

Florida's State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care



The State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care serves as an advisory body to the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet.

The Facts

Background

The Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 called for State Governors to designate or establish a council to serve as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care for children from birth to school entry. Florida's State Advisory Council, established in March 2010, is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). This funding is a non-competitive, collaborative, three-year grant to assist states in establishing the Council and facilitating the development or enhancement of high-quality systems of early childhood education and care, designed to improve school preparedness for young children.

Purpose

Florida's State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care will lead the development of a high quality, comprehensive system of early childhood education and care 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.

Award Information: Florida was eligible for and received **\$4.9 million** to accomplish the goals as stated in the application.

Responsibilities

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 periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry;
2. Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among Federally-funded and State-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services;
3. Develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early childhood education programs;
4. Develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system;
5. Develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the State;
6. Assess the capacity and effectiveness of two- and four-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators; and
7. Make recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards.

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.