



## **New funding opportunities for counties to strengthen early care and learning programs:**

*Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) & Preschool Development Grants (PDGs)*

SEPTEMBER 2018

# FEDERAL ACTION

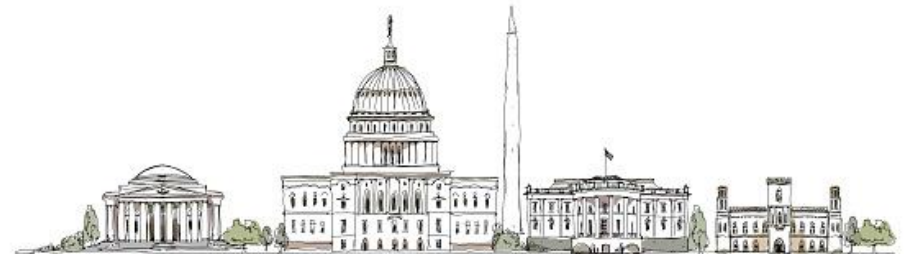


- **Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Omnibus Bill**

- The discretionary portion of Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) received \$5.22 billion, an increase of \$2.77 billion
- Both Early Head Start and Head Start received funding increased. The programs received a combined increase of \$610 million, a seven percent boost from FY 2017 levels

- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF)**

- Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five (PDG B-5): recently announced grant opportunity to strengthen and expand high-quality preschool programs



# COUNTIES & CCDBG

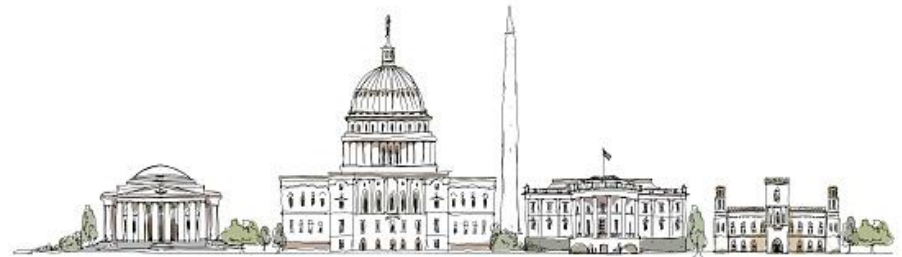


Many states pass the responsibilities of delivery child care assistance down to counties, meaning those counties must comply with federal mandates for child care programs. In addition to complying with federal guidelines, counties must focus on the administration of benefits to families in their communities.

The top 5 states in terms of CCDBG amounts invested by counties are New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Florida and Ohio.

## \$939 million

In FY 2013, at least 438 counties in 23 states invested \$939 million in federal CCDBG funds.



# GUEST SPEAKERS



**Shannon Christian**, Director, Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



**Michelle Buckley**, Director, Early Learning Alliance, Tarrant County, Texas



**Lisa Witkowski**, Child Care Program Director, Workforce Solutions, Tarrant County, Texas



# GUEST SPEAKER



**Shannon Christian**, Director, Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**



# National Association of Counties

## Sept. 19, 2018

# Session Overview

- Funding – FY18 & FY19
- State Flexibility & Tradeoffs; State Plans
- PDG & Other Opportunities
- Resources
- Q & A – Discussion

# CCDF Funding FY 2018

- The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 includes **\$5.226 billion in discretionary funding** for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program. This is a **\$2.4 billion increase** from the discretionary funding for fiscal year (FY) 2017.
- Combined with the mandatory funding that was awarded in October, FY 2018 funding for the CCDF program is \$8.143 billion.
- Because the additional funds are **discretionary funds**, there are **no state matching funds**. They are 100% federal funds.



# CCDF Funding FY 2018, continued

- Lead agencies **have until September 30, 2019, to obligate the funds and September 30, 2020, to liquidate** the funds.
- Spending guidance/parameters same as in Reauthorization and Final Rule with 1 exception: No CCDF funding for providers whose health and safety violations have resulted in a serious injury or death.
- Funding Guidance (IM) is online, OCC Website
- FY19 Update

# CCDF is *still* a Block Grant

Within Federal parameters, States, Territories and Tribes have flexibility to determine many activities, standards and thresholds, for example:

- Subsidy payment rates
- Family co-payment schedules
- Income eligibility thresholds
- Quality improvement activities
- Administrative structure and processes

# PDG Birth to 5

- New PDG B-5 vs. Original PDG
- Why it is important
- Goals
- How it works
- How counties can engage

# Purposes of the PDG B-5 Initiative

- Develop, update, or implement a strategic plan that facilitates collaboration and coordination among existing programs of early childhood care and education in a mixed delivery system across the State;
- More efficiently use existing Federal, State, local, and non-governmental resources to align and strengthen the delivery of existing programs;

# Purposes of the PDG B-5 Initiative

(continued)

- Encourage partnerships among the wide range of ECE programs and service partners that make up the B-5 Early Childhood State System;
- Expand parental choice and knowledge about existing programs; and
- Enhance school readiness for children from low-income and disadvantaged families, including during children's transition into elementary school by sharing best practices between and among ECE providers.



