

## STATEMENT OF WORK

**PROJECT:** Study of investment in early childhood education efforts receiving either state or federal funding.

### RESEARCH OBJECTIVE:

1. Compile accurate data about the licensed childcare programs in Ohio.
2. Determine the amount of funding for licensed childcare programs that has a state and/or federal government source.
3. Develop criteria for areas of need (where funds spent are not supporting, or not supporting enough, the intended population) and areas of success (where funds spent are supporting the intended population) in early childhood education in Ohio.
4. If possible, determine where future investments would increase support for the intended population, based on prior programs and impacts. Depending on what is learned in the first three objectives, the criteria for this may be based on number of children served, or number of children served that achieved a high outcome on, say, the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

### LEGISLATIVE USE:

Unknown

### ANTICIPATED STUDY OUTPUT

The study will report the type of program, the eligibility requirements for the program (age and income level), the extent of access to the program (both physical and financial), the number of children served as well as the percent of qualifying children served, the number of hours and days per week offered by the program, and the impact of the program on the long-term learning of the student, if possible. Further, the study will report, if the fourth phase is exercised and the data are available, an analysis of the impact of the funds spent on early childhood education. If it is not possible to get student level data to match across systems, we will attempt this analysis in some other way.

### STUDY STRUCTURE

The effort will have four phases: phase one is the study of national and state level funding data published in recent national reports on early childhood education (*The 50-State Comparison: K-3 Quality Report* by the Education Commission of the States, *The State of Preschool 2015* by NIEER, and the *Kids Count Data Book* by the Annie E. Casey Foundation). Phase two is the combining of Ohio's data from the Ohio Departments of Education and Jobs and Family Services with the national and state data. The purpose of this phase is to update the data and include data elements that are not connected or not included in the national reports to develop a clearer picture of Ohio's early childhood education landscape. Phase three is the collection and analysis of data from the Federal Head Start Programs that are operating in Ohio. It is well known that some children in these programs are receiving both state and federal funds. Understanding how these funds are being used will be a focus of this project. Evaluating the true cost of a program will allow for an unbiased analysis of the effectiveness of the program. The fourth and final phase will be to compile all the data and analyze it to determine the effectiveness of the different programs for early childhood

education in Ohio. The analysis should provide insight into where increased funding might have a positive impact.

Phase one. Phase one includes the review of the three national reports on early education efforts across the nation released in the summer of 2016. (*The State of Preschool 2015* by the National Institute for Early Education Research, the *50-State Comparison: K—3 Quality Report* by the Education Commission of the States, and the *Kids Count Data Book* by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.) The purpose of Phase one is to establish a background on which to compare the efforts of Ohio in early childhood education to the rest of the country or to other states.

Phase two. This phase is accomplished by requesting data from both the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) to get their numbers of children served in publicly funded childcare and privately funded childcare by age, race and socioeconomic status. These data requests were made, we have received data regarding the number of children ages 3-5 in both ODE and ODJFS licensed facilities for children receiving publicly funded childcare. We are still waiting for the numbers for children in private childcare and for infants to three year olds in publicly funded childcare.

Phase three. Phase three is accomplished by inspecting the reports from the ODJFS as well as to request information from the national Head Start office about funding for Ohio Head Start Programs. These data are currently being collected and tabulated. We are set out to get the financial information about all Head Start programs in Ohio.

Phase four. In phase four the data will be analyzed and compiled into a report. Of particular interest in Phase four is the collection of student level data from the two agencies (ODE and ODJFS) to determine the percentage of qualifying children who are being served using the funds allocated for early childhood education investment that Ohio has been making.

**Timing.**

Much of this study can be completed before 1 July 2017.