

**APPENDIX G
MARYLAND**

**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:

See 2002 response. In 2003, Maryland continued to enable working families up to 50% SMI to receive child care assistance, despite a budget crisis that required many other restrictive measures.

2002 Response:

In January 2002, Maryland increased the eligibility level from 45% to 50% of the State median income. Maryland has the highest State median income in the country making 50% of the State median income, in real dollars, close to or equal to 85% of the median income in some states.

2001 Response:

The Governor and General Assembly have approved increasing the eligibility level from the current 45% to 50% in January 2002. Maryland has the highest state median income in the country, therefore our 50% level in real dollars is near, or equal to, some states' 85% level.

(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:

Maryland's Public Engagement Campaign to build public and political will for early care and education was spearheaded by Allfirst Bank (now M & T Bank). They convened a statewide meeting of local and regional stakeholders and advocates.

2002 Response:

The Maryland Department of Human Resources and Maryland Public Television produced a series of videos on the services available to hard working families, including child care. The videos have aired on public television and are also being made available to community groups and others to provide information about the services working families need to achieve and maintain economic independence.

To update the status of three initiatives with business and local government partners, the construction of the on-site child care center in a business park is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2003. While construction is underway, employers are subsidizing the care of children in other facilities. All employees participating in the employer sponsored financial subsidy program at a large metropolitan hospital are still employed at the hospital, demonstrating the value of employer assisted child care to employee retention. Additional business partners are being recruited. The resource and referral service targeted to parents of children with special needs continues to provide services to all county library employees. On September 25, 2002, eleven additional businesses will be invited to a business breakfast. The agenda for the breakfast includes focus groups to identify barriers to children with special needs receiving quality child care in inclusive settings, and a discussion of child care as it impacts on job performance.

2001 Response:

Maryland's Child Care Business Partnership sponsored a series of breakfast meetings for business and local government to meet with one another, State officials and the child care community and develop strategies to address common needs. So far three initiatives have been funded as a result, with CCDF monies and a 25% match from the business sector and local government. They have included the construction of an on-site child care center in an industrial park, supported by multiple employers, on land donated by the County; an employer sponsored financial subsidy program for low-income employees in a large metropolitan hospital; and a resource and referral service targeted to parents of children with special needs that brings information and training into the parents' worksite.

(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:

Maryland's Congressman Benjamin Cardin has been a leader on CCDF reauthorization.

2002 Response:

Maryland's congressional delegation continues to support increases in federal funding for child care.

2001 Response:

Maryland's Congressional delegation has been briefed on the need for additional child care funds and are very supportive.

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

2003 Response:

In January 2003, Maryland implemented a waiting list for new non-TANF applicants for child care subsidy. All previously enrolled families continued to receive services.

2002 Response:

Maryland continues to serve all eligible families who seek assistance. There is no waiting list.

2001 Response:

Maryland serves all eligible families who seek assistance. Presently, Maryland does not have a waiting list.

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

2003 Response:

Maryland has extended full day kindergarten, and pre-school programs for disadvantaged four year olds. The Judy Hoyer Centers provide comprehensive early care and education, family support and Head Start in many communities.

2002 Response:

Maryland has redirected TANF funds to extend the child care subsidy program. In addition, Montgomery County has a child care subsidy program for working parents who are over scale for the State's subsidy program.

2001 Response:

Maryland has a NGA Team that is Building Political Will for Early Care and Education Programs. We intend to have a Public Relations campaign that is ongoing.

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:

In fiscal year 2003, the average co-payment for families receiving subsidy was 5.7%.

2002 Response:

In fiscal year 2002, 77% of the families receiving child care subsidies had co-payments at 10% or less of their gross family income.

2001 Response:

Maryland has capped co-payments, even as we have raised rates that we pay providers in order to meet this goal, which is also one of this Department's MFR goals that are reported to the legislature. In FY 2002 our goal is that 74% of families receiving a child care subsidy have co-payments at 10% or less of gross family income.

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

2003 Response:

Teen parents completing high school and older students who are in approved college training activities may receive child care assistance.

2002 Response:

Approved activities for assistance include high school, training activities and college at the undergraduate level. For teen parents completing high school, while the entire family income is considered, there is an income disregard in determining eligibility.

2001 Response:

Students who are involved in certain programs at one of Maryland's community colleges and have an approved employability plan may receive a subsidy. Teen parents who are completing high school have an additional income disregard for eligibility, although entire family income is considered.

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

2003 Response:

Income disregards for teen parents and relative caregivers continue to be \$5,000 per child.

