

**APPENDIX C
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**Survey Results on the Status of State Implementation Efforts
October 1, 2002 to May 31, 2003**



Southern Regional Initiative on Child Care: Action Plan to Improve Access to Child Care Assistance for Low-Income Families in the South

**Survey Results on the Status of Implementation Efforts
Current Report Period: October 1, 2002 to May 31, 2003**

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Goal 1 - Federal, State, Local and Private Funds Should Be Sufficient to Meet 100% of Need for Direct Child Care Assistance, Based on Initial Eligibility Levels at 85% of the State Median Income. Redetermination Levels Should Allow Families to Retain Child Care Assistance Until They Reach 100% of State Median Income.

(Action Step 1.1) - Educate federal and state policymakers on the need for action.

2003 Response:

OECD has met with the federal General Services Administration staff involved in child care to discuss cost sharing options with the District of Columbia for federal employees who are District residents and receive subsidies from the District. Follow-up meeting will continue with federal agencies.

The Children and Youth Investment Action Team continues to meet and to sponsor forums to highlight the need for sustainable funding. Sustainable funding is the number one priority for the District of Columbia through the technical assistance from the National League of Cities. A Finance Task Force is scheduled to be appointed by the Mayor to focus on sustainable funding for early childhood and out-of-school-time services.

2002 Response:

The District of Columbia is continuing the Children and Youth Investment Action Team and from that has created a Task Force of high level representatives from business, philanthropy, early childhood education and other stakeholders to develop an action plan for financing Out of School Time and Early Childhood Education. In response to budget challenges in FY2002 a strategies paper was drafted and briefings were held with City Council and the Deputy Mayor. Specifically:

- OECD developed a paper to focus on options for addressing the need for additional funding from federal and District sources to sustain the children already enrolled and to obtain revenue from new sources to increase services to 70% of eligible families following a drop in services from FY2001.
- OECD developed a Fact Sheet showing a flat budget, federal and local for at almost seven years, outlined options for additional federal and local funding and shared this with federal and District government officials, providers, advocates and the community. This information was the subject of three articles in The Washington Post, one article in the Washington Times and several local newspapers, television and radio stories and meetings with the business community.
- The Council of the District of Columbia held hearings on the budget situation in the Office of Early Childhood Development. The hearings heightened the awareness of people across the District of the need for additional federal and local funds. The business community made a commitment to assist the District in developing a plan for financing early care and education programs.

The OECD staff has made presentations on the need for additional funding to meetings involving staff at Regional and National offices of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families as well as at the Child Care State Administrators Meeting. In addition, presentations have been made to the National League of Cities officials and Conference.

2001 Response:

Presentation made to Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development and at an April Forum focused on providing services for infants and toddlers on waiting lists. Developed two child care matters briefing documents one focusing on infants and toddlers, and one focusing on compensation, benefits and retention. A profile of child care providers and services document has also been developed. These documents have been broadly distributed and have been made accessible at City Council hearings and at meetings and site visits with District and Federal representatives.

There is a monthly meeting of the Children and Youth Investment Action Team, which includes representation from all District government agencies involved with children as well as policy organizations, and community based providers. This group has met for more than a year and every agenda includes items focused on funding and service needs. The Deputy Mayor for Children Youth and Families or her representative participates in these meetings. This group has an annual meeting that includes the Superintendent of Schools and all related District government department directors.

The District of Columbia televised Child Care and Development Fund hearings that were aired several times a day over a four-month period.

(Action Step 1.2) - Educate the business community on the need for leadership in achieving state, federal and community resources to meet 100% of need.

2003 Response:

The business community representatives testified that they would assist the District in developing a finance strategy for child care and out of school time services.

The DC Downtown Child Care Partnership sponsored a forum on the status of child care and needs for employees.

2002 Response:

No change except that the Metro Bankers Association has been superceded by the CareBuilders Initiative.

2001 Response:

In 1991, under the leadership of a prominent businessperson, a group of businesspersons were organized and an educational process began at that time. Since that time, there have been sessions with the Chamber of Commerce and the Metro Bankers Association. Since 2001, small-facilitated sessions have been held with human resources staff of District of Columbia based businesses. These will continue over the next year. Also in 2001, The District of Columbia Bar Pro Bono Project adopted child care as an area of focus and they will provide periodic workshops on child care issues to lawyers who will provide pro bono services to non-profit providers

(Action Step 1.3) - Increase federal funding for the Child Care and Development Fund to fulfill current policy allowing federal matching funds for child care assistance up to 85% of the state median income.

