The First Five Years Fund

FEDERAL INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT EARLY LEARNING

Initiative:	**FY 2010 Appropriations**
Lead Agency:	HHS and Ed
Current Status:	Senate to complete its appropriations bill later this year, likely as part of an omnibus spending package.
Short Description:	Funding for all early childhood and other programs. The House and Senate appropriations committees gave Head Start/Early Head Start an inflationary increase and flat-funded CCDBG, as requested by the President's budget. They provided $10 million for Promise Neighborhoods, but did not fund the President's request to set aside for early learning a portion of Title I funding (the main federal K-12 funding stream). The report observed that Head Start/Early Head Start, CCDBG and Title I all received significant funding increases for Fiscal Year 2010 in the stimulus legislation.

Initiative:	**FY 2011 Appropriations**
Lead Agency:	HHS and Ed
Current Status:	Agencies developing plans for proposed FY 2011 budgets
Short Description:	One major issue will be avoiding the "funding cliff" created by stimulus funding for early learning programs. Early childhood advocates hope the President will continue to push for increased funding.

Initiative:	**Race to the Top**
Lead Agency:	Ed
Current Status:	Enacted; Department has issued proposed regulations; regulations to be finalized this fall.
Short Description:	States apply competitively for $4B in funding to implement best-practice policies, and must address four assurance areas: teacher quality, standards & assessment, data, and turning around low performing schools. P-16 coordination is mentioned as an invitational priority, and FFYF has asked that early learning be made a competitive priority to give it real weight in applications.

Initiative: **Innovation fund**
Lead Agency: Ed
Status: Enacted; Department issued proposed regulations October 9 with a 30-day comment period ending November 9
Short Description: Ed will distribute $650 million to districts and partners for innovative strategies to improve education. Three tiers of grants ranging from $5 million to $50 million will be provided, with smaller amounts available for promising but unproven programs and larger amounts for scaling up evidence-based initiatives. Early childhood applicants will be prioritized.

Initiative: **Early Learning Challenge Grants**
Lead Agency: Ed
Current Status: Proposed; a version has passed the House; the Senate education committee is developing similar language for consideration by committee members, possibly this month.
Short Description: A competitive application program to push states to develop comprehensive birth to five systems integrating multiple federal and state funding streams. The House has proposed it as an $8 billion, 8 year investment, but the Senate may push for it to become a $10 billion, 10 year investment.

Initiative: **Home Visiting**
Lead Agency: HHS
Current Status: President Obama's administration proposed a significant increase for home visiting funding, and the proposal received bipartisan support. Last year a bill called the Education Begins at Home Act passed the full House, but the Senate did not act before Congress adjourned. Home visiting has been included in several different health care reform bills.
Short Description: The intention is to provide funding to expand evidence-based early childhood home visitation programs for families that are expecting a child or have young children.

Initiative: **State Early Learning Advisory Council funding**
Lead Agency: HHS
Current Status: Enacted; States apply to HHS for a formula portion of $100 million
Short Description: States are required to develop plans for improving the scope and quality of early childhood services.

Initiative: **Centers of Excellence**
Lead Agency: HHS
Current Status: Enacted; centers nominated to HHS, which will award 10 $200,000 grants
Short Description: States may nominate centers based on their high quality, based on defined criteria for excellence.

Initiative:	**Elementary & Secondary Education Act Reauthorization**
Lead Agency:	Ed
Current Status:	Early discussions underway; no action expected until Spring 2010
Short Description:	Often referred to as *No Child Left Behind* reauthorization, the reauthorization of the primary K-12 education law is expected to include a greater focus on early learning – but how that fits with other moving initiatives is unclear at this time.

Initiative:	**Child Care & Development Block Grant**
Lead Agency:	HHS
Current Status:	Early discussions underway; no action expected until 2010.
Short Description:	Reauthorization of the law authorizing federal expenditures on child care. The major focus of discussions will be improving quality of care.

Initiative:	**Presidential Early Learning Council**
Lead Agency:	White House?
Current Status:	Pending with executive branch
Short Description:	President proposed to create a federal/national Early Learning Council, but no appointments have been made and the current status of the initiative is unclear.