2002 Response:

The income disregard for teen parents and relative caretakers is \$5,000 per child.

2001 Response:

In addition to the existing income exemptions, effective 1/1/02, Maryland will increase income disregards for teen parents and relative caretakers from \$2,200 up to \$5,000 per child.

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

2003 Response:

See 2002 response.

2002 Response:

There is no asset testing in determining eligibility.

2001 Response:

Already in place.

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

2003 Response:

See 2002 response.

2002 Response:

On January 1, 2002, Maryland's eligibility ceiling was raised to 50% of the State median income.

2001 Response:

Maryland began adjusting the eligibility ceiling to reflect changes in SMI this year.

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 Department produced a 30-minute television show on child care that aired on Maryland Public Television three times this year. Web-site has income eligibility calculator.

2002 Response:

In addition to the development and broad dissemination of a brochure, the Department of Human Resources and Maryland Public Television produced a series of videos on the services available to working families, including a video on the child care subsidy program. The videos have aired on public television and copies have been disseminated to agencies and community organizations. Many of our local departments of social services have also developed child care brochures specific to their areas to let families know of the assistance that is available.

2001 Response:

The Department's Public Relations Office developed and disseminated new brochures on child care subsidies this year, accompanied by a poster campaign and mailing to former TANF recipients.

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

2003 Response:

Brochures for parents and providers are being produced in Spanish. Maryland co-sponsored with Washington, D.C. and Virginia, a second annual conference for Hispanic providers.

2002 Response:

The subsidy application form is being printed in Spanish.

2001 Response:

Brochure was also printed in Spanish.

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

2003 Response:

See 2002 response.

2002 Response:

Brochures and videos make it clear that services are available to "working" families.

2001 Response:

The campaign was entitled "Help for Hard Working Families."

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

2003 Response:

Child care providers are required to give all families the booklet titled "Choosing Child Care." Counselors in the 13 regional offices of Maryland's Child Care Resource Network helped more than 45,000 families find care in fiscal year 2003.

2002 Response:

Child care providers are required to give all families the booklet titled “Choosing Child Care”. Counselors in the 13 regional offices of Maryland’s Child Care Resource Network helped more than 44,000 families find care in fiscal year 2001.

2001 Response:

Maryland publishes a booklet on how to Choose Child Care which child care providers are required by regulation to give to all parents of children in care. We also fund a network of 13 regional resource and referral centers.

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

2003 Response:

Maryland completed its five-year strategic plan with significant involvement from the child care community.

2002 Response:

Approximately 200 stakeholders have been working with us to develop a five year strategic plan. A series of Saturday workshops were held to ensure the participation of child care providers.

2001 Response:

Maryland has involved all stakeholders in a 5-year strategic planning process.

(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:

See 2002 response.

2002 Response:

The Child Care Administration Advisory Council and the Purchase of Care Advisory Committee are made up of representatives from a broad range of organizations. Members are kept informed of changes in regulations and procedures that impact the subsidy program.

2001 Response:

Have conducted specific training for organizations serving non-English speaking families.

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:

Applications for the child care assistance program have already been simplified.

2002 Response:

The application can be downloaded from the Child Care Administration's web site and mailed to local departments of social services.

2001 Response:

Applications for the child care assistance program have already been simplified.

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

2003 Response:

Filing may be done by mail. Eligibility calculator is available on web-site.

2002 Response:

Please refer to action step 4.1.

2001 Response:

Filing may be done by mail and will be on-line with the implementation of our new computer system in 2003.

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

2003 Response:

Please see 2002 response.

2002 Response:

Documentation regarding income and child support, if on file, is not required to apply for child care assistance.

2001 Response:

Current documentation on income and child support is already accessible if that applicant is receiving other assistance from the department of social services.

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

2003 Response:

Applications can be downloaded from the web-site, and can be mailed from 24 local agencies or state offices.

2002 Response:

Hard copies of applications continue to be available at more than 40 local departments of social services locations and can now be downloaded from our web site.

2001 Response:

Maryland provides applications at multiple sites across the state, i.e. 40+ local department of social services locations.

(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:

Most local departments of social services have evening hours at least once a week.

2002 Response:

Local departments of social services have evening hours at least one day a week.

2001 Response:

All local departments of social services have evening hours at least one day a week.

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

2003 Response:

No action taken.

2002 Response:

We are currently exploring presumptive 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:

See 2002 response.

2002 Response:

Current policy allows face-to-face interviews to be eliminated for initial applications and for re-determinations.

