

NCCIC Is a Service of the Child Care Bureau

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EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS BUILDING: NATIONAL INITIATIVES

There are several nationwide initiatives designed to assist States in systematically planning to finance early childhood services. The following are examples of federally funded and private initiatives that provide support to States. The examples do not include all initiatives, but are meant to represent a range of approaches that support States in developing/implementing systematic financing of early childhood services. Additional resources are available via NCCIC's Online Library, which can be accessed at <http://oll.nccic.acf.hhs.gov/nccic-OLL/searchnccic.cgi>. NCCIC does not endorse any organization, publication, or resource.

Federally Funded Initiatives

■ **The Afterschool Investments Project**

Email: afterschool@financeproject.org

Web: <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool>

The Afterschool Investments Project is funded by the Child Care Bureau (CCB), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to support States' efforts to provide quality afterschool opportunities. The Afterschool Investments Project provides technical assistance to Child Care and Development Fund grantees and other State and local leaders supporting afterschool efforts.

■ **Partnerships, Alliances, and Coordination Techniques (PACT)**

800-616-2242

Web: <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov>

PACT is an initiative of the Child Care Bureau's National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center. This initiative provides training and technical assistance to State, Territory, and Tribal CCDF grantees and their partners in order to help them develop, sustain, and evaluate successful collaborations.

■ **Project THRIVE**

646-284-9633

Web: www.nccp.org/projects/thrive.html

Project THRIVE is a public policy analysis and education initiative for infants and young children at the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP), funded through a cooperative agreement with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. THRIVE's mission is to ensure that young children and their families have access to high-quality health care, child care and early learning, early intervention, and parenting supports by providing policy analysis and research syntheses that can inform State efforts to strengthen and expand State early childhood comprehensive systems.

■ **State Early Care and Education Comprehensive Systems (SECCS) Grants Program**

310-443-2778

Web: www.state-eccs.org

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) launched the SECCS Initiative to implement the MCHB Strategic Plan for Early Childhood Health. SECCS supports States and communities in their efforts to build and integrate early childhood service systems that address the critical components of access to comprehensive health services and medical homes; social-emotional development and mental health of young children; early care and education; parenting education; and family support. The first SECCS grants were issued in 2003. Since that time 49 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Republic of Palau and the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Mariana Islands have participated in ECCS. Almost all of these grantees have now developed a plan for building a comprehensive system for young children.

Private Initiatives

■ **The Alliance for Early Childhood Finance**

Email: gscobb@smartstart-nc.org

Web: www.earlychildhoodfinance.org

The Alliance seeks more rational financing of child care in America through inquiry, analysis, and communication among child care policy activists. The Alliance Web site offers information on new financing approaches, descriptions of finance-related projects, links to relevant organizations, as well as a message section to share information and/or inquiries about innovative financing strategies. The Issue Briefs section provides links to discussion briefs presented at the Smart Start Early Childhood Finance Reform Conference.

■ **BUILD Initiative**

304-776-2940

Web: www.buildinitiative.org

The BUILD initiative is a multi-state partnership that helps States construct a coordinated system of programs, policies, and services that responds to the need of young children and their families. It does this by supporting those States that set policies, provide services, and advocate for children from birth through age 5 so that the youngest children are safe, healthy, eager to learn, and ready to succeed in school.

■ **Linking Economic Development and Child Care**

Email: Childcare_Econ@cornell.edu

Web: <http://government.cce.cornell.edu/doc/reports/childcare/>

Linking Economic Development and Child Care is an effort at Cornell University to assist States and communities with linking economic development and child care to support finance strategies

■ **Policy Matters**

202-371-1565

Web: www.policymatters.us/

Policy Matters is a project designed to develop and make available coherent, comprehensive information regarding the strength and adequacy of State policies affecting children, families, and communities. Policy Matters endeavors to establish consensus among policy experts and State leaders regarding the mix of policies shown to offer the best opportunity for improving child and family well being through an integrated system.

■ **Smart Start's National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC)**

919-821-9540

Web: www.ncsmartstart.org/ntac/

NTAC provides assistance to States and localities that are working to assure that every child arrives at school healthy and ready to succeed. NTAC shares Smart Start's expertise, successes, and lessons learned with individuals, organizations, communities, and States, guiding them through the process of creating and furthering early childhood systems that best fit the needs, resources, and cultural realities of their regions.

■ **Strengthening Families Program (SFP)**

801-581-8498

Web: www.strengtheningfamiliesprogram.org

SFP is a nationally and internationally recognized parenting and family strengthening program for high-risk families. It has been approved for implementation with Federal and State funds

■ **United Way Success By Six[®]**

703-836-7112, ext. 262

Web: <http://national.unitedway.org/sb6/>

United Way Success By 6 is a national, community-based movement of public and private partners that work together to deliver proven solutions that ensure all children birth to age 6 are healthy, nurtured, and ready to succeed. In more than 350 cities throughout the United States and Canada, Success By 6 is creating effective, community-based solutions that improve the quality of life for young children. These efforts address system barriers, enhancing research-based strategies, and mobilizing the community. Information about how to contact local United Way agencies is available at <http://national.unitedway.org/myuw/>.