National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative @ ZERO TO THREE

Phase Four: 2009-2011

Vision

Infants and toddlers experience high quality care in all settings, and their unique needs are addressed in early care and education (ECE) systems.

Mission

To move forward system initiatives that improve the quality and supply of infant/toddler child care.

Project Overview

The National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative (NITCCI) provides customized technical assistance (TA) to Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) lead agencies to support broad-based strategic planning activities to improve the quality of early care and education for infants and toddlers. Individualized TA can be delivered through limited on-site visits or off-site consultation via phone conference or webinar to support initiatives such as systems-level strategic planning; roundtables; materials development and dissemination; or facilitation of peer-to-peer learning. State and Territory profiles, initiatives, and other materials, located on the NITCCI website, will continue to be updated.

NITCCI continues to build on past TA efforts that support quality infant/toddler (I/T) initiatives using the systems-based eco-model, *Early Care and Education Systems that Support Quality Care for Babies and Toddlers*. The eco-model was the framework used to support States and Territories in developing I/T Credentials, I/T Specialist Networks, and including infants and toddlers in quality rating systems. The eco-model will continue to be the foundation of our comprehensive system planning TA approach.

Topics

Technical assistance activities are individualized to the needs of States, Tribes, Territories and Regions. The following list represents examples of topics and activities NITCCI is prepared to support:

- Strategic planning on the use of CCDF targeted funds for infants and toddlers
- Effective use of Infant/Toddler Specialist Networks
- Development of Infant/Toddler Credentials to support professional development
- Including infant/toddler indicators in quality rating and improvement systems
- Quality for infants and toddlers in family, friend and neighbor care
- Development of early learning guidelines for infants and toddlers

Target Audience

NITCCI serves Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) administrators and their designees or partners.

To Request TA from NITCCI:

Requests for TA are processed collaboratively among NITCCI staff, the CCDF Administrator, and the Child Care Bureau. To request technical assistance, please contact:

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A project of the
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Assistance,
Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau

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