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State Advisory Council Briefing

Background: The federal government made funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to support states in the creation of Advisory Councils as mandated in the Head Start Reauthorization Act 2007. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) solicited applications to carry out the activities of the State Advisory Councils. This funding is a non-competitive, collaborative, three-year grant to assist states in establishing an Advisory Council and to initiate creative infrastructure improvement projects. Florida was eligible and received **\$4,983,079** to accomplish the proposed scope of work.

Purpose: The Florida State Advisory Council will lead the development of a high quality, comprehensive system of early childhood education that ensures statewide coordination and collaboration among the wide array of early childhood education programs and services in the State, including Head Start, child care and prekindergarten.

Partners: Partners for the grant application and council membership included the Executive Office of the Governor (Jim Kallinger, former Florida Chief Child Advocate) and the Head Start Collaboration Office (Lilli Copp, Director). The Agency for Workforce Innovation serves as the grant fiscal agent. The scope of work in the application positively impacts all member agencies of the Children and Youth Cabinet and other stakeholders of child well-being in the state.

Advisory Council: Through the leadership of the former Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the decision was made to have the Advisory Council serve as an *advisory council* to the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet.

Membership: The Head Start Reauthorization language requires specific members. The attached membership list was vetted through the former Lieutenant Governor, Jim Kallinger, and Lilli Copp. The Agency for Workforce Innovation has three staff to support the Advisory Council's activities over the next three years.

Requirements: To meet the requirements of the grant as described in section 642B of the Act, the State Advisory Councils shall accomplish the following. A high level summary of proposed activities and approximate total costs are included with each requirement.

1. Conduct a statewide needs assessment (**\$25,000**)
 - Conduct a statewide needs assessment across all agencies/organizations to conduct to consolidate data into one meaningful map.
2. Develop recommendations on increasing participation in child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations (**\$650,000**)
 - Partner organization to conduct a thorough needs assessment to identify effective outreach efforts to ensure statewide implementation.
3. Develop recommendations on the development of a unified data collection systems for public early childhood and development programs and services (**\$950,000**)
 - Support the development of the Early Learning Information System to ensure additional interfaces with other agencies/organizations so that more stakeholders benefit from real-time data.
4. Develop recommendations on statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood education teachers (**\$1,960,000**)
 - Support the on-going development and implementation of a unified professional development system to support thousands of teachers and professionals in Florida including making available accessible training modules to ensure increased teacher knowledge and education.
5. Assess the capacity and effectiveness of institutes of higher education supporting the development of early childhood educators (**\$575,000**)
 - Provide technical support and outreach to the state's university and community college institutions to assist in streamlining expectations for teachers of young children.
6. Other activities (**\$650,450**)
 - Includes costs for three staff positions, supplies, and travel.

Total Award: \$4,983,079

Goal: Through partnership with across agencies and organizations that work on behalf of young children and their families, the goal of the Advisory Council is that at the end of three years, Florida will have a stronger, more responsive, and more integrated early childhood system. Children and families will receive more coordinated, responsive services and funding will support these priorities.