

FAX COVER**Income Maintenance Branch**

Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20503



To:

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Organization:

Fax Number:

6-2878 or 6-6787

From:

Jai

Date/Time:

12.30.99

Number of Pages:

Cover + _____

Notes:

Here is some language on research & infant set-aside that might be helpful.

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FY 2000 Child Care Research Plan

The fiscal year (FY) 1999 Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Act (P.L.105-277) provides \$10 million in FY 2000 funds for child care research, demonstration, and evaluation activities. This appropriation is particularly significant as the beginning year of the first Federal funding specifically designated for child care research.

The Child Care Bureau research agenda was developed in consultation with other offices within ACF, Federal partners, State and local agencies, researchers, professional organizations, and other stakeholders. It reflects the need to be able to answer critical child care research questions with implications for policy, planning, and program administration while simultaneously developing a sound, sustainable research infrastructure.

Our efforts will concentrate on six areas: (1) building an infrastructure for ongoing and future research; (2) partnering with States; (3) supporting field-initiated research; (4) developing child care research leadership; (5) supplementing other Federal early childhood research; and (6) funding demonstrations. Three of these areas, partnering with States, supporting field initiated research, and developing leadership, are included in a consolidated Federal Register Announcement to be published in mid-December. It is important to note that accomplishing the Bureau's research agenda requires multi-year funding for all six initiatives.

Building an Infrastructure

Child care draws on the expertise of many disciplines including education, economics, health, social services, and business, and yet none of these fields encompasses the full complexity of child care and its implications for children and families. The Bureau intends to support a coordinated approach to child care research by promoting access to high quality data, performing special analyses, and tracking child care research.

Through the proposed statistical and research support contract, researchers will be assisted in conducting studies that are sound, relevant, and replicable. Components of this initiative will include a national child care data archive and research library, technical consultation to data contributors and users, analytic services, and knowledge development and dissemination.

Partnering with States

Child Care Policy Research Partnerships expand on a strategy that has proven successful in facilitating cross-state research and providing rapid responses to State child care administrators' questions. The Child Care Bureau has funded

This overview might be helpful for developing a clearer description.

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS IN HOUSE AND SENATE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE REPORTS

1998 Conference Committee Report Language

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FY98
Report
Language*
Item

[Quality of care for infants] -- The Conferees are concerned about the inadequate supply of quality child care for infants. Therefore, the agreement includes language that was not in either bill that requires the States to utilize \$50,000,000 above the amount required by the basic law for activities that improve the quality of child care. These new funds should supplement, not supplant, current and planned activities to increase the supply of quality child care for infants and toddlers.

Action Taken or to be Taken

The Child Care Bureau is complying with the intent of Congress to have States utilize the \$50 million appropriated to increase the supply of quality child care for infants and toddlers. The Bureau is undertaking a consultation process to determine the type of guidance to provide the States in their use of these funds for the intended purpose. It is anticipated that award of these funds will be completed by March 31, 1998.

1998 Senate Appropriations Committee Report Language

Item

[Use of transferred funds] -- The bill provides that \$19,120,000 of the amount appropriated shall become available for obligation on October 1, 1998. Of this amount, \$6,120,000 is derived by transfer, the same as in the fiscal year 1997 enacted legislation. The Department is instructed to obligate these funds immediately for the purpose of supporting resource and referral programs and before and afterschool activities previously funded under the dependent care block grant. The Committee further expects that these funds will not supplant current funding dedicated to resource and referral and school age activities provided by the child care and development block grant. The Committee strongly encourages States to address the matters of before and afterschool care and the establishment of resource and referral programs with funds provided in this program.

Action Taken or to be Taken

The Child Care Bureau is complying with the intent of the Congress by obligating \$19.1 million appropriated for resource

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large concentrations of refugees whose cultural differences make assimilation difficult. These funds are included in the social services line item.

