



State Early Childhood Policy  
Technical Assistance Network

**Up and Running:**  
A Compendium of Multi-Site  
Early Childhood Initiatives  
*second edition*

*Sheri Floyd and CFPC Staff*  
July 2004

## About This Compendium

There are a number of promising programs and initiatives that are focusing on the early learning years and seeking to address issues of school readiness. This compendium provides a brief description of a number of multi-site initiatives and programs that have a strong focus on early childhood and at least some emphasis on state or community policy development to improve school readiness. Most are currently operating, although a few have been completed. All have websites and resource materials. They are arranged into six categories:

1. Current initiatives with a comprehensive school readiness focus
2. Current initiatives with a focus on early care and education
3. Current initiatives with a focus on child health and physical well-being
4. Current initiatives with a focus on family well-being and self-sufficiency
5. Early childhood programs with multi-state replication strategies
6. Completed initiatives

This is the second edition of the compendium, which is designed to help those interested in school readiness become familiar with the range of efforts around the country to improve children's development in the early learning years.

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# Contents

## COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL READINESS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| School Readiness Indicators Initiative and State Early Childhood Policy Technical Assistance Network | 2 |
| Build Initiative   | 3 |
| High-Poverty Schools Initiative  | 3 |
| Making Connections   | 4 |
| School Readiness Connections   | 5 |
| Smart Start National Technical Assistance Center Grants Program                                      | 5 |
| SPARK Initiative   | 6 |
| State Maternal and Child Health Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant Program                  | 7 |
| Success by 6   | 8 |

## EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Better Baby Care Campaign              | 9  |
| Early Care and Education Collaborative | 9  |
| Sparking Connections                   | 10 |
| Starting Early, Starting Strong        | 11 |
| Universal Access to Pre-School         | 12 |

## CHILD HEALTH AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) Consortium   | 13 |
| Covering Kids & Families: A National Health Access Initiative for Low-Income Uninsured Children and Adults | 14 |

## FAMILY WELL-BEING AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Community Partnerships for Protecting Children                                     | 15 |
| Family Assets Initiative   | 15 |
| Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Project   | 16 |
| Family Resource Information, Education, and Network Development Services (FRIENDS) | 16 |
| Free to Grow   | 17 |
| Let's Invest in Families Today (LIFT)  | 17 |
| Starting Early Starting Smart  | 18 |

## MULTI-STATE PROGRAM REPLICATION EFFORTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Healthy Families America   | 19 |
| Home Instruction Program for Pre-School Youngsters (HIPPI USA)                         | 19 |
| Nurse-Family Partnership of the National Center for Children, Families and Communities | 20 |
| Parents as Teachers  | 21 |

## COMPLETED INITIATIVES

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative—Promoting Healthy Development |    |
| State Learning Network   | 22 |
| National Governors Association Best Practices in Early Care and Education        | 23 |
| Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Family Support Initiative                         | 23 |
| Starting Points Initiative   | 24 |

## CROSS WALK OF EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES 25

# Comprehensive School Readiness

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## SCHOOL READINESS INDICATORS INITIATIVE AND STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD POLICY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK

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**Dates:** 2001 to present

**Foundation Support:** David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Ford Foundation

**About the Initiatives:** Three national foundations collaborated to support these two partner initiatives to build early care and education systems within states to achieve the first national education goal of school readiness. Both initiatives work with 17 selected states.

The School Readiness Indicators Initiative (SRII), managed by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, is working with teams from each state to develop school readiness indicators that can track progress on achieving the first national education goal and provide the impetus and the evidence base for early childhood policy development. The State Early Childhood Policy Technical Assistance Network (SECPTAN), managed by the Child and Family Policy Center, provides evidence-based technical assistance to decision-makers (governors and their staff, state legislators and their staff, and executive branch heads) on early childhood issues identified within the state as a focus for policymaking.

To facilitate state-level partnerships with both initiatives, the Packard Foundation has provided companion grants to the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Education Commission of the States,

the Council of Chief State School Officers, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Most states completed their individual sets of school readiness indicators in May 2004. SRII plans to release a national indicators report in the fall of 2004. SECPTAN has produced a number of publications on different state policy issues related to school readiness.

**States:** Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin

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## BUILD INITIATIVE

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**Dates:** Phase I—May 2002 to present

**Foundation Support:** Early Childhood Funders' Collaborative (participating foundations include: David & Lucile Packard Foundation, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, George Gund Foundation, Heinz Endowments, Irving Harris Foundation, Joyce Foundation, McKnight Foundation, Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, Schumann Fund for New Jersey and William Penn Foundation)

**About the Initiative:** The Build Initiative is a nine-state, multi-year initiative supported by a number of foundation funders through the Early Childhood Funders' Collaborative. Build supports teams of key state stakeholders (both public and private) in planning and mobilization activities to build comprehensive early learning systems in their states. The focus of Build is on the first five years of life, with a broad conception of systems building that includes health, family support, early intervention, and early care and education. States are given the flexibility to meet their goals in diverse ways, based on each state's unique circumstances. Funds are not used to implement direct services but rather to connect programs and infrastructure to create a coordinated system of policies and services.

