



## *Establish Early Childhood Behavioral Consultation Programs in Texas*

### **The Problem**

Too often, when young children display challenging behaviors, they are removed from their child care program instead of receiving the care and services needed to prepare them for school and life. The failure to appropriately respond to challenging behaviors can result in children entering more restrictive and costly systems, such as alternative education programs and the mental health, child welfare, or juvenile justice systems.

### **The Solutions**

Support legislation during the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session that will implement pilot behavioral consultation programs in collaboration with local child care facilities. Specifically, the legislation will:

- Establish and fund a system of child care mentoring, technical assistance, and consultation for certain child care providers responsible for infants and toddlers.
- Support communities in developing their own strategic planning, service delivery, and management capacity to improve the care provided in all formal, regulated child care settings;
- Evaluate the impact of these interventions on the quality of care provided to infants and toddlers and strengthening of public-private partnerships collaborating to improve early care and education coordination and service delivery in participating in communities.

### **Background**

Environmental and genetic factors can significantly influence the physical, social, emotional and behavioral growth and development of a child. Positive influences often translate into healthy development for a child while a myriad of “harmful” influences generally are associated with social, emotional, behavior and physical problems. Unresolved, these conditions follow a young child into his early education opportunities, placing the child at risk for academic delays and/or disciplinary actions.

Early intervention for young children can be complex and resource intensive. However, successful models of intervention built around the behavioral consultant model of service delivery have proven effective in changing behaviors in young children.

### **Cost Estimates:**

\$880,000 is being requested to develop, implement, and independently evaluate four pilot behavioral consultation programs in collaboration with local child care providers during the 2010-2011 biennium.

### **For additional information**

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