



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

October 2004

Dear Colleagues:

I am delighted to share with you the *Child Care and Development Fund Report of State Plans FY 2004-2005*. This report summarizes policies and strategies that States and Territories are implementing to increase access to and improve the quality and supply of child care for low-income families. As you will see, States take a wide variety of approaches, within the limits of their funding, to tailor policies and programs to meet the needs of children and parents within their State.

A special feature of this report is a summary of activities undertaken in response to President Bush's *Good Start, Grow Smart (GSGS)* initiative, which focuses on school readiness for young children. States and Territories were required to include a description of activities supporting the *GSGS* initiative to ensure that children are equipped with the skills needed to enter school ready to succeed. In their Plans, States and Territories assessed their progress on developing and implementing early learning guidelines, instituting professional development strategies, and coordinating early childhood programs. Since the Plan submission, we have been working with States across the country on *GSGS* implementation and have additional materials at <http://nccic.org/pubs/goodstart/>.

The Child Care Bureau, the ACF Regional Offices, and our technical assistance partners look forward to continuing to work with States and Territories in their efforts to support children and families.

Sincerely,

Shannon Christian
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Administration on Children, Youth and Families