



**Investments in Human Infrastructure Serving Young Children And Their Families to Counter Unemployment, Strengthen Critical Institutions, Spare Scarce Resources through Prevention, and Ensure Our Nation's Future**

***Professional development in sectors serving infants, young children and their families:***

To create jobs and uphold commitments to early childhood education and universal healthcare within the economic stimulus package, investments in professional development will expand and improve the work force in sectors serving young children and their families (early childhood education and care, early intervention, pediatrics, reproductive and perinatal health, child protection, infant, child, and parent mental health, etc.) while attaining broad and lasting impact.

Scale is achieved through investments in professionals who serve the nation's infants, young children and their families. Cost effectiveness results from starting early in life and focusing on preventive opportunities that offer high yields on investments.

***Professional skill building for partnerships with parents:***

Skills for engaging and partnering with parents are among the most likely to multiply the effects of investments in services for young children, since professional-parent partnerships extend services beyond education, healthcare and other systems of care into the home, and increase positive effects of services for children.

***Professional skill building for cross sector collaboration (systems integration):***

Professional development that includes skill building in cross sector collaboration will increase efficiency by reducing duplication and waste, and increasing impact of mutually reinforcing services as well as active family cooperation. The same principles and positive outcomes apply to skill building for collaboration across services for children of different ages (including the prenatal period).

***Elements of successful programs serving young children and their families that can be built in to professional skills:***

Developmental  
Relational  
Preventive  
Strengths-based  
Comprehensive  
Culturally-informed  
Community-driven  
Hope-inspiring

***Comprehensive goals for services for infants, young children, and their families:***

Children raised to become adults capable of fulfilling their duties as citizens in a democracy, stewards of the planet's natural resources, generative members of neighborhoods and communities, and ready to resolve conflicts without violence and nurture their own young toward these same ends.

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