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### Welcome to the National Policy Digest!

The [Ounce national policy](#) team wanted to share with you its bi-monthly newsletter. [The National Policy Digest](#) strives to share up-to-date and noteworthy developments in state and federal early childhood news, policy trends and analyses, research, upcoming events, etc. culled from diverse sources in the field. Whether you are new to the digest or rejoining our lists, we hope you find it informative and useful in advancing access to high-quality early childhood experiences for all young children!

P.S. If you have friends or colleagues that would also like to receive it, please direct them [here](#) to subscribe.

#### Table of Contents

[Highlights](#) | [Federal Updates](#) | [Policy Trends & Analysis](#) | [New Research](#) | [Upcoming Events](#) | [News and Resources](#) | [News from the States](#) |

### Highlights

#### Workforce

The State of the Early Childhood Workforce Initiative with University of California, Berkeley's Center for the Study of Child Care Employment launched a new [website](#) to provide state-by-state data and policy analysis on the status of early education jobs, track progress made, and chart innovative solutions. A report on state-level details is due out in June 2016.

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[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

### Federal Updates

#### Workforce

Linda K. Smith, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development, released a statement "[Current Wages, Despite Educational Attainment, Undermine Quality Care Goals](#)," about the early care and education workforce and the need to find an alternative way to finance the child care system so high-quality can be achieved without adding to the burden on parents.

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#### Department of Education

The Senate voted in favor 49 to 40 of confirming John King Jr. as the next [U.S. Secretary of Education](#) after the departure of former Secretary Arne Duncan at the end of 2015.

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### **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Child Care**

The Office of Child Care (OCC) and the Office of Family Assistance (OFA) within the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a new [Information Memorandum](#) about the 2014 Child Care Reauthorization and Opportunities for TANF and CCDF and how the programs' lead agencies can "work together to implement the reauthorization and leverage this opportunity to support family economic security and well-being."

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### **Every Student Succeeds Act**

The US Department of Education released the list of people picked for the first negotiated rulemaking committee and is available on the departments [ESSA Resource page](#) along with other published guidance, presentations and resources.

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### **Flint Michigan**

HHS Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell authored a [blog post](#) about her visit to Flint and the department's coordinated response to provide emergency assistance to the city's citizens.

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### **Poverty**

The House of Representative's Task Force on Poverty, Opportunity and Upward Mobility released its vision and [mission statement](#) that includes as a policy reform "Strengthen early childhood education and care by improving coordination between existing federal and state efforts and empowering families with a variety of choices."

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[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

## **Policy Trends**

### **Early Learning Challenge**

BUILD released the [prologue](#) to its e-book "Rising to the Challenge: Building Effective Systems for Young Children and Families," called "[Coming of Age: Review of Federal Childhood Policy 2000-2015](#)," written by Joan Lombardi, Jessica Harding, Maia Connors and Allison Friedman-Krauss.

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### **Head Start**

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) updated its factsheets with 2014 Office of Head Start data on participation by children, pregnant women, families, and staff in [Head Start Preschool](#), [Early Head Start](#), and [Migrant and Seasonal](#) programs. State-by-state data can be viewed in CLASP's [DataFinder](#).

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### **Family Engagement**

The Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) published "[State Approaches to Family Engagement in Pre-K Programs](#)," drawing on work with a state developing its Preschool Development Grant (PDG) and another working to expand its pre-k program.

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### **Young Dual Language Learners**

Dr. Linda Espinosa and Miriam Calderon studied the extent to which 23 states' Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) address the learning needs of young dual language learners for the BUILD Initiative in "[State Early Learning and Development](#)

[Standards/Guidelines, Policies & Related Practices: How responsive are they to the needs of young dual language learners?"](#)

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### **Child Refugees**

First Focus published "[Protecting Refugee Children from Central America](#)," that highlights the population and reasons behind the mass migration as well as efforts by the federal government to address the issue.