# Five Required Activities

- *Activity One:* Conduct or update a thorough statewide birth through five needs assessment of the availability and quality of existing programs/services in the State.
- *Activity Two:* Develop or update a strategic plan, based on needs assessment results, that recommends collaboration, coordination, and quality improvement activities among existing programs.
- *Activity Three:* Maximize parental choice and knowledge; promote and increase involvement by parents and family members in the development and transition of their children.

# Five Required Activities

(continued)

- *Activity Four:* Share best practices among early childhood care and education program providers in the State to increase collaboration and efficiency of services, including to improve transitions from such programs to elementary school.
- *Activity Five:* **After activities one and two are completed,** improve the overall quality of early childhood care and education programs in the State.

Note: Work on Activities Three and Four can begin at the start of the grant period.

# Other Opportunities

- Child Care – Early Head Start Partnerships and Early Head Start Expansion – additional \$100 million in FY18. FOA not out yet. Awards by March 2019.
- TANF collaborative research demos and reauthorization – timing uncertain.
- Child Care Related Zoning, Licensing, QRIS

# Resources

- Office of Child Care <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ>
- PDG B-5 on OCC home page in rotating announcements, or search
- The FY 2019-2021 State Plans are under review. Must post submitted and final on line. Early version may have been posted for public hearings.
- OPRE – Projects by Topic, Child Care --  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/topic/overview/child-care>
- Shannon.Christian@acf.hhs.gov

# The National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers



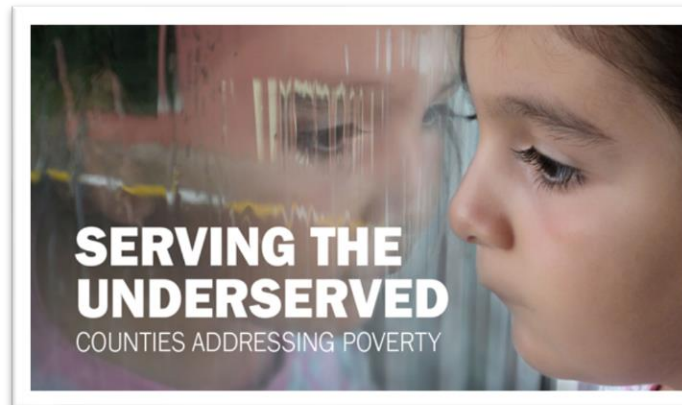


# COUNTIES MATTER

## NACo Charge

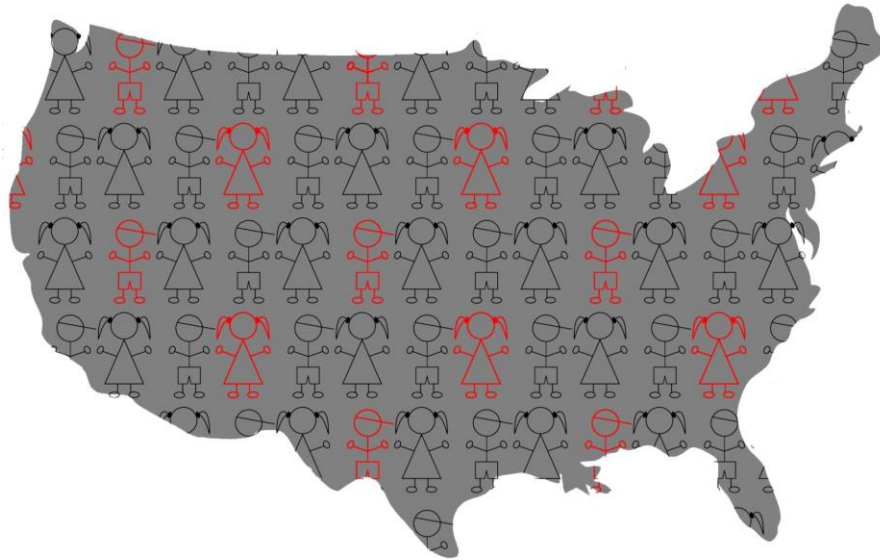
"Ages 0-3 is where counties can make the most difference, move the needle on addressing poverty in the United States... raise awareness about the county role in addressing poverty, advocate for federal policies & support."