2003 Response:

The Mayor's Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development has been in the forefront of this issue as has DC Agenda, the Children and Youth Investment Action Team and DC Action for children.

2002 Response:

No change.

2001 Response:

The Mayor's Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development has been in the forefront of this issue as has DC Agenda and the Children and Youth Investment Action Team.

(Action Step 1.4) - Increase state funding to provide child care subsidies to all eligible families who seek child care assistance.

2003 Response:

Additional TANF dollars were received at the end of Fiscal Year 2002 to support children receiving child care services. Similarly, additional TANF dollars were made available in Fiscal Year 2003. These dollars were available because the District of Columbia received the TANF high performance bonus for five consecutive years. No new state dollars have been made available although requests have been made for additional funds. In FY 2002, the District served 60% of the eligible children and currently serves 51% in FY 2003.

2002 Response:

In fiscal year 2001, the District had carryover TANF funds and was able to provide services to 70% of eligible families. No new federal or local dollars were received in fiscal year 2002 and services reduced to approximately 60% of eligible families.

2001 Response:

In FY 2001, the District of Columbia provided services to 70% of eligible families using all sources of funds.

(Action Step 1.5) - Mobilize federal, state and community resources in support of families who need child care assistance.

2003 Response:

A Finance Task Force is scheduled to be appointed by the Mayor to focus on sustainable funding for early childhood and out-of-school-time services.

DC held five community hearings on children's services in collaboration with eight partners.

2002 Response:

A high level Task Force will be launched in fall 2002 to address financing for early childhood education and out of school time in the District.

2001 Response:

- Held two large forums with small group facilitated session at the District of Columbia Convention Center involving parents and child care providers including teachers and teacher assistants.
- Early Childhood Collaborative of the District of Columbia (formed 1991) and the District of Columbia Downtown Child Care Corporation (formed 1999) raised funds to support centers with subsidized children.
- Three groups with Hope Six grants have included child care center and homes in their packages.

Goal 2: States and Communities Should Broaden Their Child Care Eligibility and Subsidy Policies to Meet the Economic, Work and Education Needs of Families

(Action Step 2.1) - Establish co-payments not to exceed 10% of gross family income.

2003 Response:

DC continues to use the same co-payment system. The parent co-payment does not exceed 10% of gross family income.

2002 Response:

DC uses the same co-payment system. Income eligibility is being adjusted for the new federal poverty levels; co-payment amounts will not be changed.

2001 Response:

DC established a new co-payment system that does not exceed 10% of gross family income and implemented this system in 2001.

(Action Step 2.2) - Provide child care assistance to students who qualify under the income guidelines.

2003 Response:

DC provides child care assistance to students who qualify under the income guidelines. However, in June of 2002, D. C. established a waiting list as demand for services exceeded available subsidy resources. The waiting list includes eligible families who are working and other non-TANF recipients who are otherwise eligible. The current wait list has 1,130 children, as of May 2003.

2002 Response:

No response.

2001 Response:

DC has provided financial assistance to students since the 1980's.

(Action Step 2.3) - Explore broad use of income exemptions to address affordability of child care.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

DC counts earned income, veteran's benefits, and child support. All other income is exempt.

2001 Response:

The only income that DC counts is earned income.

(Action Step 2.4) - Eliminate asset testing (e.g. automobile or savings account) from criteria for child care assistance.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

No change.

2001 Response:

DC has no asset testing policy to receive child care financial assistance.

(Action Step 2.5) - Index income eligibility levels for inflation.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

No change.

2001 Response:

Families are eligible up to 250 percent of the federal poverty level and remain eligible until they reach 300 percent of FPL. This was implemented in 2001.

Goal 3: Outreach Initiatives Should Be Designed and Aggressively Implemented to Assure That Families Have Accessible and Easy-To-Understand Information on Child Care Assistance and Are Provided Assistance in Applying.

(Action Step 3.1) - Provide information on child care subsidies through multiple sources, venues and the media.

