



PARTNER ACTIVITIES 2014-15

NATIONAL PARTNERS

Alliance for Early Childhood Finance

Louise Stoney is an independent consultant specializing in early care and education policy and finance. She has consulted with policymakers, national organizations, academics, and foundations and advocates in 38 states. Louise has written extensively and also co-founded the Alliance for Early Childhood Finance and Opportunities exchange. Louise will provide technical assistance to states including Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Wisconsin. Areas of expertise include:

- ECE financing
- ECE cost modeling
- ECE policy
- Shared services strategies
- QRIS finance, policy and implementation

Contact

Louise Stoney
Email: louise.stoney@gmail.com
Phone: (561) 588-9924

BUILD

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 continue to operate the Quality Rating and Improvement System National Learning Network (QRIS NLN). The NLN has been a leader in linking research to policy and practice, providing in-person and online forums for state leaders to access new knowledge and share resources, and bring timely information to state leaders. BUILD will maintain the QRIS NLN website, host topical learning tables and interactive webinars. BUILD will also focus on professional development approaches for QRIS, will support policies for dual language learners in states, provide technical assistance (TA) to states working on an infant and toddler agenda and provide TA on health equity.

Partnerships

BUILD will partner with NAEYC, NCCP, CEELo, Child Trends, NBCDI, NCLR, NGA, and CSCCE on the think tank meeting focused on more effective teaching in early learning programs. Child Trends,

NAEYC, NCCP, NBCDI, Louise Stoney, and NGA will be partners on re-conceptualizing QRIS. NCLR will be a partner on the dual language learner work. Ounce of Prevention, ZERO TO THREE, and NGA will work with them to advance state infant-toddler policies.

Contacts

Gerry Cobb, State Services Director
Email: gerrycobb@live.com
Phone: (571) 319-0256

QRIS NLN:
Debi Mathias, Director, QRIS National Learning Network
Email: dmathias@buildinitiative.org
Phone: (570) 238-7775

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

CLASP develops and advocates for policies at the federal, state and local levels that improve the lives of low-income people. CLASP focuses on policies that strengthen families and create pathways to education and work. Through careful research and analysis and effective advocacy, CLASP develops and promotes new ideas, mobilize others, and directly assist governments and advocates to put in place successful strategies that deliver results that matter to people across America.

CLASP will work in four policy areas: early learning, child care subsidy policies, parent engagement and mental health/maternal depression. They will support states in addressing federal early learning opportunities, in supporting effective infant and toddler policies and improve child care. They will partner with NCCP in support of effective and authentic parent engagement, particularly for children ages 0-3. New work will explore opportunities to address maternal depression through the ACA. In addition, CLASP will continue to provide crucial rapid response and TA to the Alliance network and all states.

Partnerships

CLASP will partner with BUILD, Zero to Three, and Washington State on improved infant/toddler policies; and with NCCP, Maine, Florida, Oregon, Oklahoma on parent engagement policy. CLASP will provide TA to the Children's Alliance (WA), Children's Institute (OR), Children Now (CA), Clayton Early Learning (CO), and the NM Early Childhood Development Partnership

Contacts

Hannah Matthews, Director, Child Care and Early Education
Email: hmatthews@clasp.org
Phone: (202) 906-8006

Christine Johnson-Staub, Senior Policy Analyst
Email: cjohnsonstaub@clasp.org
Phone: (202) 906-8005

Center for the Study of Child Care Employment (CSCCE)

The CSCCE at UC-Berkeley 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 created the Early Childhood Higher

Education Inventory (the Inventory) to help policymakers and other stakeholders develop a more coordinated and comprehensive professional preparation system for the ECE workforce by better understanding the landscape of higher education offerings, clinical experiences, and faculty for early care and education practitioners. CSCCE will publish the major cross-state findings, and their state and national policy implications. Child Trends is partnering with CSCCE on the dissemination of the publication to policy makers, and higher education and early care and education stakeholders through its internal communications network.

Partnerships

CSCCE will remain active in the Early Childhood Data Collaborative (ECDC), and work with Child Trends on dissemination of the Early Childhood Higher Education Inventories.

Contacts

Marcy Whitebook, Director
Email: mwhbk@berkeley.edu
Phone: (501) 643-8293

Fran Kipnis, Researcher
Email: frankipnis@berkeley.edu
Phone: (510) 643-8293

Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO)

The Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) is a cooperative agreement funded by the U.S. Department of Education. CEELO is charged with providing technical assistance and resources to strengthen the capacity of State Education Agencies (SEAs) to lead sustained improvements in early learning opportunities and outcomes for children birth through third grade.

CEELO will bring together Alliance partners to convene a “think tank” on increasing alignment and improving standards for teachers across all early learning sectors. CEELO will offer customized TA to 5-7 states on supporting effective implementation of high-quality pre-k. Also, CEELO will review and provide feedback on the mapping/gap analysis that the four Ready States (RI, MA, OR, and CA) are conducting. CEELO will serve as the liaison to the state education agency early learning offices for NAEYC’s Effective Professional Development System project.

Partnerships

CEELO is a partnership between NIEER, Education Development Center and the Council of Chief School Officers. CEELO will partner with BUILD, Rhode Island KIDS Count and NAEYC

Contacts

Lori Connors-Tadros, Project Director
Email: ltadros@nieer.org
Phone: (703) 256-2266

Jana Martella, Project Director
Email: jmartella@edc.org
Phone: (202) 572-5311

Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University

The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard is building, synthesizing and translating the science of early childhood development and its implications for policy and practice. As the Center describes, “Because science doesn’t speak for itself in the public arena, the Center helps policymakers, civic leaders and practitioners make knowledge-based decisions about the allocation of finite resources 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.” The Center proposal addresses the dual goals of ongoing efforts to translate science and to push the field towards innovative new strategies to improve outcomes for young children through the Frontiers of Innovation initiative.

The Center focus will include three main areas: hosting meetings of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child (Council) and the National Forum on Early Childhood Policy and Programs (Forum), developing working papers, InBriefs, interactive products and videos that translate science and research for policy audiences, and advancing the work of the Frontiers of Innovation (FOI) initiative with state policymakers. Topics include executive function, resilience, children’s mental health, and reward and motivation.

Partnerships

The Center will continue to partner with NCSL, NGA, and Truepoint Center in the Frontiers of Innovation initiative and in disseminating research to policymakers. At the state level in Washington it will continue to partner with the Department of Early Learning and other state agencies and legislative leaders. Many partners are engaged in the Frontiers of Innovation initiative.

Contacts

Al Race, Deputy Director
Email: al_race@harvard.edu
Phone: (617) 495-4158

Jack Shonkoff, Director
Email: jack_shonkoff@harvard.edu
Phone: (617) 496-1224

Child Care Aware (CCA)

Child Care Aware® of America represents Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) across the country and promotes national and state policies to improve the quality and affordability of child care. Child Care Aware® of America will carry out a strategic planning process for the future of their advocacy on child care. They will develop a family advisory council to inform decisions by engaging existing leaders in the planning process. Child Care Aware® of America will continue their work in advancing child care policies in Louisiana and Maine.

Partnerships

Child Care Aware will focus internally on the strategic plan but will reach out to organizations such as Child Trends, NCCP, NAEYC, NCLR, and ZTT regarding policy activities and potential partnerships.

