State Children’s Cabinets and Other Related Governance Entities

A number of states have established children’s cabinets and other governance entities to coordinate all children’s services and to serve as policy advisors on children’s issues. Though the official name of the entity and the powers and responsibilities granted to them may vary from state to state, children’s cabinets, and other related state governance entities focused on the health and well being of children and their families generally:

- Advise governor, state legislators, and state agency and department leaders on policy issues affecting children
- Advocate to access state programs
- Develop and implement statewide child health, education, and well-being policies and programs
- Evaluate annual child well-being outcomes
- Review recommendations of legislative studies and state advisory committees and councils
- Recommend improvements to existing services and programs

Children’s cabinets, early learning advisory councils, and other related governance entities are established by:

- An executive order issued by the governor
- Legislation enacted by the state legislature and signed by the governor
- An informal association of key stakeholders
- A caucus of state legislators in one or both chambers of the state legislature

Children’s cabinets, early learning advisory councils, and other governance entities membership may include:

- Governor and/or governor’s spouse
- State legislators and state agency and department officials
- Pediatricians and other health care advocates
- Early education and child care advocates
- Teachers and school administrators
- Parents and other family advocates

Tips for developing, creating, and interacting with state children’s cabinets, early learning advisory councils, and other related governance entities:

- Advocate for passage of related legislation. Some children’s cabinets are created by an executive order from a governor. This can be problematic in ensuring continuity of the children’s cabinet once a governor leaves office if the executive order is reversed. Seek to establish your state’s children’s cabinet in statute by advocating for passage of related legislation.

- Seek chapter representation on the children’s cabinet. A majority of positions on children’s cabinets, early learning advisory councils, and other related governance entities are appointed by governor, legislators, and other state officials. Offer the expertise of a chapter leader or member to serve on the children’s cabinet.

- Learn your state children cabinet’s priorities. Many of the children’s cabinets, early learning advisory councils, and other related governance entities publish agendas, updates, and other information on their Web sites (see following pages for links) where chapters can learn about priorities and collaborate on mutual objectives.

- Develop relationships with members of the children’s cabinet. Call or e-mail members of these entities offering the chapter’s assistance and expertise on common issues.

- Maintain the relationships. Keep up your communication with cabinet, council, and caucus members, apprising them of your chapter’s current priorities. Offer to make presentations to the new and existing members to make them aware of key child health issues in your state.

- Include the children’s cabinet, early learning council, or other related governance entity in your chapter’s activities. Invite representatives of these entities to your chapter meetings, to be a part of your coalition, or as speakers to your educational events. Your ongoing partnership with them will bring about mutual gains for children in your state.

For more Information on advocacy and working with your Children’s Cabinet:

- See the AAP Advocacy Guide [www2.aap.org/moc/advocacyguide](http://www2.aap.org/moc/advocacyguide)
- See the National Governor’s Association’s (NGA) Creating a Comprehensive State Early Childhood Advisory Council [http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/0905ECACFAQ.PDF](http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/0905ECACFAQ.PDF)
- See the Forum for Youth Investment’s Children’s Cabinet Network [http://forumfyi.org/childrens-cabinet-network-0](http://forumfyi.org/childrens-cabinet-network-0)
State Children’s Cabinets and Other Related State Governance Entities

**State Programs**

**Alabama**
Alabama Early Childhood Advisory Council
http://children.alabama.gov/

Children’s Policy Councils
http://children.alabama.gov/cpc/

**Alaska**
Joint Legislative Children’s Caucus
http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/combr_info.asp (under Other Committee in AK House and AK Senate)

**Arizona**
Children’s Caucus

First Things First–Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board
http://www.azftf.gov/

**Arkansas**
Arkansas Early Childhood Commission
http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dccece/Pages/ArkansasEarlyChildhoodCommission.aspx

Foster Parent Ombudsman
http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dcfs/Pages/dcfsServices.aspx

Arkansas House of Representatives Education Committee–Early Childhood Subcommittee
http://www.arkansashouse.org/committees/811/EDUCATION-%20HOUSE%20EARLY%20CHILDHOOD%20SUBCOMMITTEE

**California**
State Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care
http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ce/

First 5 California
www.ccfc.ca.gov/

California Ombudsman for Foster Care
http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/

Child Care Advocate Program
www.celd.ca.gov/PG491.htm
Colorado
Child Protection Ombudsman
https://www.protectcoloradochildren.org/

Early Childhood Leadership Commission
www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/LtGovGarcia/CBON/1251592929261

Early Childhood Universal Application Subcommittee
http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/OIT-EADG/CBON/1251579897395

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Oversight Commission
www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/olts/sl2009a/sl_355.htm

Children’s Caucus
http://cochildrenscaucus.weebly.com/

Connecticut
Commission on Children
www.cga.ct.gov/COC/

Office of the Child Advocate
www.ct.gov/oca/site/default.asp

Early Childhood Education Cabinet
http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/

Delaware
Early Childhood Council
www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/earlychildhood/decc.shtml

The Office of the Child Advocate
http://courts.state.de.us/childadvocate/

District of Columbia
State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council
www.learndc.org/earlychildhood/dc-programs-and-services/secdcc

Florida
Children and Youth Cabinet
http://www.flgov.com/childrens-cabinet/

Early Learning Advisory Council
http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/coalitions/hot_topics/early_learning_advisory_council_elac.aspx
Georgia
Children’s Cabinet
https://children.georgia.gov/georgia-childrens-cabinet

Office of the Child Advocate
http://oca.georgia.gov/

Hawaii
Early Learning Advisory Board
http://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/more/early-learning-advisory-board/

Keiki Caucus

Idaho
Early Childhood Coordinating Council
www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Default.aspx?TabId=80