2001 Response:

This is already possible.

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

2003 Response:

See 2002 response.

2002 Response:

Staff in local departments of social services and counselors in regional offices of the Child Care Resource Network provide assistance in this area.

2001 Response:

This is handled by local staff on an as needed basis.

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

2003 Response:

This is Maryland's current policy.

2002 Response:

This is Maryland's current policy.

2001 Response:

This is already our policy.

(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:

Please see 2002 response.

2002 Response:

Child care is available during job search activities, ensuring continuity of service.

2001 Response:

Child care is available during job search and continuity of service is available.

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:

This is Maryland's policy.

2002 Response:

This is Maryland's policy.

2001 Response:

This is our policy. There is no break in service.

(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:

See 2002 response.

2002 Response:

No change.

2001 Response:

Current policy allows continuation of child care subsidy in Head Start programs until the end of the school year even if the family would otherwise be ineligible, on a case-by-case basis. CCDF funds are used to provide wrap-around services, to make full-day and full-year programs available at some Head Start and other sites.

(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:

Please see 2002 response.

2002 Response:

No change, funds are pooled to ensure continuity of service.

2001 Response:

Funding is already pooled to ensure continuity of service.

(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:

Maryland had a Leadership Action Program, supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, that involved representatives from various segments of the early care and education community. This group meets at least monthly and developed five-year Action agenda to increase the number of children entering school ready to learn.

2002 Response:

The Head Start/Child Care/EEEP Steering Committee, with State and local representatives, continues to work to ensure continuity in early child care services.

2001 Response:

Maryland has a HeadStart/Child Care/EEEP Steering Committee that enables us to plan and work collaboratively. It has both state and local representatives.

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:

The Department has translators available to assist families with limited English proficiency. Staff is trained on how and when to seek translation services.

2002 Response:

Staff receives customer service training and strategies to assist customers with limited English proficiency have been implemented.

2001 Response:

Staff has had Customer Service training to improve the quality of interaction and sensitivity. The Department is beginning to implement various strategies for assisting customers with limited English Proficiency.

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

2003 Response:

Please see 2002 response.

2002 Response:

Eligibility must be determined within 30 days.

2001 Response:

Eligibility determination must be completed within 30 days.

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

2003 Response:

A customer satisfaction survey was mailed to all active customers in September 2002. Pre-paid postcards were returned to Central Office. Analysis of results was done by county and shared with local administrators. High level of satisfaction with service (77%) was noted. Issues raised were with timelines of service and courtesy of staff in some offices.

2002 Response:

A customer satisfaction survey will be mailed to consumers during the last week of September 2002.

2001 Response:

Maryland is in the process of developing a customer satisfaction assessment program.

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

2003 Response:

The Department provided \$5.7 million in FY 2003 to support the Maryland Child Care Resource and Referral Network. Thirteen Regional Resource Centers and a statewide coordinating entity served more than 45,000 families and 18,000 providers.

2002 Response:

The Department continues to fully fund the Maryland Child Care Resource Network (a system of thirteen regional offices), the LOCATE database and a statewide coordinating entity. In 2001, counselors responded to 44,136 calls from families seeking child care, and more than 18,000 prospective and licensed/registered child care providers received training and technical assistance.

2001 Response:

The Department fully funds 13 Regional Resource and Referral Centers and a Statewide Coordinating Entity that oversees and supports the centers and maintains the LOCATE database. Contract is \$5.2 million annually.

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:

This is Maryland's policy.

2002 Response:

This is Maryland's policy.

2001 Response:

Maryland fully complies with this policy.

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

2003 Response:

Reimbursement rates are set at the 75th percentile of the 2002 market rate survey. Differentials are paid for non-traditional hours and credentialed and accredited providers.

2002 Response:

Providers who participate in Maryland's credentialing and accreditation programs are eligible for tiered reimbursement.

2001 Response:

Maryland also offers tiered reimbursement for providers who are participating in our credential and accreditation programs.

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

2003 Response:

Please see 2002 response.

2002 Response:

Families choose providers and do this knowing what their rates are and how much they will pay for care. Resource and referral counselors are available to help families find care they can afford.

2001 Response:

N/A

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:

The public engagement campaign led by M&T Bank and the Maryland Child Care Business Partnership are two vehicles through which education of employers and outreach occurs.

2002 Response:

Maryland's Child Care Business Partnership led to the awarding of contracts to consortia of business, child care providers, local government and private entities to educate employers and demonstrate the bottom line benefits.