Contact

Michelle Noth McCready, Senior State and Local Policy Advisor

Email: Michelle.Noth@usa.childcareaware.org

Phone: (571) 303-2358

Child Trends

Child Trends is an independent, nonpartisan research center that conducts policy- and program-oriented research on children, with a focus on children at risk of poor outcomes. Communicating research effectively to the public policy community is central to Child Trends' mission. Child Trends will provide a range of strategic research and communication services to advance funding and support for early childhood education at the state level. This includes: leading and further developing Communications Working Groups among various partners, producing an infant and toddler report for various states, and in partnership with experts, will develop a new scoring rubric for linking early childhood data with K-12 data systems.

Partnerships

BUILD will be a partner on how to best communicate QRIS to providers and parents. Child Trends is the hub for the ECDC, which is a partnership with CCSO, NGA, NCSL, Data Quality Campaign, and CSCCE. Child Trends will contract with True North to assist with some of the communications efforts.

Contact

Frank Walter, Vice President of Strategic Communications

Email: fwalter@childtrends.org

Phone: (240) 223-9302

Committee for Economic Development

The Committee for Economic Development (CED) is a non-profit, non-partisan business-led public policy organization. CED conducts research on major economic and social issues, and actively informs and engages the business community in an effort to achieve policy reform for the good of the nation. Members include some 200 senior corporate executives and university leaders who lead its research and outreach efforts. With nearly 20 years of research, analyses, and recommendations for policymakers, their work has stressed the economic advantages of early investments in children and promoted child care as a central workforce issue.

CED will create a clearinghouse of state child care economic impact materials and write a report and executive summary about the economic impact of the child care industry with a 50 state database and policy recommendations for states and the Congress. CED will continue longtime work in New Mexico and Mississippi, and build on new efforts with Georgia and Louisiana.

Partnerships

CED will partner with RegionTRack, an Oklahoma City-based research firm to produce the economic data and report. CED will partner with four states: GA, LA, MS and NM.

Contacts

Mike Petro, Executive Vice President

Email: mike.petro@ced.org

Phone: (202) 469-7815

Cindy Cisneros, Director of Education Programs
Email: ccisneros@ced.org
Phone: (202) 469-7817

Council for a Strong America

The Council for a Strong America is a network of unexpected messengers who champion research-based public investments that help at-risk children succeed.

CSA is comprised of:

- **Fight Crime: Invest in Kids-** law enforcement leaders who argue that early investment in kids reduces crime and makes communities safer.
- **Mission: Readiness-** retired generals and admirals who connect the country's investments in children with national security.
- **America's Edge-** business leaders who maintain that investments in kids are key to the health, recovery and restored competitive edge of our economy.
- **Shepherding the Next Generation-** pastors who promote the outcomes of investments in children that help strengthen families and communities.

They will identify, engage and mobilize new and existing champions, host media events, conduct media campaigns, and carry out individual meetings with policymakers. CSA will work to protect and expand birth-to-eight investments at the state level in Washington, Oregon, Pennsylvania, California, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, New York, New Mexico, and Florida. Rapid response will be available to other states. CSA will provide Rapid Response activities collaborating with Alliance partners in states as appropriate to achieve policy and budget goals.

Partnerships

CSA will collaborate with the Ounce of Prevention Fund and state child advocacy organizations. They will, collaborate with research allies in the Alliance TA network.

Contacts

David Kass, President
Email: dkass@councilforastrongamerica.org
Phone: (202) 464-7000

Miriam Rollin, National Director
Email: mrollin@councilforastrongamerica.org
Phone: (202) 464-7001

Council of Chief State School Officers

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a national, nonpartisan, membership organization representing the top education leaders across the nation. CCSSO members, the nation's chief state school officers, are committed to leading a public K–12 education system that prepares every child for lifelong learning, work, and citizenship. CCSSO, through leadership, advocacy, and service, assists chief state school officers and their organizations in achieving the vision of an American education system that enables all children to succeed in school, work, and life. CCSSO will provide Rapid Response support to state and national partners and CCSSO members

on issues such as implementing Birth-3rd grade child and program quality standards, assessments, accountability, and program improvement initiatives.

Partnerships

CCSSO will partner with states to carry out technical assistance and will continue to participate in the Early Childhood Data Collaborative.

Contact

Tom Schultz, Program Director

Email: thomass@ccsso.org

Phone: (202) 336-7019

Education Commission of the States

The Education Commission of the States (ECS) is an education compact with commissioners comprised of governors, state legislators, K-12 and higher education department chiefs and other education leaders. They track state policy trends, translate academic research, provide unbiased advice, and create opportunities for state leaders to learn from one another. One way ECS does its work is through its 350+ member Legislative Education Staff Network (LESN) which discusses the latest research and best practices in education policy.

ECS will survey all LESN members to find out what early childhood education topics are most important to them, convene a group from 15 of the Alliance priority states in the fall of 2014 for a two-day academy focused on the issues highlighted in the survey results, and produce a policy brief focused on information and analysis of state policies on the early education topic that receives the most attention from staff.

Partnerships

The LESN is a joint and collaborative partnership between ECS and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NSCL). ECS will draw on the Alliance TA Network to advise on the agenda planning and/or presenting at the meeting.

Contacts

Bruce Atchison, Executive Director of Policy and Operations

Email: batchison@ecs.org

Phone: (303) 299-3657

Emily Workman

Email: eworkman@ecs.org

Phone: (303) 299-3657

Early Childhood Data Collaborative (ECDC)

The Early Childhood Data Collaborative (ECDC) supports state policymakers' development and use of coordinated state early care and education (ECE) data systems to improve the quality of ECE programs and the workforce, increase access to high-quality ECE programs, and ultimately improve child outcomes. In partnership with experts in the field, ECDC will develop a new scoring rubric for linking early childhood data with K-12 data systems. This work includes tracking legislative actions,

responsive technical assistance, coordination of federal data collection efforts; and collaborating with national partners to strengthen data use to inform policy.

Partnerships

Child Trends is the home of the Early Childhood Data Collaborative, and will lead the work of this seven-member collaborative. ECDC also works closely with the Pew Home Visiting Campaign and plans to develop new partnerships with the National Registry Alliance and Child Care Aware of America to identify policies and best practices for developing and using ECE workforce and program data systems to inform child care policy and continuous improvement plans.

Contact

Carlise King, Executive Director
Email: cking@childtrends.org
Phone: (240) 223-9329

First Focus

First Focus is a bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal policy and budget decisions. First Focus fights on behalf of all children and all that is important for their development. First Focus will offer a series of targeted webinars on home visiting programs including MIECHV efforts, meeting outcomes, state innovations, and issues regarding MIECHV extension and reauthorization. In addition, First Focus will provide TA through a series of conference calls with Alliance state partners to provide assistance and guidance regarding effective messaging and education needed to increase state investments in evidence-based home visiting and provide federal policymakers with justification for the reauthorization and expansion of the MIECHV Program. They will also provide Alliance partners with updates on federal efforts to expand developmental screening.

Partnerships

First Focus will develop a strategic partnership with NASHP and others in an effort to provide information to states about how they can access Medicaid for home visiting.