2003 Response:

The District uses a multi-faceted strategy to make information on child care subsidies available. Child care materials are distributed throughout the community via health fairs, job fairs and Income Maintenance Administration (TANF) and Department of Employment Services service centers. Due to budgetary constraints the messages around availability have been adjusted to attract those populations that are currently eligible for enrollment.

The District held five community hearings on child care and other children's services as an opportunity to make the community aware of the child care subsidy program and its current status. Information was made available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Amharic. The Office of Early Childhood Development has public services announcements on several radio stations and hosts a weekly radio program.

2002 Response:

The massive outreach campaign launched in 2000 successfully increased the number of children receiving subsidized child care by 60% between 1999 and 2001. Limited television advertising continued in FY 2002. Written materials are also available at public buildings and various public forums. The Department of Human Services now has an Asian-Pacific Islander liaison to improve communication with this community.

2001 Response:

In 2000, DC began an extensive out reach campaign which uses TV, Radio, specially created videos, website, community events, flyers, other agencies and mailings. We have created materials in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and Chinese. We have a technical assistance contract to work with groups for whom English is not the first language. The Mayor's Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs hosts an annual event and OECD provides a workshop with simultaneous translation in three languages.

(Action Step 3.2) - Ensure that information is accurate, family friendly, employer friendly, culturally sensitive and provided in multiple languages, as appropriate.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

See 2001 response. Our translated materials include: English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

2001 Response:

Information is tested for reading levels and is in two to five different languages. Video tapes are closed captioned.

(Action Step 3.3) - Present information in a manner that would remove the stigma associated with receiving subsidies.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

No change.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia has professionally designed materials in multiple languages. They appeal to persons of all incomes.

(Action Step 3.4) - Provide literature and assistance to help parents make informed provider choices.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

See 2001 response. Also, information is included on the city-wide resource and referral call center called Answers Please! This service will be available online in 2002.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia has video tapes; print materials and the child care resource and referral service. OECD intake staff reviews options for service with each parent as does the more than 60 vendors who conduct intake at sites across the District.

(Action Step 3.5) - Coordinate ongoing and strategic outreach activities among common organizations and providers.

2003 Response:

See response from 2002. Additionally, OECD recently conducted a series of forums that are required by the Child Care Development Fund Plan to educate the community at large and seek input from them about their child care issues as well.

2002 Response:

OECD staff provides information at monthly orientations for the customers of the Department of Employment Services' Project Empowerment program, which is a welfare to work initiative. OECD intake staff is also co-located with TANF vendors who work with customers to provide job training and job placement services. Information is also provided to the community through partnerships between OECD and the faith community.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia has coordinated conferences and interagency outreach efforts on an ongoing basis. Each time the Mayor holds a meeting in any section of the District, OECD provides materials on child care. Information is also coordinated with the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development, which meets every other month, and the Children and Youth Investment Action Team, which meets monthly.

(Action Step 3.6) - Offer cross-training and information to providers, community organizations, faith organizations, and state agencies to inform them about child care assistance programs and how to assist families in filing applications.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

No change.

2001 Response:

Cross training is provided with the public assistance office, the Maternal and Family Health Administration and in special forums organized by OECD to bring government agencies up to date on what we are doing. This also happens at the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development, monthly meetings with the Parent Education Collaborative, with various provider groups, individual sessions at various organizations including faith based institutions; weekly site visits to TANF vendor sites and quarterly training for groups providing employment training.

Goal 4: The Child Care Application and Redetermination Processes Should Be Uncomplicated and Family Friendly.

(Action Step 4.1) - Simplify applications for child care assistance.

2003 Response:

There are 57 child care programs (serving over 5,000 children) where parents may apply and complete re-enrollment at the child care site rather than the OECD office. We also assist parents by giving them a written list of all required documents.

2002 Response:

A one page application and documentation to verify residency, identification, income, relationship, health form for children, etc. are required. Plans are being made for information to be available online by the end of 2002.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia has a simple automated application that we have been using since 1997.

(Action Step 4.2) - Allow filing by mail, phone, fax or Internet.

2003 Response:

Eligibility interviews will continue to be face to face. We believe original eligibility documents must be seen for verification.

