

Bright Futures

Early Childhood Developments in the States

FALL 2008

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In This Edition

This edition of *Bright Futures* highlights 12 states that have received grants to support the development of an Early Childhood Advisory Council. Other features of this edition include announcements of state early childhood system developments and recent publications. *Bright Futures: Early Childhood Developments in the States* is an activity of the Birth to Five Policy Alliance and is supported by the Buffett Early Childhood Fund.



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12 States Plan for the Development and Expansion of Early Childhood Advisory Councils

In April 2008, the NGA Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) awarded 12 states \$10,000 grants to support early childhood advisory councils (ECACs) in **Alabama, Connecticut, Colorado, Guam, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania** and **West Virginia**.

The purpose of these grants is to support states in executing critical tasks associated with the formation or implementation of a new or existing ECAC. The intent of these collaborative bodies is to advance a state policy agenda for at-risk children ages birth to five and promote linkages to early care and education, family support, health, mental health, and other developmental services. The grants also will assist states in meeting the provisions of the Improving the Head Start Act of 2007, which requires governors to create or designate a collaborative body to coordinate resources and build greater coherence among federal and state early childhood programs and services.

As the chief executive officer of state government, gov-

ernors are in a unique position to promote collaboration across state agencies. Gubernatorial leadership is often a primary factor in bringing together top administrators to create a coordinated and comprehensive state early childhood system of supports.

This grant is a part of the NGA Center's activities with the Birth to Five Policy Alliance and is supported by the Buffett Early Childhood Fund.

The following is a summary of state grantee highlights:

Emerging Development

States are at various points of ECAC development. Several states are moving to examine existing opportunities for collaboration and gaps that need to be bridged in preparation for the formation of an ECAC. This inclusive process will allow stakeholders to craft long term and short term plans for creating a statewide early childhood system.

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12 States Plan for the Development and Expansion of ECACs



Alabama

Governor Bob Riley has recently proposed tripling access to “First Class Pre-K,” the state-funded high-quality preschool program for four-year olds, by 2010-11. The Alabama Office of School Readiness has been charged with ensuring a smooth expansion of First Class Pre-K and developing an effective, efficient system of early care and education that ensures children are ready to enter school.

The proposed Alabama Early Childhood Advisory Council will bring the Office of School Readiness, the Head Start Collaboration Office, Department of Human Resources, State’s Children Policy Councils, and Early Care and Education Partners together to develop a plan for at-risk children birth to five. In the short-term, the ECAC will reorganize existing early childhood programs and provide recommendations on a structure for a comprehensive early childhood system. In the long-term, the ECAC will work towards expanding the early childhood system to improve the quality of services and child outcomes.

The state of Alabama plans to use grant funds for three proposed activities, each aligned to one or more of the ECAC goals. At a kick-off meeting, the ECAC will bring together all Early Care and Education partners to create a unified vision for the council and refine the state’s action agenda for early childhood. A subsequent two-day intensive planning meeting will allow the ECAC to identify gaps, inefficiencies, duplication of efforts, and opportunities for leveraging resources, which will then inform the ECACs recommendations for an early childhood system. Later this year, Governor Riley will host an Early Childhood Summit to unveil the new system for Early Care and Education and distribute publications outlining the vision, process of development, and expected outcomes of implementing the new system.

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Colorado

Both Governor Bill Ritter and Lieutenant Governor Barbara O’Brien are focused on improving young children’s physical, social, literacy, and cognitive development. Major efforts over the past year toward this goal include expansion of state-funded pre-kindergarten for at-risk 3- and 4-year old children, the first substantial state investment in full-day kindergarten, and expanded access to children’s health insurance. The state is also working to develop an early childhood system at both the state level and through a state-wide network of local early childhood councils.

A commitment to young children’s learning and development is evidenced by multiple collaborative initiatives designed to build an early childhood system in the state. These efforts demonstrate a need in the state for a clearly defined high-level and high-functioning body whose mission is to ensure that the multiple efforts work in concert with one another, aligning their goals and efforts so that limited resources are maximized and mutual outcomes for families and children are achieved.

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Unlike many other states, Colorado’s ECAC will address early learning, health, mental health, and family support/parent education *and* it will address services and supports for children from birth to age 8. This “straddling” of both the traditional early childhood and K-12 age groups will require significant planning in order to support concerted decision-making while maintaining the individual autonomy of independent agencies and entities.

