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# State Early Care and Education Public Policy Developments (FY10)

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Although states saw growing budget deficits during FY09, the dollars that will flow to states through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) can provide an opportunity to backfill certain cuts to early childhood and education and to fund new or expanded initiatives. Despite the tough economic climate and cuts to certain early care and education programs, governors and state legislatures did approve policy changes for FY10 in a variety of areas including infant/toddler initiatives, professional development, and child care subsidies.

Following is a recap of public policy developments in states in the following areas:

- **Professional Development**
- **Child Care Subsidies**
- **Child Care Regulations**
- **Quality Rating and Improvement Systems**
- **Infant/Toddler**
- **Prekindergarten**
- **Kindergarten**
- **Birth to Five**
- **Child Assessment**
- **Quality Enhancements**
- **Governance**
- **Public-Private Partnerships**
- **Statewide Councils**

- **Health Care**
- **Early Intervention**
- **Mental Health**
- **Collective Bargaining**
- **Charter Schools**
- **Public Schools**
- **Tax Credits**

## Professional Development

The **Alabama** Department of Children’s Affairs provided **\$200,000** to T.E.A.C.H., which is administered by the Alabama Partnership for Children, for teachers in First Class or pre-k classrooms who are pursuing B.S. degrees.

In **California**, CALWORKs was allocated **\$4M** for training former recipients as child care teachers, with community colleges that have demonstrated high completion rates given priority for this funding.

**California’s** state legislature allocated **\$2.5M** for the training of license-exempt child care providers, with priority given to those providers who serve children whose families receive child care subsidies.

**Indiana’s** Family and Social Services Administration, Bureau of Child Care allocated **\$2.4M** for FY10 to T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® INDIANA, to support Child Development Associate Assessment and Renewal, Child Development Associate Training, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, and Mentor Scholarships.

In **Indiana**, the Family and Social Services Administration, Bureau of Child Care allocated **\$749,868** for FY10 to support professional development opportunities for 550 candidates through the Indiana Non Formal CDA Project.

**Iowa’s** Department of Education was allocated **\$916,700** in FY10 for professional development for the early care, health and education system. The state Department of Health and Human Services was allocated **\$1.1M** in FY10 for professional development for the early care, health and education system.

In **Maine**, **LD 1069** “Resolve, To Direct the Maine Children's Growth Council to Study the Connections between Higher Education and Early Childhood Education” passed on May 27, 2009, and was signed by the governor on June 2, 2009. The bill directs the Maine Children’s Growth Council to convene a working group to make recommendations for

creating opportunities for higher education for licensed child care providers. This group is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 15, 2010.

**Massachusetts'** Early Educators Scholarship Program was funded at **\$3.2M** for FY10 – a decrease of \$800,000 from the FY09 funding level.

In **Minnesota**, state funding in the amount of **\$500,000** for T.E.A.C.H. was line-item vetoed from the Higher Education Bill. The state still receives federal funding for this program.

**New York** is using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars to restore funding for the Education Incentive Program, which provides training and scholarships to early childhood providers.

State funding for **North Carolina's** T.E.A.C.H. program was reduced by **\$3.8M** for FY10. However, the state legislature replaced this amount with federal funding – flat-funding the program for FY10.

In **Rhode Island**, funding for professional development in the state education aid account was reduced by **\$495,000** in the FY10 budget.

**South Carolina's** T.E.A.C.H funding was maintained for FY10. The T.E.A.C.H Project provides four credentials: Early Childhood Development 101, School Age, Director, and Infant Toddler Credential.

In **Washington, HB 1943**, requiring recommendations for preparation and professional development for the early learning and school-age program workforce passed.

**Washington's** Career and Wage Ladder was level-funded at **\$3M**. Half of this funding comes from ARRA, the other half comes from state general funds.

The Early Learning Apprenticeship Program in **Washington** was eliminated.

