

# State Efforts to Improve Early Care and Education

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**H**elene Stebbins of the National Governors Association reviews how more than a dozen states are finding solutions to child care dilemmas. This chapter lists examples of state programs, detailing their history, scope, target audience, and funding.

State	Focus	Target Audience	Admin. Oversight	Funding	History/ Scope
<b>Georgia Universal Pre-K</b> <a href="http://www.osr.state.ga.us">www.osr.state.ga.us</a>	Pre-kindergarten	All 4-year-old children	Office of School Readiness (Reports directly to the governor.)	\$224 million from state lottery.	1992 pilot served 750 children; statewide in 1996; serving 62,000 children.
<b>New Jersey Early Childhood Program Aid</b>	Full-day kindergarten and half-day pre-kindergarten	3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children living in low-income school districts.	New Jersey Department of Education	\$310 million in state funds (1999-2000).	Initiated in 1996 in response to school finance lawsuit; serving more than 54,000 children in 135 districts in 2001.
<b>New York Universal Pre-K</b>	Pre-kindergarten	All 4-year-old children by 2002.	New York Department of Education	\$225 million (2001-02); expected to be \$500 million when universal.	Legislation in 1997; serving 66 percent of eligible 4-year olds; expected to serve 275,000 when fully funded.
<b>Connecticut School Readiness Act</b>	Child care, Head Start, and pre-kindergarten	3- and 4-year-old children living in "priority" low-income school districts.	Joint oversight by state departments of Education and Human Services.	\$59 million in state funds for FY 2000-01; (Originally funded in 1997 at \$32.6 million).	School Readiness legislation in 1997; created 6,500 new spaces for early education by 2001.

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<b>Massachusetts Community Partnerships for Children</b>	Child care, Head Start, and pre-kindergarten	3- and 4-year-old children at or below 100 percent of state median income	Massachusetts Department of Education	\$104 million (2001) from state general fund.	Created in 1985 and modified in 1992; serving 21,780 children in 2001.
<b>Indiana Community Child Care Initiative</b>	Child care	All children cared for outside of their homes	Indiana Family and Social Services Administration	\$2.8 million from quality set-aside of Federal CCDF.	Created in 1995; local teams in all counties by 2001.
<b>Minnesota Early Childhood Family Education</b>  <a href="http://www.educ.state.mn.us/ecfi/ecfe.htm">www.educ.state.mn.us/ecfi/ecfe.htm</a>	Parent education	All parents of newborn children	Minnesota Department of Children, Families, and Learning	\$20.8 million from state general funds and \$21million from local tax levy for FY 2002; parents pay sliding scale fee.	Created in 1992; serving 311,000 in 2000.
<b>California Children and Families First Initiative (Prop 10)</b>  <a href="http://www.cafc.ca.gov">www.cafc.ca.gov</a>	Comprehensive care	All children through age 5	Newly created county boards with designated representatives from public and private sectors.	Estimated \$750 million from 50-cent tax on cigarettes.	1999 ballot initiative; statewide; in implementation phase.
<b>Iowa Empowerment</b>	Comprehensive care	All children through age 5	Iowa Department of Management staffs state & local empowerment boards.	\$21.8 million (\$15.6 million from the state, \$6.2 million from TANF) in FY 2001.	Established by the Legislature in 1998; 58 community empowerment areas represent all 99 counties.
<b>North Carolina Smart Start</b>  <a href="http://www.smartstart-nc.org">www.smartstart-nc.org</a>	Comprehensive care (70 percent of funds must go toward child care)	All children through age 5	North Carolina Partnership for Children (501(c)3 nonprofit); county partnerships for children.	\$220 million from state general fund; must raise 10 percent match from the private sector.	\$20 million pilot in 1993; statewide in 1998; local councils distribute funds.
<b>South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness</b>  <a href="http://www.scfirststeps.org">www.scfirststeps.org</a>	Comprehensive care	All children through age 5	First Steps Board of Trustees (Chaired by the governor.)	\$39 million from state general fund in FY 2002.	Ten-county pilot began in 1999; all 46 counties have received planning & implementation grants.

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<b>Florida School Readiness Act</b> <a href="http://www.fcforum.org">www.fcforum.org</a> (legislative summary)	Comprehensive care	All children through age 5	Florida Partnership for School Readiness (in Agency for Workforce Innovation)	Consolidates \$686 million in public funds for early care and education. \$187 million are state general revenue funds.	1999 legislation gives newly created local bodies control over public spending; full implementation expected in 2002.
<b>Smart Start Kansas</b> <a href="http://www.kschildrenscabinet.org/smartstart.htm">www.kschildrenscabinet.org/smartstart.htm</a>	Comprehensive care	All children through age 5	Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund grants to community-based partnerships.	\$2.75 million (from tobacco settlement).	1999 legislation established Children's Cabinet and dedicated 95% of tobacco money.