Early Education for All Campaign Welcomes $50 Million Federal Early Learning Challenge Grant to Massachusetts

December 16, 2011 – Today the Obama administration announced that Massachusetts was one of nine states that have been awarded grants from the $500 million Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge. Massachusetts is eligible for $50 million over four years and the U.S. Department of Education will announce final grant amounts to winning states in the coming days.

The following statement is from Amy O’Leary, director of Early Education for All, a campaign of Strategies for Children:

“We are thrilled that the Massachusetts has been awarded an Early Learning Challenge grant. Massachusetts’ successful application affirms the vision that was embedded in the creation of the first-in-the-nation Department of Early Education and Care in 2005. Through the process of applying for the grant, Massachusetts developed a plan that promises to accelerate the creation of a statewide system of high-quality early education and care starting at birth. Implementing that plan will bring the commonwealth closer to ensuring high-quality early education and care for all young children in Massachusetts.

“This award is a testament to the leadership of Department of Early Education and Care Commissioner Sherri Killins, Education Secretary Paul Reville, Governor Deval Patrick, our state legislators, our congressional delegation, advocates and educators across the commonwealth. We must continue to work together to ensure strategic investments at the federal, state and local level are aligned and prioritized to eliminate the achievement gap and ensure that every child enters school ready to succeed.”

*Early Education for All*, a campaign of Strategies for Children, works to ensure that children in Massachusetts have access to high-quality early education and become proficient readers by the end of third grade. EEA is a broad-based coalition of leaders from business, early childhood, labor, religion, health care, education and philanthropy allied with parents, grassroots leaders and policymakers on behalf of children and families. Read our blog, *Eye on Early Education*. Find us on *Facebook*. Follow us on *Twitter*.