The Build Initiative is constructed as a learning partnership across the nine states, contouring its technical assistance and peer-learning activities to the evolving issues and opportunities identified by the states. The initiative began with four states—Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Ohio—in May 2002. In 2003, Build added a fifth state, Pennsylvania, and four learning partner states—Hawaii, Michigan, Oklahoma, and Washington.

**States:** Hawaii, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Washington

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## HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

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**Dates:** 1995 to present

**Foundation Support:** Annie E. Casey Foundation

**About the Initiative:** The High-Poverty Schools Initiative is designed to support states in developing and implementing comprehensive systems of early childhood education in low-performing schools located in high-poverty communities.

The Council of Chief State School Officers provides technical assistance and resources to help states meet school improvement goals and scale up effective practices. Specific project objectives include working with states to:

- Assess the current quality and quantity of early childhood education opportunities available in low-income communities
- Make connections among multiple stakeholders to foster communities of practice to improve results

- Monitor and report on the progress of state plans around a core set of indicators developed by each state team
- Establish mechanisms to share knowledge about best practices

The Council of Chief State School Officers plans to host three state team meetings in 2004, provide onsite technical assistance, develop a project newsletter and listserv, and develop issue briefs and other publications.

**Communities/States:** Arkansas; New Haven, CT; Indianapolis, IN; Oregon; White Haven/Seattle, WA; West Virginia

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**MAKING CONNECTIONS**

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**Dates:** 1999 to 2009

**Foundation Support:** Annie E. Casey Foundation

**About the Initiative:** The Making Connections Initiative is a long-term, comprehensive approach to rebuilding poor, inner-city neighborhoods by creating economic opportunity, strengthening families, and building social ties and connections. The Casey Foundation is providing technical assistance and support to 10 communities, including selective seed financing and start-up support for specific initiatives and ventures in those communities. The effort stresses resident involvement that impacts both community (city, county, and school district) and state policies and practices. Each site is expected to focus on six results areas—including school readiness. The Making Connections Initiative offers an opportunity to explore the special opportunities and challenges of building an early learning system within poor, inner-city neighborhoods.

**Communities:** Oakland, CA; Denver, CO; Hartford, CT; Indianapolis, IN; Des Moines, IA; Louisville, KY; Providence, RI; San Antonio, TX; Seattle, WA; Milwaukee, WI

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## SCHOOL READINESS CONNECTIONS

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**Dates:** 2004 to 2008

**Foundation Support:** John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

**About the Initiative:** School Readiness Connections is a four-year project of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Through School Readiness Connections, NAEYC is providing face-to-face and distance-learning professional development opportunities for those Knight Foundation communities that have identified school readiness and other early childhood issues as funding priorities. The project is encouraging cross-community learning and interactions on such topics as advocacy, communications, early literacy, young children's social and emotional competence, relationships with ethnically diverse families, and early childhood program improvement. By helping early childhood professionals in Knight-funded programs strengthen their skills and knowledge of critical issues affecting young children, NAEYC expects that this effort will lead to demonstrable changes in early childhood programs being implemented in Knight communities. NAEYC's strategic plan for future school readiness resources will contribute to a broader, more sustained professional development base.

**Communities:** Long Beach, CA; Boulder, CO; Tallahassee, FL; Ft. Wayne, IN; Wichita, KS; Camden, NJ; Charlotte, NC; Philadelphia, PA; State College, PA

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## SMART START NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER GRANTS PROGRAM

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**Dates:** Begun in January 2002 (running 12-18 months)

**Foundation Support:** Carnegie Corporation of New York, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Triad Foundation

**About the Initiative:** Based on North Carolina's Smart Start implementation model, the Smart Start National Technical Assistance Center provides targeted services to communities and states that are working to develop or implement comprehensive, community-based early childhood initiatives. Through foundation funding, the center is providing technical assistance grants to up to 10 communities and states to fund participation in this intensive technical assistance program. Selection criteria have been established to consider communities or states for participation.

The intensive technical assistance includes an on-call consultant, a Smart Start mentor, site visits, and ongoing technical assistance to develop a strategic implementation plan. Technical assistance is provided on developing a governance structure, a service delivery system, a financing strategy, an accountability structure based on results, a professional development system, a parent and community outreach component, and a political will-building and mobilization effort.

The Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina provides evaluation assistance to the Smart Start projects, including evaluation support in measuring changes in child care quality, family functioning, and children's receipt of health services.

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**SPARK INITIATIVE**

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**Dates:** Phase I—early Spring 2002 to Spring 2003; Phase II—Spring 2003 to 2008

**Foundation Support:** W. K. Kellogg Foundation, with sponsoring foundation support for each participating state

**About the Initiative:** The SPARK Initiative seeks to create a seamless transition into school for vulnerable children ages 3 to 6. SPARK (which stands for Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) supports early learning partnerships among selected communities, schools, state agencies, and families—serving as the catalyst, or “spark,” to ensure that vulnerable children are ready for school and that schools are ready for children.