**Wisconsin's** T.E.A.C.H. and R.E.W.A.R.D. scholarships and stipends were level-funded at **\$3.5M** for the 2009-2011 biennium.

## Child Care Subsidies

In **California**, the CALWORKs allocation to counties, which is used to provide child care assistance and fund certain employment and transportation services, was reduced by **\$375M** for FY10.

**California's** Department of Education was allocated **\$250,000** to conduct a demographic study of the families and children receiving child care subsidies, as well as information on family co-payments, the number and percentage of families receiving child care assistance by categories of eligibility and need, and the number of families entering the child care subsidy system by family income and size.

**California** is using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to backfill previous funding cuts of **\$17.3M** to the General Child Care and **\$3.1M** to the Migrant Day Care accounts. ARRA funds will also add **\$15.4M** to the alternate payment program child care slots and **\$55.1M** to CALWORKs child care assistance programs.

**Illinois'** child care assistance program (CCAP) was level-funded for FY10.

**Iowa's** state legislature allocated **\$37.8M** for child care assistance to eligible families.

In **Iowa**, **HF 820** passed and was signed into law by the governor on May 26, 2009. One of the provisions of the bill is that **\$2.4M** of the \$18M allocated to the state through the ARRA child care development block grant is transferred to the early childhood programs grant account in the Iowa empowerment fund for child care scholarships for families with incomes between 145% and 185% of the federal poverty level.

In **Maine**, **LD 1416** "An Act to Update Terms and Make Changes in Child Care Transportation Benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program" was enacted on June 2, 2009, and signed by the governor on June 8, 2009. The bill authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to establish by rule the income standards and rates of payment for transitional child care assistance. It also allows the Department of Health and Human Services to establish maximum eligibility limits that are less than 200% of the federal poverty level for certain families for transitional child care services for FY10 only.

Also in **Maine**, several changes were made regarding child care subsidies. Now, providers receiving child care subsidies are required to enroll in the state's Child Care Quality Rating System. In addition, family co-payments will remain on a sliding fee based on family gross income (but will be capped at 10% of gross family income) and will be the

same amount for full time,  $\frac{3}{4}$  time,  $\frac{1}{2}$  time or  $\frac{1}{4}$  time care. The child care reimbursement rates for 2009 -2010 child care contract and voucher rates will switch to the 2006 market rate.

In **Maryland**, pending the governor's signature on the family child care contract, a 3% child care reimbursement rate increase will go into effect January 1, 2010.

The Access Management line-item in **Massachusetts'** state budget was allocated **\$9.8M** for FY10. The line-item, which includes funding for child care resource and referral agencies and Community Partnership for Children programs, saw a funding decrease of \$13.5M from the FY09 funding level.

**Massachusetts'** Rate Reserve, which funds increases in state child care subsidy reimbursement rates, was not funded in the FY10 state budget. The Rate Reserve was funded at \$3M in FY09.

In **Minnesota**, **HF 768/SF 575** passed, providing funds to reduce the Basic Sliding Fee waiting list (which included more than 7,400 families as of December 2008). The legislature allocated **\$8M** in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to decrease the state's wait list.

**Minnesota's** state legislature allocated an increase of **\$1M** to Postsecondary Child Care Grants. The additional funding will be used to assist parents who are pursuing a postsecondary degree with child care costs.

In **Minnesota**, **HF 601** passed, continuing funding for the School Readiness Connections pilot program. The legislature appropriated **\$1.5M** for the pilot – including \$800,000 from TANF, \$514,000 from the State General Fund, and \$211,000 from ARRA. The School Readiness Connections pilot now requires a rating of at least 3 stars in the Parent Aware Quality Rating System pilot for participating programs.

**Minnesota's** state legislature passed legislation that established a standards-based quality rating system framework, based on and informed by the evaluation results of the Parent Aware pilot, with a report to the Legislature in March 2011. The legislation also requires the state's School Readiness programs to:

- Use a comprehensive assessment tool.
- Align classroom instruction with early learning guidelines and kindergarten standards.
- Ensure staff-child ratios of 1:10.

