



## INFANTS AND TODDLERS IN THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT: PLANNING TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR STATES

State policymakers and advocates closely watched the debate about the federal economic stimulus package, which offers funds to states in a number of areas that benefit infants, toddlers and their families, including Head Start/Early Head Start, child care, and early intervention. Now that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has become law, a number of questions and challenges have emerged. This document provides a menu of planning tools and resources to aid states in their efforts to quickly but wisely address the challenges faced with accepting and administering these new funds.

### PLANNING TOOLS FOR RECOVERY ACT IMPLEMENTATION

#### **Improving the Odds for Young Children**

[National Center for Children in Poverty](#)

*Improving the Odds for Young Children* provides state, regional, and national profiles that integrate data about an array of policies that affect multiple aspects of early childhood development. Policy categories include: health and nutrition, early care and learning, and parenting and economic supports. To download the profiles, go to [http://www.nccp.org/profiles/early\\_childhood.html](http://www.nccp.org/profiles/early_childhood.html). For more information about the policies featured in the profiles and the research base for their effectiveness, download the “User Guide to the State Early Childhood Profiles” at [http://www.nccp.org/profiles/pdf/EC\\_user\\_guide.pdf](http://www.nccp.org/profiles/pdf/EC_user_guide.pdf).

#### **Strategic Planning Toolkit**

[National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative \(NITCCI\) @ ZERO TO THREE](#)

The *Strategic Planning Toolkit* is intended to assist states to engage in a strategic planning process to support quality child care for infants and toddlers. The process is modeled on the early care and education system model and planning process developed and utilized by NITCCI. The process can be used to do a complete analysis of the state’s early care and education system’s support for infant and toddler child care and/or plan for the use of Child Care and Development Fund infant-toddler targeted funds. It can also be used to address specific issues such as the development of infant-toddler specialist networks, credentials for the infant-toddler workforce, etc. The toolkit is available on CD and will be provided to state Child Care and Development Fund administrators. To download the planning guide to targeted funds, which is part of the toolkit, go to <http://nccic.org/itcc/PDFdocs/CCDF Targeted Funds Planning Guide.pdf>.

#### **Birth to Five Framework**

[EducationCounsel](#)

The *Birth to Five Framework* is intended to help states develop a comprehensive early childhood plan and inform discussion in a variety of forums, most notably the State Advisory Council. To help organize and guide the planning process, this framework suggests certain critical elements, core values, and questions to help states take an accurate inventory of where they stand and plan for improvements in the future. To download the framework, go to <http://www.educationcounsel.com/files/Birth%20to%20Five%20Framework%201.0.pdf>.

#### **Infants and Toddler in the Policy Picture: A Self-Assessment Checklist for States**

[ZERO TO THREE Policy Center](#)

*Infants and Toddlers in the Policy Picture: A Self-Assessment Checklist for States* provides questions intended to spark discussion about the needs of infants, toddlers, and their families and to lay the foundation for building an effective

state early childhood development system. The checklist is based on research about effective policies and best practices in states and is organized around the key areas known to impact healthy development for infants and toddlers - good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences. To download the checklist, go to <http://www.zerotothree.org/checklist>.

## OTHER RESOURCES FOR RECOVERY ACT IMPLEMENTATION

### Federal Recovery Act Website

The Administration has created a federal Recovery Act website at <http://www.recovery.gov> where you can read the full text of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, access timelines, and track how the funds are spent.

- For information on how states are using Recovery Act funds, you can access links to state recovery websites at <http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/state-recovery-page>.
- For information on the funds administered by federal agencies, including guidance and reporting requirements, you can access links to federal agency recovery websites at <http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/agencies>.

### Birth to Five Policy Alliance *Economic Recovery News Center*

The [Birth to Five Policy Alliance](http://birthtofivepolicy.org) has compiled a variety of resources on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act developed by Alliance grantees and others. These materials are focused on state implementation of the Recovery Act. In addition, the Alliance has a quick response team of experts available to answer questions, provide phone consultation, and offer in-state technical assistance. To access the resources, go to <http://birthtofivepolicy.org/index.php/stimulus>.

### ZERO TO THREE Policy Center Resources

The ZERO TO THREE Policy Center has developed numerous tools focused on infants, toddlers, and their families that states can use when planning and implementing Recovery Act funds.

- ***Navigating the Opportunities for Families with Young Children in the ARRA***  
This interactive tool helps decision makers and advocates navigate the ways in which ARRA funds may be used to positively impact the healthy development of our youngest children. The tool is organized around the needs of the whole child *Good Health, Strong Families, and Positive Early Learning Experiences* and is simple to navigate. To download the interactive tool, go to [http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/Interactive\\_Stimulus\\_Tool\\_v3vs.pdf?docID=8121](http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/Interactive_Stimulus_Tool_v3vs.pdf?docID=8121).
- ***Early Care and Education Provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act***  
This document provides an overview of the early care and education provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as it impacts investments for infants and toddlers, as well as additional issues state policymakers might consider when planning for the release of these new funds. To download the overview, go to <http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/EconomicRecoveryPackagePrimer.pdf?docID=7181>.
- ***Early Experiences Matter: A Guide to Improved Policies for Infants and Toddlers***  
The *Policy Guide* brings together evidence from science, research and practice to offer a wealth of policy options and strategies to affect policy change for infants, toddlers, and their families. The *Policy Guide* includes policy briefs, practical tools, in-depth policy papers, and more. To download the *Policy Guide*, go to <http://www.zerotothree.org/policyguide>.
- ***Baby Matters: A Gateway to State Policies and Initiatives***  
*Baby Matters* is a searchable database that contains information on state policies and initiatives that impact infants, toddlers and their families. The policies and initiatives are searchable by category, state, or keyword. A detailed description of each policy or initiative is provided, as well as links to additional related resources. To search *Baby Matters*, go to <http://www.zerotothree.org/babymatters>.