**States (and sponsoring organizations):** District of Columbia (National Black Child Development Institute), Florida (Early Childhood Initiative Foundation), Georgia (Smart Start Georgia / United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta), Hawaii (Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture), Mississippi (Children's Defense Fund / Black Community Crusade for Children), New Mexico (New Mexico Community Foundation), North Carolina (Smart Start / North Carolina Partnership for Children), Ohio (Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton)

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## STATE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS GRANT PROGRAM

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**Dates:** First-year planning awards—July 1, 2003

**Government Support:** Federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau

**About the Initiative:** The State Maternal and Child Health Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (SECCS) Grant Program is a new element of the Federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Community Integrated Service Systems (CISS) program, which began in 1990 and seeks to reduce infant mortality and improve the health of mothers and children. CISS has supported states and communities in developing more integrated and community-based systems of care to improve infant and child health, often extending beyond health care systems and stressing state and community collaborations. The new SECCS grants are designed to operationalize the bureau's strategic plan for early childhood health, which is scheduled for implementation by July 1, 2005. SECCS includes five critical components:

- Access to health insurance and medical homes
- Mental health and social-emotional development
- Early care and education / child care
- Parent education
- Family support

The bureau has made approximately \$5.9 million available during fiscal year 2003 to support up to 59 SECCS projects, at an average of \$100,000 per award each year for the initial two-year project period. The initial planning grant, which involves strategic planning and collaboration building, will be followed by a multi-year implementation grant. The purpose of the planning grants is to develop a broad, statewide multi-agency plan for early childhood across all five critical components, with a set of indicators to track early childhood outcomes. Eligibility for the grant program is limited to Title V programs in U.S. states, jurisdictions, and territories on submission of an acceptable application by June 18, 2004. Health Systems Research is providing technical assistance to the states, many of which have incorporated SECCS into their overall state school readiness planning efforts, and the National Center for Infant and Early Childhood Health Policy has produced a series of six guides for SECCS planning work (available at [www.healthychild.ucla.edu/NationalCenter](http://www.healthychild.ucla.edu/NationalCenter)).

**States:** 48 states currently participating

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## SUCCESS BY 6

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**Dates:** 1988 to present

**Foundation Support:** Bank of America Foundation, United Way

**About the Initiative:** Success by 6 is the largest early childhood movement in the country and the most recognized United Way initiative. Using the principles of collaboration and prevention, community leaders from business, government, labor, education, and health and human service agencies work together with parents to achieve a community vision for young children. While each community's priorities are unique, key strategies usually include raising awareness, improving access to services, and advocating for public policies that improve the lives of children and families. Begun in Minneapolis, Success by 6 now is a signature initiative of many local United Ways, and the national United Way has provided technical assistance to local United Ways in establishing Success by 6 initiatives.

In 1998, the Bank of America Foundation made an unprecedented five-year commitment of \$50 million to build United Way of America's capacity to expand the Success by 6 early childhood network. In 2000, with the support of the Bank of America Foundation's grants, local United Ways leveraged more than \$16 million in additional support for Success by 6 strategies and activities.

**Communities:** 350 communities nationwide and in Canada

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# Early Care and Education

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## BETTER BABY CARE CAMPAIGN

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**Dates:** 2001 to present

**Foundation and Other Support:** A. L. Mailman Family Foundation, Johnson and Johnson Foundation, National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), Voices for America's Children, Zero to Three

**About the Initiative:** The Better Baby Care Campaign is a nationwide effort, housed at Zero to Three, to improve the early care of infants and toddlers while their parents are working, in school, or in need of out-of-home services. The campaign seeks to work in collaboration with existing national, state, and local organizations to improve the policies that govern quality of care, parent education, family support, and paid family leave.

**States:** Through NACCRRA: Alaska, District of Columbia, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington; through Voices: Colorado, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Oklahoma, South Dakota

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## EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

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**Dates:** 2000 to present

**Foundation Support:** A. L. Mailman Family Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Chambers Family Fund, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Ford Foundation, Heinz Endowments, Institute for Civil Society, Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, Rose Community Foundation, Schumann Fund for New Jersey

**About the Initiative:** The Early Care and Education Collaborative, coordinated by the Communications Consortium Media Center, is a multi-year project of eight state-based child advocacy organizations working on child care issues. The project's purpose is to design and implement strategic public education strategies to create the public will to expand both the supply and the quality of early care and education resources. The collaborative wants to share "lessons learned" on this unique partnership with the broader child care community. Presently, the state partners are: Association for Children of New Jersey, Citizens for Missouri's Children, Colorado Children's Campaign, Connecticut Voices for Children, Kansas Action for Children, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, Voices for Florida's Children, and Voices for Illinois Children.

