

Early Childhood Advisory Councils or State Advisory Councils Webinar

Joan Lombardi, ACF Deputy
Assistant Secretary

Richard Gonzales, State
Advisory Council Project Officer

Greetings from Joan Lombardi

Deputy Assistant Secretary and Inter-
Departmental Liaison for Early
Childhood Development
Administration for Children and Families

Public Libraries: Creating Learning Communities

Kathleen Reif, Director
St. Mary's County Library
23250 Hollywood Road
Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-475-2846 x1013
kreif@stmalib.org

Why Public Libraries?

- Community based
- FREE lifelong learning resources for ALL
- Trained professional staff
- Collaborators
- Family Centered
- Whole Child
- Open 6-7 days a week

Maryland's experience

- Staff training
- Redesigned library services
- More collaboration and outreach
- Workshops and programs for parents/caregivers
- Workshops on PC use and Internet for adults
- Communication hub for a community

State Advisory Council Topics

Early Childhood Advisory
Councils
or
State Advisory Councils

ARRA Reporting and Other Reporting

- Next ARRA report by October 10, 2010; then quarterly
- Activity Code = B03.02 Early Childhood Education
- Financial Status Report – SF269 (every 6 months)
- Quarterly Program Progress Report/Minutes

Reports to the Secretary

Not later than 18 months after the date a State receives a grant under this paragraph, the State shall submit an interim report to the Secretary. A State that receives a grant under this paragraph shall submit a final report to the Secretary at the end of the grant period.

Congressional, GAO, and Public Inquiries

- To what tasks are federal dollars allocated?
- What have States proposed as sources of match?
- What have States proposed as sustainability plans?
- Describe where States are in their development of their integrated data systems, etc?
- How do I get a copy of my State's application?
- How do I find out what my Council is doing?

Communication with State Stakeholders

- Advertising upcoming Council meetings
- Posting application, reports, minutes, etc.
- Obtaining stakeholder feedback or assistance
- Annual public hearings

Participation/Assistance by Others

- How can I participate in the work of the Council if I have not been selected as a representative?
 - Possibly serve on a subcommittee
 - Submit ideas, suggestions, information, questions to the Council chair prior to scheduled meetings
 - Volunteer to help as needed or for a specific task for which you have knowledge, skills, or interest

Getting Started – Drawing Down Funds

Question: “We haven’t had access to grant funds until recently. Is it acceptable to draw down funds to cover the grant-related expenses that occurred prior to receiving the grant award?”

Response: “Unless you have State reasons why you can not do this, you are allowed to draw down SAC grant funds that cover legitimate State Advisory Council related expenses back to the date of the award.”

Budget Modifications and Modifications to the Work Plan

Address Questions to:

- ACF Project Officer: Richard Gonzales
- ACF Grants Management Specialist: as assigned
- Major changes in task or goals outlined within your plan; additions to tasks or goals outlined within your application
- A change in scope or a transfer of substantive work would require prior approval.
- When in doubt, ask.

Appropriate and Inappropriate Use of ARRA SAC Funds

- Staff paid with ARRA SAC funds must be doing SAC-related work
- Pro-rate salary, if necessary.
- Food for meetings - 2 CFR 220 - costs must be necessary and reasonable to ensure they are allowable.
- When possible, use other sources to pay for food

Finalizing 3rd Party Agreements

- Electronic copies should be sent to project officer once finalized; cc to assigned grants management specialist.
- When agreements end up costing more than projected, you will want to submit how the additional expense will be addressed with available funds; what else will be changed as a result.

Sources of Match - Documentation, Possible Match Difficulties

- Sources of match documented
- Changes in sources of match
- Match amounts documented, as applied
- 70% match required by end of 3 year grant period
- Consequences, if match not met

Updating Contact Information

In order to assure ongoing receipt of important communications, please report changes in:

- Council chair
 - SAC coordinator
 - Council representatives, and
 - Authorized representative
- ... to the ACF Project Officer.

Should Additional Representatives Be Added?

- The spirit of the Head Start legislation as it pertains to Council membership is for States to identify a body:
 - truly representative of the various constituencies and stakeholders
 - with a sufficient diversity of voices to allow for true representation of the entire early care and education community and those who impact their success.

Reviewing the Legislative Requirements

The State Advisory Council shall, in addition to any responsibilities assigned to the Council by the Governor of the State--

- I. conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten services for low-income children in the State;

Activities of the Council

II. identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among Federally-funded and State-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among State agencies responsible for administering such programs;

Activities of the Council

III. develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;

Activities of the Council

IV. develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the State;

Activities of the Council

V. develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the State;

Activities of the Council

VI. assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or pre kindergarten program;

Activities of the Council

VII. make recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate;

Range of Council Goals and Tasks: Similarities and Differences

- Data integration systems
- Professional development and/or career development systems
- Quality rating systems
- Family-community engagement
- Identify and address information needs of parents
- Establish a system of family support including health/mental health supports

Range of Council Goals and Tasks: Similarities and Differences

- Develop and implement a mentor-coach community of practice
- Create common program standards
- Training on early learning standards
- Improved coordination and collaboration
- Infant-toddler focus
- Pre-K – grade 3 alignment

TA to Councils

- States can choose to modify their applications to use some of their federal or non federal allocations to help provide needed TA for their Councils.
- NGA Center for Best Practices will be working cooperatively with ACF to develop a compendium of State profiles related to State Advisory Councils.

Sharing Among the SACs

- ACF and NGA hope to play a key role in helping to share lessons learned, best practices, and progress in developing systems.
- Opportunities/invitations to attend various national, regional, and State conferences, summits, meetings, etc.
- We encourage States to share with one another and with us so we can learn together and leverage our knowledge for the good of all children and families.

To Whom Do I Direct Questions?

Richard Gonzales

Senior Advisor for Early Childhood Development and
Education

Administration for Children and Families

Aerospace Building

901 D Street, SW, 7th Floor West

Washington, D.C. 20447

Phone: 202-401-5138

Email: richard.gonzales@acf.hhs.gov

Q&A Session

Thank You for Your Attention

Now for your questions