Contact

Messellech (Selley) Looby
Email: messellecha@firstfocus.net
Phone: (202) 657-0677

Dane Linn

Dane Linn is a Vice President for the Business Roundtable. In this role, he oversees the Education and Workforce Committee, advancing the BRT's positions on education reform, U.S. innovation capacity and workforce preparedness. Linn joins the BRT most recently from the College Board, where he served as Executive Director of state policy. Prior to joining the College Board, Linn served as Director of the Educational Division of the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices. During his 16 years in this role, Linn represented governor's' education policy issues at the federal level and to state and local associations. He also co-lead the development of the Common Core State Standards. Areas of expertise include:

- Common Core State Standards
- Education policies

- State Policy issues

Contact

Dane Linn

Email: dane.linn@gmail.com

Phone: (202) 496-3267

NALEO Education Fund

The NALEO Educational Fund promotes participation by Latinos in the political process. Its membership includes more than 6,000 Latino elected and appointed officials, including 98 legislators in 26 states, and nine of the Alliance partner states. NALEO will continue to build the skills of Latino state legislators to become early learning “champions.” This effort will, in part, be facilitated through a subcommittee of the NALEO Education Leadership Initiative (NELI) National Task Force. The Task Force is a national, bipartisan collective of education leaders from every level of government who work to develop a comprehensive education strategy for Latino student success. NALEO will provide an in-depth training to the state legislators who are members of the NELI National Taskforce’s early learning sub-committee, which will support the policymakers’ advocacy efforts. They will also explore the possibility of integrating a communications and media component to provide Taskforce members with the opportunity to practice delivering key messages on pressing early learning issues.

NALEO will host a Colorado Education Summit to provide professional development training to Latino education policymakers and key education stakeholders to increase their awareness of early learning issues and develop a strategic plan to strengthen the education pipeline for Latino students. NALEO will provide TA to follow up with participants and will identify the types of policy outcomes that resulted from this work.

Partnerships

The NALEO Educational Fund will continue to collaborate with the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), the National Conference of State Legislatures, and ZERO TO THREE.

Contact

Rosita Ramirez, Director of Constituency Services, Education

Email: rramirez@naleo.org

Phone: (213) 765-9433

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

NAEYC is the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children in early education settings, from birth through age 8. With nearly 80,000 members, a national network of more than 300 state and local Affiliates, and a growing global alliance, NAEYC convenes thought leaders, teachers, researchers, and other stakeholders to set standards of excellence for programs and teachers. NAEYC’s Early Childhood Workforce Systems Initiative (ECWSI) assists states in developing, enhancing, and implementing policies for an integrated early childhood professional development system, by building the capacity of state policymakers and advocates.

NAEYC will convene national and other experts to help develop a set of national indicators and benchmarks of effective state professional development systems and a tool to measure progress on those indicators. NAEYC will pilot the indicators and benchmarks with ten states this year, leading

to a refinement of the indicators and accompanying tools for use in all states. In addition, NAEYC will update and improve the two web databases including policies related to the Workforce Designs Blueprint and technical assistance policies for TA professionals working with early childhood programs. NAEYC will provide Rapid Response to help states advance cross-sector, integrated professional development systems

Partnerships

NAEYC will collaborate with other Alliance grantees such as BUILD, CELO, CSCCE, partner with Alliance states including Louisiana and Oregon to provide more in-depth TA support. NAEYC's Advisory Group on the state indicators project would include Alliance partners such as the CSCCE, BUILD, CELO, ZTT, CCAoA, and NGA.

Contact

Adele Robinson, Deputy Director for Policy & Public Affairs

Email: arobinson@naeyc.org

Phone: (202) 232-8777

National Black Child Development Institute

NBCDI is a nonprofit membership organization that works to improve and advance the quality of life of Black children and their families through advocacy and education. Working through an affiliate network composed of volunteers, NBCDI works on child welfare services, universal early care and education, family support, education reform, and children's health. NBCDI nurtures leadership at the local level and works with the professional community, state and local government.

NBCDI proposes to expand its successful State of the Black Child initiative in partnership with select affiliates, and continue to provide specialized support, technical assistance and leadership development resources to increase the advocacy engagement and impact of those affiliates. The FY14 work built on the national report, "*Being Black Is Not a Risk Factor: A Strengths-Based Look at the State of the Black Child*," with two state-based reports in Wisconsin and Michigan, along with resource kits, templates and social media strategies designed to enhance the project. In this next year NBCDI will develop two additional reports and resource materials for Pennsylvania and Illinois. They will also create and distribute additional resource materials and communications / social-media campaigns.

NBCDI will support policy and advocacy work at both the federal and state levels, working with each affiliate and supporting the expansion of federal funding for early childhood through activities at the National office.

Partnerships

NBCDI will partner with NCCP, CLASP, and BCDI Affiliate leaders on the state-based reports

Contacts

Lauren Hogan, Director of Public Policy and Research

Email: lhogan@nbcidi.org

Phone: (202) 833-2220 ext. 6087

National Academy for State Health Policy

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is an independent academy of state health policymakers. They are 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 through convening, conducting policy analyses and research, disseminating information on state policies and programs and providing technical assistance to states. NASHP will provide technical assistance to 3-4 Alliance states as they advance a health agenda.

Contacts

Jill Rosenthal, Senior Program Director
Email: jrosenthal@nashp.org
Phone: (207) 874-6524

Carrie Hanlon, Program Manager
Email: chanlon@nashp.org
Phone: (207) 822-3915

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 engage in work across five areas: 1) Tracking and disseminating information about state policy choices related to early care and education, health, and family/parent support; 2) Highlighting the need for policies that support the healthy development of very vulnerable children; 3) Helping states improve the monitoring and effectiveness of technical assistance to raise the quality of early care and education programs; 4) Promoting state policies that strengthen supports for young children's mental health; and 5) Promoting state policies that strengthen parent engagement. NCCP will update the Early Childhood State Profiles and the Young Child Risk Calculator and will prepare a brief on children in extreme poverty. NCCP will also provide data on the well-being and development of young Black children for two state reports prepared by NBCDI and its affiliates. A fifty state survey will be conducted to learn about states' use of Medicaid funding for key early childhood mental health services. They will support two state policy learning communities, one on early childhood mental health (ECMH) and another on parent engagement.

Partnerships

Partners include ZERO TO THREE and BUILD (ECMH activities), CLASP (parent engagement); Child Trends (using data to promote effective TA) and NBCDI (state reports on Black children) as well as approximately 10 state partners for ECMH and Parent Engagement learning communities.

Contacts

Sheila Smith, Director, Early Childhood
Email: sheila.smith@nccp.org
Phone: (646) 284-9638

Renée Wilson-Simmons, Director
Email: wilson-simmons@nccp.org
Phone: (646) 284-9606

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

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. NCSL also advocates for the interests of state governments before Congress and federal agencies.

NCSL will:

- Continue the signature Early Learning Fellows, in which NCSL recruits and educates new and engaged legislators in a yearlong program where they can learn about and be supported in their interest in early childhood and early learning.
- Partner in fostering innovative policy ideas that draw from cutting edge science of executive function in the Frontiers of Innovation (FOI) initiative
- Communicate about policy ideas and options to legislators through e-newsletters, NCSL's website, and hosting a session on early childhood at NCSL's 6000+ person Legislative Summit.
- Track legislation and disseminate periodic updates about legislative activities.
- Conduct research and writing to disseminate policy ideas and raise the profile of early childhood among lawmaker's priorities.

Partnerships

NCSL will partner with the Center on the Developing Child, the National Governors Association, and Truepoint on the Frontiers of Innovation (FOI) initiative; partner in the Early Childhood Data Collaborative; and NCSL's Education Program.

Contacts

Robyn Lipkowitz, Program Director
Email: robyn.lipkowitz@ncsl.org
Phone: (303) 856-1420

Alison May, Staff Coordinator
Email: alison.may@ncsl.org
Phone: (303) 856-1473

Julie Poppe, Program Manager
Email: julie.poppe@ncsl.org
Phone: (303) 856-1497

National Council of La Raza (NCLR)

NCLR is the largest Hispanic civil rights advocacy organization in the United States and works to improve opportunities for Hispanic Americans. NCLR conducts applied research, policy analysis, and advocacy, providing a Latino perspective, and has 300 affiliated community-based organizations.

