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Highlights

NYC Hosts a "Learning Lab" for Early Childhood Education Leaders

New York City hosted early childhood administrators and leaders from 13 cities around the country in early October to learn from New York City's universal pre-k (UPK) program and share experiences from around the country. Learn more about the event from [Politico](#).

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Federal Updates

CCDBG Regulations

The Office of Child Care (OCC), Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the final rule that makes the necessary regulatory changes to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in light of the 2014 reauthorization changes. As the federal notice highlights, "these changes strengthen requirements to protect the health and safety of children in child care; help parents make informed consumer choices and access information to support child development; provide equal access to stable, high-quality child care for low-income children; and enhance the quality of child care and the early childhood workforce." Read the final rule on the [Federal Register website](#). Other reauthorization resources from the Office of Child Care are located on the [ACF website](#) including its [Child Care Across America map](#).

Appropriations

President Obama signed into law a Continuing Resolution (CR) that extends federal spending authority through December 9 and into the lame duck period. The CR includes \$1.1 billion in funding for responding to the Zika virus outbreak. Read more information about the impact of the CR on children and families from [First Five Years Fund](#) and [Center for Law and Social Policy](#).

Home Visiting

- The U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation released the Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE) review of six home visiting program models. Their findings show that one new model, the Parent-Child Assistance Program, and a previously reviewed model, the Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up model, do not meet the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services criteria for an evidence-based program model. There is updated information on the four models that previously met the criteria. Read the full report "[Home Visiting Programs: Reviewing Evidence of Effectiveness September 2016.](#)"
- Linda K. Smith, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development [announced](#) the 2016 Administration for Children and Families' awards for the Tribal Home Visiting program. Two new Tribal Home Visiting Development and Implementation grants (totaling \$600,000) were awarded to start new home visiting programs, and 17 new Tribal Home Visiting Implementation and Expansion grants (totaling \$8.8 million) were awarded to expand existing home visiting infrastructure. In addition, \$3.6 million was awarded to six existing Tribal Home Visiting grantees to continue their work.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

This October, the U.S. Department of Education is celebrating the 30th Anniversary of IDEA Part C and Part B, Section 619 - provisions that allowed for the creation of programs that have "played a critical role in improving results and upholding the rights of infants, toddlers and preschool children with disabilities and their families." Learn more about the programs, hear stories of those personally impacted by the law, and access [more resources](#).

Childhood Obesity

The U.S. Department of Health of Human Services, Administration for Children and Families' National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness, released a [call for applications](#) for their Healthy Active Living Learning Collaborative will provide training and technical assistance to help early childhood program leaders develop skills and knowledge of healthy living within the areas of: staff wellness, nutrition education, physical activity and family engagement. The Collaborative is targeted at Early Head Start, Head Start, child care, family child care and preschool programs.

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Policy Trends & Analysis

Child Care

New America, in partnership with Care.com, produced "[The Care Report](#)," which looks at the cost, quality and availability of child care options for each of the 50 states and Washington, D.C. The report finds that no one state is able to perform well in all three categories.

Poverty

The Urban Institute features profiles of [Promise Neighborhood](#) grantees in Indianola, Mississippi; Washington, D.C.; and San Francisco, CA - sharing data and stories of their experiences implementing solutions to intergenerational poverty in their respective communities.

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New Research

Family Engagement

[JAMA Pediatrics](#) recently published a study looking at the effects of the program ParentCorps, which offered professional development to teachers and sessions for parents and students in pre-kindergarten in low-income schools in New York City. Researchers found that the ParentCorps intervention improved overall mental health and academic performance of students up to 3 years after the study. New York City is currently looking to expand the program.

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Upcoming Events

October 20, 2016

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) is hosting a webinar called "[Advancing Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health](#)" at 2pm EDT.

December 7-9, 2016

ZERO TO THREE is hosting its [Annual Conference](#), which this year is themed around "Building Powerful Connections" that are needed to support families and young children. The conference will take place in New Orleans.

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News and Resources

Early Childhood Education

- The World Bank hosted the "[Human Capital Summit](#)," at the beginning of October to discuss the importance of investing in the early years. The summit highlighted how investments in early childhood can produce some of the largest returns, helping break the cycle of poverty and boost economic development. Leaders made commitments to provide all children with access to early childhood services by 2020.
- [NPR](#) reports on the effect that signs prompting caregivers to read to young children can have on sparking early learning. Communities are implementing this type of programming to address the "word gap."