- Coordinate appropriate kindergarten transition with parents and kindergarten teachers.
- Employ teachers knowledgeable in curriculum, assessment and instruction.

**New York** saw two changes to child care subsidy policy - funding now flows directly to counties and parents are no longer required to seek child support in order to obtain a child care subsidy. In addition, the state legislature allocated **\$110M** of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding to child care subsidies over the next three years (which amounts to **\$36.7M** per year).

In **North Carolina**, funding for the state's child care subsidy program was reduced by **\$15M** for FY10.

In **Washington**, **\$214,000** was allocated to fund the enhanced toddler subsidy rate for licensed family child care providers that was included in the collective bargaining agreement between family child care providers and the state. The enhanced rate is 115% of the regular toddler rate.

**Washington's** state legislature allocated **\$141,000** to increase the Homeless Child Care subsidy rate so that it is equivalent to the reimbursement rates in the 2007-09 family home child care collective bargaining agreement.

The **Wisconsin** Shares program received an increase of **\$27M** - total funding for the program is **\$385M** in 2009-10 and **\$402.5M** in 2010-11. However, child care reimbursement rates will remain frozen at 2006 levels during the 2009-11 biennium.

**Wisconsin** has changed family income eligibility rules for child care subsidies by counting court-ordered child support or family support payments as income only if the amount exceeds \$1,250 per month.

In response to fraud found in the **Wisconsin** Shares program, the state budget allocated funding to support a five-person program integrity unit to investigate fraud.

## **Child Care Regulations**

In **Idaho**, **Senate Bill 112** passed, making significant changes to the state's child care regulations. The bill includes provisions that require criminal background checks for all facilities that care for 4 or more children; facilities serving 7-12 children be licensed rather than certified; new teacher: child ratios; family child care providers count their own

children in their teacher: child ratio; and new minimum annual training hours for child care providers.

In **Iowa, SF 478** passed and was signed into law by the governor on May 26, 2009. One of the provisions of the bill states that the Department of Human Services must implement a regulatory fee for the licensure of child care facilities as well as require federal background checks for staff. The fee requirements must provide for tiered amounts based upon a child care facility's capacity and a child development home's regulatory category at the time of licensure.

In **Maryland, HB 712/SB 356** passed, requiring all regulated child care providers to have a comprehensive, written emergency plan that includes notification of parents and communication with local emergency management officials, with training for staff to implement the plan. The State Department of Education is also required to consult with emergency management professionals and the disabilities community in the implementation of this law.

**Minnesota's** Private Schools Licensing Moratorium has been lifted except for the following exemptions: Private Schools will need a child care license unless the program is accredited and is serving only children who are age 33 months or older for no more than four hours per day per child, with no more than 20 children at any one time.

In **North Carolina**, funding for the state's child care licensing system was reduced by **\$602,385**. This reduction in funding will increase existing child care licensing fees by 50% and also impose a new fee for family child care homes.

**Wisconsin's** legislature allocated **\$5.8M** for child care licensing for the 2009-2011 biennium. There will also be an increase in licensing fees for group centers that provide care for nine or more children (from \$10.33/child to \$16.94/child) – all other child care center licensing fees will remain the same.

The Jalen Knox-Perkins child care van alarm bill went into effect in **Wisconsin**. The bill mandates that a child safety alarm be placed in the rear of certain child care vehicles. The alarm requires a driver to physically move to the back of the van (while checking to ensure that all children have exited the van) in order to disarm the device.

## Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

**Idaho's** Department of Health and Welfare allocated **\$1.6M** of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to the IdahoSTARS program. An additional **\$1.4M** in ARRA funds was allocated to The University of Idaho Center on Disabilities and Human Development and Idaho AEYC to expand professional development opportunities for IdahoSTARS participants. The additional funding will support academic scholarships, training scholarships, mentoring and coaching, program quality improvement grants, QRIS assessments, CCR&R support for providers, database development and research and program evaluation.

