

# PACCT Campaign

Public Action for Child Care Today, A Project of the Child Care Resource Center, Inc. ♦ 130 Bishop Allen Drive ♦ Cambridge, MA 02139



## FEDERAL UPDATES

### Head Start Reauthorization

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, the House of Representatives passed (by a one vote margin, 217-216) the School Readiness Act of 2003 (HR 2210), which reauthorizes the Head Start Program, a federal to local grant program that serves approximately 3 out of 5 preschool aged children in poverty. Head Start programs have always received funds from the federal government, but are now facing a potential financial shift, which would entail federal monies being channeled through state rather than local level.

Proponents of the bill claim its main goals are to close the school readiness gap between low-income children and other children upon entering school and to promote collaboration and alignment at the state level between Head Start and other early childhood education programs.

This logic is not so clear to the critics. While some provisions of the bill are positive (an emphasis on teacher credentialing and enhanced collaboration requirements), the remainder is left with serious concerns:

- An establishment of significant and extensive goals for Head Start programs, without providing adequate funding to meet these goals.
- The bill reduces the proportion of federal funds committed to training and technical assistance.
- The bill gives eight states the option to receive Head Start funds in the form of a block grant without full application of the current Head Start Performance Standards

Head Start discussions will resume after the August Congressional recess.

### TANF Reauthorization

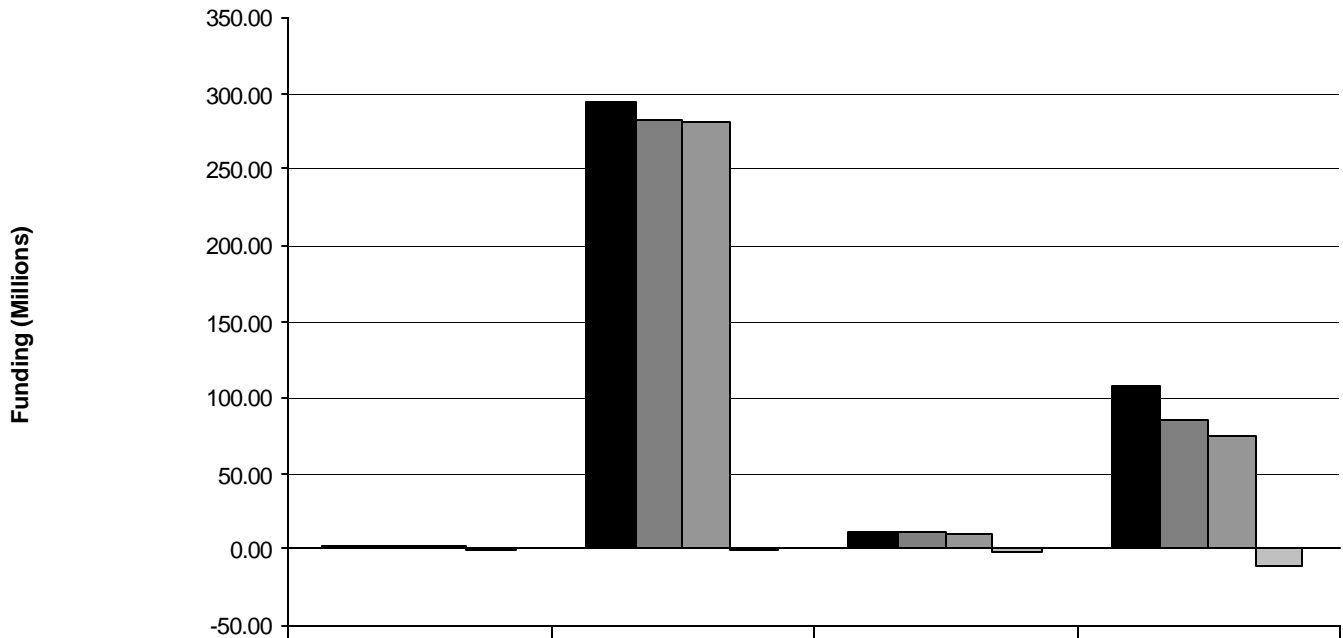
TANF and CCDBG have passed through the House of Representatives as one bill, HR4. Currently, they are separate bills stalled in the Senate Finance Committee awaiting action on the TANF act. *(cont. on pg 3)*

## FINAL STATE BUDGET DETAILS

Early Care and Education took a hard hit in the FY04 Budget. The overall cuts to Early Care and Education line items resulted in a decrease of 11% or \$57.82M. Here are the specific line items that were affected:

- ♦ The **Child Care Program for Low Income Parents (4130-3050)**, an account which collapsed Employment Support (4130-3200), Income-Eligible (4130-3250,3300), Child Care for Children of Teen Parents (4130-3400), and In-Home/Relative care (4130-3700) into one account without earmarking for specific programs received funding at \$281.92, a decrease of .31% or \$.88M from FY03.
- ♦ The **Supportive/Protective Family Stabilization line item (4130-3600)** was funded at \$48.34M, a decrease of 3.97% or \$2M.
- ♦ The **OCCS Administration line-item (4130-0001)** was funded at \$1.37M, a decrease of 28.27% or \$.6M from FY03.
- ♦ The **OCCS Licensing line-item (4130-0005)** was funded at \$6.89M, a decrease of 2.13% or \$.15M from FY03.
- ♦ The **Trial Court Child Care line-item (4130-3500)** remained at zero funding.
- ♦ The **One-Time Quality Fund line-item (4130-2998)** was funded at \$4.10M, a decrease of 1.91% or \$.08M from FY03.
- ♦ The **R&R Agency Administration line-item (4130-3100)**, was funded at \$10.04M, a decrease of 17.97% or \$2.2M from FY03.
- ♦ The **Early Learning/School Readiness line-item (7030-1000)**, was funded at \$74.60, a decrease of 11.88% or \$10.06M from FY03.
- ♦ The **Full School Day Kindergarten line-item (7030-1002)**, was funded at \$23M, a decreased of 6% or \$1.64M from FY03.
- ♦ The **Academic Support Services line-item (7061-9404)**, was funded at 10M, a decrease of 80% or \$40M from FY03.

