

## Appendix 2: Minnesota's Investment in Local, State and National Research and Evaluation Projects (A1)

### **Minnesota's Investment in Local, State and National Research and Evaluation Projects**

Through dedication of funding and collaboration with researchers, Minnesota has demonstrated a strong and enduring commitment to using evidence to inform the priorities, content and targets of policies and programs. This document provides a topical overview of the research and evaluation efforts that the State of Minnesota has funded or in which State agencies have been involved through the contribution of staff time for planning, writing and review of findings. The projects are categorized by the five reform areas in the Race to the Top application, but note that many of the efforts are cross-cutting and inform a range of issues related to developing a comprehensive and coordinated early learning and development system.

#### **Successful State Systems**

##### Understanding Patterns of Early Care and Education Use, Cost, and Decision-Making

- Statewide Household Survey of Child Care conducted in 1999, 2004, 2009 by Wilder Research for the Department of Human Services.
- Minnesota Child Care Choices Project interviewing 300 low-income families over three years to learn about their experiences with early care and education for their young children (2007 – 2011). Research conducted by Child Trends and the University of Minnesota.

##### Federally-Funded Research Partnerships

- Minnesota Child Care Policy Research Partnership (2001-2006)
- Maryland-Minnesota Child Care Policy Research Partnership (2010 – 2013)

##### Describing and Enhancing Care by Family, Friends and Neighbors (DHS)

- Family, Friends and Neighbor Caregivers: Results of the 2004 Minnesota Statewide Household Child Care Survey (2006) by Wilder Research for the Department of Human Services
- Family, Friends and Neighbors Caring for Children Through the Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program: A Survey of Caregivers and Parents (2006) by Wilder Research for the Department of Human Services
- Observations of Family, Friends and Neighbor Care in Minnesota (2006) by Child Trends for the Minnesota Child Care Policy Research Partnership.
- Families, Friends and Neighbor Child Care Providers in Recent Immigrant and Refugee Communities (2006) by CHIA Consulting for the Department of Human Services.
- Evaluation of the Minnesota Family, Friends and Neighbor Grant Program (2010). Report prepared by the University of Minnesota for the Department of Human Services.

##### Market Rate Study

- Results of the 2009 Child Care Market Rate Survey: Minnesota Child Care Provider Business Update (2010). Report prepared by the Department of Human Services

- Alternative Methods for Minnesota’s Market Rate Study of Child Care Prices (2009). Report prepared by the University of Minnesota for the Department of Human Services.

#### Evaluation of Innovative Early Childhood Strategies

- Invest Early – Evaluation of a comprehensive early childhood collaborative in Itasca County, Minnesota, that serves young children and their families with risk factors that may impede school success. Conducted by Wilder Research.
- School Readiness Connections – Evaluation of a pilot to create incentives for child care providers with high concentrations of children receiving subsidies from the Child Care Assistance Program to enhance school readiness activities and to support families receiving subsidies to choose from selected providers. Conducted by SRI International for the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.
- Prekindergarten Allowances – Evaluation of a strategy to provide low-income parents with funding to offset the cost of high quality early care and education settings. Conducted by SRI International for the Department of Human Services.
- Saint Paul Early Childhood Scholarship – Evaluation of a pilot program to cover the cost of high quality early care and education settings. Conducted by SRI International for the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.
- Minnesota Initiative Foundation’s Early Childhood Initiative – Evaluation of an initiative to create and support community early childhood coalitions. Conducted by Wilder Research.

#### Indicators of Child and Family Well-Being

- Babies in Minnesota (2009). Report by Wilder Research.
- Early Childhood Minnesota – indicators and strategies for Minnesota’s early childhood system (2008). Report by Wilder Research.
- Early Childhood Minnesota – spotlight on disparities by income, race, and geography (2009). Report by Wilder Research.

#### Additional Projects/Reports

- Economic Analysis of the Cost Burden to Minnesota K-12 When Children Are Unprepared for Kindergarten (2008). Report by Wilder Research.
- Northside Achievement Zone Promise Neighborhood Implementation Grant application (2010).
- Five Hundred under 5/Family Academy - Growing Up Healthy, Kids and Communities, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation (2008 to 2011).
- Family Academy Curriculum Revision (2011 to 2014)
- Participation in the National Center on State Implementation and Scaling-up of Evidence-based Practices.

#### **High-Quality, Accountable Programs**

- Evaluation of Minnesota’s four-year pilot Quality Rating and Improvement System - Parent Aware. Conducted by Child Trends for the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.

- Project Early Kindergarten – Early Reading First. Evaluation of a pre-kindergarten education program for 3- and 4-year-olds in Saint Paul, targeting children who are low-income, English Language Learners, or need Special Education services. Conducted by Wilder Research.
- Participation in TACSEI: Technical Assistance Center for Social Emotional Intervention

### **Promoting Early Learning and Development Outcomes for Children**

- Minnesota School Readiness studies - Results inform school administrators and teachers, parents, early childhood educators, child care providers, policy makers and the public about progress toward the goals of ensuring that children are ready for school and schools are ready for children. Reports conducted by the Minnesota Department of Education.
- Assessing the Validity of the Minnesota School Readiness Indicators (2011). Report conducted by the University of Minnesota for the Department of Education.

### **A Great Early Childhood Education Workforce**

- Survey of the Early Care and Education Workforce – Estimates the size, stability and the demographics of those serving children in licensed family child care homes, child care centers, preschools and school-age care programs in Minnesota. Conducted in 1999, 2006, 2011 by Wilder Research for the Department of Human Services.
- Evaluation of the Professional Development System – Includes production of an annual report tracking 25 indicators. Conducted by Child Trends for the Department of Human Services.
- Quality Interventions in Early Care and Education (QUINCE) – Minnesota participated in a five-state federal study of consultation as a quality improvement strategy. Research conducted by Child Trends and the University of Minnesota.
- State participant in the National Professional Development Center on Inclusion (2011) which has resulted in the Minnesota Landscape to provide an overview of professional development for early childhood educators as well as the Matrix to identify regional content and delivery gaps.
- Centers of Excellence – a regionalized system funded by the Department of Education with a focus on data- based decision making.

### **Measuring Outcomes and Progress**

- CRTIEC - Center for Response to Intervention in Early Childhood (2008 - 2013). Research conducted by the University of Minnesota.
- Ounce Research Project (2009). Research conducted by the University of Minnesota.
- ENHANCE – Minnesota is participating in a multi-state study of the Child Outcomes Summary Form.
- Early Childhood Outcome (ECO) Statewide Self-Assessment project – an evaluation in collaboration with 6 states to determine the effectiveness of a state’s child outcome measurement system.