2002 Response:

By the end of 2002 all forms and information will be available online through a nonprofit partner. Eligibility interviews will continue to be face to face.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia currently does not accept filing except in person unless the person is a foster parent. Because we are a small jurisdiction, service can be provided more timely through face-to-face interaction.

(Action Step 4.3) - Minimize requests for documentation at initial application and utilize documents already on file.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

See 2001 response. Also, when appointment letters for eligibility determination interviews are sent, information on what documentation is required, is included. Documentation varies based on eligibility category, for example: a foster parent, working parent or TANF recipient.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia reviews document requirements on the phone and broadly distributes the two easy steps document, which describes requirements.

(Action Step 4.4) - Provide applications at multiple sites.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

See 2001 response. Also, Intake/eligibility workers are co-located with TANF vendors who provide job training and job placement services.

2001 Response:

We have mobile eligibility across the District and more than 60 vendors who conduct eligibility at their sites.

(Action Step 4.5) - Offer non-conventional hours of operation for eligibility offices and provide toll-free phone lines to include evening and weekend hours.

2003 Response:

OECD is still providing non-traditional services for customers who need care evenings, overnight, weekends and holidays. These services started in 1999. Since that time three centers began providing child care services during non-traditional hours and 28 family child care homes as well.

If the children fall into the following categories, services are available to them:

- TANF parents in an approved activity including employment
- Children in foster care whose foster parent is employed
- Children in Child Protective Services (CPS) including court cases
- Children who are disabled
- Teen parents attending school
- TANF payees (child only cases)

2002 Response:

Evening hours were eliminated temporarily in 2002 due to budget challenges.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia has evening hours and a toll free number and will make appointments for weekends.

(Action Step 4.6) - Explore presumptive eligibility or otherwise provide immediate eligibility contingent upon final approval.

2003 Response:

Same as 2002.

2002 Response:

A prescreening telephone interview to determine eligibility is conducted prior to an eligibility appointment being scheduled. The prescreening is based on information provided over the phone by the customer. Documentation is required to determine final eligibility.

2001 Response:

N/A

(Action Step 4.7) - Eliminate requirements for a face-to-face interview both for initial application and for redetermination.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

No change.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia still requires a face-to-face for initial interview and redetermination except for foster parents and children under protective services. Since we are a small jurisdiction, it is feasible to have people apply face to face.

(Action Step 4.8) - Provide consultation on making appropriate choices when excessive requests for provider changes are filed.

2003 response:

No change.

2002 Response:

No change.

2001 Response:

In 1998, the District of Columbia began a special consultation with the parents who requested a third change of child placement in a 12-month period. However, parents are required to put in writing a request for a change of provider and are also encouraged to go back and talk with the provider before changing the child.

(Action Step 4.9) - Establish a 12-month redetermination period where there are no changes in income or job status.

2003 Response:

See 2001 and 2002 responses. Children dually eligible for Head Start or pre-kindergarten and child care subsidy remain eligible for one year.

2002 Response:

See 2001 response. For TANF customers and all others, eligibility is reviewed every six months.

2001 Response:

This practice became effective October 1, 2001.

(Action Step 4.10) - Continue eligibility for full subsidy for 12 weeks if family loses employment but can document that a job search is underway.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

No change.

2001 Response:

In 1982, the District of Columbia began providing subsidy for three months for families who lost employment and were already in the subsidy program. The District of Columbia implemented this program in 2001 for persons involved in structured job search.

Goal 5: Establish a Coordinated, Seamless Eligibility System So That Funding Sources Are Invisible to Families and Support Continuity of Child Care.

(Action Step 5.1) - Eliminate the need for families to reapply when eligibility categories change by automatically searching to exhaust all eligibility categories before closing cases.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

No change.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia implemented this program in 1990.

(Action Step 5.2) - Explore the potential for policy and procedural changes to achieve linkages with or combined applications for child care assistance, Head Start, Pre-K and Title I.

2003 Response:

For the past five years, the Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD) and the Head Start State Collaboration have been meeting in collaboration with the DC Public Schools to develop common procedures for meeting transition and coordination goals among early care and education, Head Start and Pre-K programs in the District of Columbia.

The District of Columbia does not use Title I funds for its Pre-K programs which have been in existence for almost thirty years. Therefore, Title I coordination is not part of this equation.

