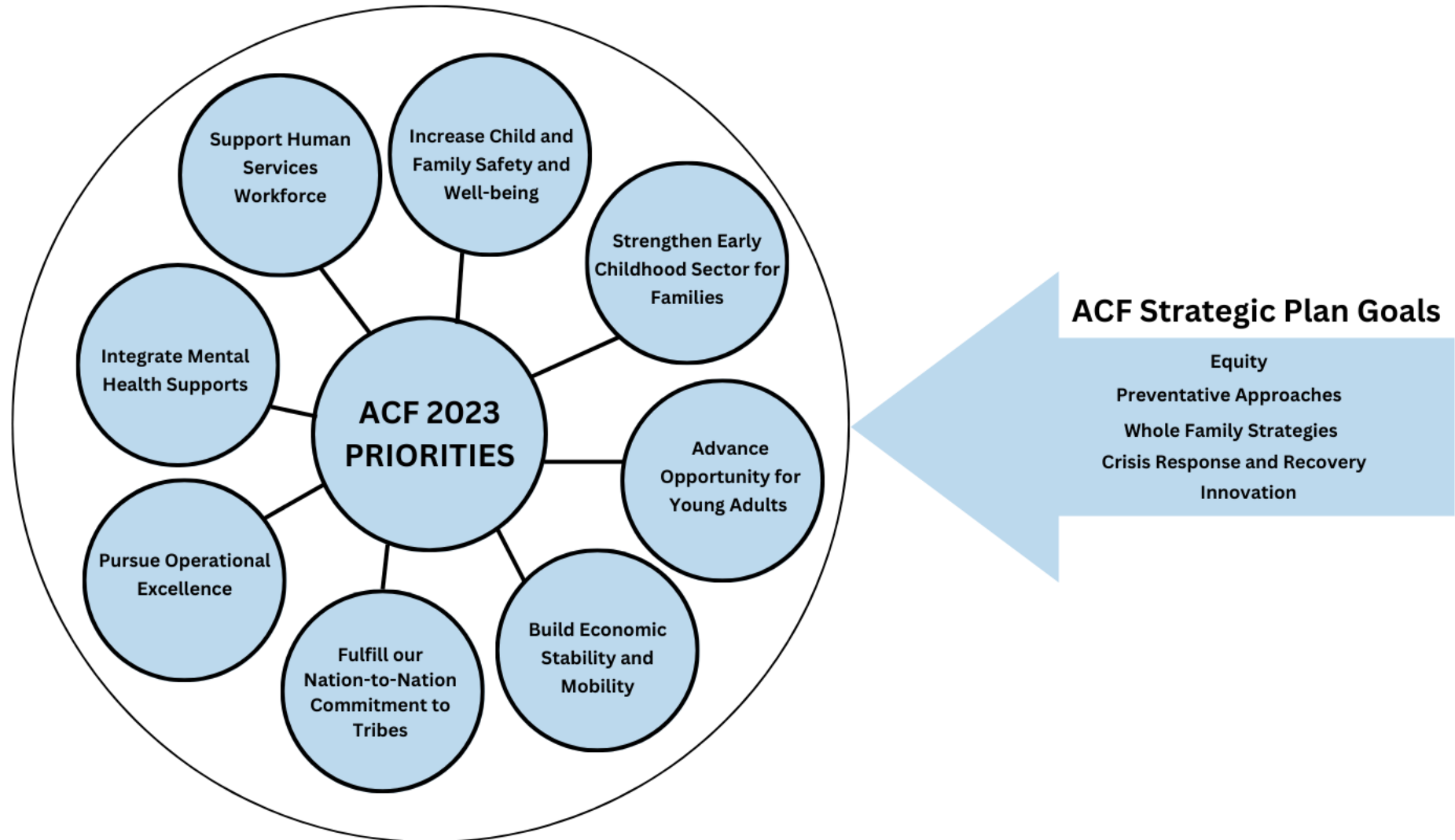




# EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

JUNE 29, 2023

ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**



# Early Childhood Mission and Vision

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**Mission:** Advance an early childhood sector that meets the developmental needs of children and families in communities.

**Vision:** We create equitable opportunities for children and families and the early childhood workforce so they have:

Children & Families

- Safe and supportive environments that promote child development across physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional domains.
- Access to high-quality programs that are: affordable and accessible to families, inclusive, culturally and linguistically responsive, and partner with families in supporting children's development.

Early Childhood Workforce

- System that attracts, prepares, supports, and retains a qualified and diverse workforce across settings and programs.
- Compensation and supports for health and well-being that demonstrate the value of the workforce to our communities.



# 9 Priorities for Early Childhood

In support of our vision:

1. Families can easily access early childhood programs.
2. Children have equitable access to high-quality early childhood programs in culturally and linguistically responsive and inclusive settings.
3. Early childhood settings protect children's health and safety.
4. Mental health services are integrated into early childhood programs.
5. Payment policies support the stability of the early childhood sector.
6. Federal early childhood funds support increased compensation and a pipeline of diverse early educators.
7. Tribal early childhood funding supports integrated high-quality early childhood programs and facilities.
8. Families and early childhood service providers with lived experience share their feedback.
9. ACF has the capacity, structure, and expertise to effectively administer funding streams.

# COVID Child Care Investments

**550,000**  
**CHILDREN**

States are expanding eligibility to serve more than 550,000.



Supporting Families

Supporting the Workforce

**50**  
**STATES**

50 states and DC are offering retention bonuses, recruitment bonuses, and/or stipends to child care workers.



**650,000**  
**CHILD CARE**  
**WORKERS**

650,000 child care workers received some form of increased compensation.



# Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)



Increase of **\$1.85 billion** in CCDF Discretionary Funding in FY23

## ACF guidance:

- Increase compensation and benefits for child care workforce (CCDF-ACF-IM-2022-02, September 2022)
- Raise provider payment rates to at least 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, strong recommendation for >75<sup>th</sup> percentile of market rate survey

## Strategies include:

- Increasing provider payment rates
- Providing bonuses or wage supplements
- Subsidizing benefits, like health insurance, retirement, paid leave
- Supporting post-secondary education



# Head Start

## Program guidance:

- AIAN eligibility through Tribal TANF
- SNAP eligibility
- Strategies to stabilize the Head Start workforce
- Competitive bonuses for the workforce



## New FY23 funding:

- \$596 million for a 5.6% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)
- \$262 million for quality improvement (Program Instruction ACF-PI-HS-23-02)
- \$2 million increase for Tribal College and University Head Start (TCU-HS) Partnerships program
- \$100 million for Head Start, Early Head Start, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Expansion



# Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five

Awarded nearly \$300 million to 42 states

- Highlights from PDG proposals
  - MT – Recruitment and retention
  - OH – Increase wages
  - AZ – Trauma informed care
  - NC – Enhance FCC
- \$25 million increase for FY23





# National ECE Workforce Center

Initial Supports in Year 1



# Informing Strategies with Research & Evaluation

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# Thank you!

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