



May 18, 2010

Dear North Carolina Regional Early Childhood Professional Development Planning Team member,

Over the past several months you have provided your time, expertise and suggestions to inform the development of a regional early childhood professional development action plan. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and will serve to inform the work of our state and our communities. Your efforts are addressing our need to build a qualified and well-compensated early care and education workforce, which is essential to ensuring high-quality early childhood education programs.

State policies and financing of the professional development system have a significant impact on the recruitment, quality, and retention of early childhood professionals. Through the development of an integrated early childhood professional development system guided by a state plan, North Carolina will increase its capacity to develop and retain a competent and stable early childhood workforce.

Below please find information about how regional action plans will be used after July 31, 2010 and an overview of next steps which project partners are putting in place to leverage the project's results.

**How will regional plans be used?** A total of 18 action plans are being developed across our state. The regional action plans will be:

- used to inform the development of a state level plan to outline goals and strategies. Action plans will inform the content of goals and strategies at the regional level.
- part of the state plan to aid the NC Division of Child Development and its partners in leveraging resources and addressing limitations of our current approach to early childhood professional development.
- shared with state partners and the general public via partner websites to guide respective and collective efforts in the area of early childhood professional development.
- used as a source of information by state partners when they are addressing the allocation of resources.
- used to inform funders of identified needs.

**What other sources of information are informing the state plan?** Project partners have developed several strategies to gather feedback on the current approach to ECPD in our state. Electronic survey responses are being collected from state level groups/agencies and from individuals who have interest in our early care and education system.

**When will the action plans be posted?** Regional action plans along with the state ECPD plan will be disseminated via partner websites in fall 2010.

**How will regional teams be supported in continuing discussions and planning?** Regions are encouraged to continue to work together to continue the planning and work at the regional level, as possible. The NC Division of Child Development will provide feedback to teams about their work in each region. The Institute will continue to maintain the project web section of its website to provide a communication vehicle among teams.

**Who do I contact with questions?** Debra Torrence at [director@ncicdp.org](mailto:director@ncicdp.org).

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