**States:** Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, New Jersey, Pennsylvania

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**SPARKING CONNECTIONS**

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**Dates:** 2003 to 2007

**Foundation Support:** Kirlin Foundation, Project Lift-Off Opportunity Fund

**About the Initiative:** A partnership between the Families and Work Institute and the National Retail Federation's Retailers Work-Life Forum, Sparking Connections is a four-year project focused on identifying and demonstrating community-based strategies for helping family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) care meet the needs of working parents, their children, and employers. In most communities, FFN care represents a major part of the early care and education system, particularly for younger children. The initiative's goals are to:

- Expand the knowledge base about how to enhance child care provided by family, friend, and neighbor caregivers
- Design, demonstrate, and document strategies to connect employees and their family, friend, and neighbor caregivers to useful community resources
- Share what is learned with employers, families, communities, funders, and policymakers throughout the nation

Sparkling Connections has begun a two-year demonstration and evaluation phase, working with eight sites to strengthen family, friend, and neighbor care. The evaluation team is led by Mon Cochran, director of the Early Childhood Program at Cornell University.

**Communities/States:** Atlanta, GA; Hawaii; Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN; Oklahoma; Greenville, SC; Brownsville, TX; Martinsville, VA; Seattle/King County, WA

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## STARTING EARLY, STARTING STRONG

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**Dates:** Seven to ten years, beginning January 2002

**Foundation Support:** Pew Charitable Trusts

**About the Initiative:** In 2001, the board of the Pew Charitable Trusts voted to launch a program of grantmaking to encourage the design and implementation of sound, research-based policies that support access to high-quality early education for all children starting at age 3. They have begun work with several selected states to demonstrate how a widespread, high-quality pre-kindergarten program can be implemented. As is the case with all of their programming, the Pew Charitable Trusts' intent is to influence the development of federal policy.

As part of the initiative, the Pew Charitable Trusts have established two institutional components: The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), located at Rutgers University, which produces research, analyzes policy, and communicates knowledge on effective early education programs; and the Trust for Early Education (TEE), located in Washington, DC, which works at the federal level and in the states. The trusts have also made grants to several national groups to support the effort, including: the Committee for Economic Development, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the Education Law Center, the Education Writers Association, Every Child Matters, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute, the Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, the National League of Cities, and Voices for America's Children.

**States:** Selected to Date: Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York; grants to organizations in Arkansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Wisconsin

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## UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO PRE-SCHOOL

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**Dates:** 2004 to 2007

**Foundation Support:** Joyce Foundation

**About the Initiative:** The Joyce Foundation has committed \$6 million over the next three years to support policy initiatives aimed at securing universal access to pre-school children ages 3 to 5. Foundation grants support research, advocacy, the development of model programs, and efforts to integrate pre-school into the overall system of early care and education.

The program's priorities are to:

- Identify the components and benefits of high-quality early learning opportunities, especially for low-income and minority children, and communicate them to policymakers
- Create higher program standards, increase funding, and make effective early childhood education opportunities available for all children
- Encourage better state-level integration and coordination of early care and education programs, policies, and resources
- Promote professional development to train, attract, and retain highly qualified teachers for pre-school and child care

**States:** Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin

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# Child Health and Physical Well-Being

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## ASSURING BETTER CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT (ABCD) CONSORTIUM

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**Dates:** Phase I—2000 to 2003; Phase II—2004 to 2007

**Foundation Support:** Commonwealth Fund

**About the Initiative:** The Commonwealth Fund has supported two rounds of grants to states, managed by the National Academy for State Health Policy, to broaden the provision of child health services to low-income children ages 0 to 3 to include more developmental health services, including mental health. State projects in Phase I focused on a range of early child health and development services and on strategies for delivering them, including developmental screening and assessment, home visiting and parent education, provider education, collaborative partnerships, and financing mechanisms. ABCD's goals in Phase II are to:

- Create models of service delivery and financing that promote high-quality services supporting healthy mental development among Medicaid-eligible children ages 0 to 3, especially those with less intense needs (those who need only preventive care and who are identified as “at risk” or in need of low-level intervention)
- Develop policies and programs that ensure that pediatric providers serving these children and their parents have the knowledge and skills needed to furnish health care in a manner that supports a young child's healthy mental development

ABCD is intended for all Medicaid-eligible children ages 0 to 3, and is not designed to be a special needs program. While the state teams chosen to participate must be led by the state Medicaid agency, states must detail how the Medicaid agency will work in partnership with other key stakeholders both within and outside of state government.

**States:** Phase I: North Carolina, Vermont, Washington; Phase II: California, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Utah

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**COVERING KIDS & FAMILIES: A NATIONAL  
HEALTH ACCESS INITIATIVE FOR LOW-INCOME  
UNINSURED CHILDREN AND ADULTS**

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**Dates:** 1997 to present

**Foundation Support:** Robert Wood Johnson  
Foundation

**About the Initiative:** The Covering Kids & Families initiative, managed by the Southern Institute on Children and Families, focuses on the following three strategies to reduce the number of uninsured children and adults who are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid or the State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP):

- Conduct and coordinate outreach programs
- Simplify enrollment and renewal processes
- Coordinate existing health care coverage programs

**States:** Projects in 140 communities in 45 states and the District of Columbia

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Website: [www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org](http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org)

# Family Well-Being and Self-Sufficiency

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## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN

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**Dates:** 1996 to present

**Foundation Support:** Initiated by the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, with ongoing support and management by the Center for the Study of Social Policy

**About the Initiative:** The Community Partnerships for Protecting Children Initiative is working with four communities and their states to fashion a more neighborhood-based child protective services system that builds on community supports in preventing the occurrence and recurrence of child abuse. While not focused explicitly on children ages 0 to 5, a substantial share of the work is with families with very young children.