- Hon. Roy Charles Brooks, NACo Past President



# KINDERGARTEN READINESS

## NATIONAL STATISTICS



1-in-4 children will arrive in their first classroom  
unprepared for their K-12 education



## A NETWORK



- Boston (MA)
- Denver (CO)
- Flagler and Volusia (FL)
- Guilford (NC)
- Multnomah (OR)
- Onondaga (NY)
- Ventura (CA)
- Los Angeles (CA)
- Kent (MI)
- Orange (CA)



- Austin (TX)
- Baltimore (MD)
- Cleveland (OH)
- Chattanooga (TN)
- Denver (CO)
- Minneapolis (MN)

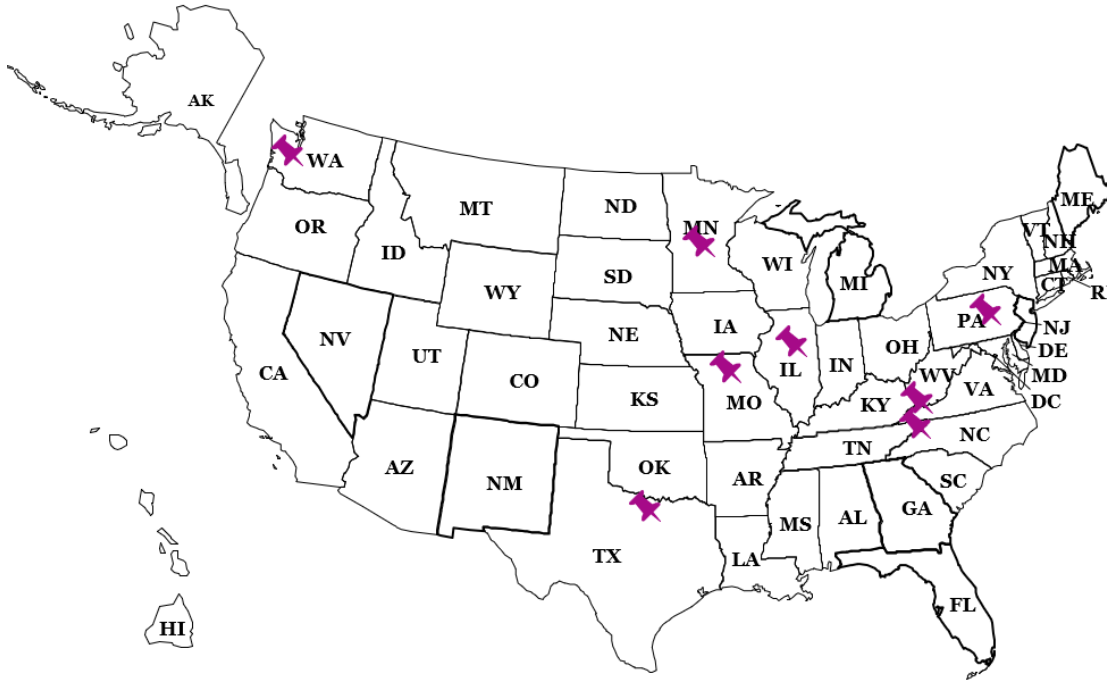
# THREE FOCUS AREAS

Prenatal to three (PN-3)



