

## *Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation*

### *FY10 Grant and Contract Awards*

#### **Early Care and Education**

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##### **National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE)**

OPRE awarded a contract to the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago in partnership with other research organizations and institutions of higher education to implement the National Survey of Early Care and Education through September 29, 2014. NSECE will gather national data on utilization and availability of early care and education (including school-age care) and provide unique information to understand the extent to which families' needs and preferences coordinate well with providers' offerings and constraints. The experiences of low-income families are of special interest to the study as they are the focus of a significant component of Early Care and Education (ECE) and School Age care (SA) public policy. The NSECE includes three component surveys: a Formal Provider Survey to be conducted with directors of ECE/SA providers including center-based child care, Head Start, pre-K and regulated or registered family child care homes; a Household Survey to be conducted with a parent or guardian of a child or children under age 13; and, a Family, Friend, Neighbor and Nanny (FFNN) Survey to be conducted with individuals who care in a home-based setting for children under age 13 who are not their own. The study also includes a survey of the ECE/SA workforce to be implemented at the same time as the Formal and FFNN provider surveys. The contract includes an option for States to contribute to the study to augment samples in order to conduct state-level estimates.

##### **Study of Early Childhood Care and Education Workforce**

ACF OPRE has awarded a contract to the National Academy of Sciences to establish a panel of independent experts to develop a study of the nation's Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) workforce. The primary objective is to provide an adequate description of the ECCE workforce outlining the parameters that define the population and the supports provided for early childhood teachers and caregivers. The task order will consist of the appointment of a planning committee, with reports to be made available to research, policy, and practice communities. The National Academy of Sciences will also convene a planning meeting that will organize and convene a 2-day workshop to examine key topics in the ECCE workforce.

##### **Measurement Development: Quality of Family-Provider Relationships in Early Care and Education**

In collaboration with the Office of Head Start, OPRE has awarded a contract to develop a measure that will assess the quality of family-provider relationships in early care and education. The goal of the project is to develop a measure that will be applicable to the full range of early care and education settings and providers (i.e., center-based, home-based, family/friend/neighbor, etc.) and a diverse array of families with children aged birth to five, and that can be useful in program evaluation for both accountability and program improvement. The contract was awarded to Westat, with Child Trends as the main subcontractor.

##### **Development of a Measure of the Quality of Caregiver-Child Interactions for Infants and Toddlers (Q-CCIIT)**

In collaboration with the Office of Head Start, OPRE has awarded a new contract, Development of a Measure of the Quality of Caregiver-Child Interactions for Infants and Toddlers (Q-CCIIT) to Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. The goal of this project is to develop a new measure that will assess the quality of child care settings, specifically the quality of caregiver-child interactions for infants and toddlers in non-parental care.

### **Child Care Research Partnerships**

The Child Care Research Partnership grants support research on child care policy issues conducted by state agencies, researchers and other organizations in partnership. Partnerships must include the State agency that administers the Child Care and Development Fund, and at least one member must be a research group. Two grants were awarded for 2010:

- The University of Chicago: Determinants of Subsidy Stability and Continuity of Child Care in Illinois and New York, Principal Investigator Julia Henly
- Child Trends: Early Care and Education Choices, Quality and Continuity, for Low-Income Families A Maryland-Minnesota Research Partnership, Principal Investigator Kathryn Tout

### **Design Options for Home Visiting Evaluation (DOHVE)**

OPRE awarded a contract to MDRC for a five-year project to 1) develop study design, methodology, analysis plans, and resource estimates for the Congressionally mandated national evaluation of the new federal home maternal, infant and early childhood visiting program, 2) provide technical assistance to grantees on (a) research and evaluation related to the promising programs specified in the legislation and (b) benchmarks, data systems and continuous quality improvement, and 3) design and/or pilot test at least one measurement tool to capture relevant benchmark domains for which measurement may not yet be fully developed. The project is being led by ACF in collaboration with HRSA.

### **Early Care and Education Research Scholars**

OPRE awarded 10 grants to support dissertation research on Head Start and child care. Applicants must work in collaboration with Head Start grantees or CCDF subsidy administrators. These awards build capacity and guide researchers toward research relevant to Head Start and child care.

- Harvard University: Beyond Barriers: The Relationship between Head Start Parents' Social Capital, Their Involvement, and Children's Preschool Competencies
- Lehigh University: Quantity, quality, and content: An empirical examination of key integrity components in Early Head Start home visiting
- New York University: Narrative development in dual-language learning Latino Head Start children: Coherence across tasks and languages
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln: Parental Literacy Belief and Engagement in Homes of Dual Language Learners: A Mixed Methods Study
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University: Shared Reading, Guided Participation, and Mind-Mindedness among Appalachian Head Start Mothers
- University of Massachusetts Boston: Occupational Exit of Family Child Care Providers
- University of Missouri: Falling Through the Cracks: Child Care Decision-Making Among the Working Poor
- University of Maryland: Understanding and Strengthening Low-Income Parent-Child Care Provider Partnerships
- University of Maryland: Child Care Decision-making, Subsidy Use, and the Development of Economic Self-sufficiency among Immigrant Parents of Young Children
- Georgetown University: Child Development at the Intersection of Early Care and Education and Child Welfare.