The Office of Early Childhood Development has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health to develop a single health form for children in public and charter schools, as well as in all early care and education settings including Head Start. The final draft that was developed over at least three years ago is in the interagency review process. This application will match the revised early childhood health and safety regulations, which are currently under review by interagency legal staff.

Major strategies for linkage have been in the form of joint training involving all of the aforementioned parties as well as inclusion of all early care and education settings in Head Start yearlong transition to kindergarten activities throughout the city.

Interagency activities of all of the aforementioned agencies have been formalized through a variety of governmental and foundation grants for transitions including:

- ❖ District of Columbia Kellogg Foundation Grant administered by the National Black Child Development Institute,
- ❖ Regional Pre-Kindergarten Planning Project administered by the Council of Chief State School Officers,
- ❖ District of Columbia City Councilmember Kevin Chavous "Universal School Access" legislation, and
- ❖ District of Columbia Early Learning Opportunities Act funded by the US DHHS Administration for Children and Families and administered by the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development.

2002 Response:

DC continues its blended funded program where parents needing full day, full year child care who qualify for Head Start enter through Head Start and receive child care subsidy automatically.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia has implemented a blended Head Start and child care program (1999) and a blended child care and pre-k/title program (1996).

(Action Step 5.3) - Continue eligibility in programs with multiple funding sources to assure continuity of care in the event that eligibility has expired or terminated in one program.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

The District pools its funding streams so services to TANF, low-income, or other populations appear seamless.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia has implemented this concept since 1990.

(Action Step 5.4) - Work collaboratively with all public and private programs and funding sources to assure that children receive stable and consistent early child care services.

2003 Response:

The DC Public Schools After Care for ALL program will use the same eligibility criteria as all other programs effective August 1, 2003.

2002 Response:

Early Childhood Education and Out of School Time is offered through community-based organizations, DC Department of Parks and Recreation, Public Charter Schools, and DC Public Schools. OECD funds all of these programs with CCDF, TANF direct, TANF transfer, local dollars and SSBG. With the exception of the DC Public Schools Program, all other programs have the same eligibility requirements and sliding fee scale.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia has implemented this concept since 1990.

Goal 6: Establish Customer Service Outcome Goals and Set Standards to Ensure that All Families are Treated With Dignity and Respect and Are Served in an Efficient Manner.

(Action Step 6.1) - Provide professional and well-trained eligibility staff who are culturally and linguistically sensitive.

2003 Response:

OECD has enrolled its staff on Asian and Pacific Islander cultural sensitivity training. Each division has staff who are bi-lingual in Spanish.

OECD actively engages in partnership with the Asian and Latino communities through targeted outreach activities and Initiatives.

2002 Response:

See 2001 response. Also, in addition to training staff in the field, all DC staff attend customer service training. Training includes role-playing, critiquing participants on attitude and tone of voice, as well as quality and accuracy of information given when referrals to staff or other agencies are appropriate.

2001 Response:

We provide quarterly eligibility training institutes and have staff and contractors who speak multiple languages.

(Action Step 6.2) - Facilitate quick eligibility determination through reasonable caseloads and/or administrative structure.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

See 2001 response. Also, parents who bring required documentation to the eligibility interview and have selected a child care provider with an open slot, generally receive child care within the next 2 business days.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia broadly distributes information about documentation required to apply for subsidy. During the telephone pre-screening, items required for eligibility are reviewed and follow-up letter with requirements is sent. Appointments save time and people are seen shortly after they arrive for the appointment. The major challenge faced by most parents is obtaining a completed health form.

OECD has no control over this.

(Action Step 6.3) - Conduct periodic, independent and thorough consumer satisfaction assessments, assuring the confidentiality of information collected.

2003 Response:

OECD continues to make a customer feedback survey available for customers to complete during their appointments.

2002 Response:

In FY 2002, the University of the District of Columbia launched a customer satisfaction survey by surveying 1,000 current recipients of child care subsidy. Results will be available at the end of 2002. OECD also developed a customer feedback survey that is available for customers to complete following their appointments.

2001 Response:

University of the District of Columbia conducts assessments, analyzes data and makes recommendations.