**Iowa's** state legislature allocated **\$1.5M** in FY10 for child care quality improvement. In addition, changes were made allowing for a revision of the achievement bonus provisions under the voluntary quality rating system. The changes will mean that the bonus amount paid for a provider renewing a rating at levels 2 through 4 in years subsequent to the initial rating cannot be more than 50 percent of the amount of the initial bonus award. For providers who renew at a lower rating level than previously awarded, the achievement bonus amount cannot be more than 50 percent of the award amount for the lower rating level.

In **Minnesota**, language from **HF 40/SF 72** was included in the Education Omnibus bill passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. This language supports the state's intention to build a statewide voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System, building on the lessons from the current ParentAware pilot, and providing access to training and technical assistance for providers.

In **Minnesota**, **\$1.5M** was appropriated from the ARRA Child Care and Development Block Grant quality set-aside to continue the Parent Aware Quality Rating System in the 4 areas of the state where it is currently being piloted. **\$136,000** from additional ARRA funds will be allocated to the program in 2011.

**Minnesota's** state legislature allocated **\$1.3M** for QRS Preparation from ARRA Child Care and Development Block Grant quality set-aside. This allocation may fund training, coaching, consultation and other supports. Funds will flow primarily through the Minnesota Child Care Resource and Referral Network, which operates the Parent Aware Quality Rating System pilot, to training organizations and institutions to support early childhood programs in improving their levels of quality in preparation for implementation of the quality rating and improvement system.

Also in **Minnesota**, the state legislature passed legislation that establishes a standards-based quality rating and improvement system

framework, based on and informed by the evaluation results of the Parent Aware pilot, with a report to the Legislature due in March 2011. The framework must:

- Determine a common set of child outcome and program standards.
- Develop a plan to link and realign future early learning and care state funding to the framework.
- Track progress toward: statewide access to high-quality early learning and care programs, the number of low-income children whose parents can access quality programs, and the number of children who are fully prepared to enter kindergarten.

**New York** is using **\$1.5M** of the ARRA Child Care and Development Block Grant quality set-aside over the next two years to fund field-testing of QUALITYstarsNY, a quality rating and improvement system.

In **Washington**, **\$1M** from the ARRA Child Care and Development Block Grant quality set-aside was allocated to the Department of Early Learning to contract with Thrive by Five Washington to pilot a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) throughout the state. This number represents a reduction of \$4M from the 2009-2011 maintenance level. Funds will be split between the five demonstration sites in King, Yakima, Clark, Spokane, and Kitsap counties. These funds support professional development, training and mentoring in the pilot locations.

**Wisconsin's** state legislature directed the Department of Children and Families to develop a detailed plan for a statewide quality rating and improvement system and submit the plan to the Joint Finance Committee by June 30, 2011.

## **Infant/Toddler**

In **Minnesota**, parents and legal guardians will now be required to sign a document (designed by the Department of Human Services) that includes a statement that they have read the information provided by the Minnesota Sudden Infant Death Center concerning the risk of SIDS and the importance of placing an infant or child on his back to sleep to reduce the risk of SIDS.

**New York** is using ARRA Child Care and Development Block Grant infant-toddler set-aside dollars to increase funding for seven Regional Infant Toddler Resource Centers.

**Oklahoma's** Governor Brad Henry will allocate **\$15M** of ARRA State Fiscal Stabilization Fund dollars to establish three early care and education centers for infants and toddlers in the Tulsa Public School

system. The George Kaiser Family Foundation is providing matching funds and Tulsa Public Schools will invest an additional \$2M for operating costs. The new centers will serve an estimated 600 at-risk infants and toddlers in Tulsa.

In **South Carolina, \$185,000** of the ARRA Child Care and Development Block Grant infant-toddler set-aside will be used for the statewide roll out of Infant Toddler guidelines, which will allow technical colleges to embed the guidelines into formal course work leading to the infant toddler credential. Additional funding from the set-aside will also support the implementation of a 4-module infant toddler curriculum, a Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC) graduate conference and the South Carolina PITC Infant Toddler Specialist Network.