**Communities/States:** Florida (lead site: Jacksonville), Iowa (lead site: Cedar Rapids), Kentucky (lead site: Louisville), Missouri (lead site: St. Louis)

**Contact Information:**

Susan Notkin  
Director, Community Partnerships for Protecting Children  
Center for Community Partnerships in Child Welfare  
700 Broadway, Suite 301  
New York, NY 10003-9562  
Voice: 212/979-2369  
Fax: 212/995-8756  
Website: [www.emcf.org/programs/children/](http://www.emcf.org/programs/children/)

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## FAMILY ASSETS INITIATIVE

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**Dates:** 2000 to present

**Foundation Support:** Ford Foundation

**About the Initiative:** The Family Assets Initiative is designed to assist state child advocacy groups in addressing any of three major issues affecting families: family self-sufficiency (including children's savings accounts), health insurance coverage (with an emphasis on child health), and early childhood education. Grants to groups also can be used to organize parents to develop communication strategies and improve links between research and policy organizations in order to increase states' commitment to early childhood development.

**States:** Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Virginia, Wisconsin

**Contact Information:**

Ford Foundation  
320 East 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10017  
Voice: 212/573-4719  
Fax: 212/351-3658  
Website: [www.fordfound.org](http://www.fordfound.org)

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## FAMILY ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROJECT

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**Dates:** 1996 to present

**Foundation and Other Support:** Annie E. Casey Foundation, Ford Foundation, Norman Foundation, Rockefeller Family Fund; state-level support from more than 15 state and regional funders

**About the Initiative:** The Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Project is an effort linking Wider Opportunities for Women, the University of Washington School of Social Work, the Ms. Foundation for Women, the Corporation for Economic Development, and the National Economic Development and Law Center to provide resources and technical assistance to community-based advocates and states on issues related to human resource investment policies. The focus of the initiative is on providing information and statistics to states to strengthen advocacy for policy change around six strategies proven to improve low-income families' chances for self-sufficiency:

- The Self-Sufficiency Standard
- Targeting higher-wage employment
- Nontraditional employment for women
- Functional context education
- Microenterprise training and development
- Individual Development Accounts

**States:** Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South

Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

### Contact Information:

Jennifer Brooks  
Director of Self-Sufficiency Programs and Policies  
Wider Opportunities for Women  
1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 930  
Washington, DC 20036  
Voice: 202/464-1596  
Fax: 202/464-1660  
E-mail: [jbrooks@wowonline.org](mailto:jbrooks@wowonline.org)  
Website: [www.sixstrategies.org](http://www.sixstrategies.org)

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## FAMILY RESOURCE INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (FRIENDS)

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**Dates:** 1996 to present

**Government Support:** Funded by both federal and state governments

**About the Initiative:** FRIENDS is the National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program grants, which support state efforts to create and support a statewide network of community-based, family-centered, prevention-focused family resource and support programs, in order to strengthen families and reduce the occurrence of child abuse and neglect.

**States:** All 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico

**Contact Information:**

FRIENDS National Resource Center for CBCAP  
800 Eastowne Drive, Suite 105  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
Voice: 919/490-5577  
Fax: 919/490-4905  
E-mail: lbaker3@nc.rr.com  
Website: www.friendsnrc.org

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**FREE TO GROW**

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**Dates:** 2001 to 2005

**Foundation and Government Support:** Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, National Head Start Bureau, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, U.S. Department of Justice—Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

**About the Initiative:** Managed by the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, Free to Grow is a four-year, \$20 million national research and demonstration program testing innovative, community-based approaches to addressing two closely connected public health issues—substance abuse and child abuse. With a focus on the early years, Free to Grow brings together a broad base of community partners to support locally tailored, integrated approaches to strengthening families of young children and their communities. Participating Head Start programs are required to establish partnerships with local law enforcement agencies and schools, substance abuse treatment and other human service programs, prevention coalitions, parents, and community residents. Program approaches include a broad range of research-based family and community interventions, including enhanced family assessments and intensive case management.

**Communities:** Phoenix, AZ; Orange, CA; New Britain, CT; Delray Beach, FL; Maui, HI; Red Fox, KY; Franklin, LA; Lexington Park, MD; Lincoln, NE; Pueblo of Laguna, NM; Tulsa, OK; Hermiston, OR; Dallas, TX; Barre, VT; Wausau, WI

**Contact Information:**

Judith E. Jones  
Director, Free to Grow  
Mailman School of Public Health  
Columbia University  
722 West 168th Street, 8th Floor  
New York, NY 10032  
Voice: 212/305-8120  
Fax: 212/342-1963  
E-mail: jej3@columbia.edu  
Website: www.freetogrow.org

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**LET'S INVEST IN FAMILIES TODAY (LIFT)**