(Action Step 6.4) - Provide adequate support for child care resource and referral services.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

No change.

2001 Response:

We fully fund the child care resource and referral service and have since 1991.

Goal 7: Design the Subsidy System So That Rate Structures Assure That Families Receiving Child Care Assistance Have Access to All Types of Child Care and Disallow Charges Above Established Co-Payments.

(Action Step 7.1) - States should cap reimbursement rates at no less than the 75th percentile based on a market rate survey conducted every two years that accurately reflects the price of all types of care in communities across the state.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

Currently, DC's reimbursement rates are at the market rate (75th percentile) for 1998. Due to budget constraints rates have not been increased.

2001 Response:

DC conducts a market rate survey every two years and establishes a Market Rate Task Force that makes recommendations for rate increases.

(Action Step 7.2) - Establish and evaluate reimbursement policies that encourage provider participation and are responsive to family needs.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

See 2001 response. Also, the highest tier is for the programs that have achieved national accreditation. Criteria include parental involvement, staff development, and compliance with licensing.

2001 Response:

We have established a three tiered reimbursement system with rates based on quality indicators.

(Action Step 7.3) - Prohibit providers from charging above the established co-payments.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

No change.

2001 Response:

The District of Columbia prohibits providers from charging above the established co-payments. This has been a policy since 1980.

Goal 8: Create Partnerships With Employers to Expand Child Care Assistance for Working Families.

(Action Step 8.1) - Educate employers about the bottom line benefits associated with public and private child care assistance.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

Same with the exception of the Metro Bankers Association. The Carebuilders Initiative (CBI) supercedes the partnership with the Metro Bankers. This initiative is a community partnership between the Enterprise Foundation, The Office of Early Childhood Development, DC Bar Pro Bono Corporation, The Washington Area Community Investment Fund, the Washington Architectural Foundation and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation.

CBI is purposed to improve the quality and supply of child care services available for low-income families in the District of Columbia by bringing together resources necessary to coordinate and provide financial assistance to the child care community. It will create a “tool kit” for child care facility operators to use for future development.

2001 Response:

DC has partnerships with the Chambers of Commerce, the Metro Bankers Association and community development groups. We have groups that have been established by prominent business people in DC since 1991. In 2001, we sponsored facilitated discussions with human resources staff in District of Columbia businesses. One of the major employers in DC has established a Corporate Voices group to educate business people.

(Action Step 8.2) - Enlist business leaders to champion the involvement of southern businesses and to serve as mentors to other businesses.

2003 Response:

Marriott International has provided support to the establishment of Corporate Voices for Working Families which provides member corporations with unique access to the policy making process at a high level, expertise on issues related to working families and opportunities to network with corporate leaders in the field.

2002 Response:

See 2001 response. Also, The DC Downtown Child Care Corporation has a board comprised of representatives from business throughout the District. Donna Kline of Marriott International has created the Corporate Voices organization to educate Congress and other businesses on the needs in the Child Care Industry. Kerr Company, a housing developer, has put child care programs in its housing since 1988. As a corporate child care advocate, they continue to serve as mentors to other housing developers.

2001 Response:

The Early Childhood Collaborative and DC Agenda have solicited business champions. These champions have been strong advocates for child care since 1991.

(Action Step 8.3) - Provide information to employers on all available tax benefits related to child care assistance, including deductions for donations to tax-exempt child care organizations, capital costs for constructing a child care center and establishing a pre-tax dependent care assistance plan.

2003 Response:

Same as 2002.

2002 Response:

DC has the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) a federal tax benefit that is designed to help low-income workers increase their financial stability and a DC EITC that is 25% of the federal credit. We also have the Child and Dependent Care Credit, a tax benefit for workers who need child care to be able to work, and the Expanded Child Tax Credit that allows taxpayers raising dependent children to get a credit worth up to \$500 per dependent child under age 17. All of these assistance plans can be assessed through the human resources staff in businesses for their employees' use.

2001 Response:

Information provided to human resources staff in businesses for their use with employees. OECD has worked with business on a one on one or small group basis since 1987 when the *Child Care Wish List for Businesses* was originally established.

(Action Step 8.4) - Facilitate collaborative initiatives that enable employers to share ideas as well as pool their resources to address child care needs.