The Early Childhood team in the Lieutenant Governor’s office will use the grant funds to hire a consultant from a state with a well-established ECAC to aid in Colorado’s efforts to determine the mission, constitution and activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council. The planning team will develop a strategic plan for the ECAC that will be vetted with key stakeholders at meetings during the summer and fall of 2008. Grant funds will also support the printing and dissemination of the final strategic plan.

Nevada



Currently Nevada has at least four councils or boards that address issues related to at-risk children ages birth to five and promote linkages to family support, health, mental health, and other developmental services. Nevada will establish a new Early Childhood Advisory Council after exploring the membership and initiatives of each of the existing councils and boards to determine whether they can be folded together to efficiently facilitate the development of a streamlined policy agenda for children birth to five in time for Governor Jim Gibbons’s 2009 biennial legislative session.

Nevada will use the grant funds to host meetings with the members of the existing coordinating entities in the state and potential new members of the ECAC to determine recommendations for the composition and policy areas of the new council. The Coordinator of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant and the Head Start State Collaboration Office Director will also host face-to-face meetings with individuals representing the various groups or agencies to get their input for developing the council, recruiting members, and drafting recommendations for a comprehensive policy agenda for at-risk children ages birth to five that Governor Gibbons supports.

The resulting ECAC will address how federal and state funding can be braided to sustain Nevada’s ECAC and the mechanisms by which a unified data collection system will be developed. The ECAC will then define a coordinated and comprehensive infrastructure for early childhood systems, including integrated data systems and evaluation efforts to inform decisions, holding decision makers and stakeholders accountable for measurable results.

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12 States Plan for the Development and Expansion of ECACs

Expanding on Existing Development

Several states have already executed some of the initial steps in creating an ECAC, but the governor has not yet formally identified this entity. These states will continue to build on existing developments in working toward the development of an officially recognized ECAC to coordinate services for young children.

Iowa

Governor Culver and Lieutenant Governor Patty Judge have established a Leadership Agenda for their administration that highlights the importance of ensuring children arrive to school ready to learn, have access to high-quality health care and mental health services, and are raised in safe communities. To achieve this vision, Iowa is committed to building a comprehensive early childhood system throughout the state.



Over the past five years, Iowa has worked to develop a state-level early care, health, and education system through the efforts of the statewide organization, Early Childhood Iowa (ECI). The goal of ECI, which serves as the state's early childhood advisory council, is to cultivate public and private partnerships to enhance the coordination, collaboration, and commitment for system integration for children ages zero to five and their families. ECI is now focused on connecting state-level systems building efforts in and among the state's 58 local Community Empowerment Areas (CEAs).

Governor Chet Culver's office and Early Childhood Iowa will use the grant funds to conduct five regional trainings for the 58 local Community Empowerment Areas on systems development and planning for children ages birth to five and their families. Each area prepared a community system assessment in advance and worked on results-based accountability strategies during the regional meetings. Each Community Empowerment Area left their regional meeting with new strategies and tools to inform systems building efforts at the state level.

Maryland

In 2002, the Governor's Children's Cabinet was charged with the responsibility for ensuring all children in Maryland arrive to kindergarten ready to learn. To lead this work, the cabinet created the Early Care and Education Committee, which is responsible for establishing a planning and accountability process for the state's five-year school readiness Action Agenda and serves as the state's early childhood advisory council. Maryland has just completed the five-year school readiness Action Agenda and is transitioning to a new three-year Children's Plan. Additionally, in 2005 the General Assembly created the Division of Early Childhood Development within the Depart-



ment of Education to coordinate all early care and education programs in the state.

Maryland will use the grant to support the ECE Committee in developing a strategic plan for at-risk children ages birth to five that builds upon the progress made in the 2002-07 school Action Agenda. To develop this plan, Maryland will coordinate with the state's Children and Family Services Plan for at-risk children in grades 3 and above, the Division of Early Childhood Development's plan for early care and education, the Head Start Collaboration Project, and the Governor's Pre-K to 20 Leadership Council. The state will also conduct a quality and accessibility study of existing programs.