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### **State Poverty**

Center for American Progress released "[Poverty and Opportunity in the States: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly](#)" that tracks 15 key indicators of economic security and opportunity in each state and ranks them accordingly.

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### **Juvenile Courts**

First Focus and the State Policy Advocacy and Reform Center (SPARC) published "[Measuring the Impact of Children's Rights to Counsel: Advancing Child Due Process and Well-being in the Juvenile Court Ecology](#)," about the potential impact of assigning counsel to all children in dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings instead of the current variation that occurs across states.

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[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

## **New Research**

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

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Administration for Children & Families' Office of Planning and Evaluation, Research and Evaluation issued "[Approaches to Measuring Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships: Recommendations and Considerations](#)," that provides a roadmap for measuring all aspects of the EHS-CC Partnerships.

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[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

## **Upcoming Events**

### **April 21-23, 2016**

The annual [National Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\) Sponsors Association Conference](#) will be held in Orlando, Florida and is designed for CACFP, Afterschool/At-Risk and Summer Food sponsors, state CACFP staff, federal agency staff, Headstart staff and anyone working on CACFP.

### **November 15-16, 2016**

We invite you to attend the Sixth National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs being held November 15-16 in Washington D.C. Join researchers, advocates, policymakers, and practitioners as we address key issues facing the home visiting field. For more information and to register, please visit our [website](#).

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[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

## **Other News, Announcements and Resources**

## Child Homelessness

A pediatrician in Washington state published an op-ed in [The Seattle Times](#) about his work volunteering at a homeless shelter and the stories he sees as well as ways to support these families-including investments in early childhood education and parent education.

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## Early Childhood Investment

- The Education Commission of the States released "[2016 State of the State Addresses: Governors' top education issues.](#)"
  - Members of the Institute for Policy Studies and the Black Worker Initiative write in [The Nation](#) about closing capital gains loopholes to pay for federal investments in preschool.
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## State Early Childhood Policy

The Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) published its annual report covering its technical assistance activities with state administrators in "[Building the capacity of state early childhood administrators: CEELO FY2015.](#)"

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## Home Visiting

- ReadyNation created "[Mentors for At-risk Mothers: Michigan Business Leaders Know It Pays to Invest Early.](#)" brief to support work in Michigan on home visiting.
  - Achieve OnDemand™ just released two new self-paced online professional development courses for the home visiting field. "The Impact of Trauma in Supervising" and "Challenges in Home Visiting: Substance Abuse" are now available for home visitors and supervisors nationwide. For more information, visit [www.theOunce.org/AchieveOnDemand](http://www.theOunce.org/AchieveOnDemand).
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## Social Emotional

*The New York Times'* [Kate Zernike](#) and [NPRed](#) write about how a few schools in California are going to begin testing social-emotional skills and the potential for including tests like these under the Every Student Succeeds Act changes to testing.

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## Technology

Matthew Lynch with [Education Week](#) writes about using technology as an engagement tool in classrooms, including the classroom platform by StoryBots.

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[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

## News From The States

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

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## Arizona

- The CEO of Children's Clinics published an op-ed in [The Arizona Daily Star](#) calling for the reinstatement of KidsCare-Arizona's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) that was frozen in 2010 making Arizona the only state without a functioning program.

- Arizona Public Media's [Zac Ziegler](#) spoke with the keynote of The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona's 11th Business Leaders for Early Education Breakfast, pediatrician Dipesh Navsaria.
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## California

- *KPCC's* [Deepa Fernandes](#) reports on the response by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) to the governor's overhaul plan to the state's child care system into one "Early Learning Block Grant." LAO approved of the desire to merge programs and eliminate confusion, as well as, prioritize services, but raised flags with the plan to let local agencies set eligibility. Fernandes highlights the governor's and LAO's proposals with other top circulating ideas [here](#).
  - Educare Silicon Valley and the Educare modeled was profiled by [KPCC](#).
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## Colorado