# PRITZKER CHILDREN'S IMPACT NETWORK

## INAUGURAL COHORT SITE MAP

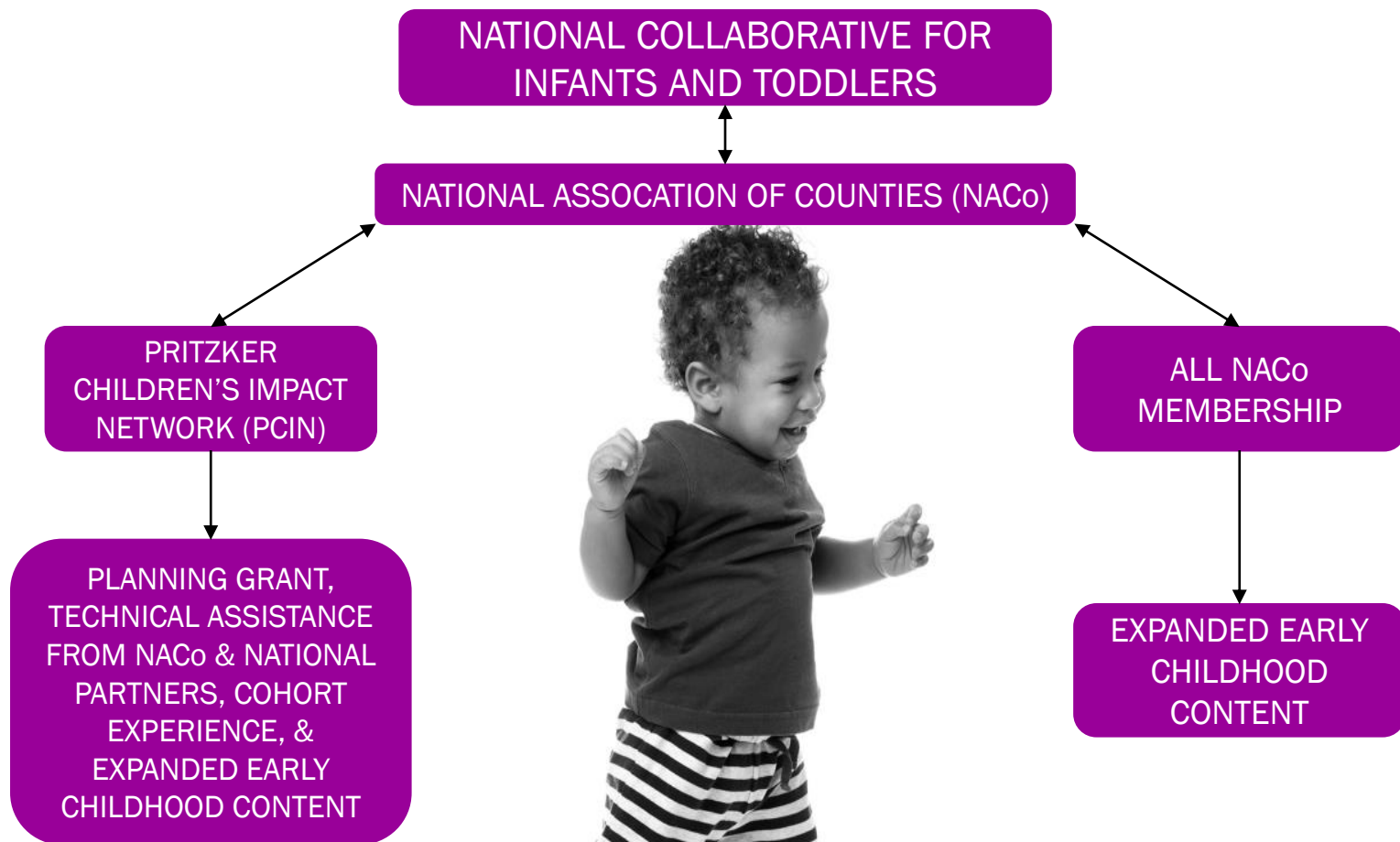


- Boone County, MO; Pierce County, WA; Tarrant County, TX; Champaign County, IL; Ramsey County, MN; Watauga County, NC; Washington County, VA; Dauphin County, PA



