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Highlights

HHS Proposes New Regulations to Implement CCDBG and Finalizes State CCDF Plan Preprint

Before the end of 2015, the US Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released its draft of revised federal regulations for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) based on the program's reauthorization in 2014. The draft regulations are on public display in the [Federal Register](#) with comments being accepted until February 22, 2016. ACF complemented the release of the regulations with new resources on its [CCDF Reauthorization Webpage](#), including a list of areas in which ACF is specifically seeking comment.

Additionally, the Office of Child Care (OCC) announced the publication of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) FY 2016-2018 [Final Plan Preprint for States and Territories](#) after multiple rounds of public comment. Accompanying Program Instruction and other technical resources also available at the [CCDF Reauthorization Webpage](#).

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Federal Updates

State of the Union

President Barack Obama delivered his seventh and final [State of the Union speech](#) before Congress, in which he acknowledged the tremendous progress that has been made advancing early childhood education during his administration and called for even greater achievements in the years to come-including highlighting the need for pre-k for all. First Five Year's Fund's (FFYF) Kris Perry [noted the groundwork](#) laid by the president for Congress to work closely with the next president on advancing early childhood.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- The US Department of Education (ED) started 2016 by soliciting advice and recommendations on implementation of ESSA, the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Almost 400 public comments were submitted by the deadline of January 21 and are available for viewing at regulations.gov.
- ED also held two regional meetings to solicit feedback. At the first public hearing Ann Whalen, senior advisor and delegated assistant secretary for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, delivered remarks in addition to numerous groups that testified.
- The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights along with three dozen other civil rights groups are asking the US Department of Education to prioritize [equity and civil rights](#) in implementing the new law. The letter comes days after new acting U.S. Secretary of Education John King delivered his [first major speech](#) on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in which he said, "There is a continued role in the new law for the federal government as a backstop to ensure educational quality for all children, a protector of our students' civil rights and I and my colleagues at the [Education] Department take that responsibility very seriously."
- *Education Week's* [Christina Samuels](#) reviews the ESSA changes related to early childhood education-increased clarity around use of funds and collaboration between early childhood and K-12, as well as, the establishment of a revised Preschool Development Grant (PDG) program under HHS.

Child Nutrition

- The US Senate Agriculture Committee released a bipartisan discussion draft of child nutrition reauthorization, [The Improving Child Nutrition Integrity and Access Act of 2016](#), and held a [markup](#) in mid-January before passing the bill through [committee](#).
- The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) reviewed the [progress](#) over the past five years toward a hunger-free generation made possible by the Healthy Hunger-Free Kid's Act (HHFKA) of 2010.

Refundable Tax Credits

Along with the Omnibus FY2016 Appropriations bill, at the end of 2015 Congress made permanent the refundable tax credits for low-income families through the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), as well as making permanent a partially refundable tax credit for college tuition expenses. These improvements were first introduced in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and were set to expire in 2017 after previous extensions of the changes. As Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) [analysts note](#), some provisions included will make it more burdensome to claim, including the prevention of EITC and CTC recipients from receiving the refunds prior to February 15.

Developmental and Behavioral Screenings

The Office of Child Care released a new [Information Memorandum](#) on developmental and behavioral screenings in child care and after school care programs, particularly addressing the areas in the CCDBG Act of 2014 related to these screenings.

Strengthening Working Families Initiatives

The US Department of Labor released an application for the [Strengthening Working Families Initiative](#) competitive grant partnership grant with a deadline of March 16, 2016. This \$25 million initiative is to provide job training and to create stronger linkages with child care through local program and system activities. Read more about Labor Secretary Thomas Perez's announcement in the [Washington Post's Wonk Blog](#).

Department of Education 2016 Resolutions

Acting Secretary of Education John King introduced his [2016 Resolutions](#) for the department and his tenure as secretary, including "working to ensure every student in America—regardless of zip code or background—has the opportunities a high-quality education provides."

