
Resources and Reform Federal Update



CDPI Fall Forum
October 6, 2009

Mary Beth Salomone
Policy Director
Early Care and Education Consortium

The Early Care and Education Consortium

- Alliance of quality child care and early learning program providers
 - 8000+ programs across the country
 - Enrolling 800,000 children
- Early childhood policy
 - Birth-to-five
 - Policy-making informed by real-world implementation

Obama Administration

- New Administration, New Approach

“The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works...”

President Obama, 1/20/09

- Education reform agenda

1. Investing in early childhood initiatives
 2. Encouraging better standards and assessments
 3. Recruiting, preparing, and rewarding outstanding teachers
 4. Promoting innovation and excellence in America's schools
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111th Congress

- Democratic majorities in House & Senate, but...
 - Rising voices of conservative Democrats in both chambers
 - Eyes on midterm elections
 - Changing leadership
 - Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA): purse and policy
 - House ascendant on education
 - Health reform debate dominates the scene
 - Dollars, calendar time, media
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On The Horizon - Priorities

- Child care and early learning are one of many priorities
 - Congressional calendar is tight
 - Midterm elections, deficit and other issues will increasingly distract
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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

- Emergency, job stimulus effort
 - Parents can't work without child care
 - \$5 billion+ for ECE
 - Child Care: \$2B
 - Early/Head Start: \$2.1B
 - Significant impact
 - State budget cuts would have been worse – but not the silver bullet for ECE sector
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FY10 Appropriations for Child Care

- President's Budget Proposal
 - Flat funding for Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
- House and Senate flat-funded CCDBG, too
- Next steps:
 - Full Senate vote needed, Conference Committee to work out the differences
 - Continuing Resolution until end of October

FY10 Appropriations for Child Care

- “Didn’t you just get \$2 billion in ARRA? Why would you need more?”
 - *Very clear need for more education on the Hill*
- Tension: resources before reform vs no resources until reform

FY11 Appropriations Beginning


- Process begins early with the agencies
 - If Secretary doesn't include a CCDBG or Head Start "ask" in budget proposal, President won't include it either
 - Coalition letter to HHS Secretary Sebelius
 - Meetings with Administration officials
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Early Learning Challenge Fund

- Obama Campaign idea that appeared in Administration's FY10 Budget Proposal
 - Authorizing language: Student aid reform legislation
 - Cost savings would pay for Challenge Fund: \$8B/8yrs
 - Competitive grants to states
 - Strong focus on quality, systems
 - Not about increasing the numbers served, but about making sure those served are in good quality settings
 - Birth-to-five, not just one age group
 - All settings, not just one type
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Early Learning Challenge Fund Status

- Passed the House of Representatives
- Senate Committee still drafting their version
 - October 15 deadline for reconciliation?



The screenshot shows an email newsletter from the Early Care and Education Consortium. The header features the organization's logo (three stylized figures) and the tagline "the voice of quality early care and education" next to a close-up photo of a child's face. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, About ECEC, Issues in Focus, Federal Action Center, Contact Us, and Board Only. A sign-up section for the newsletter includes an "Email Address" field and a "Submit" button. The main content area has a yellow background with a colorful mosaic pattern and the text "Early Care and Education Consortium E-News". The primary message is titled "Take Action Today! House to Vote on Challenge Fund Legislation this Week!" and discusses the importance of the Early Learning Challenge Fund for child care providers. It includes a call to action: "The US House of Representatives will vote on this legislation THIS WEEK! Your Representative needs to hear from you now about how important this investment really is to helping states direct resources toward improving and maintaining quality." A link is provided to "Click here to send an email to your Representative asking for support for the legislation, and support for the work you do." The email concludes with "To learn more about the bill, please visit our [Federal Legislation](#) page." and "Thank you! Sincerely, The ECEC Staff". At the bottom, there are links for "Forward to a Friend", "Unsubscribe", and "Update Profile".

Rising Expectations

■ Crossroads

- Education vs development: what is meant by “ECE”
- Funding sufficient to achieve effectiveness
 - Quality counts *and* quality costs!
- Developing state systems amid government program silos
 - Recognizing how families and children experience need for care and learning – not just one year or one plane of development
 - Recognizing realities affecting direct service providers

Child Care and Development Block Grant

- CCDBG doesn't only need funding – it needs a policy review
 - Last reauthorization was in 1996!
 - Congress has been punting since 2002
- Access and quality
 - Reimbursement rates as an access issue AND a quality issue
 - Continuing resources vs reform tension

Agenda for Child Care

- Broad plan for reforming child care
 - Birth-to-five proposal, the whole picture
 - Expand access
 - Reimbursement at 75th percentile or higher
 - Licensing requirements incl. 40 hours of pre-service training and 24 hours of on-going training
 - Quality set aside, infant toddler set aside, provisions for QRIS
- A shared vision
 - Major national ECE organizations developed and support

Agenda for Child Care

Child care develops America's potential. Child care helps children, families, and communities prosper. Children in child care learn and develop skills they need to succeed in school and in life. Child care is a basic that helps families get ahead by giving parents the support and peace of mind they need to be productive at work. And child care helps our nation stay competitive, with a stronger work force now and in the future. When America supports child care, we encourage children, families, and our nation to reach their full potential.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

- Child Nutrition Act up for reauthorization in 2009
 - Mandatory programs have a hard expiration date of September 30
 - Short-term extension of the Child Nutrition Act
 - Child Nutrition Act includes school breakfast and lunch, WIC, CACFP, others
 - President's budget proposal included an increase of \$1 billion for child nutrition
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CACFP Priorities

- Find the dollars to *at least* increase based on President's budget proposal (\$1 billion)
 - More would be good...
 - Increase the reimbursement rates for meals and snacks
 - Add another meal service
 - Right now, two meals and a snack – add another meal or snack. Children are in child care long hours
 - Change “tiering” to help family child care providers
 - The thresholds don't make sense
 - Streamline and reduce paperwork
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Other Issues on the Horizon

- Reauthorization of TANF
 - Work supports include child care
- Reauthorization of NCLB
 - Prospects for Title I preK?

In short...

- Administration's bold move to include early childhood funding in a "jobs" bill
 - Bold, but lots of other (powerful) issues and constituencies on the calendar and pulling for resources
 - We need to keep pushing
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Contact Us

Mary Beth Salomone

msalomone@ececonsortium.org

(202) 408-9623



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