

# Strengthening Vulnerable Families Through Early Care and Education

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# Introductions

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# Overview

- Federal role
- National evaluation findings
- Arkansas experience's in system building
- New Hampshire's experience
- Question and answer

# Research Findings on Comprehensive Systems

- Keys to successful collaborations
  - Alignment of vision and goals
  - Good communication
  - Processes and systems to support coordination
  - Continuous improvement processes

# Federal Perspective

- The Child Care Bureau and the Children's Bureau share similar goals
  - To promote optimal child development and strong, healthy families
  - Key to these goals is the provision of training and technical assistance and research-based policy and practice

# Federal Perspective

- The Child Care Bureau supports coordination and system integration that increases access to a range of high quality early care and education settings.
  - A priority of *Good Start, Grow Smart* is to facilitate access to services through collaborative efforts across early childhood programs and funding streams.
  - State, Territory and Tribal administrators are partnering with many entities—at the local, state, and national levels, in the public and private sector, to meet the needs of children and families.

# Strengthening Families Initiative

- 23 States are currently involved with the Strengthening Families Initiative and a growing number will access the resources or become part of the Learning Network.
- AR and NH are examples of States that have integrated the principles of SFI—to strengthen family protective factors and children’s social-emotional health—into training and other mechanisms to improve the quality of child care, particularly for low-income families.