### FY 2004 Budget



	Administration 4130-0001	Child Care for Low-Income Families 4130-3050*	R&R Agency Administration 4130-3100	Early Childhood Education Grants 7030-1000
■ FY 02	2.32	294.18	12.23	107.80
▣ FY 03	1.91	282.80	12.24	84.66
▣ FY 04	1.37	281.92	10.04	74.60
▣ Changes from FY 03	-0.54	-0.88	-2.20	-10.06

Selected Child Care Accounts

## New Council Created in FY04 Budget...

The *Council on Early Education and Care*, created in the FY04 state budget process, is a step forward. The 3-member Advisory council will be comprised of Ardith Wieworka, Commissioner of OCCS; David Driscoll, Commissioner of Education; and Christine Ferguson, Commissioner of Public Health.

The mission of the Council is threefold:

- Develop a comprehensive plan to coordinate, integrate and streamline publicly funded early education and care administration and functions
- Support accessible, affordable, quality child care and education for children ages birth through 5
- Evaluate the policies and process guiding the expenditure of funds for the CPC and early intervention literacy programs

**If you have any questions about the budget process, call or email the PACCT Campaign at (617) 547-1063 x245 or [policy@ccrcinc.org](mailto:policy@ccrcinc.org).**

The PACCT Campaign is coordinated by the Child Care Resource Center, Inc. with funding provided by The Schott Center for Public and Early Education, the W. Clement & Jessie V. Stone Foundation, the A.C. Ratshesky Foundation, the United Way of Mass Bay and by private contributions. For more information about this bulletin, or to join the Campaign, please contact Jennifer Porter at 617.547.1063 ext. 245 or by email at [policy@ccrcinc.org](mailto:policy@ccrcinc.org).



TANF cont from pg 1...

CCDBG must wait for TANF to pass before both bills can proceed together to the senate floor for action.

The TANF reauthorization thus far has maintained a strong focus on the increase in work requirements (from 30 hrs/week to 40). A further concern, but less discussed, facing TANF recipients is that of funding. Legislation is seeking to establish mandatory child care funding for the next five years. Currently, mandatory child care funding is used primarily to provide child care assistance to working families not receiving TANF cash assistance. Hundreds of thousands of children (222,000 by 2006) face losing assistance if legislation expands work requirements yet decreases funding to adequately meet these requirements. With this, TANF recipients face the worst sort of conundrum; a push to work more and less assistance received will ultimately result in no child care which increases the difficulty for parents to remain employed.

The Senate Finance Committee will resume TANF discussions in September.

"When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty."

-Anonymous

## **The Child Care Resource and Referral Network Announces it's expanded toll-free Resource Hotline!**

You can call the toll free number 24 hours a day to learn more about the following resources:



Child care  
Food, clothing and housing  
Safety  
Parenting support  
Child health and development  
Health insurance

**1-800-345-0131**

## **Massachusetts Leadership Empowerment Action Project (MassLEAP)**

To achieve universally accessible, high quality programs we need to build a broad-based movement that is organized, guided and supported by diverse leadership that has, at its core, the voices of those who directly work with children and families. MassLEAP nurtures and energizes diverse leaders within the early education and care community by encouraging individual and collective leadership development and action. MassLEAP offers training and credit bearing courses to support and nurture each student in developing and achieving their personal and community leadership goals.

Mass LEAP enables a community to strengthen, build and support their base of leaders and increase involvement and engagement in advocacy projects.

If you or your organization are interested in bringing LEAP to your state or community, call the MassLEAP office at (617) 547-1063 ext. 236 or email [massleap@ccrcinc.org](mailto:massleap@ccrcinc.org).

# Come Visit the ABC Room!

## CHECK IT OUT!

We have a wide variety of resources and activities for parents, teachers and providers!

We are open 9am - 5pm, M-F, and hold a variety of activities and workshops for children and adults.

Call for evening hours and appointments.



**ACTIVITIES:** laminator, book, binder, curriculum kits, activity boxes, job postings, technology trainings, adult child events, computer assistance and more!

**BOOKS** (English/Spanish): children's books, books on parenting, discipline, curriculum, and much more!

**COMPUTERS:** games for children, self paced software for adults, and much more!

**The ABC Community Room is located at  
The Child Care Resource Center ~ 130 Bishop Allen Drive  
Cambridge 02139**

*The ABC Community Room is funded in part by the MA Department of Education,  
Early Learning Services*

*For more information, please contact Jena Mottola at (617) 547-1063 x 226 or visit us online at [www.ccrinc.org](http://www.ccrinc.org)*