

Commission to Develop a Strategic Priorities Plan for Maine's Young Children

Sampling of State Policies and Programs - Sorted by Program Focus

STATE	PROGRAM NAME	DESCRIPTION	FOCUS	SOURCE / LINKS
Pennsylvania	Office of Child Development and Early Learning	Brings programs related to early childhood previously in Dept of Education and Dept of Public Welfare into one office. Includes: Head Start, pre-K, early intervention, child care, family support and others. The Office promotes opportunities for all Pennsylvania children and families by building systems and providing supports that help ensure access to high quality child and family services	Administration	State and Community Policy Roundup Zero to Three, July 2007 http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/Policy/RoundupJuly07.pdf?docID=3821 http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/
		Consolidates multiple childcare and early learning programs into one cabinet-level agency to coordinate early learning services and programs. Established through legislation in July 2006, the Department's mission, "with parents and partners, is to offer children world-class learning opportunities so they reach their full potential." The Department is comprised of child care licensing, state-funded preschool, quality initiatives, child care subsidy policy, early reading initiatives and Head Start collaboration work.	Administration	Bright Futures NGA, Spring 2007 http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0704BRIGHTFUTURESNEWS.PDF www.del.wa.gov
Washington	Department of Early Learning			
Indiana	Paths to QUALITY	The four-tiered voluntary rating system aims not only to ensure that parents can make informed decisions about their child's care, but also to provide professional development incentives and opportunity for child care programs. The rating system includes an innovative one-on-one mentoring program for providers working toward increasing their quality of care. Includes educational campaign for parents and communities regarding importance of quality care. Aligns quality rating system with Indiana's "Foundations for Education" - the state's birth-to-five framework for quality early childhood experiences.	Child Care	State and Community Policy Roundup Zero to Three, July 2007 http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/Policy/RoundupJuly07.pdf?docID=3821 www.PathsToQuality.org
Minnesota	Family Friend and Neighbor Care competitive grant program	\$750,000 for FFN competitive grant program, program will fund community based organizations, non-profits and tribes working with FFN providers to connect them with resources to support the families' health, mental health and developmental needs; funds can also be used to provide training, support and resources to providers and resources to the providers, as well as information on the state's early learning guidelines, the requirements to become a licensed family care provider, and culturally appropriate training.	Child Care	State and Community Policy Roundup Zero to Three, July 2007 http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/Policy/RoundupJuly07.pdf?docID=3821 www.ready4k.org

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Nebraska	First Connections	First Connections is a multifaceted, comprehensive telecommunications project offering education about infants and toddlers to teachers, caregivers, and parents. The project uses the latest technology to convey information about best practices in working with infants and toddlers. It is designed to make exemplary technology-based training opportunities available to early childhood care and education providers, including those with special needs, primarily in home-based child care.	Child Care Infant/Toddler	http://www.firstconnections.nde.state.ne.us/
California	Paid Family Leave	The Paid Family Leave law provides for six weeks of partially paid leave each year to bond with a newborn baby, newly adopted or foster child, or to care for a seriously ill parent, child, spouse or registered domestic partner. Administered through the State Disability Insurance (SDI) system, workers who take leave will receive up to 55% of their wages, up to a maximum of \$840 per week in 2005	Family leave	At a Glance, A Place at the Policy Table for Infants and Toddlers, NITCCI http://www.nccic.org/itcc/publications/findex.htm www.paidfamilyleave.org
Washington	Paid family leave	The family leave program will provide up to 5 weeks of time off with a benefit of \$250 for all parents taking leave from work to care for a newborn or newly adopted child. Funding for the program will be decided by a taskforce, which must report by January 1, 2008. Key policy elements include coverage for all employees who have worked at least 680 hours in the previous year, job protection for workers in companies of more than 25 and a start-up date of October 1, 2009. (Washington Laws of 2007, Chapter 357; Senate Bill 5659; Effective date: 7/22/07)	Family leave	State and Community Policy Roundup Zero to Three, July 2007 http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/PolicyRoundupJuly07.pdf?docID=3821 http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5659&year=2007
Arizona	Arizona early childhood development and health initiative	"With support from Governor Janet Napolitano, Arizona's recent ballot initiative, Proposition 203, or "First Things First," will use revenue from the state's tobacco tax to generate an estimated \$188 million in new funds for early childhood development and health programs. Over the coming months, Arizona will develop a strategic plan outlining a public-private partnership between these state funds and the existing Arizona Early Education Fund, housed within the nonprofit Arizona Community Foundation."	Funding	Bright Futures NGA, Spring 2007 http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0704BRIGHTFUTURENEWS.PDF http://www.azsos.gov/election/2006/Info/PubPamphlet/english/Prop203.htm