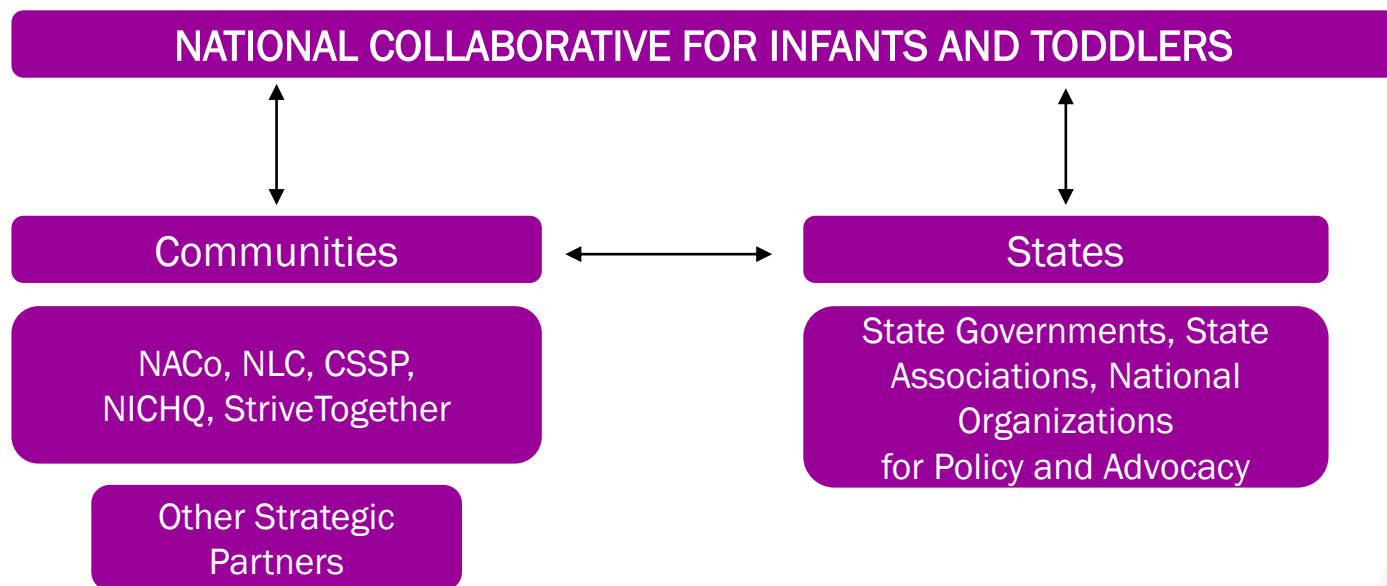


# NACo STRATEGY



# NCIT Strategy

## STRATEGY



# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

How can your county get involved?

- NACo Webinar: Local Efforts Supporting Innovation in Early Childhood Development Part 2
  - September 25 at 2:00PM EST
- Resolution Template
- Rural, Suburban, Urban Peer Learning Networks
- National Website Launch



# EARLY LEARNING

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## ALLIANCE

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Michelle Buckley  
Director  
Early Learning Alliance



Lisa Witkowski  
Child Care Program Director,  
Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County



# Early Learning Alliance History

2013

Fort Worth chosen by **National League of Cities** for nationwide initiative – *Educational Alignment for Young Children (EAYC)* – to improve educational outcomes for children 0-8

**EAYC adopts priorities:**

1. Family engagement
2. Professional development to improve quality
3. Creating system to collect and share data

2014

EAYC convenes statewide summit and the **North Texas Community Foundation (NTCF)** kicks off with panel of national experts

The **North Texas Community Foundation** aligns “toolbox” funding with EAYC goals and awards \$120,000 to EAYC partner organizations

2015

NTCF invests **\$246,400** in EAYC and its partner organizations

EAYC partners launch “**Raising of Fort Worth**” to extend message about importance of committing to early learning to additional sectors

EAYC awarded **Outstanding Child Care Partner for 2015** by Workforce Solutions of Tarrant County

28 members pledge support to EYC with **\$60,550** in dues and contribute in-kind resources to accelerate systems change



# Early Learning Alliance History

2016

— *Fort Worth City Council endorses **EAYC's Next 1,000 Days Plan** and adds early learning to its public policy agenda*

— *EAYC rebranded as the **Early Learning Alliance***

— *ELA recognized as a **"Bright Spot"** by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Network of Opportunity for Child Well-Being*

2017

— ***ELA adopts Results-Based Accountability** for organizations to measure impact achieved together and communicate outcomes*

— *Private foundations provide over **\$160,000** to support the work of ELA*

— *ELA hosts training on racial equity from **National League of Cities**.*

— ***ELA leads the state** in launching a financially supported early childhood career pathway and initiative to elevate early childhood program quality through coordinated mentoring and coaching in Tarrant County*

# Growing Young Minds.

## Building Futures.





## Elevating Early Childhood Professional Quality

### STRATEGY A

#### Professional Development Registry Campaign

*Recruit, educate and empower early education providers through the Tarrant County Registry Campaign*

### STRATEGY B

#### Career Pathway

*Develop stackable trainings and credit-bearing professional development opportunities for early education professionals to progress on a career pathway*

### STRATEGY C

#### Instructional Quality Initiative

*Roll out a public private partnership with local school districts, charter schools, nonprofits and researchers to improve the quality of classroom instruction, mentoring and coaching, using the CLASS assessment tool*



