



Positive Early Learning & Development

PRIORITY

LEGISLATIVE POLICY

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Make child care free for most families and more affordable for ALL families.



- Increase Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) annually by 10% and require states to:
 - + Establish payment rates, policies and procedures based on the true cost of care
 - + Ensure that co-payments are based on a sliding scale and no family pays more than 7% of household income on child care
 - + Use quality funds to increase child care supply in historically marginalized and under-resourced communities



- How do you create a system that serves children in the program a family prefers and at a cost they can afford?

Make more families eligible for Early Head Start and Head Start programs.



- Increase financial eligibility to include higher percentage of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Implement three-year eligibility without annual income verification
- Implement geographic and group eligibility criteria (e.g., Native populations, foster care, kinship care, community/census tract)



- Simplify and streamline the application and enrollment process, including coordinating enrollment with state preschool and child care subsidy programs
- Expand automatic eligibility to families who qualify for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and/or the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), including those experiencing temporary financial hardship
- Promote interagency collaboration to ensure that home visitors, doulas and other trusted messengers are making referrals to Early Head Start and Head Start programs



- From the perspective of families and staff, what are the facilitators and barriers that need to be removed to enroll more families in Early Head Start and Head Start programs?
- What difference does the Early Head Start and Head Start two-generation approach make for family and child outcomes?

Make it easier for families to receive Early Intervention services that support children 0-3 with or at risk for developmental delays and disabilities.



- Dramatically increase federal funding for Part C, with set-aside for wage enhancements
- Change funding formula to better reflect a state's relative share of young children living in poverty
- Incentivize serving of children at risk for delay, expansion of eligible medical diagnoses, and extending of services beyond age 3

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- Provide additional guidance on flexibility of delivering services in natural environment
- Increase coordination and cross-training between home visiting, Early Intervention, and child care providers within communities
- Provide guidance and training to health care providers, child welfare and human services, Early Intervention providers and families about automatic eligibility criteria



- What is the parent/caregiver experience of their child being screened, identified, and potentially receiving specialized services in Early Head Start and Head Start programs? What adaptations can be made to these processes based on parent/caregiver feedback and perspective?

Make it easier for families from different cultures and with native languages other than English to participate in screenings and services for children with or at risk of developmental delays and disabilities.



- Include cultural and linguistic responsiveness efforts in IDEA reauthorization
- Require states to collect and report data on demographics (e.g., race, ethnicity, languages spoken) of Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) workforce



- Create guidelines, monitoring requirements and supports specific to language accessibility
- Add significant disproportionality indicator to states' IDEA Part C Annual Performance Report that captures inequitable access for some groups to IDEA Part C services
- Allocate funds to states to develop and implement an action plan that identifies groups with less access to Early Intervention and ECSE, outlines actionable steps to increase access to services and includes necessary budget for advancement



- How do we make it easier for families from different cultures and with native languages other than English to participate in screenings and access services?

Make it easier for children ages 0-5 with or at risk of developmental delays and disabilities to receive learning and care services in any early childhood setting.



- Significantly increase federal funding for IDEA Part B (3-21 and 619) with minimum requirements for use in inclusive programs, including new discretionary funding to support inclusion in community-based early childhood settings
- Identify Early Head Start and Head Start funding that is earmarked to serve children with disabilities and their families
- Expand types of programs eligible to be reimbursed for provision of services through IDEA Part B (3-21 and 619)



- Socialize a standard curriculum for implementation of the Inclusive Classroom Profile
- Provide guidance on Medicaid reimbursement and layering with other funding streams



- What are the most effective approaches for supporting community-based providers to be inclusive?