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Nebraska	Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment	Established early childhood education endowment fund for at-risk children with \$40 million in public funds committed and \$20 million from private sector; Constitutional amendment to permanently establish public funding for the endowment through the Educational Land Trust Funds; Board of Trustees will administer the grants; local service providers eligible to apply for competitive grants	Funding	Bright Futures NGA, Summer 2007 http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0707BRIGHTFUTURESNEWS.PDF
	Minnesota Family Home Visiting Programs	The 2007 Legislature revised Minnesota Family Home Visiting Programs to require that community health boards and tribal governments submit a plan to the Commissioner of Health describing a multidisciplinary approach to targeted home visiting for families. The revised statute requires that the plan include specific minimum content and that programs accomplish specific program requirements in order to receive funding. The state DHS will also be required to set aside funding to provide training and technical assistance to the home visitors, including training on early childhood development from birth to age five. \$8.8 million budgeted for 2008-2009; funds for the initiative, taken from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federal block grant.	Home Visiting and Family Support	State and Community Policy Roundup Zero to Three, July 2007 http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/PolicyRoundupJuly07.pdf?docID=3821 http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fh/mc/h/fhv/new.html
South Dakota	Bright Start	One of the top priorities of the Bright Start Initiative is to assure that every baby born in South Dakota has the opportunity for a good start in life. Bright Start components include the areas of infant brain development, comprehensive early childhood development that includes physical, intellectual, emotional and social development, parent education and health care. Bright Start is a comprehensive early childhood initiative composed of the following components: Home Visitation Newborn Hearing Screenings, Early Intervention Screenings, Immunizations, Web Site, Parent/Infant Welcome Box, Monthly Parent Update, Responsive Parenting Seminars.	Home Visiting and Family Support	At a Glance, A Place at the Policy Table for Infants and Toddlers, NITCCI http://www.nccic.org/itcc/publications/findex.htm http://www.sdbrightstart.com/

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Arkansas	Arkansas Better Chance for School Success	Expanded voluntary pre-kindergarten program covering all children show families earn up to 200% of the federal poverty line (total budget now \$111 million). The Arkansas state-funded preschool education program provides early care and education services for children from at-risk or low-income families or for those children in districts in which at least 75 percent of children have literacy and math scores below proficient levels.	Pre-K	Bright Futures NGA, Spring 2007 http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0704BRIGHTFUTURESNEWS.PDF http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare/abcpr o.html
North Carolina	More at Four	10,000 slot expansion in prekindergarten program, More at Four, for at-risk children (currently serves 20,000 four year olds). The More at Four Pre-kindergarten Program is a state-funded, community-based, voluntary pre-kindergarten initiative designed to prepare at-risk four-year-olds for success in school. Programs are to meet high-quality standards, with a specific curriculum that is focused on preparing children in developmentally appropriate ways for success in schools (e.g., emphasis on literacy, numbers, physical/fine-motor development, and problem solving/thinking). More at Four Pre-K students must be at risk as defined primarily by low income. Families of children served must be at or below 75 percent of the state median income.	Pre-K	Bright Futures, NGA, Spring 2007 http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0704BRIGHTFUTURESNEWS.PDF http://www.governor.state.nc.us/Office/Education/_pdf/M4Handout-Overview.pdf
Illinois	Preschool for All	Universal, high quality preschool for all 3 and 4 year olds; implemented over 5 years; 11% set aside to expand quality programs for at-risk infants and toddlers; increase funding for early childhood block grant by \$69 million; provide \$10 million in matching funds for capital grants to increase capacity. Preschool for All was signed into law in July 2006, after passing the General Assembly with strong bipartisan support. In August, \$45 million in new funding was awarded to 103 preschool and 15 at-risk infant-toddler programs, which will reach approximately 10,000 new children in 2006-07	Preschool	Bright Futures, NGA, Spring 2007 http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0704BRIGHTFUTURESNEWS.PDF http://www.isbe.net/early/chi/

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Michigan	Early Childhood Investment Corporation, Great Start	The Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) is non-profit public corporation charged with focusing local efforts at promoting early learning and childhood development activities and connecting those local efforts into a statewide Great Start System. The ECIC provides funds for community leaders to work together, as members of a Great Start Collaborative. The ECIC provides training and consultation to community leaders about what works to improve the health, development and learning of young children. The ECIC can solicit and receive funds from both the public and private sectors. The ECIC has an independent Board of Directors, composed of leaders from state government, philanthropy, business, community and early childhood organizations, healthcare, and communities.	Public-private partnership	http://www.ecic4kids.org/ http://www.michigan.gov/greatstart
North Carolina	Smart Start	Smart Start is a public-private initiative that provides early education funding to all of the state's 100 counties. Smart Start funds are administered at the local level through local nonprofit organizations called Local Partnerships. The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPIC) is the statewide nonprofit organization that provides oversight and technical assistance for local partnerships. Smart Start is required to raise \$1 for every \$10 it receives from the state. More than \$257 million in donations has been invested in Smart Start since 1995. Smart Start partnerships are required to spend 70 percent of all funds to improve the quality of child care. Of that amount, 30 percent is required to make child care affordable to working families. The remaining 30 percent may be used for these services and for children's health and family support services.	Public-private partnership	http://www.ncsmartstart.org/index.htm
Virginia	Early Childhood Foundation	The Virginia Early Childhood Foundation is a statewide nonprofit public-private partnership with the vision that every child in Virginia will enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life. The VECF provides grants, training and technical assistance to local communities working to build their capacity to provide their families and children with high quality early childhood services and programs. Grants are made possible through support from the Virginia General Assembly and the Governor, corporate partners and individuals.	Public-private partnership	Bright Futures, NGA, Summer 2007 http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0704BRIGHTFUTURESNEWS.PDF http://www.smartbeginnings.org/about-us/