Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships
Updated June 2016

The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) is the professional association dedicated specifically to promoting high-quality early childhood experiences in the unique environment of family child care programs. NAFCC works on behalf of the one million family child care providers operating nationwide. NAFCC has led the family child care accreditation program for over 25 years. Accreditation is not just a mark of quality, but a demonstration of commitment to continuous quality improvement, designed specifically for family child care providers.

Big opportunity for babies
Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships are an exciting new initiative bringing together the work of child care providers and Early Head Start. NAFCC applauds this commitment to increasing investments in high-quality early learning experiences for infants, toddlers, and their families, and the investment in family child care providers to carry out this work.

In FY14, Congress approved $500 million for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships.

The work got underway in communities in 2015.

Currently, there are 275 new and expansion grantees, to serve 32,000 infants and toddlers.

700 family child care providers are involved in current Partnership grants.

For FY16, Congress approved an additional $135 million.

The next funding opportunity announcement is out! Applications are due August 2016.

NAFCC and state and local family child care associations can connect the Head Start community to family child care providers who are ready to partner!

Making Plans: 2016 Funding Opportunity Announcement
On June 23, 2016, the Administration for Children and Families released the Funding Opportunity Announcements for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, Migrant and Seasonal Early Head Start Expansion and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, and American Indian and Alaska Native Early Head Start Expansion and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships. Applications are due August 24, 2016. As organizations and agencies consider their applications, they will need to explain their approach for reaching infants and toddlers, and their plan for identifying partners in the child care community. Now is the time for the family child care community and the Head Start community to connect.

“Family child care is an important part of the child care system, especially for infants and toddlers, who are more likely to be cared for in home-based settings compared to older children. In addition, family child care is an important child care option for children whose parents work non-standard work hours or schedules, and it is particularly important in many rural areas where there are few child care centers.” Administration for Children and Families, HHS-2016-ACF-OHS-HP-1181

Partnering to reach families
Family child care is an essential component to advancing high-quality early care and education opportunities in the United States. Head Start grantees can partner with family child care programs to deliver preschool services, as well as services for infants and toddlers through Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships.
Sixty-four percent of Head Start families in 2014 included at least one working parent, and 14 percent of families included a parent in school or job training. Partnering with family child care is a way to meet the needs of working families while also providing a rich experience for young children. (Get more facts from the 2014 PIR at http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/data/pir)

With this funding opportunity, the Administration for Children and Families is prioritizing services for communities with high concentrations of poverty, Promise Zones, and rural counties. Funding is available for all regions, but “bonus points” can be earned on an application that targets these specific communities. (Details of the counties and zip codes can be found in the Funding Opportunity Announcement documents.) Family child care providers are part of the solution to reaching families in these communities with full day, full year care for working parents and they are ready to partner to provide crucial, high-quality services to infants and toddlers.

Stories from the Field
“Early Head Start has been very supportive with my program, professional development, and environment. I look forward to continuing my services as a nationally accredited Early Head Start family child care home supporting low-income families and children by giving each experiences and opportunities to guide them through successful learning, and community resources and support for them to be successful.” – family child care provider partner, Kansas

“The experience getting started was exciting. Now that I’ve been a part of the program for some time I love the support that I am able to provide to my families.” – family child care provider partner, Ohio

“While the work is not easy, the goal is worth all of the stress and worry. I believe in this partnership so much that not only do I still have my home daycare, but I have become the Child Development Specialist working with the other providers for the grant! I see the growth and developing professionalism in our other partners.” - family child care provider partner, Michigan

“If there is an opportunity for another grant competition, I would advise the grantee to apply for it because funding is a gateway to releasing quality care and learning experiences for young children and to my fellow child care providers I would urge them to “get on board” because if there is an opportunity to offer quality child care we must do it.” - family child care provider partner, Alabama