- A city-run Head Start program in Lakewood secured \$1 million in federal funds as it enters its 18th year and second year with an Early Head Start program reports [The Denver Post](#).
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## Florida

- The Florida Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill (SB) 7058, Early Childhood Development, which would establish clear goals and eligibility criteria for the Early Steps program, as well as direct the Department of Health to develop a statewide plan for the program. Read about these changes and more from Senate President Andy Gardiner's [press statement](#).
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## Georgia

- [WFSA](#) highlights the large demand for public pre-k slots in the Atlanta Public School District and the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning's question as to whether the state should reevaluate the funding the district receives.
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## Illinois

- The Fiscal Policy Center at the nonprofit Voices for Illinois Children published "[Budget Impasse Continues to Devastate Illinois Families and Communities](#)," an updated report about the effects of no official state budget on the social service ecosystem in the state.
- The Chicago Public Schools laid off an additional 62 workers at the end of February, including 17 teachers, reports [The Chicago Tribune](#).
- The Fathers and Sons Program, designed to strengthen bond between young African-American boys and their fathers and piloted in Flint, Michigan, is coming to Chicago's [Washington Park neighborhood](#).
- Illinois and four other states sent teams of representatives to the Innovation to Incubation (i2I) program of the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM) first meeting for its "Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: Implementation Planning" project. The state teams are meeting to take the

recommendations from the Institute of Medicine's 2015 report and develop [implementation plans](#).

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## Indiana

- Maureen Gilmer for [The Indy Star](#) interviews John Lechleiter, president/CEO of Eli Lilly and board chairman for United Way Worldwide, Ann Murtlow, president and CEO of United Way of Central Indiana, and Brian Gallagher, president and CEO of United Way Worldwide about the organizations recent strengthened partnership, which includes investment toward securing an expansion of early childhood education in Indiana.
  - *The Indy Star's* [Brian Eason](#) discusses the significant funds raised to support the state's pre-k pilot in Indianapolis in conjunction with the concern that it barely covers the demand and only scheduled to run through the 2019-2020 school year.
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## Louisiana

- Gov. John Bel Edwards made a special address to the citizens of Louisiana about the state's historic budget shortfalls befalling on the state because of lost revenue from years of fiscal mismanagement-tax cuts and falling oil prices-reports [The Washington Post](#).
  - The Louisiana House is looking to close the state's budget hole for the current fiscal year by cutting \$106 million from agencies in the final four months-House Bill 122 is \$76 million more than Gov. John Bel Edwards' proposal. [WBRZ](#) reports that half of these cuts would come from the Department of Education.
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## Maine

- [The Portland Press Herald](#) published an op-ed in support of a pay for success initiative in Maine.
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## Michigan

- In the growing efforts to combat the dangerous side effects of lead-contaminated water in Flint, Michigan, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was announced that \$3.5 million in emergency funds to expand Head Start programming in the city reports [The New York Times](#) and [The Detroit Free Press](#).
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## New Mexico

- Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima gave his [2016 State of the City Address](#) and highlighted the Success Partnership's working group on Early Childhood Education.
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## New York

- Westat Research surveyed 1,100 New York City families participating in the city's universal pre-k program finding that more than 90 percent are happy reports the [NY Daily News](#).
- Community groups are asking for a 1 percent tax increase on the top 1 percent of New Yorkers to fund a \$2.3 billion education agenda-Stand Up For Kids campaign-reports [The Albany Times Union](#).
- [CNBC](#) profiled the positive economic impacts of the New York City's universal pre-k.

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## Oklahoma

- Ray Owens, the pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, penned an op-ed in [Tulsa World](#) about the importance of high-quality education and the city's ImpactTulsa movement.

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## Washington

- Ross Hunter, the new director of the Washington Department of Early Learning, is looking for additional funding from the Legislature to improve the quality of the state's preschool program according to [The Seattle Times](#).

[Back to Table of Contents](#) ^

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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