## Elevating Early Childhood Program Quality

### STRATEGY A

#### Texas Rising Star

*Increase the number of early care and education programs in the Texas Rising Star (TRS) system and move current TRS programs into higher ratings*

### STRATEGY B

#### Pre-K and Kindergarten Entry Assessment Tools

*Identify an approach, or approaches, for programs to use and coordinate on common Pre-K and Kindergarten assessments*

### STRATEGY C

#### Early Childhood Data System

*Assist early learning programs and inform parents on the benefits of the Texas Early Childhood Data System*



## Engaging with Families

### STRATEGY A

#### Infant and Toddler

*Developmental Screening Tool  
Identify an approach, or approaches, for families and programs to use/coordinate on a common Developmental Screening Tool for children aged 0-4*

### STRATEGY B

#### Family Forums

*Create/align local parent groups to bring families' voices forward*

### STRATEGY C

#### Improve Organizational Processes for Family Engagement

*Develop organizational processes to provide better family engagement and community coordination*



## Sharing Data and Research

### STRATEGY A

*Results-Based Accountability  
Create a shared data platform for community tracking and reporting on shared outcomes*

### STRATEGY B

*Early Development Instrument  
Present EDI results to community stakeholders and develop action plans for collective impact*

### STRATEGY C

#### Research Roundtables

*Convene roundtables for practitioners, researchers, funders and policymakers to learn about critical sector and policy issues*

# Layering Local, State and Federal Funds



# Improving State Systems Through Local Innovation

## Professional Development Registry Campaign

Recruit, educate and empower early education providers through the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System



## Instructional Quality Initiative

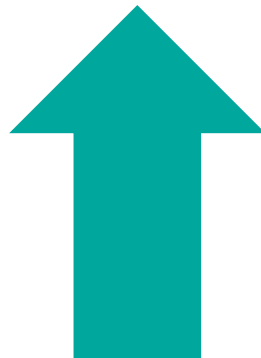
Public private partnership with school districts, charter schools, nonprofits, child care and a regional university to improve classroom instruction, mentoring and coaching using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) assessment tool

# Texas Child Care and Development Block Grant

Current CCDBG Allocation: \$534,301,868

New CCDBG Allocation: \$763,301,868

45%  
Increase



229  
Million

# Texas CCDBG Areas of Focus

**\$189 Million**  
**Direct Care Services**

**+**

**\$40 Million**  
**Quality Enhancement**

- ✓ 2% Increase in Quality Rating System Reimbursement Rates
- ✓ \$10m Child Care / PreK Partnerships
- ✓ \$8m Partner with Community Organizations to Strengthen the Quality Rating System
- ✓ \$7m Local Quality Initiatives
- ✓ \$5.5m Early Learning Centers Impacted by Hurricane Harvey
- ✓ \$3.5m Enhanced Data Systems
- ✓ \$3m Increase the Number of Quality Rating System Mentors/Assessors
- ✓ \$3m Support for Strengthening Child Care Businesses



# STATE & LOCAL COLLABORATION

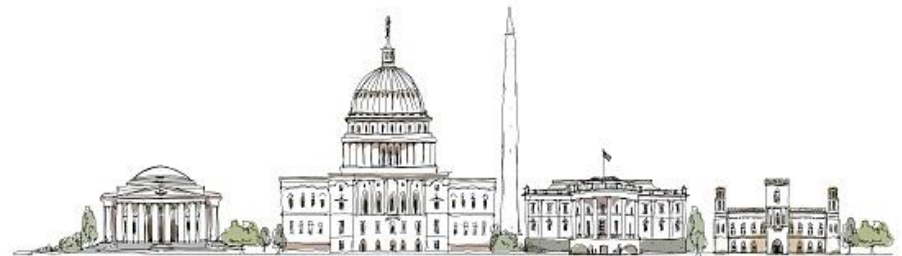


- **State child care subsidy policies and processes**

- Identify problematic areas for families or agency workers; evaluate gaps between program's current policies and program requirements; consider how current processes may create unintended consequences. **States should work with counties to gain an understanding of the experiences and practices used by caseworkers and staff on the front lines.**

- **Lead Agency**

- State Lead Agencies are responsible for administering the CCDBG program and developing the state plan. **Counties can work with their State Lead Agency to provide input when determining the best use of CCDBG resources and priorities for spending CCDBG funding.**
- State Lead Agencies are responsible for developing the state plan. **Counties can work with the state during the public comment period to provide insight on current early childhood programs (needed improvements, successes, barriers, etc.).**





**THANK YOU!**

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