In **Washington, \$1.6M** of the ARRA Child Care and Development Block Grant infant-toddler set-aside will be used for training, technical assistance, and child care consultation.

## Prekindergarten

**Alabama's** Governor Bob Riley and the state legislature increased overall funding for First Class: Alabama's Voluntary Pre-K Program by **\$19M** for FY10.

Funding for **Alabama's** Head Start state supplement was eliminated. Funding for Head Start through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will be used for expansion, cost of living adjustments, and technical assistance.

In **Alaska**, the Head Start state supplement received a **\$600,000** increase in funding for FY10.

**Alaska's** Pilot Voluntary Pre-K program received **\$2M** in funding to provide pre-k services to 500 four-year-olds in school districts across the state.

The **District of Columbia** awaits Congressional Approval of its FY10 budget to continue implementation of the Pre-k Expansion and Enhancement Act of 2008. The legislation charges the District with fully implementing universal high-quality pre-k educational services by 2014 and creates an initiative to utilize public schools, public charter schools, and community-based organizations (including Head Start) in this effort. The initiative is administered by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Office of Early Childhood Education.

Funding for **Illinois'** Preschool for All program was reduced by 10% from FY 09. The program is funded at **\$38M** for FY10.

**Iowa's** state legislature allocated **\$11.5M** in FY10 for new voluntary preschool program grants.

**Maine** will receive approximately **\$2.8M** in funding for Head Start through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which will be used primarily to address current funding instability and to assist grantees in meeting mandated salary and enrollment numbers.

**Maryland's** Head Start state supplement was reduced by **\$1.2M** for FY10.

In **Maryland**, **HB 184/SB 234** passed, requiring the State Department of Education to finalize the draft Business Plan created by the Task Force on Universal Preschool Education by soliciting input from local school systems and governing bodies, evaluating factors related to pre-k participation and demand, providing a concrete cost estimate and submitting a report to the Governor and General Assembly by December 2009.

**Massachusetts'** Universal Pre-Kindergarten program was funded at **\$8M** for FY10, a decrease of over \$2M from the FY09 funding level.

**Massachusetts'** Head Start state supplement was allocated **\$8M** for FY10 – a decrease of \$1M from FY09.

Funding for **New York's** prekindergarten program was level-funded for FY10 at **\$452M**.

In **North Carolina**, funding for the state's prekindergarten program More at Four was reduced by **\$5M** for FY10.

**Rhode Island's** Head Start state supplement was allocated **\$1M** in funding for FY10, which will be used to provide services to 163 children.

**South Carolina's** Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP) was funded with recurring general funds totaling **\$17.3M** for FY10. Eligibility for the Education Improvement Act four-year-old program was changed so that children are eligible based on same criteria as CDEPP – family eligibility for free and reduced lunch and/or Medicaid or documented developmental delays.

In **Washington**, **HB 2261**, which redefines basic education in the state, passed. The Governor vetoed section 115 of HB 2261, which removed

the creation of a workgroup for early learning and intent language for inclusion of early learning for at-risk three and four year olds in the definition of basic education. Section 114, which creates a Quality Education Council, was retained and names a program of early learning for at-risk three and four-year-olds among the items to be included in an initial report to the legislature by January 2010. In Governor Gregoire's veto message, she asked that by December 1, 2009, the Department of Early Learning and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction collaborate and produce a proposal for ensuring that all Washington children have the benefit of early childhood education.

Funding for **Washington's** Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) was reduced by **\$2.3M**, resulting in a temporarily reduction in the number of slots in 2009-11 by 2.1% statewide. This cut will impact approximately 160 children. In addition, funding for Department of Early Learning staff and administrative expenses for ECEAP were reduced by **\$818,000** (2.2 FTEs).