2003 Response:

OECD has initiated a series of community forums on child care, public hearings and conducted a special session on Public Policies Partnership.

2002 Response:

Same as 2001 response.

2001 Response:

This is done through the Early Childhood Collaborative, DC Downtown Child Care Corporation, the DC Chamber of Commerce, the Metro Bankers Association, and the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development.

(Action Step 8.5) - Provide matching funds or other tax or financial incentives for employers to invest in child care.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

The District implemented a new tax related law in 2001.

2001 Response:

In 1988, the District of Columbia established a series of tax incentives for employers who made child care investments in the Development Zones area of the District. This included incentives for hiring persons from these areas and for providing rent at below market rates.

(Action Step 8.6) - Establish incentives for employers to create child care benefit programs for their employees or to contribute to child care purchasing pools in their state or community.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

No change.

2001 Response:

DC does not have such incentives. However, housing and commercial developers have provided child care space for use by businesses in the areas developed since 1988.

(Action Step 8.7) - Reduce the administrative burden on employers participating in any joint public/private child care assistance program.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

See 2001 response. Also, the majority of public/private child care projects in DC are related to quality initiatives that provide technical assistance, training or other support directly to providers.

2001 Response:

All administration is handled by DHS Office of Early Childhood Development or through the DC Child Care Corporation or the Early Childhood Collaborative.

Goal 9: Provide Child Care Assistance to Working Families Through Federal and State Tax Laws.

(Action Step 9.1) - Make the federal child dependent care tax credit refundable.

2003 Response:

Not applicable to states or the District of Columbia.

2002 Response:

N/A

2001 Response:

N/A

(Action Step 9.2) - Establish refundable child and dependent care tax credits in states with income taxes.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

DC has a nonrefundable child care tax credit. DC also has a refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) that is 25% of the federal EITC.

2001 Response:

DC implemented a refundable child care tax credit.

(Action Step 9.3) - Raise federal and state child care tax credit expense limits to accurately reflect the price of quality care.

2003 Response:

Not applicable.

2002 Response:

N/A.

2001 Response:

N/A

(Action Step 9.4) - Index for inflation the state and federal child and dependent care tax credit income eligibility and expense limits.

2003 Response:

Not applicable.

2002 Response:

N/A

2001 Response:

N/A

(Action Step 9.5) - Ensure that child and dependent care tax credits are clearly identified and easy to claim by filers using either the short or long form.

2003 Response:

Same as 2002.

2002 Response:

Joint effort by DC Tax and Revenue, DHS Office of Early Childhood Development, the child care resource and referral service and advocate groups such as DC ACT (D. C. Action for Children) to promote the Earned Income Tax Credit.

2001 Response:

Joint effort by DC Tax and Revenue, DHS Office of Early Childhood Development, the child care resource and referral service and advocate groups such as DC ACT (D. C. Action for Children).

(Action Step 9.6) - Encourage the use of effective state tax strategies to provide financial support for child care.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

The District's EITC was raised from 10% to 25% of the federal EITC. Other tax strategies have not been explored as of yet.

2001 Response:

DC has not implemented initiatives in this area.

Goal 10: States Should Have Effective, Coordinated Systems to Guide Child Care and Early Childhood Policy Decisions and Direct Use of Resources.

(Action Step 10.1) - Facilitate greater coordination in eligibility policies across child care and early childhood education programs at state and local levels.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

The Mayor is appointing a Task Force to research and make recommendations on universal early childhood education for children birth to age five and out of school time.

2001 Response:

Leadership provided by DHS Office of Early Childhood Development collaborates with the welfare agency, the Employment agency and Parks and Recreation since 1987.

(Action Step 10.2) - All southern states and the District of Columbia should participate in a collaborative effort to develop and collect common data elements across states.

2003 Response:

No change.

2002 Response:

Southern States and the District should determine what the data would be used for, what data elements are necessary, and review existing data (801 reports and administrative data) to determine how to best utilize what exists. The Southern Institute should engage the National Child Care Information Center to work through these issues.

2001 Response:

DC is very interested but has not initiated efforts in this area with other states except Maryland and Virginia. DC, Maryland and Northern Virginia have been collaborating with the Council of Governments of Greater Washington to collect and publish common data since 1981.