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**Dates:** 1997 to present

**Foundation Support:** Annie E. Casey Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Ford Foundation, Marguerite Casey Foundation

**About the Initiative:** Managed by the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP), the LIFT initiative was designed to help integrate social science, policy, and effective communication to promote state policy change for low-income families and children. The goal of this integration is to protect and improve the quality and quantity of investments made in these families and children. The LIFT initiative has four components:

- A partnership between NCCP and networks of state-based policy and advocacy organizations
- The LIFT toolbox, including the LIFT website, the Partner's Learning and Action Network, and technical assistance and training
- Ongoing research by NCCP and other partners to update and improve the LIFT toolbox
- National allies to enhance the power of the initiative

**States:** Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas

**Contact Information:**

LIFT  
 National Center for Children in Poverty  
 215 West 125th Street, 3rd Floor  
 New York, NY 10027  
 Voice: 646/284-9600  
 Fax: 646/284-9623  
 E-mail: [lift@nccp.org](mailto:lift@nccp.org)  
 Website: [lift.nccp.org](http://lift.nccp.org)

**About the Initiative:** The Starting Early Starting Smart (SESS) project is an early intervention program with an emphasis on the integration of behavioral health services (substance abuse prevention, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and family/parenting services) into easily accessible, non-threatening settings where caregivers naturally and regularly take their young children. These settings tend to be pediatric health care facilities and early childhood educational settings, but there is much site-to-site flexibility in the way that services are delivered. The major goal of this integrative approach is to increase access and use of needed behavioral health services by families with young children, thereby improving child and family outcomes and resiliency. There are 12 SESS sites located throughout the U.S., all of which have participated in a four-year, cross-site research study to evaluate the efficacy of this intervention model.

**States:** Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Washington

**Contact Information:**

Starting Early Starting Smart  
 Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support  
 1808 Eye Street, NW, 5th Floor  
 Washington, DC 20006-2754  
 Voice: 202/467-4441  
 Fax: 202/467-4499  
 E-mail: [cncinfo@casey.org](mailto:cncinfo@casey.org)  
 Website: <http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/promos/sess/>

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**STARTING EARLY STARTING SMART**

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**Dates:** October 1997 to present

**Foundation Support:** Casey Family Programs and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

# Multi-State Program Replication Efforts

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## HEALTHY FAMILIES AMERICA

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**Dates:** 1992 to present

**Foundation Support:** Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Freddie Mac Foundation, Ronald McDonald House Charities

**About the Initiative:** Healthy Families America is a national program model designed to help expectant and new parents get their children off to a healthy start. Families participate voluntarily in the program and receive home visiting and referrals from trained staff. By providing services to overburdened families, Healthy Families America fits into the continuum of services provided to families in many communities.

The program was launched in 1992 by Prevent Child Abuse America (formerly known as the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse), in partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities, to promote positive parenting, enhance child health and development, and prevent child abuse and neglect. The Freddie Mac Foundation has also been instrumental in supporting ongoing development of the program. Initially, Healthy Families America drew largely from the Hawaii Healthy Start program's existing research, knowledge, and experiences. Now, it is built on a set of 12 research-based critical elements that provide a benchmark by which quality is measured. As Healthy Families America has evolved, it has incorporated examples of good practice from evaluations of a growing number of communities and prevention models. Ninety percent of all families who are invited to participate in the program accept services.

**Communities/States:** 450 communities in 37 states, including the District of Columbia and Canada

**Contact Information:**

Lisa Cashion, Healthy Families America Manager  
Prevent Child Abuse America  
200 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Voice: 312/663-3520  
Fax: 312/939-8962  
E-mail: [lcashion@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:lcashion@preventchildabuse.org)  
Website: [www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org](http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org)

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## HOME INSTRUCTION PROGRAM FOR PRE-SCHOOL YOUNGSTERS (HIPPY USA)

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**Dates:** 1984 to present

**Foundation and Other Support:** Various foundations, early childhood education initiatives (including Title I, Even Start, and Head Start), job training programs, public housing initiatives, prevention and early intervention programs, businesses and civic organizations

**About the Initiative:** HIPPY offers free home-based early childhood education for children ages 3 to 5. A parent involvement and school readiness program, HIPPY helps parents be their children's first teacher by giving them the tools, skills, and confidence they need to work with their children in the home. The program was designed to bring families, organizations, and communities together and remove any barriers to participation, which may include limited financial resources or lack of education. Parents are provided with a set of carefully developed materials,

curriculum, and books designed to strengthen their children's cognitive skills; early literacy skills; and social, emotional, and physical development.

