



Within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is responsible for Federal programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities.

The following early care and education programs are administered through ACF:

❖ **Head Start/Early Head Start**

Head Start provides grants to local public and private agencies to provide comprehensive developmental services for America's low-income, preschool children **ages 3 to 5** and social services for their families.

- ✓ Serves approximately 915,000 children; and
- ✓ Funded at \$6.5 billion in FY 2002.

Early Head Start, established in 1994, expands the benefits of early childhood development to low income families with **children under age 3** and to pregnant women.

- ✓ Serves approximately 62,000 children; and
- ✓ Funded at \$621 million out of the Head Start budget in FY 2002.

❖ **Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)**

CCDF provides block grant funding to States for child care for children birth through age 12. States spend the majority on care for **children age 5 or younger**. The legislation requires that at least 4 percent of these funds be spent on improving the quality of care.

- ✓ Serves approximately 1.75 million children per month; and
- ✓ Funded at \$4.8 billion in FY 2002.

❖ **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

Through TANF, States, Territories, and Tribes each receive a block grant allocation to administer the nation's welfare system, including child care for low income, working parents. States have the flexibility to transfer up to 30 percent of TANF funds to CCDF and to spend additional dollars directly for child care.

- ✓ In FY 2000, States spent nearly \$4 billion of their TANF funds on child care.

❖ **Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)**

SSBG, through a block grant to States, funds a broad range of social services. States have responsibility for determining the services they will provide, the distribution method, and eligibility requirements. The **most frequently provided services are: child care**; home-based services which help individuals or families with household and personal care; protective services which prevent or remedy abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children or adults; special services for the physically, mentally, or emotionally disabled; and social support.

- ✓ In FY 2000, States spent \$165 million on child care.

The following research initiative is funded through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), HHS:

❖ **National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)**

The NICHD, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education and ACF within HHS, is leading a \$45 million, five-year early childhood research initiative to identify the most effective early pre-reading, language, and pre-math curricula for children of diverse backgrounds, as well as effective teaching strategies for early childhood educators and caregivers. The Administration's *Good Start, Grow Smart* initiative represents the first time in the history of these departments that the full range of talent and resources within the Federal government has been marshaled to address a topic of major significance involving our nation's children.

Early Care and Education Technical Assistance Resources Funded by ACF

National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC)

Phone: (800) 616-2242; TTY: (800) 516-2242;
Web site: <http://nccic.org>

A national clearinghouse and technical assistance network whose mission is to link information and people to complement, enhance, and promote the child care delivery system, working to ensure that all children and families have access to high-quality comprehensive services. NCCIC disseminates information through question and answer responses, a website, and online library; provides outreach, produces publications, and provides technical assistance to a variety of stakeholders.

Quality In Linking Together (QUILT)

Phone: (877) 867-8458
Web site: <http://www.quilt.org>

The QUILT Project supports partnerships between early education programs, such as state-funded child care, Head Start, prekindergarten, and others, at the local, State, Tribal, territorial, regional, and national levels by providing training, technical assistance, and materials focused exclusively on partnership issues. This project links three organizations to lead QUILT - Community Development Institute (CDI) in Denver, Colorado; Education Development Center, Inc.(EDC) in Newton, Massachusetts; and the National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC) in Vienna, Virginia.

Tribal Child Care Technical Assistance Center (TriTAC)

Phone: (800) 388-7670
Web site: <http://nccic.org/tribal/>

TriTAC supports Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations in their efforts to enhance the quality, affordability and supply of child care available for all families, develop more coordinated delivery systems, promote linkages with State and local programs, and improve child care opportunities for families, providers, and Tribal communities.

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning

Phone: (217) 333-0260
Web site: <http://csefel.uiuc.edu/>

The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning is a five-year project designed to strengthen the capacity of Head Start and Child Care Programs to improve the social and emotional outcomes of young children. The center will develop training and technical assistance materials that reflect evidence based practices for promoting children's social and emotional development and preventing challenging behaviors. The center will then work with professional organizations, and Head Start and Child Care Training and Technical Assistance Providers to ensure the use of the evidence-based practices in local demonstration sites.

Head Start Information and Publication Center

Phone: (866) 763-6481 or (202) 737-1030
Web site: <http://www.headstartinfo.org/index.htm>

Head Start Information and Publication Center (HSIPC), a service of the Head Start Bureau, supports the Head Start community and other organizations working in the interest of children and families by providing information products and services; conference and meeting support; publication distribution; and marketing and outreach efforts. HSIPC's mission is to provide training, guidance and other types of materials and information to Head Start programs and other end users in various professions to promote the provision of Head Start quality services.

Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families

Phone: (202) 638-1144
Web site: <http://www.zerotothree.org>

ZERO TO THREE's mission is to promote the healthy development of our nation's babies and toddlers by supporting and strengthening families, communities, and those who work on their behalf. The Center translates the latest scientific information on early childhood development into practical tools for parents, programs, and professionals.