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Policy Trends and Analysis

Preschool Funding

["State Pre-K Funding for 2015-16 Fiscal Year: National Trends in State Preschool Funding"](#) is a new report by the Education Commission of the States (ECS) that highlights the fourth-straight year of funding increases in early education across states, to a total of \$7 billion. *Education Week's* Lillian Mongeau profiles the report on the Early Years [blog](#).

Universal Preschool

["The Benefits and Costs of Investing in Early Childhood Education: The Fiscal, Economic and Societal Gains of a Universal Prekindergarten Program in the United States, 2016-2015,"](#) is a new brief from the Washington Center for Equitable Growth that argues that universal prekindergarten could pay for itself in about 16 years.

Pre-K to 3rd Grade Alignment

- The Early Childhood Policy team at the Center for American Progress (CAP) analyzed the consistency of children's access to effective teachers in its new report, ["Examining Teacher Effectiveness Between Preschool and Third Grade,"](#) finding that the access varies between the years and that African American, Hispanic, and low-income children access at lower rates.
- CAP also highlighted alignment in ["A Different Way of Doing Business: Examples of Pre-K to Third Grade Alignment in Practice."](#) Common practices included a unified vision of goal that articulates the connection to alignment, supportive leadership and buy-in and streamlined approaches.
- Finally, CAP published ["Examining Quality Across the Preschool-to-Third-Grade Continuum,"](#) answering to what extent are children accessing high-quality early education and two does the experience in the early grades build on that earlier instruction.

Early Childhood Homelessness

The Administration for Children and Families released ["Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: 50-State Profile,"](#) providing a snapshot of available early childhood data for children experiencing homelessness. Among the findings, approximately 4.7 percent of children served in Head Start and Early Head Start are children who were experiencing homelessness. More resources available on ACF's Expanding Early Care and Education for Homeless Children [webpage](#).

Head Start

- Results for America, Bellwether Education Partners, the National Head Start Association and the Volcker Alliance outlined a vision and recommendations for improving children's outcomes in Head Start in the new report ["Moneyball for Head Start: Using Data, Evidence, and Evaluation to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families."](#) Bellwether's Sara Mead and report co-author articulated the recommendations in op-ed in [US News & World Report](#).
- [Education Week's Christina Samuels](#) and New America's [Abbie Lieberman](#) reacted to the report.

Child Care

[HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation \(ASPE\) released a new brief "Estimates Of Child Care Eligibility And Receipt For Fiscal Year 2012,"](#) that highlights that only 15% of federally-eligible children received subsidized care through CCDF or other similar government programs in 2012. Restricting the number of children to those eligible under state rules, the percentage was higher at 25% in an average month.

State Early Care and Education

- The Education Commission of the States has collected the [2016 State of the State Addresses](#) in preparation for its forthcoming report on the highlights. The website also includes addresses from 2011-2015 and is sortable by topic, including early childhood education.
- The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) posted its annual report on state legislative action, "[2015 Enacted Legislation on Early Care & Education](#)" with links to reports for years 2010 to 2014, its [Early Care and Education database](#), and a summary [blog post](#) by Allison May. Follow the 2016 session with its [Legislative Calendar](#).
- The National Women's Law Center (NWLC) profiled state legislative actions and new investments in its profile, "[State Early Care and Education Updates 2015](#)."
- State early childhood advocates were surveyed in the Ounce of Prevention Fund "[Semi-Annual State Policy Update-November, 2015](#)."

Deep Poverty

["Young Children in Deep Poverty,"](#) is the newest brief from the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP). It compares risk factors for children living in deep poverty (family income below 50% of the Federal Poverty Line), with those children in poor families and non-poor families. It highlights that children in deep poverty fare worse on indicators such as blood levels than poor children and are at higher risk for future health and development problems.

Student Parents

Researchers from the Urban Institute analyzed characteristics of student parents and the ways in which the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the Child Care Development Fund could support this population in, "[Supporting Parents Who Work and Go to School: A Portrait of Low-Income Students Who Are Employed](#)."

Child Health

Researchers from the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center analyzed new data from the Health Reform Monitoring Survey (HRMS) in its brief, "[Time for a Checkup: Changes in Health Insurance Coverage, Health Care Access and Affordability, and Plan Satisfaction among Parents and Children between 2013 and 2015](#)," in which finds, among other things, that the share of children with coverage increased 1.7 percentage points between 2013 and 2015.