In FY 2014, NCLR developed the National Institute for Leaders in Latino Early Education (NILLECE), an advocacy program for leaders of community-based organizations serving Latino children 0-8. A second round of NILLECE Fellows will participate in training to prepare them to conduct effective advocacy and present policy recommendations for early education reform that includes the Latino perspective. NILLECE includes a series of training modules that include social media and communications training, the connection between advocacy and policy-making, and the development of specific policy recommendations. At the end of the yearlong project, Fellows will present policy recommendation to a panel of experts that offer feedback on feasibility and impact.

Partnerships

NCLR will work with affiliates in Arizona (First Things First), California (Early Edge California), Florida (Florida's Partnership for Children), Illinois (Latino Policy Forum), New Mexico (New Mexico Voices for Children), New York (Center for Children's Initiatives), Washington (Early Learning Action Alliance), and Wisconsin (Wisconsin Head Start Association).

Contact

Irene Cuyun, Senior Director Special Projects

Email: lcuyun@nclr.org

Phone: (202) 776-1797

Peggy McLeod, Deputy Vice President of Education and Workforce Development

Email: pmcleod@nclr.org

Phone: (202) 776-570

National Governors Association (NGA)

The NGA Center for Best Practices is a policy research and development organization that directly serves the nation's governors by developing innovative solutions to today's most pressing public policy challenges. It serves governors through tailored technical assistance, acting as an information clearinghouse, and identifying best practices.

The NGA Center will support governors and their key policy staff in building a birth to 3rd grade (age eight) policy agenda. NGA's activities include:

- Engaging with states: NGA will engage and support newly and re-elected governors and help governors and senior state leaders to better understand and develop strategic plans to align education, human services, and health systems that serve at-risk young children. They will conduct state policy audits on ECE/K-12 policy alignment and work with selected states on their agenda.
- Focusing on several policy areas: NGA will work with selected states to strengthen math education from early childhood- 3rd grade and will work with the Harvard Graduate School of Education to help states in embedding social and emotional skills into standards and policies. They will co-author a governor's guide on state strategies to make teacher/leader evaluation and support system policies work for Pre-k-3rd grade educators.
- Hosting a two-day learning lab for state leaders to learn about Washington state's "One Science" initiative to use science of child development to inform policy and practice across agencies.
- Leading a policy academy for up to ten states to develop strategic plans to address social determinants of health, beginning in early childhood.
- Supporting governors policy advisors through rapid response

Partnerships

NGA will partner with Child Trends to continue work with the Early Childhood Data Collaborative, with the Center on the Developing Child and NCSL to share the science, with CCSSO on teacher evaluation, and other Alliance partners as needed.

Contacts

Amanda Szekely, Senior Policy Analyst
Email: aszelely@nga.org
Phone: (202) 624-5357

Albert Wat, Senior Policy Analyst
Email: awat@nga.org
Phone: (202) 624-5386

National Women's Law Center (NWLC)

NWLC works to improve the lives of women and girls, with a special focus on the needs of low-income women and their families. NWLC uses the law in all its forms—getting new laws on the books 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.

National Women's Law Center's project will work to generate a continued intense focus on early learning through its leadership of the Strong Start for Children campaign, which currently includes 375 partners at the federal, state, and local level, including by using the expanded election-year debate to promote an ambitious federal early learning agenda. In addition, NWLC will continue to provide critical research and technical assistance to fuel state advocates' efforts to protect and improve child care assistance for low-income families. Specifically, NWLC will publish and widely disseminate its annual 50-state report tracking key state child care assistance policies, and provide a range of information and technical assistance to state advocates and policy makers on pressing early childhood policy issues, including through regular updates, memos, conference calls, consultations in individual states, and NWLC's annual retreat for 70-80 early childhood leaders.

Partnerships

NWLC will continue to partner with the Alliance-supported State Based Advocates for Early Learning and many others on the federal efforts. They will also continue to partner with state advocates in their work on child care and early learning policies.

Contacts

Helen Blank, Director, Child Care and Early Education
Email: hblank@nwlc.org
Phone: (202) 319-3036

Karen Schulman, Senior Policy Analyst
Email: kschulman@nwlc.org
Phone: (202) 319-3037

New America Foundation (NAF)

The New America Foundation (NAF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy institute that invests in new thinkers and new ideas to address the next generation of challenges facing the United States. One of their focus areas is education: both early learning and K-12.

New America will shine a spotlight on the need for states to adopt cohesive, aligned policies across the Birth-3rd spectrum as a means to achieving children's reading proficiency by third grade. They will write and disseminate a state-based case study that leverages a 50-state analysis of key state Birth-3rd grade education policies that help or hinder school districts', schools,' and teachers' abilities to ensure that all children are on track to reading on grade level by the end of third grade. The goal is to identify important state policies that establish conditions for strong, cohesive education from birth through third grade. New America will identify an indicator related to developmental screening, highlight promising practices in an Alliance-focused state, promote these promising practices, and share New America's policy expertise with federal, state, and local policymakers.

Partnerships

New America will work with CCSSO and NGA as they convene an advisory group to discuss and vet proposed indicators, and as they analyze state policies in relation to the indicators.

Contact

Lisa Guernsey, Director, Early Education Initiative

Email: Guernsey@newamerica.net

Phone: (202) 596-3380

Ounce of Prevention Fund

The Ounce National Policy Team partners with and supports state early childhood leaders as they advance a comprehensive agenda for at-risk children and families. The team will continue to offer individualized strategic and substantive policy consultation and resources; facilitate peer-to-peer networking across states; support Educare Schools and the Educare Learning Network in their policy and advocacy work; and provide timely policy analysis and thought leadership to address current and emerging policy opportunities and challenges in the field.

Partnerships

The Ounce will partner with state partners and the National TA Network as needed to support state efforts.

Contacts

Elliot Regenstein, Senior VP, Advocacy and Policy

Email: eregenstein@ounceofprevention.org

Phone: (312) 453-1931

Sam Aigner-Treworgy, National Policy Manager, School Districts

Email: saigner@ounceofprevention.org

Phone: (312) 453-1907

Carey McCann, Senior Manager, Policy Consultation Services
Email: cmccann@ounceofprevention.org
Phone: (312) 453-1944

Brandy Lawrence, Senior Advisor, Special Projects & Partnerships
Email: blawrence@ounceofprevention.org
Phone: (312) 453-1939

Rio Romero-Jurado, Policy Associate
Email: rromerojurado@ounceofprevention.org
Phone: (469)230-3000

Margie Wallen, Director of Policy Partnerships
Email: mwallen@ounceofprevention.org
Phone: (312) 453-1978

Joyce Weiner, Policy Advisor
Email: jweiner@ounceofprevention.org
Phone: (312) 922-3863 X 3342

Ponder Early Childhood, Inc.

Karen Ponder is an independent consultant specializing in early childhood systems development, and the creation of public-private partnerships and local coalitions. The former president of the NC Partnership for Children, she helped create Smart Start and administered it for 15 years. She has worked with 46 states, national organizations, and universities.

Karen will provide strategic guidance and support to the Alliance and its state partners. States with specific requests include Mississippi, Oregon, New Mexico, and may include others. Technical assistance may include: on site consultation; phone/email consultation, researching available information, small group facilitation, and speeches/presentations. Areas of expertise include:

- Governance
- Public-private partnerships
- Business engagement and involvement
- Working effectively with governors, legislators and other policy makers
- Appropriate practice and policy in early childhood education
- QRIS

Contact

Karen Ponder
Email: Kponder@nc.rr.com
Phone: (919) 389-5934

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 will continue to focus on advocacy on the birth through eight policy agenda and linking the early years with the early grades. They will play a "bridging role" that helps to connect the Birth through 8-policy work of the Alliance

to other birth through eight initiatives such as the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, the Kids Count Network, and federal children’s health and development initiatives.

