



FEDERAL ACTIONS

that changed the face of early care and education

by Gwen Morgan

1911 United States Children's Bureau created.

1932 WPA (Works Progress Administration) paid for nursery schools as a way of providing employment for unemployed teachers.

1940 Congressman Lanham introduced Defense Housing Act (H.R. 10412), Federal support for housing and public works in areas affected by the defense industry. Child care centers were funded under public works. Federally-funded child care under the Lanham Act was provided during war time.

1942 Funds allocated to WPA to reorganize nursery school programs to meet the needs of working mothers in the war industries.

1943 New Lanham Act passed. Rosie the Riveter gets child care.

1945 War ended, Federal funds terminated. California, Massachusetts, and Connecticut continued some State funding.

1951 Korean War. New Defense Housing and Community Facilities and Service Act of 1951 passed, but the Appropriations Committee specifically excluded any funds to be used for child day care services.

1954 Internal Revenue Code amended to permit tax deduction for child care.

1954 Amendment to the Agricultural Act of 1949, which made surplus dairy products available to non-profit schools, nurseries, settlement houses, and child care centers.

1962 New section in the Public Welfare Amendments spelled out perma-

nent Federal sources of funds for child day care. This section also included family child care for the first time, if licensed by the State. This legislation also set forth comprehensive principles combining health, education, and welfare, strongly promoted licensing by the states, and assumed parent fees would be paid on a sliding fee scale.

1963 Department of Education and U.S. Children's Bureau, after years of competing for jurisdiction over child care, have an agreement that if a program's purpose is 'predominantly educational' it falls under DOE; otherwise, child care is the responsibility of the Children's Bureau.

1965 The Economic Opportunity Act funded community action programs, including 'Operation Head Start.' Social Security funds for child care decreased as Head Start funding was appropriated.

1965 Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as a part of the 'War on Poverty.' The law authorizes federally funded education programs that are administered by the states. Title I could be used by the schools for preschool programs.

1967 Congress approved expansion of child day care services in three different Titles of the Social Security Amendments: the Work Incentive Program, child welfare services, and Title IV-A. Title IV-A provided for funding of child care for welfare recipients and also for 'former or potential' recipients. **Important matching opportunity:** Funding was 75% Federal, without any limit on the total, whenever the 25% was paid by the State or by privately donated funds.

By 1969, many United Way planning agencies take advantage of these provisions to use existing private charitable programs to match Federal funds for a major expansion.

1967 The Economic Opportunity Act of 1967 required that there be "a common set of program standards and regulations" for both Head Start and child day care.

1968 The Federal Interagency Day Care Requirements, developed by the Federal Panel on Early Childhood, were published, covering all early care and education programs administered by OEO, DHEW, DOL, and the Department of Agriculture (the child care food program). FIDCR were reviewed and rewritten for the next ten years, before being abolished by Congress.

1968 Jule Sugarman, transferred from Head Start to the Children's Bureau, develops Federal policy designed to create a comprehensive child care system; develops Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C).

1969 Responsibility for the administration of the Head Start program was transferred administratively from OEO to HEW.

1971 Congress approved tax credit for working parents for child care costs. Caps on expenditures were established that are the same today.

1971 The Comprehensive Child Development Act of 1971, passed by the Congress, was vetoed by President Nixon.

1974 Federal special education legislation 94-142 begins a series of bills expanding equal opportunity for education to younger age groups. Long effort to coordinate special education in public schools with funding from Federal DOE.

1975 Title XX of the Social Security Act replaces the old Title IV-A of the Social Security Act. Eligibility can be up to 115% of the state's median income for a family, with sliding fee scale so that parents can pay part of the cost as their income improves. Local and State matching requirements are removed.

1982 Federal Resource and Referral legislation is passed; no funds appropriated.

1983 Federal school-age legislation is passed; no funds appropriated.

1985 Small amounts of Federal funds become available for R&R, school-age care, and elder care in Dependent Care Block Grant. States begin to fund R&R.

1990 Child Care and Development Block Grant passed. Funds for direct subsidy of child care, also a set-aside for 'quality,' which included R&R. Also funded: child care for families 'at risk' of going on welfare; Social Security Amendments Title IV-A.

1994 Family and Medical Leave Act establishes that parents of newborns,

adopted children, seriously ill relatives, have a right to return to work after leave of absence. Very little paid leave required.

1996 Federal re-authorization of Head Start expands to infant care; local partnerships between Head Start and other agencies encouraged; funds for State-level coordination of the Partnership.

1997 Child Care and Development Fund reauthorized. Combines, but does not merge CCDBG with all welfare-related child care titles, including the former 'at-risk program,' and the dependent care block grant that previously funded school-age and Resource and Referral programs.

1998 President Clinton announces child care initiative; parties take differing approaches to early childhood legislation; over 50 bills filed. Head Start re-authorization requires college degrees for 50% of Head Start teachers by 2003. Impeachment hearings derailed the President's child care initiative.

1999 Head Start receives funds for sending its teachers to college.

2000 Tobacco settlement dollars and savings on welfare (TANF) enable most states to increase their investments in early care and education. When TANF savings are transferred into CCDBG, federal guidelines require 5% set aside for quality.

2000-2005 Dramatic increase in state-level quality initiatives, career development initiatives, and partnership projects. Professional Development Initiative in the states, begun in 1991 by Wheelock College to create workable early childhood systems in states, is picked up by NAEYC. 'State teams' annual meetings, begun by Wheelock, are now being provided by NAEYC.