Illinois
Commission on Children and Youth
http://appointments.illinois.gov/appointmentsDetail.cfm?id=38

Early Learning Council
http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/OECD/Pages/EarlyLearningCouncil.aspx

Indiana
Early Learning Advisory Committee
http://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder/4842.htm

Iowa
Early Childhood Iowa State Board
http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/iowa_board/index.html

Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development
www.icyd.org/

Kansas
Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund
www.kschildrenscabinet.org/

Kentucky
Early Childhood Advisory Council
http://kidsnow.ky.gov/About-Kids-Now/Pages/ECAC.aspx

State Interagency Council for Services to Children with Emotional Disabilities
Louisiana
BrightStart
www.brightstartla.org/

Children’s Cabinet
www.gov.state.la.us/index.cfm?md=subsite&tmp=home&subSiteID=12

Maine
Governor’s Children’s Cabinet
www.state.me.us/cabinet/index.htm

Children’s Growth Council
http://mainecgc.org/index.html

Child Care Advisory Council
www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/22/title22sec3739.html

Maryland
Children’s Cabinet
http://goc.maryland.gov/cc/

Governor’s Office for Children
www.ocyf.state.md.us/

State Early Childhood Advisory Council
http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/13sdoe/html/sdoe.html#earlyc

Massachusetts
Child and Youth Readiness Cabinet
www.mass.gov/edu/child-youth-readiness-cabinet.html

Early Education and Care Advisory Council

Office of the Child Advocate
www.mass.gov/childadvocate/

Michigan
Great Start for Kids
http://greatstartforkids.org/

Early Childhood Investment Corporation–State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care
http://www.ecic4kids.org/#home

Office of Children’s Ombudsman
www.michigan.gov/oco
Minnesota
Early Learning Council
http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Welcome/AdvBCT/EarlyLearnCoun/

Early Childhood and Youth Development Policy Committee
http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/committee.asp?comm=88005

Children’s Cabinet
https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=4.045&format=pdf

Mississippi
State Early Childhood Advisory Council

Missouri
Children’s Services Commission
www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/c200-299/2100000101.htm

Coordinating Board for Early Childhood
http://dss.mo.gov/cbec/

Office of Child Advocate
www.oca.mo.gov/

Montana
Best Beginnings Advisory Council (Formerly the Early Childhood Advisory Council)
http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/bestbeginnings/bbac/

Nebraska
Children’s Commission

Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council
www.education.ne.gov/ecicc/

New Hampshire
Spark NH
http://sparknh.com/

Child Care Advisory Council
www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcyf/ccac.htm

New Jersey
Council for Young Children
www.state.nj.us/education/ece/njyc/
New Mexico
Early Learning Advisory Council.
http://governor.state.nm.us/state-early-learning-advisory-council.aspx

Children’s Cabinet
http://childrenscabinetnm.org/

New York
Early Childhood Advisory Council
http://ccf.ny.gov/council-initiatives/ecac/

Council on Children and Families
http://ccf.ny.gov/

North Carolina
Early Childhood Advisory Council

Smart Start & The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc
http://www.smartstart.org/

North Dakota
Early Childhood Education Council

Ohio
Early Childhood Advisory Council
http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org/ecac.php

Family and Children First
www.fcf.ohio.gov/

Oklahoma
Commission on Children and Youth
www.okkids.org/

Smart Start
http://smartstartok.org/

Oregon
Early Learning Council
http://oregonearlylearning.com/early-learning-council/

Youth Development Council
http://education.oregon.gov/Pages/Youth-Development-Council-.aspx
Pennsylvania
Cabinet on Children and Families
http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/004/chapter6/subchapItoc.html

Commission for Children and Families
www.pachildren.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pa_children/371

Early Learning Council
http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/004/chapter6/subchapCCtoc.html

Pennsylvania System of Care Partnership
http://www.pasocpartnership.org/

Rhode Island
Children’s Cabinet
www.rikidscount.org/matriarch/MultiPiecePage.asp_Q_PageID_E_245_A_PageName_E_childrenscabinet

Early Learning Council
http://earlylearningri.org/early-learning-council

Office of the Child Advocate
www.child-advocate.ri.gov/index.php

Children’s Code Commission
http://sos.ri.gov/boards/index.php?page=board_detail&board_id=74

South Carolina
Governor’s Office of Children’s Affairs
www.oep.sc.gov/ca/

Early Childhood Advisory Council
www.scfirststeps.org/

Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children
http://www.sc.edu/jclcc/

South Dakota

Tennessee
Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
www.tennessee.gov/tccy/

Ombudsman for Children, Youth, and Families
www.tn.gov/tccy/ombuds.shtml

Tennessee Children’s Cabinet
http://www.kidcentraltn.com/
Texas
Council on Children and Families
www.hhsc.state.tx.us/about_hhsc/AdvisoryCommittees/Council.shtml

Early Learning Council
http://earlylearningtexas.org/

Utah
Child and Family Cabinet Council

Office of Child Protection Ombudsman
www.hsocpo.utah.gov/

Vermont
Building Bright Futures Council
http://buildingbrightfutures.org/

Virginia
Virginia Children’s Cabinet
https://governor.virginia.gov/news/newsarticle?articleId=5768

Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success

Washington
Early Learning Advisory Council
www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/

Office of Family and Children’s Ombudsman
www.governor.wa.gov/ofco/

West Virginia
Early Childhood Advisory Council
http://wvearlylearning.org/

Wisconsin
Early Care and Education Advisory Council
http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ecac/default.htm

Wyoming
Early Childhood Development Council
https://sites.google.com/a/wyo.gov/early-childcare-and-licensing/early-childhood-development-council

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