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT will continue to lead the Ready States group consisting of RI, MA (Strategies for Children), CA (Early Edge California), OR (Children’s Institute). The Ready States are a high-level peer-learning group focused on linkage policies that connect the early years to the early grades. In the next year, they will share lessons learned (both positive and challenging) with all Alliance partners and the broader field. RIKC will continue to co-lead the State-Based Advocates for Early Learning Steering Committee in coordination with the Strong Start for Children campaign with FFYF and NWLC. RIKC will play a bridging role with the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Kids Count, Voices chapters, and other early childhood initiatives.

Partnerships

For the national work on linkages and informing the 0-8 policy agenda, they will work closely with the Ready States group including Early Edge California, the Children’s Institute and Strategies for Children. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT will partner with CELO, FFYF, and NWLC. They will work with the advocacy leaders in the State Advocates for Early Learning that includes advocacy organizations in 30 states.

Contacts

Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director
Email: ebb@rikidscount.org
Phone: (401) 351-9400

Leanne Barrett, Senior Policy Analyst
Email: lbarrett@rikidscount.org
Phone: (401) 351-9400

ZERO TO THREE

ZERO TO THREE (ZTT) informs, trains and supports professionals, policymakers, and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers. Their mission is to promote the health and development of infants and toddlers through translating research and knowledge into a range of practical tools and resources for use by the adults who influence the lives of young children.

ZTT will focus on helping states build actionable policy agendas to support infants and toddlers and to target policy work on early childhood mental health and quality rating systems. The joint state team meeting on infants and toddlers will be co-sponsored with the Build Initiative in a “think tank” style focusing on challenges and solutions for six states. ZTT will partner with the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) and the Build Initiative on a conference call series on early childhood mental health with nine states (Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia) and write a blog posting to share lessons learned. To advance state policy on how to support infants and toddlers in quality rating systems, they will update, republish and disseminate a self-assessment tool and hold a webinar for states. ZTT will also continue to support and mobilize infant-toddler advocates; update and expand the Baby Matters database of state initiatives; and provide TA to states, other national organizations, and the field.

Partnerships

ZERO TO THREE will partner with the Build Initiative, Child Trends, CLASP, the Ounce of Prevention Fund and the National Governors Association.

Contacts

Barbara Gebhard, Assistant Director of Public Policy

Email: bgebhard@zerotothree.org

Phone: (304) 776-2940

Matthew Melmed, Executive Director

Email: mmelmed@zerotothree.org

Phone: (202) 638-1144

STATE PARTNERS

ARIZONA

Children's Action Alliance is an independent voice for Arizona children at the state capitol and in the community. Children's Action Alliance works to improve children's health, education, and security through information and action. First Things First is one of the critical partners in creating a family-centered, comprehensive, collaborative and high-quality early childhood system that supports the development, health and early education of all Arizona's children birth through age five. Southwest Human Development is Arizona's largest nonprofit dedicated to early childhood development. Serving more than 135,000 children and their families each year, programs focus on child development and mental health, Easter Seals disabilities services, Head Start and early literacy, child welfare and professional education. FY 15 policy agenda coming soon.

Contacts

Dana Wolfe Naimark, President and CEO

Children's Action Alliance

Email: DNaimark@azchildren.org

Phone: (602) 266-0707

Sam Leyvas, Executive Director

First Things First

Email: sleyvas@azftf.gov

Phone: (602) 771-5026

Ginger Ward, CEO Southwest Human Development

Email: gward@swhd.org

Phone: (602) 266-5976

CALIFORNIA

The California Expanding Early Learning Policy Partnership (CA Partnerships) is a unique, inside-outside collaborative of the Advancement Project (AP), the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network (the R&R), Children Now (CN), Early Edge California (EEC, formerly Preschool California), First 5 California (providing in-kind support), and the Western Office of ZERO TO THREE (ZTT). This partnership of allies represents a long-term collaborative effort that aims to close the opportunity gap and prevent the school readiness and achievement gaps for California's students. FY 15 policy priorities coming soon.

Contacts

Kim Pattillo Brownson, Director of Educational Equity (lead)
Advancement Project
Email: kpattillo@advanceproj.org
Phone: (213) 989-1300

Linda Asato, Executive Director
California Child Care Resource and Referral
Network
Email: lasato@rrnetwork.org
Phone: (415) 882-0234

Deb Kong, President
Early Edge California
Email: dkong@earlyedgecalifornia.org
Phone: (501) 271-0075 ext 314

Tahra Goraya, Director, Western Office
ZERO TO THREE Western Office
Email: tgoraya@zerotothree.org
Phone: (213) 481-7279

Giannina Perez, Associate Executive Director
Children Now
Email: gperez@childrennow.org
Phone: (501) 763-2444

Camille Maben
First 5 CA
Email: cmaben@ccfc.ca.gov
Phone: (916) 263-1083

Email: dkong@earlyedgecalifornia.org
Phone: (501) 271-0075 ext 314

COLORADO

The lead Colorado partner is Clayton Early Learning, which is a state and national leader in promoting and delivering evidence-based early childhood education to low- and moderate-income children. They operate the Educare School of Denver, and host the Institute at Clayton Early Learning which researches, creates, and evaluates new and effective practices in early childhood development and teacher preparation. The Colorado Children's Campaign (CCC) is a tradition child advocacy organization that champions policies and programs to improve child health, early childhood development and learning, and K-12 education. Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC) is a statewide network of business leaders that promotes business leader champions, hosts leadership events, and advocates for high quality early childhood programs.

Policy priorities for the Colorado partners include increasing access to high-quality care. This includes quality care and learning opportunities for infants and toddlers; voluntary, full-day preschool for all low-income 3- and 4-year olds; and full-day kindergarten. They will also focus on

transitions to preschool and K-3, and early childhood data systems that identify gaps and serve as an early warning system. The integration of health, mental health, and early learning is part of their frame.

Partnerships

In Colorado, the state partners will seek out assistance from a variety of Alliance national TA organizations including the Alliance for Early Childhood Finance, BUILD, CLASP, Dane Linn, Early Childhood Data Collaborative (at Child Trends), NCCP, NCSL, NWLC, Ready Nation, and Zero to Three.

Contacts

Charlotte Brantley, President & CEO (lead)
Clayton Early Learning
Email: CBrantley@claytonearlylearning.org
Phone: (303) 398-8578

Molly Yost
Clayton Early Learning
Email: Myost@claytonearlylearning.org
Phone: 303-393-5623

Gloria Higgins, President
Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC)
Email: Gloria@gjhiggins.com
Phone: (303) 829-0857

Bill Jaeger, Vice President
Colorado Children's Campaign
Email: bill@coloradokids.org
Phone: (720) 552-0002

FLORIDA

The Florida partners include representatives of four early learning partner organizations: United Way of Miami-Dade (including the UW Center for Excellence in Early Education-Educare Miami); the Florida Children's Services Council, Association of Early Learning Coalitions, and the Children's Trust (the Miami-Dade Children's Services Council), working together and with other state partners to promote state policies that will improve early care and education in Florida and increase access to high quality early learning opportunities. Priorities include:

- Expand Florida's School Readiness Performance Pilot, a tiered reimbursement model (see Narrative)
- Include in the Performance Pilot: a technical assistance and relationship-based PD network
- Include in the Performance Pilot: engagement strategies to help parents make informed decisions about quality early learning options
- Continuous 12-month eligibility for families; contracted slots and waivers to support Florida's funded EHS-CCPs (TBD)

Partnerships

State partners include the Florida Partnership for Children (20 or more Florida organizations promoting a consensus policy agenda); Children's Services Councils of Florida; Association of Early Learning Coalitions; The Children's Movement of Florida; Florida's United Ways. Florida partners will work with national partners including NCCP, CLASP, Louise Stoney, Council for a Strong America., and Zero to Three.