The Committee is aware of the valuable work the Voluntary Agency Assistance Program is doing to resettle immigrants, especially Russian Jews, in the United States. The Committee expects \$39,000,000 will be used to support grants for the Voluntary Agency Grant Program.

Section 412(a)(7) of title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the use of funds appropriated under this account to be used to carry out monitoring, evaluation, and data collection activities to determine the effectiveness of funded programs and to monitor the performance of States and other grantees.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Appropriations, 1998	\$1,000,000,000
Budget estimate, 1999	1,182,672,000
Committee recommendation	1,182,672,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,182,672,000 for the advance for the child care and development block grant for fiscal year 2000. This is an increase of \$182,672,000 over the fiscal year 1998 level and the same as the administration request.

These funds provide grants to States to provide low-income families with financial assistance for child care; for improving the quality and availability of child care; and for establishing or expanding child development programs. The funds are used to both expand the services provided to individuals who need child care in order to work or attend job training or education and allow States to continue funding the activities previously provided under the consolidated programs. In addition, the Committee notes that child care entitlement funding under welfare reform legislation will provide \$2,167,000,000 in fiscal year 1999, an increase of \$100,000,000 over the fiscal year 1998 enacted level.

The bill provides that \$19,120,000 of the amount appropriated shall be for the purposes of supporting resource and referral programs and before and afterschool services. This represents the Federal commitment to the activities previously funded under the dependent care block grant. The Committee further expects that these funds will not supplant current funding dedicated to resource and referral and school age activities provided by the child care and development block grant. The Committee strongly encourages States to address the matters of before and afterschool care and the establishment of resource and referral programs with the funds provided in this program. The Committee recommendation includes \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 and 2000 for an infant care quality initiative, the same amount provided in fiscal year 1998.

As the Committee continues to expand the availability and affordability of child care in the country, the Committee urges the agency to provide the States with sufficient flexibility and discretion to administer these funds. The agency should work to ensure that there are no increased administrative burdens or costs for States and no concomitant reduction in the resources available for child care and in the ability of States to fully respond to their

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Report language

unique circumstances and needs. The Committee urges the agency to consider the removal of certain administrative burdens, including the requirement that the discretionary portion of the child care development fund (CCDF) be reported under a different code of Federal domestic assistance number than the other portions of the CCDF.

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Appropriations, 1998	\$2,299,000,000
Budget estimate, 1999	1,909,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,909,000,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,909,000,000 for the social services block grant. The recommendation is the same as the budget request and \$390,000,000 below the 1998 enacted level.

Social services block grant funds are distributed to and used by States and territories to fund a wide variety of social services for the purpose of preventing or reducing dependency, and assisting individuals to achieve self-sufficiency. Activities include child and adult day care, child and adult abuse and neglect prevention, home-based services, and independent living services. Many of these activities are funded by separate appropriations elsewhere in the bill.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 1998	\$5,676,059,000
Budget estimate, 1999	5,942,180,000
Committee recommendation	6,008,784,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$6,008,784,000 for the "Children and families services programs" account, which is \$66,604,000 more than the administration request and \$332,725,000 more than the fiscal year 1998 appropriation.

This appropriation consists of programs for children, youth, and families, the developmentally disabled, and Native Americans, as well as Federal administrative costs.

Head Start

Head Start provides comprehensive development services for low-income children and families, emphasizing cognitive and language development, socioemotional development, physical and mental health, and parent involvement to enable each child to develop and function at his or her highest potential. At least 10 percent of enrollment opportunities in each State are made available to children with disabilities.

The Committee recommends \$4,660,000,000 for the Head Start Program, an increase of \$312,567,000 above the 1998 level and the same as the budget request. This figure includes an advance appropriation of \$1,365,000,000. The Committee took this action because of the severe budget constraints.

The Committee recommendation includes funding for the expansion of the Head Start Program in an amount consistent with the bipartisan balanced budget agreement. The expansion funds shall be used in a manner which is responsive to the needs of each community, as identified in individual needs assessments.