**Wisconsin's** 4-year-old Kindergarten (4K) program was allocated **\$3M** in 2009-2010 and **\$1.5M** in 2010-2011 for start-up grants. The priority for 4K start-up grants is for school districts using "community approaches for 4K."

In **Wisconsin**, Head Start programs are slated to receive a total of **\$4.5M** for Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) and **\$5.2M** for quality improvement initiatives through ARRA for the 2009-2011 biennium.

**Wisconsin's** state legislature decreased the Head Start state supplement by 3.5 %.

## Kindergarten

**Massachusetts'** Kindergarten Expansion Grants were funded at **\$25.9M** for FY10. This number represents a decrease of almost \$5M from the FY09 funding level.

Beginning September 2009 in **New Hampshire**, all school districts will offer public kindergarten.

**South Carolina** suspended professional staffing (teacher:child) ratios in Kindergarten.

## Birth to Five

**Iowa's** state legislature allocated **\$7.4M** in FY10 for the early childhood grants program.

## Child Assessment

**South Carolina's** state legislature allocated funds to expand the American Society for Quality (ASQ) online pilot, which seeks to improve the quality of infant toddler care by using a systemic approach of documentation of children's development and progress and parent communication.

In **Washington**, **\$100,000** was allocated to the state Department of Early Learning to work with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and stakeholders to develop and pilot a kindergarten readiness assessment process. School districts may participate in the pilot on a voluntary basis. The Department is required report to the legislature on the assessment process by January 15, 2011.

## Quality Enhancements

**Indiana's** Family and Social Services Administration, Bureau of Child Care allocated **\$863,970** to provide financial and technical assistance for early childhood facilities working towards or maintaining accreditation through the Indiana Accreditation Project and Paths to QUALITY (Indiana's quality rating and improvement system).

**Iowa's** Department of Education was allocated **\$2.6M** in FY10 for improving the quality of early care programs.

The Quality Supports line-item in **Massachusetts'** state budget, which previously solely provided support for programs pursuing NAEYC or NAFCC Accreditation, was allocated **\$14M** for FY10. This line-item now includes funding for professional development opportunities across the state.

**Minnesota** is using **\$750,000** from the ARRA Child Care and Development Block Grant quality set-aside to continue a pilot program for Family, Friend and Neighbor providers to increase their levels of quality.

## Governance

In **Maryland**, **HB 244/SB 413** passed - establishing the Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families as a permanent body of the General Assembly. The Joint Committee was created in 1999, and has undertaken multi-agency evaluation of state efforts to improve the health, education, safety and economic well-being of children in Maryland.

**Minnesota's** Department of Human Services (DHS) and Department of Education (MDE) have been charged with conducting a study of how to effectively transition Basic Sliding Fee child care, Minnesota Family Investment Program child care, and child care development grants from DHS to MDE, as well as how to create an early learning system with one common set of standards.

## Public-Private Partnerships

**Alaska's** Best Beginnings was allocated **\$200,000** for FY10.

State funding to **North Carolina's** Smart Start was reduced by **\$16.3M** for FY10.

## Statewide Councils

**Alabama** has established a Home Based Advisory Council, which is lead by the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs. This group represents the home based parent education programs in the state of Alabama, including Parents as Teachers, HIPPIY, Nurse Family Partnership, and Healthy Families.

**Arizona** Governor Jan Brewer created a new P-20 Council by executive order. The council is charged with researching ways to coordinate curricula and instruction from pre-k through college.

In **Maine**, **LD 969** "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Children's Growth Council" was enacted June 11, 2009, and signed by the governor on June 15, 2009. This bill strikes the provision in the law that repeals the Maine Children's Growth Council on October 1, 2009. This bill also amends the membership of the council to add the Head Start Collaboration Director and up to 7 additional public members appointed by the Governor.

**Minnesota's** State Early Childhood Advisory Council has been charged with creating an inventory of early childhood services. Specifically, the Council must identify and describe programs and initiatives funded by state, federal, or private dollars. The inventory must also be broken down by specific geographic regions served by the program, number of children eligible and enrolled, and the demographics of enrolled children.