Contact

Jessica Scher, Director, Public Policy
Email: scherj@unitedwaymiami.org
Phone: (305) 646-7093

GEORGIA

GEEARS: the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students was established in 2010 to help business, civic, and government leaders maximize the economic return on the state's investments in early childhood learning and development. Guided by a growing body of research documenting the high-dollar return on investment associated with early learning and care, GEEARS is working to position Georgia as a national leader in ensuring that all children enter kindergarten ready to learn and that they are "reading to learn" by third grade.

GEEARS is working to build a statewide movement in support of early education and healthy development for children ages birth to five. They leverage strategies informed by research, policy and practice to ensure that our children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed and on a path to read to learn by the end of third grade. GEEARS works with business, philanthropic, legislative and community leaders to promote high quality programs and systems through public awareness building, advocacy, policy development and research. Priorities include:

- Build Relationships with newly elected state and federal legislators and with newly appointed agency leadership.
- Continue to build support for high quality early education in the business community and with other unlikely messengers statewide.
- Begin to address policies regarding Social and Emotional Development.
- Create understanding among policy makers, advocates, and funders regarding use of assessments and on what child outcome measures we can agree to use.
- Ensure that hard working, low-income families can access and afford high quality care.

Partnerships

A sampling of partners include Educare Atlanta, The Casey Civic Site, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, the Georgia Department of Public Health, the Harvard Center on the Developing Child, Quality Care for Children, Voices for Georgia's Children, the Georgia Chamber, the United Way of Greater Atlanta, the Atlanta Speech School, the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Neighborhood Nexus, Imagine It: The Atlanta Children's Museum, the Junior League and the Office of Mayor Kasim Reed. GEEARs will see assistance from the TA network on child care policy and child assessment.

Contact

Mindy Binderman
GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students
Email: mbinderman@gears.org
Phone: (678) 689-3482

Voices for Georgia's Children will focus on expanded federal support for early learning. **Voices for Georgia's Children** deliberately defines its mission to be a powerful and *unifying* voice for a *public* agenda to improve child wellbeing for all kids. Partners include Junior Leagues, county collaboration offices, GEEARS, GAYC, and others who have access to local leadership.

Contact

Pat Willis, Executive Director
Voices for Georgia's Children
Email: pwillis@georgiavoices.org
Phone: (404) 521-0292

ILLINOIS

FY 15 Policy Priorities coming soon.

Partnerships

Illinois Action for Children, Voices for Illinois Children, Latino Policy Forum, Fight Crime Invest in Kids

Contact

Gail Nourse, Director, Illinois Policy
Ounce of Prevention Fund
Email: gnourse@ounceofprevention.org
Phone: (312) 256- 8873

IOWA

CFPC's Iowa policy goals in the birth-to-eight years are a continuation of the policy goals being promoted over the last five years and building upon successful efforts to establish and expand First Five (based upon the Help Me Grow model) both through state activities and within Iowa's SIMs grants and to create a statewide voluntary preschool program that, after the first year of funding, is incorporated into state school aid payments. It also is to continue the K-3 work around third grade literacy that created with Reading Research Center and expanded afterschool programs and instructional supports to K-3 teachers. Finally, it is to take the next steps on the "Child Care Five Year Plan" developed within the child care community to improve access, compensation, and quality in Iowa's early childhood system, with the next focus upon raising the eligibility level of Iowa's program.

Priorities Include:

- Expand Statewide Voluntary Preschool (SVPP)
- Expand First Five (Child Health Initiative)
- Improve child care subsidy program
- Increase efforts K-3 to respond to struggling readers

Contact

Charlie Bruner, Director
Child and Family Policy Center
Email: cbruner@cfpciowa.org
Phone: (515) 280-9027

KANSAS

Kansas Action for Children is a non-partisan, statewide child advocacy organization focused on shaping health, education and economic policy that will improve the lives of Kansas children and families. Their work is intended to provide an effective voice for young children in Kansas, ensure increased public resources for early education and advancements in early literacy, and strengthen child care policy. The focus this year will be on adopting a new coalition model to more effectively leverage policymaker support, adding new strategic communications under the coalition brand to increase media coverage, maximizing their relationship with the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, and reinventing the organization's advocacy events to increase visibility of early care and education issues and strengthen stakeholder relationships. KAC's goals are to

- Ensure that all current tobacco settlement dollars are directed to early care and education, and secure an across-the-board increase to strengthen existing early care and education programs.
- Create a joint professional development initiative for preschool and K-3 teachers at the local level by way of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and the Early Childhood Block Grant funding mechanism.
- Increase reimbursement rates for Child Care Assistance or identify other ways to enhance child care policy using unspent TANF dollars.

Partnerships

KAC will partner with NGA on professional development and NWLC on the child care assistance policy effort.

Contacts

Shannon Cotsoradis, President & CEO
Kansas Action for Children
Email: shannon@kac.org
Phone: (785) 232-0550

April Holman, Executive Director
Kansas Coalition for School Readiness
Email: April@kac.org
Phone: (785) 232-0550

LOUISIANA

The Policy Institute for Children is a non-partisan, independent source of data, research and information for policy makers, stakeholders and the public a large around issues related to young children in Louisiana. The Institute seeks to develop policy proposals informed by research, best practice and the experiences of other states, and to perform educational and outreach activities around those recommended policy solutions.

The Policy Institute will work to ensure that the revised Louisiana School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC) effectively incentivize, support and enhance high quality care and early learning for children birth through age four. The Policy Institute will finalize the White Paper and recommendations, and lead a SRTC campaign to raise public awareness and educate stakeholders and policy makers on the SRTC and the recommendations. Through this campaign, the Policy Institute will work to build support among traditional and nontraditional allies for the tax credits and the recommendations, and then to mobilize these stakeholders, allies, and policy makers. If effective, this campaign will influence the proposal that will be made by the Department of Education to the Legislature, and ultimately to impact what is adopted by the state for these critical supports for early learning in Louisiana.

Partnerships

Louisiana will rely on technical assistance from the following national TA partners: Louise Stoney, NWLC, NAEYC, Child Care Aware, Build, CED, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids.

Contact

Melanie Bronfin, Director, The Policy Institute
Louisiana Partnership for Children & Families
Email: Melanie.Bronfin@louisianapartnership.org
Phone: (504) 288-0988

MAINE

The Maine Children's Alliance (MCA), the primary statewide children's advocacy organization, will focus on implementation of the 2014 preschool expansion legislation (LD 1530), advancing early childhood mental health policies for young children who are being served by Head Start, child care, preschool, and public schools, and educating candidates and building champions. On preschool, they will serve as a member of the stakeholder group working with the Department of Education on implementation and prepare for Maine's application for new federal preschool dollars. Concerned about the increasing numbers of children bringing difficult behaviors to early care and school settings, MCA will explore the use of mental health consultants as a strategy for assisting parents and providers in managing difficult behaviors. MCA will launch a new candidate strategy called the Children's Platform that will be developed through a Children's Convention held at Educare Central Maine. The process will include developing the platform with a broad group of supporters, a delegate process where supporters will deliver the platform to gubernatorial and legislative candidates, and a targeting of supporters post-election.

