

### **Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV):**

Alaska's Maternal, Infant, & Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Grant is required to have a statewide advisory body. The Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC) currently serves in that role. The MIECHV program gives pregnant women and families, particularly those considered at-risk, necessary resources and skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn. The goals are to improve maternal and child health outcomes, prevent child abuse and neglect, encourage positive parenting skills, and to promote child development and school readiness. Since 2012, the Division of Public Health, Section of Women's, Children's & Family Health has been contracting with Providence In-Home Services to implement the Nurse-Family Partnership model of home visiting within the Municipality of Anchorage and Mat-Su Boroughs. They strive to embed this program into the system of services for the early childhood population.

### **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG):**

The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG) is the law that authorizes the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program. The CCDBG Act was reauthorized in November 2014. The reauthorization enhanced the statutory purposes of the CCDF program to better balance the dual purposes of promoting children's healthy development and school success, and support parents who are working or in training or education. CCDF is the primary federal funding source devoted to families with low incomes who are working or participating in education and training by helping them pay for child care and improving the quality of child care for all children. In addition, CCDF funds support state and Tribal initiatives to improve the quality of child care for all children in our nation. The CCDF child care program is comprised by three broad and overlapping areas of services: Child care financial assistance (subsidy), health and safety, and quality improvement activities.

### **Head Start:**

HEAD START COLLABORATION; STATE EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE [42 U.S.C. 9837b]

Sec. 642B. (a)(1) From amounts made available under section 640(a)(2)(B)(vi), the Secretary shall award the collaboration grants described in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4).

(b)(1)(A) The Governor of the State shall--

(i) 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 (in this subchapter referred to as the State Advisory Council'); and

(ii) designate an individual to coordinate activities of the State Advisory Council, as described in subparagraph (D)(i).

(B) The Governor may designate an existing entity in the State to serve as the State Advisory Council and shall appoint representatives to the State Advisory Council at the Governor's discretion.

In designating an existing entity, the Governor shall take steps to ensure that its membership includes, to the extent possible, representatives consistent with subparagraph (C).

(C) Members of the State Advisory Council shall include, to the maximum extent possible--

- (i) a representative of the State agency responsible for child care;
- (ii) a representative of the State educational agency;
- (iii) a representative of local educational agencies;
- (iv) a representative of institutions of higher education in the State;
- (v) a representative of local providers of early childhood education and development services;
- (vi) a representative from Head Start agencies located in the State, including migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start programs;
- (vii) the State Director of Head Start Collaboration;
- (viii) a representative of the State agency responsible for programs under section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.);
- (ix) a representative of the State agency responsible for health or mental health care; and
- (x) representatives of other entities determined to be relevant by the Governor of the State.

(D)(i) The State Advisory Council shall, in addition to any responsibilities assigned to the Council by the Governor of the State--

- (I) 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, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten services for low-income children in the State;
- (II) 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, including collaboration and coordination among State agencies responsible for administering such programs;
- (III) develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;
- (IV) develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the State;

(V) develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the State;

(VI) assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or pre kindergarten program; and

(VII) make recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate.

(ii) The State Advisory Council shall hold public hearings and provide an opportunity for public comment on the activities described in clause (i). The State Advisory Council shall submit a statewide strategic report addressing the activities described in clause (i) to the State Director of Head Start Collaboration and the Governor of the State.

(iii) After submission of a statewide strategic report under clause (ii), the State Advisory Council shall meet periodically to review any implementation of the recommendations in such report and any changes in State and local needs.

(2)(A) The Secretary shall use the portion reserved under section 640(a)(4)(A)(iii) to award, on a competitive basis, one-time startup grants of not less than \$500,000 to eligible States to enable such States to pay for the Federal share of developing and implementing a plan pursuant to the responsibilities included under paragraph (1)(D)(i). A State that receives funds under this paragraph shall use such funds to facilitate the development or enhancement of high-quality systems of early childhood education and care designed to improve school preparedness through one or more of the following activities--

(i) promoting school preparedness of children from birth through school entry, including activities to encourage families and caregivers to engage in highly interactive, developmentally and age-appropriate activities to improve children's early social, emotional, and cognitive development, support the transition of young children to school, and foster parental and family involvement in the early education of young children;

(ii) supporting professional development, recruitment, and retention initiatives for early childhood educators;

(iii) enhancing existing early childhood education and development programs and services (in existence on the date on which the grant involved is awarded), including quality improvement activities authorized under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990

**Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Renewal (PDG B-5):**

Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC) promotes positive development, improved health outcomes, and school readiness for children by creating a culturally responsive, comprehensive and accessible service delivery system. The AECCC will act as the advisory body for the Preschool

Development Grant Birth through Five Renewal, starting in January 2023. This grant will promote an integrated B-5 Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) system through the following programmatic approaches:

- Promote an integrated B-5 ECCE system
- Support the early childhood workforce
- Expand meaningful community and family engagement and leadership
- Ensure inclusion of children with, or at risk of, disabilities
- Address suspension, expulsions, exclusion
- Incorporate trauma-informed approaches
- Develop coordinated application, eligibility, and enrollment system
- Align with Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) activities
- Support effective and appropriate transitions birth through kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Build-infant-toddler care capacity
- Provide services to underserved children