**States:** Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Island of Guam, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin

**Contact Information:**

Elizabeth Eklind, Executive Director  
Mary Beth Salomone, Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator  
HIPPI USA  
220 East 23rd Street, Suite 300  
New York, NY 10010  
Voice: 212/532-7730  
Fax: 212/532-7899  
E-mail: mbsalomone@hippyusa.org  
Website: www.hippyusa.org

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**NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES**

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**Dates:** 1977 to present

**Foundation Support:** Blueprints for Violence Prevention Project, Colorado Trust, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation, Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Hill Foundation, John Duncan Trust, Mabel Y. Hughes Charitable Trust, Oklahoma's Children First Initiative, Robert Wood Johnson

Foundation, U.S. Department of Justice—Executive Office for Weed & Seed

**About the Initiative:**

The Nurse-Family Partnership represents a highly refined approach to the long-established service strategy of home visiting. The partnership has been tested and refined over a 20-year period and has three fundamental goals:

- Help women improve the outcomes of pregnancy by improving health and identifying emerging obstetrical problems
- Assist parents in improving their child's health and development
- Assist families in becoming economically self-sufficient

Low-income women who are pregnant for the first time are invited to enroll in the program. Nurse home visitors work intensively with them and their families to become confident and skillful in addressing five areas of functioning that can shape parents' abilities to care for themselves and their children for years after the program ends:

- Maternal and child physical health
- Home and neighborhood environment and safety
- Family and friend support
- Parents' learning to care for their children
- Parental efforts to become economically self-sufficient through pregnancy planning, education, and employment

A free-standing Nurse Family Partnership nonprofit organization is scheduled to be launched in summer 2004.

**Communities/States:** Operating in more than 150 communities nationwide (with new sites requesting assistance each month)

**Contact Information:**

Patricia Uris  
Interim Director  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
1900 Grant Street, Suite 750  
Denver, CO 80203  
Voice: 303/327-4256  
Fax: 303/327-4260  
E-Mail: [patricia.uris@nursefamilypartnership.org](mailto:patricia.uris@nursefamilypartnership.org)  
Website: [www.nccfc.org/nurseFamilyPartnership.cfm](http://www.nccfc.org/nurseFamilyPartnership.cfm)

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**PARENTS AS TEACHERS**

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**Dates:** 1984 to present

**Foundation and Other Support:** National level—Charles A. Dana Foundation, Danforth Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Joseph E. Seagram and Sons Fund, Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; state level—financing and support through legislative initiatives; local level—targeted funding streams to support specialized efforts

**About the Initiative:** The concept for Parents as Teachers (PAT) was developed in the 1970s, when Missouri educators noted that children were beginning kindergarten with varying levels of readiness. A pilot was established in 1981, and in 1984 the Missouri General Assembly passed an Early Childhood Act that extended the pilot statewide. In 1986, Connecticut, Ohio, and Texas implemented their own PAT programs. Currently, there are PAT programs in all 50 states and in a number of both developing and advanced countries.

All Parents as Teachers programs have four core services:

- Personal visits, during which educators and parents share information and which provide time for concerns, observations, and interactions
- Group meetings, during which parents get together to share information with each other
- Screenings, which provide early detection of health, vision, hearing, and developmental needs
- Resource networks, through which educators assist parents in finding resources to meet their and their children's needs

**States:** All 50 states and seven other countries

**Contact Information:**

Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc.  
2228 Ball Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63146  
Toll-free: 866/728-4968  
Voice: 314/432-4330  
Fax: 314/432-8963  
E-mail: [info@patnc.org](mailto:info@patnc.org)  
Website: [www.patnc.org](http://www.patnc.org)

## Completed Initiatives

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### CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH MEASUREMENT INITIATIVE—PROMOTING HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT STATE LEARNING NETWORK

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**Dates:** November 2002 to May 2004

**Foundation Support:** Commonwealth Fund

**About the Initiative:** With support from the Commonwealth Fund, the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) created a network of six states (led by the Medicaid agency) dedicated to administering, reporting the results of, and sustaining the use of valid, reliable, and consumer-centered information about the quality of developmental services provided to young low-income children. All of the participating states fielded the Promoting Healthy Development Survey-PLUS (PHDS-PLUS), a proven measure of quality based on parental report via a telephone survey that assessed several components of developmental services, including:

- Anticipatory guidance and parental education
- Assessment of the family for risk to the child
- Whether a developmental assessment occurred
- Whether at-risk children received follow-up care
- Coordination of care
- The degree to which parent–health care provider communication led to the delivery of family-centered care

The measurement activities enabled states to identify child development services in need of improvement, develop quality improvement strategies, and hold pediatric health care providers, health plans, and systems accountable for the quality of care they provide. The network was established in order to improve the quality of preventive pediatric care provided to low-income young children by generating state-based models for collecting and reporting quality information and developing technical assistance materials that can be used by other states. It is intended to demonstrate to all states the value and feasibility of incorporating measures of quality preventive and developmental health care into their ongoing quality measurement and improvement activities.

**States:** Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Vermont (mentor state), Washington (mentor state)

**Contact Information:**

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Program Director  
Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative  
Oregon Health and Science University  
707 Southwest Gaines Drive  
Mail Code CDRCP  
Portland, OR 97239-3098  
Voice: 503/494-0456  
Fax: 503/494-2475  
E-mail: reulandc@ohsu.edu  
Website: www.cahmi.org

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## NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION BEST PRACTICES IN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

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**Dates:** October 1999 to October 2001

**Foundation Support:** David and Lucile Packard Foundation

**About the Initiative:** The National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices supported seven states in their efforts to build public and political will and improve access to affordable, quality early care and education. In the beginning, the states demonstrated an understanding of the problem, which included support from their governors, and assembled diverse teams with strong commitment from high-level state government employees and private sector involvement. Each state team established a vision for early childhood care and education and developed a strategic plan for building public and political support for its vision. NGA provided technical assistance, hired experts and consultants, and provided guidance to the state teams to help them achieve their goal. NGA, the Committee for Economic Development, and the state teams convened a national event to highlight the state initiatives and to share their lessons learned.

