



**PROJECT THRIVE**  
Leading Policies for Child Health, Early Learning, and Family Support

## Improving the Odds through Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems

Kay Johnson  
Director, Project THRIVE  
National Center for Children in Poverty

**NCCCP** National Center for Children in Poverty  
Columbia University  
SEATTLE & SCHMIDT OF THE UNIVERSITY

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## Focusing on Policy to Support ECCS

- Established at the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP), Project THRIVE is a public policy analysis and education initiative to promote healthy child development.
  - This work is supported through a cooperative agreement with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, HRSA-DHHS.
  - THRIVE provides policy education and analysis for the state Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiatives (ECCS)

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## Policy Thinking Across ECCS Core Components

- 5 core components:
  - Access to Health Care and Medical Homes
  - Social-Emotional Development and Mental Health
  - Early Care and Education Services
  - Parenting Education
  - Family Support Services

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## Health /Medical Home + Mental Health/ Social-Emotional

### State Policy Choices to Promote Access

- Medicaid/SCHIP income eligibility at or above 200% of poverty (41 states in 2006).
- Medicaid/SCHIP 12-month continuous eligibility
- Medicaid/SCHIP presumptive eligibility/ temporary coverage during eligibility determinations (12 states in 2005).
- Supplement federal WIC funds to reduce waiting lists for pregnant women and young children (9 states in 2006)

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## Health /Medical Home + Mental Health/ Social-Emotional

### State Policy Choices to Promote Quality

- Achieve national benchmark that 80% of children in Medicaid receive at least one EPSDT screen annually (7 states in 2005 for toddler and preschool age children).
- EPSDT periodic visits schedules consistent with AAP standards / Bright Futures guidelines.
- Require use of objective developmental screening tools in EPSDT/SCHIP.

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## Special Needs & More Vulnerable

### State Policy Choices to Promote Access

- IDEA Part C Early Intervention Program eligibility includes at-risk children (6 states in 2006).
- IDEA option to provide early intervention services for children birth to five (no states).
- CAPTA requirement to refer all children birth to three with substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect to Part C implemented statewide.
- Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) includes children with physical, developmental, and mental health conditions.

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**Special Needs & More Vulnerable**

**State Policy Choices to Promote Quality**

- Permit use the DC:0-3 for Medicaid/SCHIP reimbursement (5 states in 2006).
- Require newborn screening for 28 recommended conditions (18 states in 2006).
- Require newborn hearing screening (30 states in 2006).

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**Early Care and Education**

**State Policy Choices to Promote Access**

- Child care subsidies eligibility at or above 200% of poverty (16 states in 2006).
- Child care subsidy - annual re-determination/continuous eligibility (20 states in 2006).
- Refundable state dependent care tax credit (13 states in 2005).
- Supplement federal Head Start funds to reduce waiting lists (16 states in 2006).
- State-funded pre-kindergarten program (39 states in 2006).

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**Early Care and Education**

**State Policy Choices to Promote Quality**

- Require adult-child ratios and maximum class size for infants, toddlers, and 3-4 year olds consistent with professional standards. (8 states for toddlers and 14 states for 4-year-olds in 2005).
- Implement child care quality rating system.
- Implement early learning standards or developmental guidelines for infants and toddlers (19 states in 2005).

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**Parenting Education + Family Support**

**State Policy Choices to Promote Access**

- Develop statewide capacity for Parent Information Center for children with disabilities and special health care needs.
- Use state “warm-lines” and “hot-lines” to provide extended parent resource and referral.
- Support local family resource centers with state funding.

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**Parenting Education + Family Support**

**State Policy Choices to Promote Quality**

- Paid family (medical/ maternity) leave (6 states in 2004).
- TANF work-requirement exemption for single parents from pregnancy until child reaches age 1 (28 states in 2003).
- TANF reduced work requirements for parents with children under age 6 (18 states in 2003).
- State allowance for parents in school to qualify for child care subsidies (45 states in 2005).
- State personal income tax exemption for single-parent families living below the poverty level (36 states in 2006).
- State maintenance of co-payments for child care subsidies at or below 10% of family income (28 states in 2006).

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**For more information or questions, contact us at Project THRIVE**  
**646-284-9633**  
[thrive@nccp.org](mailto:thrive@nccp.org)

 **Linking Policies for Child Health, Early Learning, and Family Support**

- Kay Johnson, MPH, EdM Project Director
- Jane Knitzer, EdD Director, National Center for Children in Poverty
- Leslie Davidson, MD, MPH Senior Health Advisor
- Suzanne Theberge, MPH Research Analyst

 **NCCP National Center for Children in Poverty**  
 Columbia University  
 615 GREEN AVE. 11TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10032