2001 Response:

The Maryland Child Care Business Partnership is a vehicle by which this occurs.

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

2003 Response:

The Marriott Corporation headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland and its Work Life Program has been a model for the state as well as other states.

2002 Response:

The Maryland NGA Team led to the establishment of a business sector board, headed by Allfirst Bank, to spearhead support for a public engagement campaign. A private foundation and the State have provided funding for the campaign.

2001 Response:

The Maryland NGA Team on Building Public and Political Will for Early Care and Education is pursuing this strategy.

(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:

The publication “Employer Tool Kit – Implementing Work/Life Programs,” largely funded by the Department, includes this information. The Child Care Resource Network uses the kit in responding to questions from employers and in its outreach to the business community. Providing technical assistance to the business community is included in the Department’s contract with the Network.

2002 Response:

The publication “Employer Tool Kit – Implementing Work/Life Programs,” largely funded by the Department, includes this information. The Child Care Resource Network uses the kit in responding to questions from employers and in its outreach to the business community. Providing technical assistance to the business community is included in the Department’s contract with the Network. During the last fiscal year, information and assistance was provided to 639 employers.

2001 Response:

Please see action step 1.2.

(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:

CCDF funds were used to contract with the Queen Anne's County Department of Business and Tourism to establish an employer supported child care center in a new Business and Industrial Park.

2002 Response:

The contracts resulting from the Maryland Child Care Business Partnership have encouraged these collaborations.

2001 Response:

Again, the Maryland Child Care Business Partnership has encouraged this.

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

2003 Response:

CCDF funds were used to establish a partnership with hospitals in Prince George's County to extend child care subsidies to low-wage employees.

2002 Response:

CCDF funds are used to match private business and local government contributions to expand the availability of care. Legislation was introduced last year to provide tax credits for costs incurred by employers if they paid at least 10% of employees' child care costs. The bill failed, in large part, because of the fiscal note and the State's economy.

2001 Response:

CCDF funds were used to match private business and local government contributions to expand the availability of care especially for low-wage employees.

(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:

Please see action step 8.5.

2002 Response:

Please see action step 8.5.

2001 Response:

Please see action step 8.5.

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

2003 Response:

See 2002 response.

2002 Response:

Where business is partnering with local government entities, local government is managing contractual and administrative responsibilities.

2001 Response:

N/A

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.

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:

Please see 2002 response.

2002 Response:

Each year, the Department sponsors a campaign to ensure that low-income families know about the Earned Income Tax Credit. Child care providers help us inform families of children in their care about the credit.

2001 Response:

Maryland has an Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income families that we publicize to child care providers and families who use child care services.

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

2003 Response:

No action taken.

2002 Response:

Legislation proposed for 2002 to increase the child care tax credit expense limits failed largely because of the fiscal note and the State's economy.

2001 Response:

Maryland will propose legislation for 2002 to increase the child care tax credit expense limits.

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

2003 Response:

No action taken.

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:

No action taken.

2002 Response:

N/A

2001 Response:

N/A

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

2003 Response:

See 2002 response.

2002 Response:

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Care Financing, created by legislation and appointed by the Governor recommended modifying the existing Maryland Dependent Care Credit to increase the cap on credit claimed by families from 32.5 percent to 100 percent of the federal credit. Additionally, increasing the sales tax by one quarter of one percent, establishing a visitor's tax, a tax check-off on income tax returns for early child care and education efforts and authorizing counties to establish special taxing districts were recommended.

2001 Response:

Maryland has a Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Care Financing, which was established by legislation and appointed by the Governor that is examining various strategies including dedicated taxes or funding streams.

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:

Maryland's five-year plan for Increasing the Number of Children Entering School Ready to Learn includes action steps to ensure greater access to and coordination for Head Start, child care and public pre-school programs.

2002 Response:

Maryland has a sub-cabinet on children, youth and families, which has been charged with developing a five-year strategic plan for early care and education. The number of children entering school ready to learn is being measured through work sampling of kindergarten children.

2001 Response:

Our Department works closely with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) as we develop new programs and services. Recently MSDE established a dozen new "Judy Centers" to serve the needs of preschool age children and their families in low-income areas. Our Department assisted with the guidelines for operation and selection and oversight of the programs.

(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:

Maryland reports monthly a host of case specific information to ACF in the 801 report, which is used to generate state profiles and national comparisons.

2002 Response:

Maryland is developing a new management information system that will include the data elements for federal reporting (801), as required for all states.

2001 Response:

N/A