Racial Generation Gap

First Focus highlights five demographic trends in its new report, "[The Racial Generation Gap and the Future for Our Children](#)."

Licensing Exemptions

The Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) surveyed state early education administrators through the NAECS-SDE listserv about child care licensing exemptions for school based pre-k in its new brief, "[Early Childhood Program Licensing Exemptions](#)."

Low Wage Working

National Women's Law Center (NWLC) published "[Set Up to Fail: When Low-Wage Work Jeopardizes Parents' and Children's Success](#)," that analyzes the challenging conditions of low wage work with respect to support of children's development.

New Research

Preschool

Urban Institute examined preschool participation in its two new reports "[Preschool Participation for Low-Income Children and Low-Income Children of Immigrants in Silicon Valley: Part I, A Demographic Profile](#)" and "[Barriers to Preschool Participation for Low-Income Children of Immigrants in Silicon Valley: Part II](#)" finding that they are disproportionate from immigrant families.

Early Care and Education Providers

In "[Which Early Care and Education Centers Participate in Head Start or Public Pre-Kinderergarten?](#)," researchers from ACF's Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) examined National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) data to provide center characteristics of those accepting government funding.

Child Care

OPRE funded the first major use of behavioral economics to examine programs servicing low-income families through the Behavioral Interventions to Advance Self-Sufficiency (BIAS) project. Project leader MDRC recently published "[Engaging Providers and Clients: Using Behavioral Economics to Increase On-Time Child Care Subsidy Renewals](#)" that partnered with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) to test randomized control trial interventions. The report suggests that the provider intervention-additional information to provider to prompt reminders--was associated with clients renewing on time whereas the client intervention was associated with renewals by the grace period, but not on time.

Home Visiting

ACF's Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) published "[Approaches to Father Engagement and Fathers' Experiences in Home Visiting Programs](#)" and "[Serving Young Fathers in Home Visiting Programs: Highlights from a Research Study.](#)"

Upcoming Events

February 22-25, 2016

The Office of Head Start is hosting "[Building Foundations for Economic Mobility Week](#)" that will feature a message from OHS Director Dr. Blanca Enriquez, a four-part webinar series, and a virtual resource fair and networking. For more information, please contact PFCE@eclkc.info or call (toll-free) 1.866.763.6481.

February 28-March 1, 2016

FRAC and Feeding America are co-sponsoring the [2016 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference](#) in Washington, DC.

October 13-14, 2016

Save the date for the 2016 Early Childhood Research Symposium in Charlotte, North Carolina.

November 15-16, 2016

Save the date for the [Sixth National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs](#), hosted by the Ounce of Prevention Fund in Arlington, VA. For more information, contact Kelly Woodlock at kwoodlock@ounceofprevention.org or 312.453.1988.

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News and Resources

Early Learning Network

With an investment of \$26 million in grants over the next five years, the [Institute of Education](#) is creating the Early Learning Network to examine school readiness and transition from pre-K to elementary school factors.

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CC)

- The National Center on Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (NCEHS-CCP) released a new collection of resources on its [portal](#).
- New America reviewed the first year of progress of EHS-CC in "[Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships: One Year in the Making](#)."
- Center for American Progress' Early Childhood Policy team discussed the rationale behind the partnerships in its new brief, "[Developing a High-Quality Early Learning Continuum: The Need for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships](#)."

Head Start

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Head Start Association are working together to do health care enrollment, voter registration and housing advocacy at Head Start centers around the country.

Poverty

- American Enterprise Institute and Brookings jointly produced the report "[Opportunity, Responsibility, and Security: A Consensus Plan for Reducing Poverty and Restoring the American Dream](#)," that among other recommendations calls for higher-quality child care and promotion of social emotional development.
- Seven Republican presidential candidates gathered in South Carolina for the Kemp Forum on Expanding Opportunity to discuss ways to combat poverty and expand opportunity in the United States. First Five Years Fund (FFYF) noted the number of candidates that acknowledged the importance of early childhood education starting at birth on its [blog](#).

