

State Initiatives to Expand Early Head Start

Smart Start Conference
May 2, 2013

Agenda

- **What is Early Head Start?**
- **Findings & recommendations from *Expanding Access to Early Head Start: State Initiatives for Infants and Toddlers at Risk***
- **Discussion**

Report is available at:

www.zerotothree.org/expandingehs

and

www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/ehsinitiatives.pdf



What Do We Know About Babies?

- **4 million babies are born every year**
- **All babies need good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences**
- **25% of infants and toddlers live in poverty**
- **Young children in poverty face challenges that can negatively impact their development**



What is Early Head Start (EHS)?



- **Federally-funded, community-based program that provides comprehensive child and family development services to low-income pregnant women and children under age 3**
 - Access to health care and screenings
 - Support for full range of child development
 - Parent support and linkages to services
 - Prenatal health care and support

What is Early Head Start (EHS)?



- **Services provided in centers, homes, child care or a combination of settings**
- **Programs must comply with federal Head Start Program Performance Standards**
- **Program positively impacts:**
 - Children’s cognitive, language and social-emotional development
 - Parental support of child development
 - Family self-sufficiency

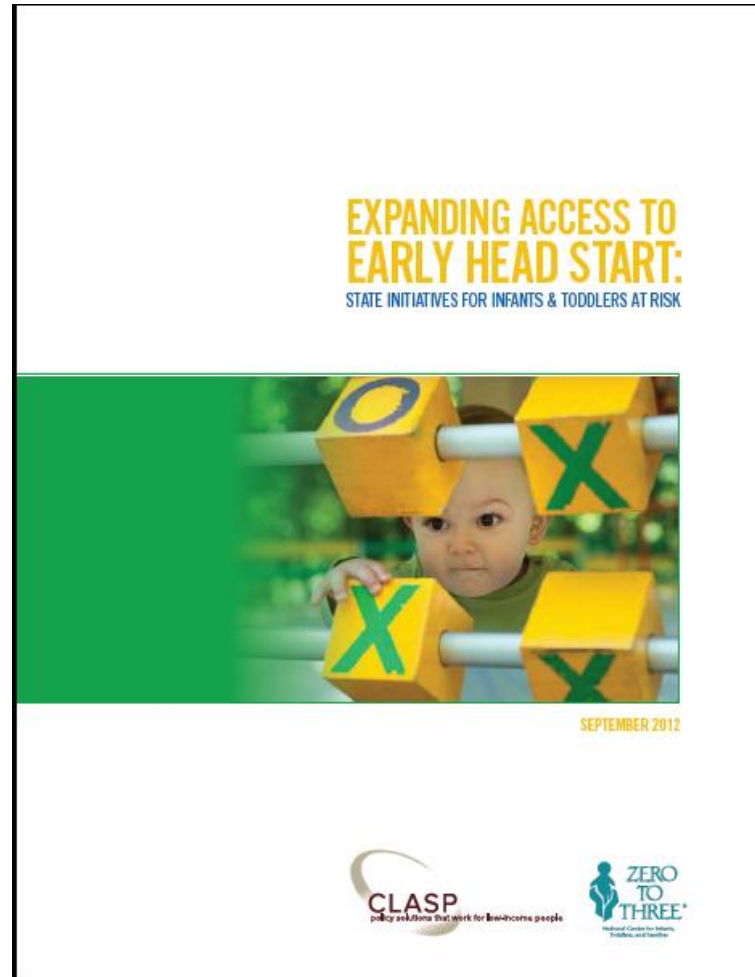


Who Receives EHS Services?

