliates, advocacy organizations, educators, employers, and other stakeholders will also inform the consensus building process.

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## National Black Child Development Institute

Since 1970, the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI), has been a trusted partner for parents, policymakers and professionals responding to the unique strengths and needs of young Black children and their families. With the support of its partners and an Affiliate network in over 20 communities across the country, NBCDI provides education and advocacy that is focused on promoting policies that are strengths-based, culturally-relevant, and based on equity, excellence and effectiveness.

From Baltimore to Cleveland to Texas, this year has made plain the fierce need for systems that lift up Black children, families and communities. NBCDI will work to ensure that advocates and policymakers have the data, resources, leadership and support that they need. They will create a new *Being Black Is Not a Risk Factor* state-based report for Florida, and continue to build the capacity of their affiliates in the other states with state-based reports (WI, MI, IL, PA, WA, and CA). They will host a “Point of Proof” Institute that will be focused on connecting best practices in programming to related policy solutions. They will draw on the expertise of NCCP, CLASP, and Build to help them in their work.

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## National Center for Children in Poverty

The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP), a public policy center in the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, is dedicated to promoting the economic security, health, and well-being of America’s low-income families and children. NCCP uses research and data to inform policy and practice.

NCCP will focus on early childhood mental health and parent/family engagement. They will update the Early Childhood Policy profiles and the Young Child Risk Calculator. They will disseminate results of a 50-state Early Childhood Mental Health Medicaid survey in a report and webinar and provide technical assistance to promote investments in ECMH services in Maine and Virginia. They will help strengthen parent engagement policies in Georgia, California, and Oregon; and offer technical assistance in two additional states working to promote a two-generation policy agenda. NCCP will provide state-specific data on child wellbeing and related policies to NBCDI to share with their affiliates.

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## National Conference of State Legislatures

The National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, commonwealths, and territories. NCSL provides research, technical assistance and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas on state issues.

Through its Early Care and Education Project, the National Conference of State Legislatures provides research, technical assistance and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas. NCSL will focus on providing education, engagement and outreach strategies to foster leadership among legislators interested in early care and education policy, and to promote effective policy ideas from best practices in state legislation, emerging ideas, new science, and ways to leverage federal funding to meet state goals. NCSL will:

- Convene a fourth year of the Early Learning Fellows program, a model that has proven successful in building and supporting legislative leadership and moving early childhood policy.
- Carry out a CCDBG Reauthorization project that includes outreach to legislators through a series of 2-3 focus groups, phone interviews, and a webinar, and other materials to help inform legislative action on child care.
- Writing and research on early care and education topics, including 50-state legislative bill tracking and report and 1-2 policy briefs
- Host a Chairs meeting with Education chairs and key Human Services chairs (pending internal approval).
- Host a session at NCSL's annual meeting (pending selection)
- Carry out strategic communications to ensure early childhood maintains a high profile for legislators through e- newsletters, social media, and NCSL's website

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## National Governors Association

The National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices provides policy consultation and other technical assistance services to help governors and their advisors develop and improve state policies and strategies in different areas of state government. The early learning team in the Center's Education Division focuses on issues related to the learning and development of children from birth through third grade.

NGA will help governors and their policy staffs take a comprehensive approach to developing policies to improve children's learning and growth from early childhood through third grade. They will:

- Support governors in Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, and Rhode Island



and their advisors to develop and pursue a policy agenda for early learning as part of their larger strategy for education reform. Additional states to be selected later in the year.

- Provide continued policy support to state teams in California, Minnesota, and West Virginia on early math. Efforts will inform agency budget requests, governors' policy agendas, legislative proposals for FY2016, or improvement efforts during the 2016-17 school year.
- Advance early learning standards and other policies that support social and emotional development through technical assistance from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, a two day expert roundtable, and development of a set of guiding principles.
- Work across NGA Center divisions to help governors, their policy advisors and senior state leaders better understand the benefits of greater alignment and integration across early learning and human services, health systems, and workforce development policies and develop strategic action plans.
- Organize two events, the first on Washington's "One Science" initiative and the second highlighting strategies to grow and improve the early childhood workforce.
- Deliver as-needed technical assistance to governors' offices to help them lead efforts to build linkages across systems to improve results for young children.

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## National Women's Law Center

The National Women's Law Center (NWLC) works to improve the lives of women and girls, with a focus on the needs of low-income women and their families. NWLC uses the law in all its forms: getting new laws passed and enforced, litigating groundbreaking cases all the way to the Supreme Court, and educating the public about ways to make the law and public policies work for women and their families.