The grant funds will be used to hold ECE Committee Meetings with facilitators and consultants to develop the three year strategic plan. Maryland will also convene four statewide meetings of the ECE Committee to develop the new strategic plan to promote school readiness. Finally, Maryland will publish and disseminate a document that describes Maryland's three-year strategic plan for at-risk children ages birth to five.

Ohio



In March 2007, newly elected Governor Ted Strickland established an Early Childhood Cabinet to set and coordinate state policy and programs serving Ohio children ages prenatal to age six. The governor has charged the cabinet with ensuring all children have access to high quality early childhood experiences so that every child is socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually prepared to use his or her capabilities to succeed.

Ohio has also just created an Advisory Group to the Early Childhood Cabinet, which will serve as the state's early childhood advisory council. The Advisory Group is focused on policy, program design or redesign, and accountability.

Goals of the Advisory Group include advising the cabinet on policy and resource development priorities; assisting in ongoing communication strategies, relating existing stakeholder groups to Early Childhood Cabinet; and ensuring the state complies with the requirements of Head Start Reauthorization.

Ohio will use grant funds to support the inaugural meetings of the advisory council where recommended policy and budget priorities will be developed for the upcoming biennial budget through a facilitated process.

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12 States Plan for the Development and Expansion of ECACs



West Virginia

Governor Joe Manchin is focused on coordinating early childhood policies, programs, and resources that will ensure every West Virginia child receives the best possible chance to be healthy and ready to learn. The West Virginia Partners Implementing an Early Care and Education System (PIECES) Advisory Council, the state's early childhood advisory council, has primary responsibility for

coordinating birth to five early care and education programs and services.

West Virginia will use the grant funds to advance the work of the PIECES Governance Committee. The Governance Committee will create recommendations on a governing structure for West Virginia's early care and education system. These recommendations were provided to Governor Manchin in the summer of 2008. Once adopted PIECES will begin implementation of the recommended governance structure. Initial activities will include hiring consultants to assist in the ongoing activities of the Governance Committee to engage and educate key stakeholders on the importance and benefits of investing in early childhood.

The PIECES Council has a collaborative partnership with the state's ECCS team, P-20 Council and Vision Shared, the state's entity responsible for implementing West Virginia's economic development strategy.

Formally Recognized ECACs

Three grantee states have formally recognized ECACs. There are multiple methods of establishing a council, including statutory language, executive order, or expanding the mission of existing agencies through a memorandum of understanding.



Connecticut

In 2006 the Connecticut legislature created in statute the Early Childhood Education Cabinet, which was recently designated by the governor as the state's early childhood advisory council. Also in 2006, Governor M. Jodi Rell created by executive order, the Governor's Early Childhood Research and Policy Council. Together, these bodies are responsible for moving the state toward a coordinated, comprehensive, effective, and accountable system for children ages birth to age nine.

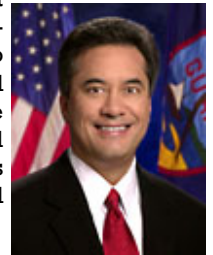
The goals of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet are to ensure that babies born in 2006-07 and beyond 1) reach age appropriate milestones each year, birth to five; 2) enter kindergarten healthy and ready for school success and 3) achieve the state's expected academic goal for reading performance in the 4th grade. The Cabinet will pursue the following two activities to support these goals.

Connecticut will host intensive and facilitated working sessions aimed to improve the collaborative decision making and man-

agement process for the cabinet. These discussions will identify barriers to sharing data, providing fully transparent fiscal information, cross-agency funding opportunities, sharing family outreach resources, and utilizing formal cross-agency agreements to fully leverage the state's efforts to improve child outcomes. The cabinet will also establish a working group on birth to five early childhood systems-building that will develop policy, practice, and partnership recommendations which will be presented to the cabinet and the governor in the fall of 2008.

Guam

Coordination and collaboration is significant to Guam as it prepares for a 20 percent population increase over the next decade due to the impending relocation of the U.S. Armed Forces in Okinawa, Japan to the territory. The impact of this population increase affects all aspects of island life, including the services and supports targeted for young children and their families.



In 2008 Governor Felix Camacho established by executive order Guam's Early Learning Council to coordinate and integrate, at a systems level, the many health and education services across public and private agencies in meeting the needs of all young children, including children at-risk, and their families. The council is also responsible for expanding and refining Guam's policy agenda for early learning for children ages birth to five.