Workforce

- The Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, published "[Getting Started with Articulation: What State Partners Need to Know](#)," and "[A Perspective on Early Childhood Education and Articulation](#)."
- The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment wrote "[Early Childhood Higher Education: Taking Stock Across the States](#)," based on findings from the ECE Higher Education Inventory.

Early Childhood Education

First Five Years Fund (FFYF) reviewed the positive progress on early childhood education during 2015 in a [blog post](#) and FFYF ED Kris Perry reiterated the progress in [The Hechinger Report](#).

Home Visiting

ZERO TO THREE (ZTT) is accepting applications from states for participation in a virtual community of practice on the integration of home visiting in state early childhood system-building efforts. Responses are due on February 17, and the community of practice will begin on March 22. Applications available from and questions can be addressed to [Barbara Gebhard](#) or [Jamie Colvard](#).

Early Childhood Data

[The Child Trends DataBank](#) updated its indicators related to early childhood development, such as child care, early school readiness and more.

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News From The States

[AZ](#) | [CA](#) | [CO](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [ME](#) | [MI](#) | [NE](#) | [NM](#) | [NY](#) | [OK](#) | [OR](#) | [WA](#) | [WI](#) |

Arizona

- The community life director for the YWCA Southern Arizona and the CEO of Child Parent Center published an op-ed in the [Arizona Daily Star](#) about the need for the state legislature to prioritize access to affordable health care, home visitation and family support and high-quality, affordable early care and education.

California

- Gov. Jerry Brown unveiled his FY2017 state budget proposal that includes a consolidation of existing early care programs into a \$1.6 billion Early Learning Block in an effort to reduce administrative burden and duplicative processes between the programs, but as advocates noted it would not increase funding for the programs despite a budget surplus after years of cuts to the programs. Read more at [89.3KPCC](#) and [KPBS](#). First 5 California, First 5 Association of California, First 5 Los Angeles published a [press release](#) in response stating "an increase in the state's prosperity must align with children's needs."
- The Los Angeles Unified School district [announced](#) its preschools are not at full capacity-with 400 unfilled spots in Early Transitional Kindergarten specifically-despite the fact hundreds of thousands LA preschoolers miss out on being able to access seats due to a shortage.
- California Assemblywoman [Lorena Gonzalez](#)-Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Women in the Workplace and represents the 80th Assembly District-outlines two bills that would help make diapers more affordable to working California parents and help "keep an infant or toddler clean, dry and healthy" as well as eligible for child care centers.

- [The Ventura County Star](#) profiles California's first female attorney general and US Senate candidate, Kamala Harris, noting that one of her top priorities is early childhood education.
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Colorado

- The Colorado Board of Human Services approved [new rules](#) for licensed child care centers around healthy meals, playground time, and television viewing that went into effect Feb. 1. Officials are promising to help licensed centers comply with the new rules.
 - The Denver Preschool Program hosted the [4th Annual Preschool Showcase](#) in early January to help parents learn about the selection process and tuition support.
 - Two child care centers in Colorado became the first to earn the [highest possible rating](#) on Colorado Shines, the state's mandatory Quality Rating Improvement System.
 - [Clayton Early Learning](#) unpacks its data utilization work to improve the lives of children through its Institute.
 - [The Journal](#) highlights the efforts of the Colorado Children's Campaign to advocate for affordable child care, health insurance coverage and education.
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Florida

- The Children's Forum, a child advocacy group, announced the #becausekids cantwait [campaign to raise awareness](#) for services that reach children between birth to five.
 - Ted Granger, president of the United Way of Florida and chair of Children's Week, penned an op-ed in the [Miami Herald](#) about the 21st annual Children's Week to be held at the State Capitol with 132 partners and thousands of families.
 - [WJCT](#) follows two children through Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program and in the most recent article discusses the utilization of assessments.
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Georgia

