



Synthesis of State Strategies & Key Actions

Strengthening State Systems to
Promote Early Childhood Development:
Taking it to the Next Level

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January 19, 2007

PROJECT
THRIVE



Linking Policies for Child Health,
Early Learning, and Family Support

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Early Learning, and Family Support

Established at the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP), **Project THRIVE** is a public policy analysis and education initiative to promote healthy child development.

This work is supported through a cooperative agreement with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, HRSA-DHHS.



Strategies & Actions: Finance (1)

- Conduct fiscal scans & fiscal mapping
- Look for ways to maximize existing funds
 - Matching federal dollars
 - Reducing duplication in administrative costs
 - Sharing resources, cross-system
- Use results-accountability framework



Strategies & Actions: Finance (2)

- Get dedicated or alternative funding
 - New taxes, trust funds, etc.
 - Florida ad valorem (1 cent tax),
 - Louisiana tax credit
 - Arizona tobacco tax initiative
 - Corporate and philanthropic funding
 - Washington State



Strategies & Actions: Finance (3)

- Create incentives for local systems
- Reduce federal policy barriers
 - Get waivers
 - Learn how others have consolidated
- Focus on specific populations at risk and decide how to fund services for that portion of the system of systems
 - e.g., ECMH, multi-risk families, 0-3



Strategies & Actions: Finance (4)

- Build support for increased investment
- Use economic arguments, return on investment
- Show cost of remediation compared to prevention



Strategies & Actions: Governance (1)

STATE LEVEL

- Formalize interagency groups
- Get more buy-in at cabinet level
- Inform changing administration
- Mechanisms to do cross-system data analysis



Strategies & Actions: Governance (2)

LOCAL LEVEL

- Support local/regional planning
- Provide incentives grants for local systems development
- Balance local flexibility with State accountability



Strategies & Actions: Governance (3)

- Study other state models
- Consolidate functions into a “child development” or “early childhood” unit
- Use MOU & RFP as mechanisms



Strategies & Actions: Provider Support (1)

- Connect professional development to standards
 - QRS
 - Benchmarks
- Create core curriculum on early childhood to use across systems
- “Raise the Bar on Quality” – create a better understanding of what quality is



Strategies & Actions: Provider Support (2)

- Assess what providers want and need
- Determine existing capacity relative to access gaps and needs
- Look at broad picture of professional development, not just ECE
- Link with higher education



Strategies & Actions: Provider Support (3)

- Cross-system, in-service training
 - Health, nutrition, physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development
 - Cross-system group of professionals
 - ECE, Part C, child welfare, etc.
 - Link to core curriculum



Accountability

- Common assessment tools
- Common quality standards
- Do more RBA & performance monitoring of system and evaluation of programs
- Get federal agencies to request/require greater collaboration



Other

- Public engagement campaigns
- Clarify mission of the work
- Broaden group working on systems development
- Head Start
 - Mechanisms to link to Pre-K
 - More linkage to ECCS



BUILD COMMON GROUND

- Common assessment tools
- Common quality standards
- Common goals/measures/indicators



Assessing State Progress

	System Integration
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• System of systems approach• Cross-sector plan• Emphasis on mechanisms for systems integration• Parallel emphasis across sectors (health, mental health, early care and education)• Cross-sector fiscal planning
LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Still trying to get cross-systems communication going• Cataloging, not integrating• Plan primarily focused on MCH programs• State primarily focused on Pre-K or preschool education• Continuing to focus primarily on Healthy Child Care



Assessing State Progress

	Governance and Structural Mechanisms
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formally established, cross-sector ECCS group• Structures to support local systems integration• Cabinet-level leadership involved• Parent leaders engaged• A public-private entity is established and funded.• Operational program or policy goals linked to specific strategies
LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informally convened planning or implementation group• MCH-centric group, with only nominal engagement of MH, ECE, etc.• No structures to support local systems work.• No senior official buy in



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