



State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care



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's State Advisory Council was established in March 2010 by former Governor, Charlie Crist, as an advisory body to the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet.
- Florida was eligible and received \$4.9 million to accomplish the proposed scope of work using the Florida Framework.
- The grant period began September 2010 and ends August 2013.



Purpose & Goal

Purpose: The Florida State Advisory Council is leading 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.

Goal: The State Advisory Council works in partnership with state agencies and statewide organizations on behalf of young children and their families. Its goal is to produce a stronger and more integrated early childhood system for Florida at the end of the three-year grant period. Through grant funding, the State Advisory Council will support its priorities with more coordinated, more responsive services for children and families.

Federal Requirements



To meet the requirements of the grant as described in section 642B of the Head Start Reauthorization Act, the State Advisory Councils shall accomplish the following:

1. Conduct a statewide needs assessment
2. Develop recommendations on increasing participation in child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations
3. Develop recommendations on the development of a unified data collection systems for public early childhood and development programs and services
4. Develop recommendations on statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood education teachers
5. Assess the capacity and effectiveness of institutes of higher education supporting the development of early childhood educators
6. Other activities including costs for three staff positions, supplies and travel