Guam will use grant funds to develop the infrastructure for the Guam Early Learning Council to promote best practices in the early years. This summer, Governor Camacho will host an Early Childhood Summit to gather input and recommendations on the Early Learning Council's strategic plan.

The work of the Early Learning Council will be informed by the territory's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems plan, funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the territory's own Comprehensive Plan for Early Childhood Care and Education.

Maine

Governor Baldacci's policy agenda for Maine children and families is focused on making Maine the healthiest state in the nation through systems that promote healthy children, healthy families, and healthy communities. His early childhood agenda addresses both Maine's economy and school readiness--creating economic opportunity, meeting the workforce demands of Maine's business sector, and providing businesses the highest level of skill and productivity while at the same time making certain that children start school thriving and excited about learning. These goals signal the importance of linking Maine's economic policies to early childhood and to building new and different relationships between the private sector and government.

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12 States Plan for the Development and Expansion of ECACs

In his State-of-the-State Address in January 2008, Governor Baldacci announced that he would transform his existing Task Force on Early Childhood into the Maine Children's Growth Council. Chaired by First Lady, Karen Baldacci, the Task Force has been working on early childhood systems change since 2003 under the Maine Children's Cabinet and the Maternal and Child Health Early Childhood Systems Initiative.

In April, the governor signed into law the Maine Children's-Growth Council to implement a long-term plan for investment in the healthy development of Maine's youngest children and their families. It will work toward systems change and programmatic improvements in five domains that affect children's lives – family, health, early care and education, community collaboration, and state-level leadership.

In June 2008, Governor Baldacci established the Business Roundtable on Early Childhood Investment to work in conjunction with the Children's Growth Council on innovative business strategies to support early childhood. The roundtable will engage leadership from Maine businesses to determine a variety of public-private partnerships that can help finance Maine's early childhood system at the state and local levels. By 2009, they will present to the governor a set of priority recommendations for financing early childhood investment. Maine will use the grant funds to implement a plan to transform the task force into the Maine Children's Growth Council and to support the work of the Business Roundtable on Early Childhood Investment.



Pennsylvania

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) is an integrated single office of both the Departments of Education and Public Welfare, which houses all of Pennsylvania's early childhood programs. Through systems planning efforts, monitoring and accountability; standards for programs and practitioners; support to meet and maintain standards; engagement and outreach; and financial supports, Governor Rendell and OCDEL are working to create a quality early education continuum that provides positive outcomes for children, families and communities.

Pennsylvania's Early Childhood Advisory Council (currently known as the OCDEL Advisory Committee) plays a leadership role in assuring consistency between the governor's policy framework and the systems building work by identifying gaps and opportunities to strengthen this work, which OCDEL then addresses in policy and practices.

With the rapid growth and development of Pennsylvania's early learning programs, Pennsylvania will use this grant to conduct a strategic review of the composition and goals of the ECAC and each of the related advisory committees as they relate to the state's systems building efforts. Specifically, Pennsylvania will use grant funds to hire a consultant that will assist the state in developing plans to sustain the progress made for young children in the last few years.

Kansas

Governor Kathleen Sebelius, the state legislature, business leaders, and early childhood communities are coordinating efforts to develop an early childhood system for at-risk children ages birth to five.



In 2007 the Kansas legislature created the Early Learning Coordinating Council (ELCC), which serves as the state's early childhood advisory council. The ELCC provides oversight for the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (KECCS) Plan, which was the work of more than 150 early childhood stakeholders. A working group of the ELCC will use this grant to respond to the governor's and legislature's request for recommendations on a governance structure for early childhood programs that:

- Supports more effective partnerships between state programs;
- Promotes more efficient use of state resources within local communities; and
- Addresses significant capacity issues, insurance for all children, an infant-toddler mental health system, universal early care and education, parent education, and a streamlined service delivery system that families can access easily.

Kansas will use the grant funds to hire consultants to inform the work of the ELCC Working Group and assist in the development of recommendations to the governor and legislature. Grant funds will also support the meeting costs of the working group and the publication and dissemination of the resulting recommendations.



Recent State ECAC Developments

Minnesota Designates Early Education Advisory Council Through Executive Order

In September 2008, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty signed an executive order creating the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (Early Childhood Advisory Council). The governor's executive order was needed to formally create the advisory council and define the administrative parameters for the advisory council. The newly designated body will include legislators as members of the council.