**States:** Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, New Hampshire, Ohio, Washington, Wisconsin

### Contact Information:

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Education Policy Studies Division  
National Governors Association  
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267  
Washington, DC 20001-1512  
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Fax: 202/624-5313  
E-mail: [alovejoy@nga.org](mailto:alovejoy@nga.org)  
Website: [www.nga.org](http://www.nga.org)

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## ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION FAMILY SUPPORT INITIATIVE

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**Dates:** 1996 to 2004

**Foundation Support:** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

**About the Initiative:** Family Support America, through major funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, worked with eight states to develop statewide networks of community-based family support programs. These family support programs include family resource centers and parenting education programs, with most programs focusing on strengthening parenting confidence and competence and working with families with young children. This multi-year initiative was designed to build a state infrastructure and public policy to support such programs, which are seen by Family Support America and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as a vital element in achieving school readiness. The foundation also provided companion grants to the individual states to develop their networks.

**States:** Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Washington, West Virginia

### Contact Information:

Family Support America  
205 West Randolph Street, Suite 2222  
Chicago, IL 60606  
Voice: 312/338-0900  
Fax: 312/338-1522  
E-mail: [info@familysupportamerica.org](mailto:info@familysupportamerica.org)  
Website: [www.familysupportamerica.org](http://www.familysupportamerica.org)

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## STARTING POINTS INITIATIVE

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**Dates:** 1995 to 2001

**Foundation Support:** Carnegie Corporation of New York

**About the Initiative:** With the publication of its *Starting Points* report in 1995, which identified the “quiet crisis” in America as the absence of an early childhood system that could ensure children start school ready to learn, the Carnegie Corporation established an initiative that provided support to selected states and communities in building early childhood care and education systems. In addition to grants to those selected, the Carnegie Corporation provided extensive technical assistance through the National Center for Children in Poverty, the Harvard Family Research Project, and the Finance Project that involved building logic models and continuous improvement systems into the initiative’s design. The corporation also documented and published evaluations and lessons learned from these pioneering efforts to build early childhood care and education systems.

**Communities/States:** San Francisco, CA; Colorado; Florida; Atlanta, GA; Hawaii; Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Minneapolis, MN; North Carolina; Ohio; Pittsburgh, PA; Rhode Island; Vermont; West Virginia

**Contact Information:**

Carnegie Corporation of New York  
437 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
Voice: 212/371-3200  
Fax: 212/754-4073  
E-mail: [startingpoints@carnegie.org](mailto:startingpoints@carnegie.org)  
Website: [www.carnegie.org/startingpoints](http://www.carnegie.org/startingpoints)





## ABOUT SECPTAN

The State Early Childhood Policy Technical Assistance Network (SECPTAN) provides current information about early childhood policy initiatives to state policy makers. It assists them in assessing the best available evidence and information about effective policies and practices in early childhood. The network is managed by the Child and Family Policy Center with funding from the Ford Foundation, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. For more information about SECPTAN, visit [www.finebynine.org](http://www.finebynine.org) or contact Charles Bruner, Network Director, or Sheri Floyd, Network Manager, at 515-280-9027.

## About This Series

This monograph is part of SECPTAN's series on early childhood issues, which also includes:

- **Beyond the Usual Suspects: Developing New Allies to Invest in School Readiness**
- **Measuring Children's School Readiness: Options for Developing State Baselines and Benchmarks**
- **School Readiness Policy and Budgeting: Template for Collecting State Baseline Information**
- **Child Welfare and School Readiness—Making the Link for Vulnerable Children**
- **Financing School Readiness Strategies: An Annotated Bibliography**
- **Seven Things Legislators (and Other Policy Makers) Need to Know about School Readiness**

- **Health Care and School Readiness: The Health Community's Role in Supporting Child Development—New Approaches and Model Legislation**
- **On the Path to School Readiness: Key Questions to Consider Before Establishing Universal Pre-Kindergarten**

These publications are available online at [www.finebynine.org](http://www.finebynine.org) or by contacting the Child and Family Policy Center.

## ABOUT THE CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY CENTER

The Child and Family Policy Center (CFPC) was established in 1989 by former Iowa legislator Charles Bruner, PhD, to better link research and policy on issues vital to children and families, and to advocate for outcome-based policies to improve child well-being. CFPC is active both statewide and nationally. In Iowa, the Child and Family Policy Center assists the state and communities in developing integrated, community-based, family-focused, and results-accountable services, particularly for vulnerable children. CFPC also produces a variety of reports, case studies, concept papers, and technical assistance tools on systems reform and community building that are widely used across the United States.



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