- Georgia is excited about the recent record-breaking \$1.5 billion Power Ball lottery drawing because a portion of sales in the state are earmarked for Georgia's HOPE college scholarships and pre-k program reports [The Rome News-Tribune](#).
 - Child Trends and the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) released a short brief, "[Care for Georgia's Infants and Toddlers: Boosting Young Children and Their Parents in the Peach State.](#)"
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Illinois

- President Obama is to return to Springfield to address the state legislators about working together to "build a better politics" as state enters into its eighth month without a budget and he celebrates the ninth anniversary of his [presidential campaign announcement](#).
- Gov. Rauner addressed the legislature to give the [State of the State](#), in it he stressed the importance of Illinois receiving the best education system and better alignment of health and human services with cradle to career education initiatives. The Ounce issued a [statement](#) in response. Ahead of the speech, over 200 nonprofit organizations gathered at the state house as part of the [Responsible Budget Coalition](#) to call on the state's leadership to [pass a budget](#).
- The United Way released results from its third survey highlighting the cuts to human services programs and other social service programs, noting that 85% of responded reported cutting number of clients (up from 34% in July 2015) and 84% reported [cutting programs](#). For example, the state's oldest and largest social service provider, [Lutheran Social Services of Illinois \(LSSI\)](#), announced in January that it is laying off 750 employees or almost 43% of its staff to accommodate the loss of state revenue.
- Gov. Rauner and Republican legislative leaders called for a [takeover of the Chicago Public Schools \(CPS\)](#) district with the intention of letting it declare bankruptcy as it faces a nearly \$1 billion budget deficit.
- As CPS waits for a state budget and notice about whether it would include assistance to the district's budget deficit, it [laid off 227 office staff with plans for more](#) as things unfold. Meanwhile, CPS and the Chicago Teachers Union reached a tentative agreement after 14 months of negotiations, but the CTU officially rejected the offer-[beginning the countdown to when teachers could legally strike](#).
- U.S. Rep. Robert Dold toured early education programs in his district with Ounce of Prevention Fund President, Diana Rauner, writes the [Chicago Tribune](#).

Indiana

- Indiana's Happy Babies Brain Trust released "[Getting Ready for School Starts at Birth](#)," a brief that summarizes research on importance of early learning and lays out recommendations.

Kansas

- [The Topeka Capital-Journal](#) and [The Hutchinson News](#) report the concern advocates-including Kansas Action for Children-are having with Gov. Sam Brownback's recent state budget proposal that includes moving the Children's Initiatives Fund to the State General Fund in fiscal year 2017. The governor calls for greater accountability and coordination of early learning programs, but advocates fear it will lessen transparency and increase chances the fund will go to other holes in the budget.

Louisiana

- Louisiana's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is ushering in many new changes to the program in 2016, including an increase in subsidies by up to 250%

and ensuring parents remain eligible for a year regardless of changes in work or school status reports [The Advocate](#). The state is also launching an [Allocated Child Care Assistance Seats Pilot](#) whereby a set number of CCAP seats will be granted to individual child care centers to help centers effectively plan for their expected enrollment, have more stable funding, and be better positioned to serve the most at-risk children in a quality setting. Read the Louisiana Department of Education [statement](#).

- Louisiana's new executive, Gov. John Bel Edwards, signed an executive order to expand Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act in Louisiana and making it the 31st state to do so and potentially impacting 300,000 people according to [The Times Picayune](#).

Maine

- [The Maine Department of Education](#) reports that Acting Commissioner Bill Beardsley visited a four-year-old preschool classroom at the Chelsea Elementary School to highlight an example of delivering high quality preschool through blended funding.

Michigan

- In light of the Flint, Michigan water crisis US Sens. Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow and U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee sent a letter to HHS requesting the expansion of Head Start to all eligible children in the city to combat the side effects of lead exposure reports [MLive](#).
- The child advocacy organization, Michigan's Children, announced its [policy priorities](#) for the 2016 legislative session, including maintaining the support for preschool and increasing access to the early intervention program EarlyOn. Matt Gillard also called for increased focus on EarlyOn in the case of the [Flint water emergency](#).
- [The Kresge Foundation](#) announced it is investing \$20 million in a five-year initiative to improve child outcomes in Detroit. This investment comes on the heels of a Kresge-commissioned report, "[The System We Need: A Neighborhood Snapshot of Early Childhood Education in Detroit](#)" produced by IFF (formerly known as the Illinois Facilities Fund).
- Children and family advocates in Kent County planned to request an [early childhood millage](#) or property tax request for health services and parent supports to ensure children are healthy and ready to learn upon entering school. Therefore the additional funds are not currently being sought for preschool funding. The advocates decided to [table this request until 2018](#).