The council will consist of at least 15 members including the State Head Start Collaboration Director. The governor will appoint at least nine members, and the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate will each appoint two members from their respective bodies. Two members of the committee will be parents with a child under the age of six. Members will also include representatives of state agencies responsible for child care, education including special education, higher education institutions, and health programs. At least three members will be representatives from local programs including early childhood education and development services, schools, and Head Start. The governor will also balance the membership of the council across characteristics of geography, race, ethnicity, age and gender.

The Early Childhood Advisory Council will make recommendations on the most efficient and effective way to leverage state and federal funding streams for early childhood and child care programs, advise on the coordination or collocation of early childhood and child care programs in one state Office of Early Learning, and review program evaluations regarding high-quality early childhood programs. The Council will also make recommendations around proposed legislation on how to most effectively create a high-quality early childhood system in Minnesota to improve the school readiness and educational outcomes of children by 2020.

For more information, visit: <http://www.governor.state.mn.us/>.



Pennsylvania Creates Two New Early Childhood Education Panels

Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell has signed two executive orders to establish the Pennsylvania Early Learning Council and the Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission. The new panels will build on Pennsylvania's existing early childhood education initiatives by increasing involvement from business and civic leaders, and enhancing public awareness throughout the state.

The Early Learning Council will develop recommendations to guide the expansion of effective early learning and development services for Pennsylvania's young children and their families. Its membership will include representatives of educational and business organizations, higher education, Head Start, local government, law enforcement agencies and the media. Members of the council will serve three-year terms.

The Early Learning Investment Commission will engage Pennsylvania's business leaders around early childhood education by hosting an economic summit on early childhood investment, and recommending strategies for continuing to involve business and state leaders in education planning and advocacy. Commission members, also selected to serve three-year terms, will include business leaders, as well as the secretaries of Education, Public Welfare, Community and Economic Development, Budget, and Planning and Policy.

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), which bridges the departments of Education and Public Welfare, will provide staff and support services to both the council and commission.

Approximately 800 stakeholders provided input on the development of the two newly created panels. This process was supported by a grant from the NGA Center for Best Practices, in conjunction with the Birth to Five Policy Alliance and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund.

To view the press release, visit: <http://www.governor.state.pa.us/>.

Resources for Action

CLASP Releases Research and Tools to Support State Policy Improvements for Babies in Child Care

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) Charting Progress for Babies in Child Care project has released research and tools intended to help states improve the supply of quality early childhood care for infants and toddlers. These "rationales" are rooted in research on infant/toddler development and also include demographic data on infants and toddlers, state and national research, and state examples demonstrating policy change.

So far, rationales for six of the fifteen key recommendations of the Charting Progress for Babies in Child Care Policy Framework, developed by CLASP and ZERO TO THREE and released earlier this year, are available:

- "Support continuous relationships between providers and caregivers and the children they care for, from when they enter child care to age three."
- "Recruit, maintain, and support diverse and culturally sensitive infant and toddler providers and caregivers."
- "Ensure that babies and toddlers in centers are in small groups with sufficient numbers of providers."
- "Ensure that babies and toddlers in family child care are in small groups with sufficient numbers of providers."
- "Build the supply of high-quality infant and toddler child care."
- "Promote stable, quality care for babies and toddlers through subsidy policy."

To view CLASP Charting Progress for Babies in Child Care materials, visit:

<http://www.childcareandearlyed.clasp.org/babiesinchildcare.html>.



New Updates to Improving the Odds State Profiles

The National Center for Children in Poverty has posted new state profiles, which include the latest statistics from the U.S. Census for low-income and poor children. The data show that the numbers of low-income and poor children continue to increase in most states.

View the updated *Improving the Odds* state profiles at http://www.nccp.org/profiles/early_childhood.html.

You can also view 50-state demographic data for all children or young children (under age six) through the Demographic Wizard at <http://www.nccp.org/tools/.demographics/>.

New Papers Examine Various Program Impacts and Pose Recommendations

Julia B. Isaacs, a Child and Family Policy Fellow at the Brookings Institution and a Fellow with First Focus, recently published *Impacts of Early Childhood Programs and Supporting Young Children and Families*. The first paper examines the research on several early childhood interventions – Head Start, State PreK, Early Head Start, Model Early Childhood Programs, and Nurse Home Visiting – and program impacts on children and families.

