

Public Policy Update

December 21, 2011

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FY2012 Budget Finalized – MIECHV Program Fully Funded

Last weekend, the United States Congress passed the FY2012 Consolidated Omnibus Appropriations Act (HR 2055), which will fund government operations and programs through September 30, 2012. President Obama is expected to sign this legislation by Friday, December 23 when the current continuing resolution is set to expire. We are pleased to report that HR 2055 leaves the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program for FY2012 at \$350 million without any policy or funding changes. Click here to view a [Congressional summary](#) and the full [committee report](#). The following list includes changes in FY2012 funding levels for other federal programs that support the children and families we serve:

- \$30 million increase for Promise Neighborhoods
- \$424 million increase for Head Start
- \$10 million cut to Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant
- \$1.6 billion in level funding for Community Health Centers
- \$148 million cut to Race to the Top (includes Early Learning Challenge)

In this difficult fiscal environment, Congress reaffirmed its commitment to the MIECHV Program as an evidence-based initiative that has the potential to improve the health and well-being of children and families while reducing scarce government expenditures. Congress's actions also reflect the strong support that the MIECHV Program enjoys among health, educational and social service providers, policy advocates, economists, law enforcement, business, philanthropists and nursing organizations as a wise investment in human capital that will benefit our nation. Maintaining the current structure and funding for the MIECHV Program is a significant milestone that would not have been possible without the hard work, commitment and dedication of the entire NFP family, as well as our extended family of advocates, organizations, and champions nationally. We want to especially thank all the NFP implementing agencies, Board of Directors, Program Developers, and Nurse Consultants who dedicated significant time and resources to advocating for the MIECHV Program. NFP-NSO also offers special thanks to the organizations and advocates who signed onto the MIECHV Program support letters to Congress.

We can all take enormous pride in this achievement and the continued hope that it promises for the children and families served by Nurse-Family Partnership, as well as other home visiting programs. In the coming weeks, NFP-NSO will devote time to thank Congressional champions, advocates and supporters of evidence-based home visiting.

Early Learning Challenge and Promise Neighborhood Grants Announced

Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge

On Friday, December 16, the White House jointly announced with the U.S. Departments of Education and Health & Human Services that 9 states will be awarded the \$500 million in Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge FY2011 grants. 35 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico all submitted applications and the following 9 states will receive awards: California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Washington. Awards will range between \$50-100 million and the details regarding successful state plans or exact award amounts has yet to be released.

The Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grants will support state efforts to support innovative approaches to early learning and child development; build comprehensive statewide systems; aligning/raising standards for existing programs; improving workforce development; and developing robust

evaluation systems. Click [here](#) to view the Administration's full press release and additional information regarding the Early Learning Challenge grant program.

Promise Neighborhoods

On Monday, December 19, the U.S. Department of Education also announced the 2011 Promise Neighborhood grantees which include 5 implementation grants and 15 planning grants. More than 200 organizations from 35 States and 2 territories applied for this round of awards. The first round of implementation grants will receive first year awards of up to \$6 million; and \$500,000 for each planning grant award. Grantees include non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, and one Indian tribe all focused on improving schools as part of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization efforts. Click [here](#) to view the Administration's press release and additional information regarding Promise Neighborhoods. PolicyLink's [Promise Neighborhoods Institute](#) is also an excellent resource regarding this initiative.

NFP-NSO recommends that our implementing agencies and local stakeholders review the list of grantees as these organizations may offer potential partnership opportunities. The full list of 2011 Promise Neighborhoods grantees includes:

Implementation grantees:

- Westminster Foundation (Buffalo, NY)
- Northside Achievement Zone (Minneapolis, MN)
- Berea College (Clay, Jackson, and Owsley Counties, KY)
- United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County, Inc. (San Antonio, TX)
- California State University – East Bay (Hayward, CA)

Planning grantees:

- Mission Economic Development Agency (San Francisco, CA)
- Reading and Beyond (Fresno, CA)
- Mercer University (Macon, GA)
- Community Action Project of Tulsa (Tulsa, OK)
- Elmezzi Foundation (New York, NY)
- South Bay Community Services (Chula Vista, CA)
- Black Family Development (Detroit, MI)
- Children Youth and Family Services (Charlottesville, VA)
- CAMBA (New York, NY)
- SGA Youth and Family Services (Chicago, IL)
- Ohio University (Glouster, OH)
- Meriden Children's First (Meriden, CT)
- Martha O'Bryan Center (Nashville, TN)
- Catholic Charities of Albany (Hudson, NY)
- Campo Band of Mission Indians (Campo, CA)

Please contact your Program Developer or the NFP Policy & Government Affairs team at pga@nursefamilypartnership.org if you have questions regarding this Public Policy Update. For more information, please also visit www.nursefamilypartnership.org.