Nebraska

- Nebraska State Senator Heath Mello, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, introduced [LB 889](#), the School Readiness Tax Credit Act, cosponsored by seven other senators that include the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, the Chair of the Education Committee and the Chair of the Retirement Committee. The Revenue Committee has scheduled a public hearing February 3 on this series of [state tax credits](#) based on a similar package that began in Louisiana in 2008.

Holland Children's Movement created a [Nebraska School Readiness Tax Credit](#) website to gather petitions and share information.

New Mexico

- Gov. Susana Martinez announced in the [New Mexico State of the State](#) her goal of investing \$5 million in new pre-K classrooms and \$10 million on new reading interventions.
 - US Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich [wrote to the state legislature](#) asking them to improve the lives of New Mexico children by bringing up a measure to amend the constitution in order to invest part of the Land Grant Permanent Fund in early childhood education.
 - State Reps. Javier Martínez and Antonio Maestas filed a bill for this measure and Rep. Martínez penned an op-ed in [The Albuquerque Journal](#) about the constitutional amendment and shared [this website](#).
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New York

- Gov. Andrew Cuomo delivered the [New York State of the State](#) and budget proposal that includes a \$22 million increase for pre-k specifically for three-year-olds, creating about 2,000 to 2,500 new slots for students.
 - A [coalition of public advocates](#) including Letitia James called upon NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio to address the pay disparity between pre-K and day care teachers. Mayor de Blasio did announce that the city will raise salaries to \$15 an hour for all low-wage workers located at city-funded pre-k programs according to [DNAinfo](#).
 - WNYC Data News Team put together a [search tool](#) for NYC Preschool Programs for parents and families to search for programs.
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Oklahoma

- At the end of 2015 Oklahoma officials announced a revenue failure of \$157 million and a 3% cut to state agencies from the general revenue fund for the first half of 2016 in order to make up for the shortfall. The Department of Education will absorb the largest amount of the shortfall, with \$46.8 million less in the next six months according to [The Oklahoman](#). [The Associated Press](#) reports the shortfall will be even larger in the upcoming budget year due to falling oil and gas prices.
 - [The Oklahoma Policy Institute](#) reports that child care is getting less accessible for working parents in Oklahoma.
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Oregon

- [The Register-Guard](#) highlights a transitional homeless shelter in Oregon, First Place Family Center, and its early childhood classroom.
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Washington

- The Washington Department of Early Learning released a progress report that indicates 46% of the licensed child care providers are enrolled in the state's QRIS, Early Achievers, which became mandatory in 2015 as part of the Early Start Act. The legislation also required providers to reach a level three or higher, of which only 18% currently have. Read more in [The Seattle Times](#).
- The state legislature's Early Learning and Human Services Committee heard testimony on HB 2439. The bill would, among other things, create a work group to review barriers to identifying and treating mental health issues in young children. Read more in the [Columbia Herald Basin](#).

Wisconsin

- The Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent Darienne Driver testified before the state legislature's Task Force on Urban Education and stressed the importance of [early education](#).

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The [Ounce national policy team](#) partners with and supports early childhood leaders in states as they advance a comprehensive agenda for at-risk children and families. We do this by providing individualized strategy and policy consultation and resources; facilitating peer-to-peer learning and networking across states; and supporting Educare Schools and the Educare Learning Network in the development of their policy and advocacy work.

The National Policy Digest is a bi-monthly newsletter that shares up-to-date and noteworthy developments in state and federal early childhood news, policy and funding changes, research, policy trends and analyses, upcoming events, etc. culled from diverse sources in the field. To subscribe, please contact Sharrell Hibbler (shibbler@theounce.org)



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