Partnerships

In Maine, the state partners will seek out assistance from CELO for support on implementation of the pre-k expansion.

Contact

Rita Furlow, Senior Policy Analyst
Email: mhenderson@mekids.org
Phone: (207) 623-1868

MASSACHUSETTS

Strategies for Children (SFC) leads a multi-pronged statewide campaign to ensure that children in Massachusetts have access to high-quality early education and become proficient readers by the

end of third grade. They engage in public policy, research, partnering with communities, coalition development, identifying and sharing best practices, constituency building, and raising awareness.

SFC will focus on increasing access to high-quality early education and ensuring children are ready to succeed in school and become proficient readers by the end of third grade. They will continue to work with the three Massachusetts education agencies and the legislature on implementation of the recommendations of the state-appointed Early Expert Literacy Panel and inform further development of the kindergarten readiness assessment system, the QRIS, full-day kindergarten, and birth through eight grants administered by the Department of Early Education and Care, and the Early Learning Challenge. SFC will continue to make the case for early learning as a critical component of the broader college/career educational continuum and develop a phase-in plan for the next governor on universal pre-k. SFC will continue to explore how to best leverage to advance a state policy agenda. They will also do federal advocacy and work to position MA to receive any new federal funding.

Partnerships

Strategies for Children (SFC) will partner with the Department of Early Education and Care, MBEA and Mass Budget, and superintendents. They will also partner with the three Alliance state partners in the Ready State Group and complete their participation with NGA in their policy academy.

Contacts

Amy O’Leary, Campaign Director, Early Education for All
Strategies for Children

Email: aoleary@earlyeducationforall.org

Phone: (617) 330-7384

MICHIGAN

The Center for Michigan (CFM) objective is to make Michigan a better place by encouraging greater understanding and involvement in policy issues among the state’s citizens, and making sure their voices are regularly heard. They do this by calling forth citizen views, amplifying those views, and projecting them into the halls of power. Their work can be described in three verbs—engage, inform and achieve—which together make up a dynamic model of social and political change. Their focus for FY15 includes the following activities:

- Watch the budget development process and preserve funding for state pre-k (GSRP), if necessary.
- The Center for Michigan (CFM) and Public Sector Consultants (PSC) will facilitate discussions and decision making among advocates, the Office of Great Start, and the governor’s office on a coherent, politically practical 0-3 policy proposal. In partnership with Michigan’s Children, CFC and PSC will interview legislative leaders to understand their perspectives on 0-3 issues leading to a draft 0-3 policy proposal for the FY16 budget process.
- CFM’s Bridge Magazine will do the same kind of reporting in the 0-3 realm that was done in the award-winning series on unmet need for GSRP, The Forgotten Four-Year-Olds.
- The Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) will focus on providing public education and peer learning opportunities that will help publicize the 0-3 research report in order to encourage discussion about and help build consensus around a 0-3 policy agenda. Specifically, ECIC will showcase best practices highlighted as case studies in the 0-3 report.

Two in-person sessions will bring a mix of stakeholders together for information sharing and peer learning. Two webinars will focus on key themes and highlight cases studies that illustrate those themes.

- Educate lawmakers and responding to their questions, in partnership with Michigan's Children.
- CFM and PSC will convene the business leaders to (a) vet the 0-3 policy proposal, (b) approach the 120 business leaders who signed on to the original call to action to ask for their support on the new 0-3 proposal, and (c) develop strategies and tactics for moving the policy proposal forward.

Partnerships

The Center for Michigan collaborates with multiple partners in its work.

Contact

John Bebow, President
The Center for Michigan
Email: jbebow@thecenterformichigan.net
Phone: (734) 769-4625

NEBRASKA

First Five Nebraska works to advance effective early childhood policy, focused on children from birth to aged eight by engaging the public, outside messengers, policy makers, and the media. FFN's policy agenda is based on relevant research, data and best early childhood practices messaged within Nebraska's political context and conservative environment.

First Five Nebraska Policy Priorities for 2015:

- Actively participate in the Legislature's Education Committee's statewide visioning process for education in Nebraska (through December 2014).
- Work with the Education Committee as they reprioritize lottery funds for education initiatives.
- Develop a communications plan for the Nebraska Department of Education and the new Early Childhood Quality Rating and Improvement System with recommendations on outreach and awareness building. In addition, the plan will also include recruitment strategies.
- Contract and manage the evaluation process of Nebraska's recently-established Quality Rating and Improvement System, *Step Up to Quality*.

Contacts

Jen Goettemoeller, Policy Associate
Email: jgoettemoeller@firstfivenebraska.org
Phone: (402) 261-9671

Becky Veak, Policy Associate
Email: bveak@firstfivenebraska.org
Phone: (402) 261-9671

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey has been a leader in identifying and addressing many of the issues that arise when developing the components of an early learning continuum as well as advancing the connections between those components. In early 2014, Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) convened a diverse group of early childhood stakeholders to create a plan for how best to address those barriers impeding the development and implementation of a strong state early learning system. Several issues emerged as priorities: full-day kindergarten; transition practices between the various age groups between birth and age 8; and higher education and/or professional development for caregivers, teachers and administrators. ACNJ will use a variety of strategies including meeting with key decision-makers and stakeholders, producing fact sheets and briefs, infographics, and conducting analysis of policies and regulations.

Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) will continue to play a leadership role in the State-Based Advocates for Early Learning which is leading coordination among state advocates with the federal campaigns for new federal funding for early childhood and providing input into the policy direction of national proposals and helping to identify critical issues raised by the states.

Contact

Cecilia Zalkind, Executive Director
Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Email: czalkind@acnj.org
Phone: (973) 643-3876

NEW MEXICO

Three partners lead the work in New Mexico. NMECDP will take the lead on the development of a new Child Care Accountability Act, informed by an extensive stakeholder process that includes town hall meetings and strategic engagement of business and legislative champions. This work will build on the child care cost modeling and financing strategies developed in FY14. NMAEYC and NM Voices will be active partners in the development of the Act. NMAEYC will provide leadership and support for two advocacy days at the state capitol – the 2015 Celebrating NM’s Children and Youth Days, the 2015 NM Early Childhood Public Policy and Parent Advocacy Leadership Institute – as well as communicate to ECE stakeholders about the content of ECE hearings. NM Voices will contribute through research and data sharing. This includes researching and disseminating additional ECE-related data sets for the NM KIDS COUNT Data Book and Data Center; convening an annual KIDS COUNT conference; disseminating an updated NM KIDS are COUNTing of Us policy agenda; educating candidates for public office; contacting interim committees; facilitating community presentations/workshops; writing and disseminating policy briefs, op-eds, and blogs; and effectively using social media.

Partnerships

As in past years, NMECDP will continue to provide leadership to the New Mexico team for policy deliverables and will continue to partner with and seek the expert advice of the New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children (NMAEYC) and New Mexico Voices for Children (NMVFC). NMECDP will coordinate technical assistance from CLASP, the Ounce of Prevention Fund, CED, Ready Nation, and consultants Louise Stoney and Karen Ponder.

Contacts

Katherine Freeman, CEO & President
United Way of Santa Fe County
Email: Katherinef@UWSFC.org
Phone: (505) 988-2002

Baji Rankin, Executive Director
New Mexico AEYC
Email: Baji@nmaeyc.org
Phone: (505) 243-KIDS

Veronica Garcia, Executive Director
New Mexico Voices for Children
Email: vgarcia@nmvoices.org
Phone: (505) 244-9505

NEW YORK

The Center for Children's Initiatives (CCI) and Winning Beginning NY (WBNY) partners will focus on federal advocacy through activities to be determined. FY 15 policy priorities coming soon.