The second paper recommends that three principles guide governmental action as federal policy makers take steps to support comprehensive early childhood policies and programs:

- Investing in programs with proved effectiveness;
- Targeting resources; and
- Demonstrating respect for parents.

To view the papers, visit: http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/09_early_programs_isaacs.aspx?emc=lm&m=218458&l=1&v=251341.

Resources for Action

National Academies of Science Report Calls for Socio-Emotional Skills Assessment

A new report from the National Academy of Sciences asserts that early education programs' quality should be assessed based on their impact on children's academic skills as well as the development of social and emotional skills.

While well-planned assessments can inform teaching, poorly planned assessments or misuse of the results can be detrimental to both children and programs. The report urges extreme caution in basing high-stakes decisions. Models that link yearly progress assessments to explicitly defined academic content areas for children would be inappropriate, because well-defined academic content areas are not characteristic of excellent care and education for younger children.

The report offers principles to guide the design, implementation, and use of assessments in early childhood settings. States should specify whether an assessment will be used to help teachers gauge the progress of individual children or to help public agencies decide whether to continue a program's funding. Before penalizing a program, consideration should be given to other factors, such as whether a program has been given enough resources to meet standards, the report said. The report concludes that effective assessment also must be part of a larger system, which should include:

- Clearly articulated standards for what children should learn and what constitutes a quality program;
- Professional development opportunities;
- Training to familiarize policymakers, teachers, and administrators with standards and assessments; and
- Continuous monitoring to ensure that all elements of the system are working together to serve the interests of the children.

To view the report, visit: <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=12446>.

NGA Center Releases Governor's Guide to Public-Private Partnerships Report

In June, the NGA Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) released *Partnering with the Private and Philanthropic Sectors: A Governor's Guide to Investing in Early Childhood*. Governors recognize that promoting school readiness is a key strategy for preventing school failure and subsequent costs to society in the form of remedial education services, health and social services, criminal justice services, and lost tax revenue. In 2005, the NGA Center for Best Practices' Task Force on School Readiness identified actions that governors and states can take to support families, schools, and communities in their efforts to ensure all children begin school ready to reach their full potential. Governors identified the impact of early investments in the school readiness equation—children who are healthy and ready to learn when they enter kindergarten have a better chance for school and life success. The task force also concluded that "[a]chieving school readiness cannot be accomplished by any single agency or individual. It requires public-private partnerships and strong leadership from governors."

In recent years, several governors have partnered with private and philanthropic leaders to maximize funding and achieve positive outcomes for young children. This guide describes the nature and activities of such early childhood public-private partnerships (partnerships). It aims to help governors and state policymakers navigate through the decisions they will make if they wish to pursue such partnerships in their own state. Detailed profiles describing the governance, funding, programming, and evaluation of the 11 state early childhood public-private partnerships referenced throughout the guide can be found in the appendix.

To view the guide, visit:

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0806PARTNERINGEDUCATION.PDF>



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The NGA Center for Best Practices

The NGA Center for Best Practices is the nation's only dedicated consulting firm for governors and their key policy staff. The Center's mission is to develop and implement innovative solutions to public policy challenges. The Early Childhood Projects Team at the NGA Center assists governors seeking to implement a birth-to-five policy agenda that supports families, schools, and communities in their efforts to ensure all children start school ready to reach their full potential.

This newsletter, *Bright Futures: Early Childhood Developments in the States*, is supported by the Buffett Early Childhood Fund.

Contact Us

If you have been forwarded this email and would like to subscribe to the list, please email Rachel Demma at rdemma@nga.org

Updates On the NGA Center Web Site

In Winter 2009, the NGA Center will release two issue briefs focused on ECACs. The first brief will examine ECAC development and provide recommendations for governors about generating stakeholder involvement, crafting a meaningful mission and vision, and maximizing impact and outcomes. The second brief will explore the infrastructure that these coordinating bodies lend to state governance.

Also, stay tuned for a new ECAC state directory to be published on the NGA Center website in Spring 2009!

For more information on all of the NGA Center's Early Childhood activities, visit <http://www.nga.org/center/earlychild>.

For more information on the Birth to Five Policy Alliance visit: <http://www.birthtofivepolicy.org/>