NWLC will continue to provide strategic analyses and advice on state child care policy. They will: Produce and disseminate their annual state child care assistance policies report providing comparative data on child care eligibility, co-payments, provider reimbursement, and waiting lists; provide technical assistance to help state policy makers and advocates implement the new CCDBG law effectively, including understanding its opportunities and challenges; support state advocacy efforts through regular updates, conference calls, fact sheets and analyses, and state-specific assistance as requested, including on improving state child care tax credits; hold a two-day retreat for national and state early childhood leaders to encourage peer-to-peer networking and information sharing.

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# New America

New America is dedicated to the renewal of American politics, prosperity, and purpose in the digital age through big ideas, technological innovation, next generation politics, and creative engagement with broad audiences. The mission of the Early Education Initiative, which is part of the Education Policy Program, is to advance policies and elevate dialogue to support high-quality learning environments for all children from birth through the third grade.

New America will continue to build partnerships to advance workforce policy and carry through the findings of New America's 50-state scan to support state efforts. They will:

- Convene a study group and host one-on-one and small group meetings on the IOM Workforce report, particularly the Blueprint for Action to develop ideas for implementation and make key issues and recommendations more understandable for policymakers through resources such as mini-briefs, blog series, infographics, or articles.
- Continue work from the FY 2015 grant to produce materials building from New America's 50-state scan and case study to help 3-5 interested Alliance partner states develop their agendas, identifying specific state policies that need to be rethought, and propose revisions.
- Assist with messaging the State of the Child Care Workforce report by the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment (CSCCE) through blogs, social media and visuals and work with both CSCCE and partner with NAEYC to advance the recommendations in the IOM report.

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## The Regents of the University of California, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment

The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment (CSCCE) is focused on achieving comprehensive public investments, which enable and reward the early childhood workforce to deliver high quality care and education for all children. CSCCE conducts cutting-edge research and proposes policy solutions aimed at improving how our nation prepares, supports and rewards the early care and education workforce to ensure young children's optimal development.

CSCCE's new State of the Early Childhood Workforce Initiative (SECW) is designed to sustain a focus on early childhood jobs and to assist advocates and policy makers in framing measurable policy goals to improve ECE jobs. The CSCCE will engage Alliance partners to get input about key workforce indicators that can assist their efforts, and to disseminate SECW materials. CSCCE will continue to provide rapid response technical assistance, participate in the ECDC, and work closely with NAEYC and New America on policy development and communication.

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## Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT (RIKC) is an independent, non-partisan children's policy organization that works to improve the well-being of children in Rhode Island. RIKC is also a recognized as a national leader in state advocacy on a variety of early childhood policy issues. They will coordinate a newly formed Alliance state group focused on quality pre-k, including both expansion and quality improvement. RIKC will also continue to lead the Alliance sponsored State-Based Advocates for Early Learning group, with Ceil Advocates for Children of New Jersey. This group provides information to state-based advocates on federal early learning and development opportunities, and ensures state advocates have the opportunity to inform federal advocacy, policies, and programs. RIKC will also continue to serve in a "bridging role," connecting the work of the Alliance to other national early childhood initiatives.

At the state level, RIKC will lead advocacy in the state on a range of issues including: effective implementation of RTT-ELC, financing, maintaining and expanding access to pre-K, child care, preschool special education, Head Start, full-day K and other key early childhood policies (e.g. paid family leave, child welfare system reform, home visiting, developmental screening, etc.).

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## ZERO TO THREE

ZERO TO THREE (ZTT) is a national, nonprofit organization that provides parents, professionals, and policymakers the knowledge and know-how to nurture early development. Their mission is to ensure that all babies and toddlers have a strong start in life. The ZTT Policy Center is a nonpartisan, research-based resource for federal and state policymakers and advocates on the unique developmental needs of infants and toddlers.

ZTT will support states in advancing policies, services, and systems to meet the needs of infants, toddlers, and their families. They will:

- Develop a state self-assessment tool on early childhood mental health and provide technical assistance to Maine and Colorado on its use
- Convene a learning community of public and private leaders in targeted states on home visiting
- Revise their state infant-toddler self-assessment and develop a parent survey
- Mobilize infant-toddler advocates through *The Baby Monitor* e-newsletter and action alerts, expand the Baby Matters database of state policy initiatives
- Provide technical assistance to Wisconsin, Oregon, and Georgia

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