

Early Education Developments and Opportunities at the Federal Level

September 24, 2009



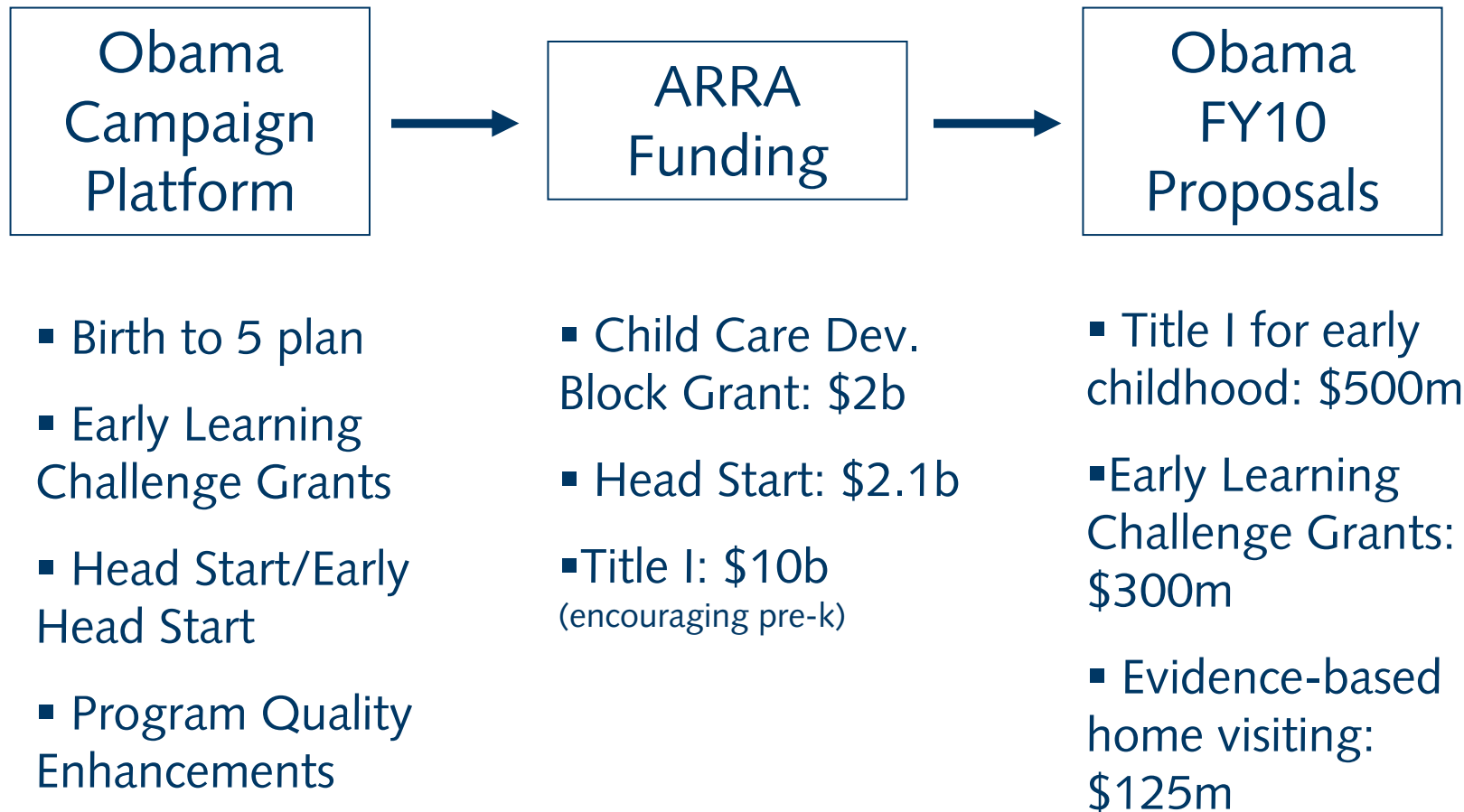
Strategies for Children helps children get a strong start in life by working to ensure they all have access to high-quality early education and are all proficient readers by the time they enter fourth grade.

What we hope to accomplish today

What we hope to accomplish on today's call:

- Share information about President's Obama's budget recommendations and the federal budget timeline;
- Provide an update on developments and opportunities at the federal level including the Early Learning Challenge Fund, Race to the Top and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act; and
- Share next steps and how you can take action!

Federal leadership for early education



MA ARRA Funding for Early Education and Care

Program	Funding for MA	Total ARRA funding
Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)	\$23.9 M (\$3.8 M for quality) (\$1.1 M of quality for infants/toddlers)	\$2.0 B (\$255 M for quality) (\$94 M of quality for infants/toddlers)
Head Start and Early Head Start	\$10.1 M	\$2.1 B
IDEA part B, Preschool	\$10.3 M	\$400 M
IDEA part C, Infants and Families	\$7.4 M	\$500 M

Funding primarily for public school districts; pre-k is an allowable and encouraged expense:

Program	Funding for MA	Total ARRA funding
State Fiscal Stabilization Fund	\$994 M	\$53 B
Title 1, Part A	\$163 M	\$10 B

The Race to the Top Fund

- Overview/policy goals:
 - Standards and assessments that prepare students for success
 - Data systems that measure student progress
 - Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals; and
 - Turning around low-performing schools
- Funding
 - \$4.35 billion in competitive grants to states
 - Revised notice/application expected in late fall
 - At least 50% of funds to LEAs (based on Title 1 formula)
 - Remaining funds administered by lead state agent

Race to the Top and Early Education

Education Secretary Arne Duncan has said the primary goal of the Race to the Top Fund is to close the achievement gap and that very few states could achieve this without (including) an early childhood plan.

-Grantmakers for Children, Youth & Families conference call

September 14, 2009

Obama Administration's Larger Reform Strategy

- Investing in Innovation Fund (\$650 million)
- Teacher Incentive Fund (\$297 million)
- Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (\$315 million)
- Title I School Improvement Grants (\$3.5 billion)

The Early Learning Challenge Fund

■ Overview

- Provides grants to incentivize states to establish systems for improving the quality of early learning settings for children ages birth to five

■ Quality Pathways Grants

- Requires significant progress in building a high-quality system
- Five year renewable grant
- State match (which may include private contributions) beginning at 10% and increasing to 15% in the third year and 20% in the fourth

■ Development Grants

- Available to states ineligible for Quality Pathway Grants
- Three year nonrenewable grant
- State match, beginning at 20% and increasing to 30%

The Early Learning Challenge Fund (cont.)

States could use their grants for two or more of these activities, including:

- Improving the credentials and compensation of the early childhood workforce.
- Helping programs meet higher quality standards.
- Implementing classroom observation assessments tied to improvements in instructional practices.
- Making financial incentives available to programs for quality improvements.
- Providing information to communities and families about program quality and encouraging family engagement.
- Supporting screenings and referrals for health, mental health, family support, and other services.
- Developing and implementing data systems.

Next Steps

- Thank your US Representative for supporting the Early Learning Challenge Grant.
 - Click here for more information: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll719.xml>
- Save the Date for the November EEA Conference Call:
Quality Rating and Improvement Systems with Davida McDonald
Thursday, November 5, 2009
1:30-2:30 p.m.