**Less than 4% of
eligible children are
served by federally
funded EHS**



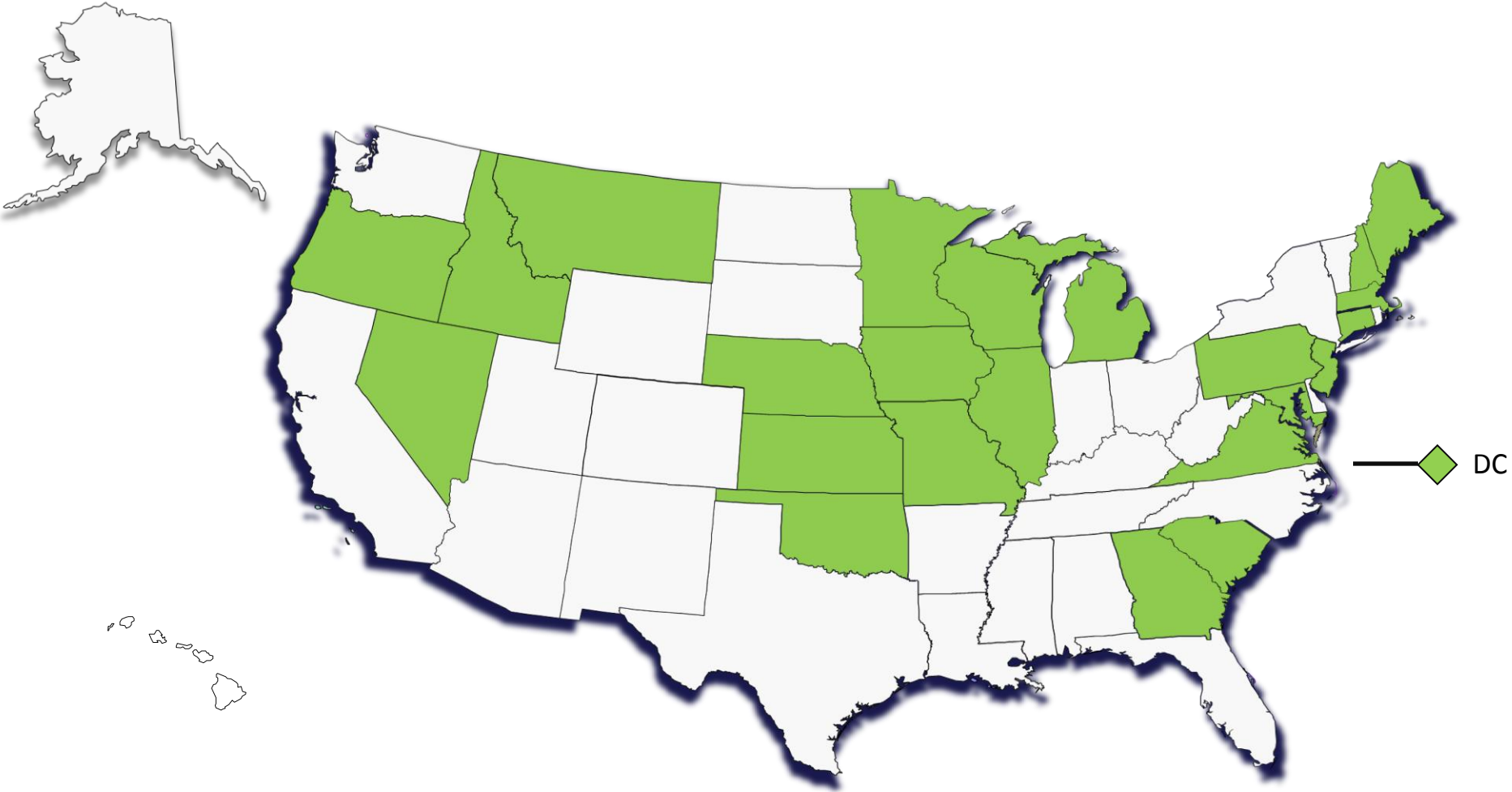
Expanding Access to Early Head Start



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23 States Are Building on EHS



	Have state initiatives
	Do not have state initiatives

Four Primary Approaches

Extend the day/year
of existing services

Expand the capacity
of EHS programs

Provide resources
and assistance to
child care to deliver
EHS

Support partnerships
between EHS and
centers and family
child care to improve
quality of child care