Child Homelessness

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth produced a set of [resources](#) to help align information on early childhood programs that serve young children experiencing homelessness. Guides on understanding and aligning different early childhood program information as well as state-specific resources help connect families and children experiencing homelessness to early childhood resources in their communities.

Kindergarten Readiness

The National Conference of State Legislators recently hosted a webinar called "[Importance of Being Socially and Behaviorally Ready for Kindergarten](#)" on the financial impact of children entering kindergarten unprepared, particularly looking at the effects of not being socially and behaviorally ready. The webinar reviews recent research on these effects and talks with

communities that are investing in improving the social-emotional health of young children before they enter school.

Data

A new [Child Trends project](#) looks at how early childhood program leaders can link programmatic data with administrative data to make quality improvements to their services.

Federal Child Tax Credit (CTC)

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Director of Federal Tax Policy, Chuck Marr, writes for [Talk Poverty](#) on how the poorest families in the U.S. are not receiving the full amount of the Child Tax Credit (CTC). He outlines that by changing the current provisions of the CTC, to make it fully refundable for families in deep poverty, it could help boost incomes and promote more positive outcomes for families and children.

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News From The States

[CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [LA](#) | [ME](#) | [MI](#) | [NE](#) | [NH](#) | [NM](#) | [NY](#) | [OK](#) | [DC](#) | [WI](#) |

California

- San Francisco Supervisor, Norman Yee, introduced city legislation that would create a special fund to help expand access to affordable child care for children under three according to [NBC Bay Area](#). Funding sources for the expansion are still under discussion.
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Florida

- [The Orlando Sentinel](#) reports on \$1.6 million in funding for bilingual preschools in Orange County, FL through the county's volunteer pre-kindergarten program.
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Georgia

- [The Atlantic](#) profiles Georgia's child care system in its series "Next America: Early Childhood project".
 - Georgia is celebrating its sixth ["Pre-K Week"](#) as it welcomes 84,000 students into its pre-kindergarten program this year.
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Illinois

- The Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Teacher's Union reached a last-minute deal to avert a strike earlier this month reports [CNN](#).
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Indiana

- The state legislature's Interim Study Committee on Fiscal Policy recommended expanding the state's pre-kindergarten program reports [The Indianapolis Star](#). These recommendations come on the heels of a new study from Indiana University that for every \$1 invested in pre-kindergarten, the state will see up to a \$4 return.
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Louisiana

- State budget cuts in Louisiana are leaving many low-income families without access to child care assistance funds reports [The Atlantic](#).
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Maine

- The Governor of Maine is pushing for local districts to pay more for education costs. In November, voters will consider a ballot measure to tax those making over \$200,000 to provide districts with more money for education. Read more about the [efforts](#).
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Michigan

- Michigan Governor Rick Snyder signed into law a bill that would retain some students at the end of 3rd grade if they are not reading proficiently. Learn more about the debate regarding the [bill](#) and its [final passage](#).
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Nebraska

- [The Omaha World Herald](#) published a piece from the leaders of Nebraska's Early Childhood Business Roundtable on the importance of investing in early childhood to strengthen the state's workforce and economy.
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New Hampshire

- [New Hampshire Public Radio](#) profiles the creation and growth of a Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) chapter in New Hampshire to support lobbying around early learning investments and policies.
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New Mexico

- Low-income families in New Mexico unable to afford state licensed early childhood services are being forced into using unregulated child care facilities, [reports The Atlantic](#).
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New York

- *The Wall Street Journal* reports on a [recent study](#) of New York City's UPK program. The study, funded by New York City, shows that students in UPK advanced in recognizing letters, spelling and developing early math skills.
- New York City is launching [ParentCorps](#) this year, which offers training to parents of children in the city's pre-kindergarten program to help families address parenting and home challenges. The goal of the program is to more holistically support young children's development.

Oklahoma

- [Tulsa Educare](#) celebrated a decade of working with families and young children in their early childhood programs. Tulsa Educare has reached over 2,000 children with its services.

Washington, D.C.

- D.C. Public Schools remember Cassandra Pinckney, an educator and advocate for underserved and under resourced children. Read more about the impact Pinckney left on D.C. schools from the [Washington City Paper](#).

Wisconsin

- Milwaukee is facing a \$400,000 cut to its infant mortality initiative that offers home visits to new parents. This cut comes from a decrease in home visiting grant money from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, which received 20% less federal funding this year. Read more about the initiative and impending cuts from [Fox Now](#).

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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 visit our [website](#).



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