

Healthy, Happy Successful Children

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The Child Care Bureau

The Child Care Bureau supports low-income working families through child care financial assistance and promotes children's learning and development by improving the quality of early care and education and afterschool programs.



The Child Care & Development Fund

- \$5 Billion of Federal funding annually
 - Additional \$2 Billion in Recovery Act funds in 2009
- Grants are administered to CCDF agencies in the States, the District of Columbia, the Territories, and 260 Tribal agencies representing approximately 500 Tribes nationwide
- Flexible block grants allow States, Tribes, and Territories to set their own policies for eligibility, payment rates, and service priorities.



CCDF Services

- There are approximately 12.3 million children, ages birth to 5, in child care in the US
- Care for approximately 1.7 million children is subsidized by CCDF each month.
- Approximately 85 percent of services are offered via vouchers. The average annual subsidy is approximately \$4,000 per child.



Who does CCDF Serve?

- Of children in CCDF-funded child care,
 - 29 percent are younger than 3 years old,
 - 36 percent are 3, 4, or 5 years old, and
 - 35 percent are 6 or above
- About 80% of subsidized families have incomes at or below 150% FPL



Size of the Child Care Industry & Workforce

- Over 600,000 providers receive CCDF subsidy each year
- Studies of licensed capacity of child care find over 100,000 child care centers and over 200,000 family child care homes
- One study estimated the paid workforce at up to 2.3 million workers, divided almost evenly between formal care and informal



Two paths of action for child care to address overweight and obesity

- Initiatives and public awareness
 - Inform caregivers and parents and provide them with resources and information
- Systemic improvement
 - Addressing guidelines, program standards, and professional development



Infrastructure and Systemic Quality Improvements

- In 2007, States spent \$935 Million on quality improvement
- Early Learning Guidelines
 - Of the 52 States and Territories with guidelines that are either implemented, developed, or in revision, 45 included the domain of physical development, and 35 included the domain of health.
 - Example: Building Blocks to Colorado's K-12 Standards



Infrastructure and Systemic Quality Improvements

- Program Standards
 - Licensing
 - Requirements determined by states
 - Twenty-nine states require that child care providers follow the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (or similar meal pattern requirements).
 - Two states (MI, WV) specify that child care menus should be consistent with the Department of Health and Human Services' *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.
 - Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of states require that child care centers allow children daily outdoor time, but only three states (AK, DE, MA) require a specified number of minutes of physical activity per day



Infrastructure and Systemic Quality Improvements

- Program Standards
 - Quality Rating and Improvements Systems
 - 18 states have statewide Quality Rating Improvement Systems (QRIS), 10 more are piloting and all but a handful are testing feasibility or designing a QRIS
 - Health and nutrition standards and staff training requirements apply to most QRIS (as part of licensing standards).
 - Accreditation or other voluntary standards



Infrastructure and Systemic Quality Improvements

- Professional Development Systems
 - Core Competencies
 - Health, nutrition and physical development can play an important role in the core knowledge and core competencies expected of child care practitioners.
 - Example: Nebraska
 - Example: Kansas/Missouri
 - Training & education pathways



Obama Administration Priorities

- Investments in Early Learning
 - \$2 B in CCDF ARRA- States spending it on eliminating waiting lists, supporting families through longer periods of job search, quality improvements such as a focus on professional development and care for infants and toddlers.
 - \$2.1 B in Head Start and Early Head Start expansion



Obama Administration Priorities

- Systemic Infrastructure for early care and education
 - Early Learning Challenge Fund
 - Proposed to fund Quality Pathways Grants and Development Grants with \$1 billion per year
 - State Early Childhood Advisory Councils
 - Inter-Departmental Initiatives
 - 6 Study groups including one on health promotion



Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges: Number of programs & providers, inadequate regulation and monitoring, lack of support system for providers,

Opportunities: Consensus on goals and model standards, momentum behind health and education partnerships, new investments and focus on infrastructure



Thank You!

Contact the Child Care Bureau

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