1. Initiatives to extend the day of EHS services are funded through a variety of sources and policy strategies

– Funding sources

- Tobacco settlement funds, state general revenue, Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), and private foundation funds
- Example: Maine

– Policy strategies

- Illinois, Montana, and New Hampshire
- Example: Illinois

- **Funded with tobacco settlement funds**
 - \$1.3 million in FY2010-11
 - Funds divided equally among all federal grantees
- **Programs must meet HS Performance Standards and be enrolled in QRIS**
- **Programs report on performance measures quarterly and must keep 90% of slots filled**
- **Administered by Department of Health and Human Services**

2. Several states are utilizing MIECHV funding to expand EHS services

- 15 states utilize the EHS home-based option
 - Example: Michigan
- EHS representatives were involved in MIECHV planning in many states
 - Example: New York



- **EHS at the table when planning for MIECHV**
- **EHS home-based model 1 of 3 chosen**
- **4 at-risk communities are expanding existing EHS programs**
 - Migrant/Seasonal grantee is expanding beyond existing center-based program to offer home-based
- **Many referrals coming from child protection**

3. Several states have supplemental funding initiatives that are open to Head Start and EHS grantees

- A majority of these states have supplemental funding initiatives in which both existing Head Start and EHS grantees are eligible to participate
 - Example: Oklahoma
- Oregon direct funds specifically to EHS
 - Example: Oregon

- **Began in 1998 using CCDBG quality set-aside**
 - FY2012: \$9.9 million funding; 1,000 served
- **Grantees must partner with child care**
 - Services meet HS Performance Standards regardless of setting
 - Some grantees offer child care partners financial incentives
- **Parents must be employed or attending school**
- **Services are offered year round**
- **DCF collects outcome data quarterly**

4. A few states continue to provide resources to child care providers

- Oklahoma builds on EHS by providing resources to help child care providers meet EHS standards



- **Grants to home- and center-based programs to expand access to the EHS model**
- **Funded through a 14% IT set-aside of the Early Childhood Block Grant**
 - \$2.8 million in FY2012 supports services for 673 families and 748 children
- **Programs must serve infants and toddlers at-risk of school failure**
- **Administered by the Illinois State Board of Education**

5. States continue to encourage EHS-child care partnerships

- States primarily use two strategies:
 - Establishing policies to lessen the burden of partnership
 - Providing funding to EHS programs that partner with child care providers so EHS services are delivered in child care settings.
 - Examples: Nebraska and Kansas

- **MOA to promote HS/EHS and child care wrap-around services**
 - Allows licensed child care providers to bill DCYF directly for the non-HS/EHS part of the day
- **EHS programs and child care providers sign a partnership MOA**
 - Outlines collaboration around: billing, training and transportation
- **6 new partnership MOAs submitted**
- **No funding required**

Recommendations for States



- **Leverage federal funding streams to further state investment in EHS and increase the availability of comprehensive services to more children and families**
- **Provide sufficient state funding to the EHS initiative and participating providers to ensure stable resources in communities**



Recommendations for States



- **Use EHS initiatives to partner with and enhance the quality of child care for infants and toddlers in the state**
- **Cultivate champions for EHS and the needs of vulnerable infants and toddlers, inside and outside of state government**
- **Integrate EHS into the broader early childhood system so that more infants and toddlers receive high quality services**

- **President Obama's FY 2014 Budget**
 - Launch of a new Early Head Start-Child Care partnership program
 - \$1.4 billion
- **Birth-to-Five funding pilot**
 - Applicants can submit a single application incorporating Head Start and Early Head Start funding

Conclusion



- **EHS plays a critical role in the continuum of high quality early childhood services by supporting the most vulnerable young children’s healthy development.**
- **Unfortunately, far too few families who could benefit from EHS’ comprehensive services receive them.**
- **With difficult economic circumstances across the country and increased need, it is imperative that states further invest in their youngest children.**

Questions?



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