## Health Care

**California's** Healthy Families health insurance program was cut by **\$178.6M**. The California First 5 Commission announced it would provide Healthy Families with **\$81.4M** to help backfill some of its budget cuts. The funds will ensure that over 200,000 children aged birth to five will continue their coverage.

In **California**, the Black Infant Health Program was eliminated.

In **Delaware**, **HB 199** passed the General Assembly and was signed into law by the governor on August 27, 2009. The bill requires that private health insurers in Delaware cover evidence-based developmental screenings that are recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Delaware Early Childhood Council for infants and toddlers at 9, 19 and between 24 and 30 months. These screenings are already covered for children in the state's Medicaid program and the estimated cost to policyholders of covering these screenings is three cents per member per month.

**Delaware's** General Assembly passed **HB 139**, which was signed into law by the governor on August 27, 2009. The legislation extends Delaware's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to include reduced-cost health insurance coverage for children from families with incomes above 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. In addition, a cost-sharing program will be implemented under CHIP whereby payments, as determined by the Department of Health and Social Services, must be paid on behalf of the child for such care - the cost-sharing provision of the bill was designed so that the new program would impose no cost whatsoever on the state unless funds are specifically appropriated for it.

In **Rhode Island**, eligibility for RItE Care was maintained at 250% of the federal poverty level (FPL) for children and at 175% FPL for parents. RItE Care eligibility for lawfully residing immigrant children who also meet income guidelines was restored after coverage was eliminated on June 30, 2008.

**Rhode Island's** RIte Care premiums were rolled back to July 2008 levels. As of May 31, 2009, the \$45 monthly RIte Care premium charged to families with incomes between 133%-150% FPL was eliminated and the premium amounts for families between 150%-250% FPL were reduced from 5% to 3% of family income. Legislation also passed that permits the state to recoup unpaid RIte Care premiums from state income tax returns, starting with calendar year 2009.

In **Washington**, **\$389,000** was allocated to fund the health care benefits portion of the collective bargaining agreement between family child care providers and the state. The health care funding growth rate increases 3% in FY 2010 and 3% in FY 2011.

### Early Intervention

Part C Early Intervention services in **Alaska** received an increase of **\$1.3M** for FY10.

In **California**, funding for Regional Centers that provide services to children from birth to five who have developmental disabilities was cut by **\$50M**.

**New York** restored funding for the state's Early Intervention Program, preventing new requirements of parent fees and additional reporting.

In **South Carolina**, administration of Part C Intervention services has been transferred from the Department of Health and Environmental Control to the Office of First Steps.

### Mental Health

**Iowa's** state legislature allocated **\$159,603** in FY10 to address the healthy mental development of children from birth through five years.

In **Massachusetts**, the Early Childhood Mental Health line-item was funded at **\$1M** for FY10, a decrease of \$1.4M from the previous fiscal year. This funding supports services to early childhood programs to reduce the expulsion rates and expand the number of service providers to increase access statewide.

## Collective Bargaining

In **Washington**, funding for the Department of Early Learning's portion of the family child care collective bargaining implementation costs was reduced by **\$1M**.

## Charter Schools

In **Rhode Island**, **\$1.5M** was allocated to fund charter school expansion, including a new Mayoral Academy.

## Public Schools

**Rhode Island's** General Assembly allocated **\$662M** in state education aid to school districts and state schools for FY10. This allocation is a reduction of **\$34M** from FY09.

**Wisconsin's** total K-12 state funding is **\$6.22B** for 2009-2010 (a decrease of \$77M from the 2008-2009 base funding level) and **\$6.23B** for 2010-2011 (a decrease of \$62M from the 2008-2009 base funding level).

## Tax Credits

In **Wisconsin**, child care tax deductions originally passed in the 2007-09 budget and then delayed, were postponed until tax year 2011.