



Strong, Sustainable & Equitable Early Childhood Ecosystem

 PRIORITY

 LEGISLATIVE POLICY

 ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Make it easier for families with young children to qualify for and enroll in multiple programs at the same time.



- Streamline eligibility requirements across early childhood and safety net programs
- Adopt utilization of centralized application to determine eligibility for various federal programs



- Create federal interagency early childhood collaborative with a specific focus on enrollment and eligibility
- Provide guidance on aligning different funding streams (e.g., Head Start, Early Head Start, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid) for more efficient state home visiting systems
- Expand automatic HS/EHS eligibility to families who qualify for WIC and/or CCDF, including those experiencing temporary financial hardship



- What supports help families access the programs and services they seek to receive? What contributes to existing and potential barriers to accessing such programs and services?

Make comprehensive changes to strengthen the child care industry instead of taking smaller steps to improve programs and systems.



- Identify additional federal funding streams for child care within workforce development and business/industry supports
- Pilot federally-subsidized child care centers with minimal weekly co-pays, modeled after the Canadian system



- Promote coordination of Head Start/Early Head Start and child care through lessons learned from Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP)
- Identify CCDBG reauthorization opportunities that states are not enacting



- What social/political conditions lead to large-scale policy change?

Increase parent involvement in governance of federal and state programs, in particular those supporting children with or at risk of developmental delays and disabilities.



- Increase the role of parents within governance bodies and advisory boards specific to early childhood federal funding streams (HS/EHS, CCDF, SNAP/WIC)
- Provide adequate dedicated funding to federal, state, and local early childhood governance bodies to equitably compensate provider and family representatives who serve
- Require integration of parent voice into states' home visiting service plans

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- Increase statute requirement to minimum of 30% parents on State Interagency Coordinating Councils (SICC) and on Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B state advisory tables
- Change rule to require states to have early childhood educators (both school & community-based) and at least one parent of a child aged 3-5 on State Special Education (SPED) Advisory Panels
- Incentivize Local Interagency Coordinating Councils and help develop better community-informed policy and systems changes
- Require State Education Agencies (SEAs) to ask all families receiving federally-funded early childhood services about their satisfaction with services, including where services were received and any bias experienced
- Require states to offer program surveys (i.e. Part C family outcomes survey) in multiple formats (paper, online, text message) and in multiple languages



- What policies and systems elements and characteristics act as facilitators or barriers to early childhood programs effectively providing programming to and partnering with racially marginalized families with young children?

Strengthen data collection systems for Early Childhood Special Education and Early Intervention.



- Expand IDEA data collection to include preschool environments and Least Restrictive Environment, including where young children receive ECSE services, other early childhood programs utilized and family reasons for declining services
- Require states to collect and report data on demographics of EI/ECSE workforce (race, ethnicity, languages spoken) and compensation



- Require all Early Intervention and ECSE state data reported federally to be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, income level, English learner status, child welfare status and homelessness
- Expand data collection to include disciplinary data disaggregated by demographic group

Make it easier for parents to understand and exercise their rights in supporting their children with identified delays and/or disabilities.



- Increase funding for Parent Training & Information (PTI) centers, requiring each PTI to have at least one dedicated staff member focused on supporting families with children birth to age 5
- Provide training for early childhood community, including family child care providers, to support families through the eligibility and evaluation process



- What is the parent/caregiver experience of their child being screened, identified and potentially receiving an IEP/IFSP or 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?