Contact

Betty Holcomb, Policy Director
Center for Children's Initiatives
Email: bholcomb@ccinyc.org
Phone: (212) 381-0009

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma partners will be working on a variety of activities and policy priorities. These include:

- Identify a mechanism to include family voices in policy and program changes.
- Implement standardized Pre-Kindergarten literacy assessment;
- Recommend policy changes to child care subsidy regulations to increase access and promote program collaboration;

Partnerships

The OPSR is a partnership with 32 public-private partners and also works with universities and other non-profits, Educare and foundations.

Contacts

Debra Andersen, Executive Director
Smart Start Oklahoma
Email: debra.andersen@smartstartok.org
Phone: (405) 278-6978

OREGON

The Children's Institute (CI) works to move research to action by proposing cost-effective public and private investments in young children, pre-birth through third grade. The Children's Institute will continue its dual strategy of working at the state policy level and at the local demonstration site level. At the state level, the *Ready For School* campaign work will include protecting current state funding for birth to five, supporting quality improvement strategies, revamping their Ready for School public awareness campaign, and assisting the state in launching a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. CI's advocacy will include working to inform and shape the Governor's budget and agenda, developing policy and budget recommendations focused on mixed delivery, and on sustaining RTT-ELC efforts.

At the local level, the *Early Works* 10-year, birth to eight, early learning demonstration initiative will continue to integrate and align early education with the primary grades in one urban and rural site. At the demonstration sites they will continue to analyze community health assessment data and develop a health focused agenda driven by proof points from Early Works. These experiences will help inform the joint subcommittee of the Early Learning Council/Oregon Health Policy Board as they make recommendations regarding medical homes, developmental screening, and assessments of family well-being. On family support, they CI support the parent leadership team to take knowledge out into the classroom and community.

Partnerships

The Children's Institute will seek out assistance from the National Governors Association and Zero to Three, and will rely on NAEYC and CLASP materials and expertise. They will continue to participate in the Ready States group, linking the early years to the early grades, as well as participate in Zero to Three's conference call series to support young children's mental health.

The Children's Institute will support the ONE Voice for Childcare Coalition, which includes Children First for Oregon, Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (OAEYC), Oregon AFSCME and Service Employees International Union.

Contact

Swati Adarkar, President & CEO
Children's Institute
Email: swati@childinst.org
Phone: (503) 219-9034

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children will conduct early childhood advocacy in Pennsylvania to inform and support the passage of significant new federal funds for early learning. They will work through their coalition to educate policymakers, inform the media and mobilize key stakeholders to support strategic federal investments in early learning. This work builds on their successful 20-year track record of work on a range of early childhood policy issues. They already possess strong relationships with many key members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation who will be critical to winning new investments. State-level Policy Priorities for Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children include the following:

- Increase the availability of evidence-based home visiting strategies to strengthen families and meet the comprehensive needs of infants and young children at highest risk.
- Monitor investments and policies that support the inclusion of children with developmental delays and disabilities in high-quality early learning programs and provide ongoing supports to parents and providers.
- Ensure the availability of high-quality child care for at-risk, working parents.
- Increase the number of children enrolled in high-quality pre-k.

Contact

Joan Benso, President and CEO
 Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
 Email: JBenso@papartnerships.org
 Phone: (717) 236-5680

RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is an independent, non-partisan children’s policy organization that works to improve the well-being of children in Rhode Island.. RIKC’s state work will accelerate building a coherent, high-quality b-8 early childhood system, including developing statewide infant/toddler policy priorities, implementing the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant, working with the legislature and state leaders to expand access to high-quality child care, preschool and full-day kindergarten. They will also work with a targeted group of urban superintendents and the Education Commissioner to bridge professional development between early childhood and K-3 teachers, state-wide teacher evaluation system, public schools in our QRIS, and fourth grade reading proficiency as lever for early years’ investments.

Partnerships

RIKC will partner as needed to support their state-level agenda.

Contacts

Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
 Email: ebb@rikidscount.org
 Phone: (401) 351-9400

Leanne Barrett, Senior Policy Analyst
 Email: lbarrett@rikidscount.org
 Phone: (401) 351-9400

UTAH

Voices for Utah Children will focus on informing and supporting new federal funds for early childhood. Voices for Utah Children conducts research and advocacy on early education initiatives in Utah.

Contact

Karen Crompton, President and CEO
 Voices for Utah Children
 Email: karen@utahchildren.org
 Phone: (801) 364-1182

WASHINGTON

The Children's Alliance (CA) is a multi-issue advocacy organization that works to improve the well being of children by effective positive changes in public policies, priorities, and programs. The Children's Alliance will promote positive early learning outcomes for children through a range of strategies aimed at encouraging policymakers to increase investments and promote smart early learning policies. With the end of the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant on the horizon and growing bipartisan interest in increasing quality and educationally oriented programming, the Children's Alliance has an important window of opportunity. Additionally, the WA Supreme Court's McCleary education decision provides a key opportunity for continued pressure to integrate early learning in broader education funding streams. They will conduct a variety of advocacy activities to make the case for increased funding to early learning and to build the champions and bi-partisan support needed to advance these issues. Their major focus will be to work to pass a new version of the Early Start bill that was introduced by the House Appropriations chair last year. The bill presents a game-changing opportunity in WA to focus on what benefits children with key funding and strategies. The Children's Alliance also will educate state and federal candidates about early learning opportunities.

Partnerships

The Children's Alliance has strong partnerships in Washington as the organization that staffs the Early Learning Action Alliance. Some of the key partners include: the WA State Association of Head Start, SEIU, Educare/Puget Sound ESD, Racial Equity Team, Equity in Education Coalition, Thrive by Five WA, Home Visiting Coalition, League of Education Voters, Department of Early Learning. National Partners include the Ounce and CLASP.

Contacts

Jon Gould, Deputy Director
Email: jgould@childrensalliance.org
Phone: (206) 324-0340

WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) and Celebrate Children Foundation are the two leading organizations partnering on six areas of work. They will staff the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) and encourage development of a roadmap for the state's work; pursue increased child care payment rates and/or tiered; and in YoungStar (QRIS) analyze program results and raise \$250,000 in private funding for professional development related to YoungStar. Wisconsin participated in the ZERO TO THREE team meeting and plan to gain broad-based support for recommendations to improve infant-toddler services in health. The partners will increase BadgerCare participation among families (by at least 15,000) and at least 25,000 children. They will work to reduce churning of children and parents in health care and train 2,000 early care and educate practitioners with curriculum on physical activity and healthy diet. The partners will build on their groundbreaking Dane County research report, *Race to Equity*, and will engage key leaders to reduce disparities in Dane County and help other communities analyze racial disparity. WCCF and the Race to Equity Project will engage key leaders in Dane County around the role early childhood education can play in improving future academic achievement for kids of color and conduct presentations or meetings with interested leaders and organizations throughout the county and the state.

Partnerships

The WI team will work with Alliance TA network partners including Child Trends, NGA, BUILD, the Alliance for Early Childhood Finance, and Zero to Three. Local partners include United Ways, Chambers of Commerce, and local coalitions, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA), Educare, Milwaukee Succeeds, Milwaukee Black Child Development Institute.

Contacts

Jim Leonhart, Executive Vice President
Celebrate Children Foundation
Email: james.leonhart@celebrate-children.org
Phone: (608) 266-6953

Dave Edie, Early Education Policy Analyst
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families
Email: dedie@wccf.org
Phone: (608) 284-0580