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United States Government Accountability Office  
Washington, DC 20548

June 2, 2005

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
United States Senate

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Education and Early Childhood Development  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
United States Senate

The Honorable George V. Voinovich  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management,  
the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate

Subject: *GAO Update on the Number of Prekindergarten Care and Education Programs*

This letter responds to your request concerning our April 2000 report, *Early Education and Care: Overlap Indicates Need to Assess Crosscutting Programs* (GAO/HEHS-00-78). Given the historical concern regarding the potential for program overlap among federal early childhood education and care programs, you asked that we update the list of programs providing or supporting education or care for children under the age of 5. The 2000 list included 69 programs, which were administered by 9 different agencies.<sup>1</sup>

To respond to your request, we replicated the keyword search from our 2000 report using the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA). After assessing the reliability of the CFDA, we determined it was suitable for our purposes. We obtained explanations regarding programs that were deleted from the CFDA. Our search yielded 254 programs, and we reviewed their descriptions to determine if they met three criteria: (1) directly funded or supported education and/or child care, (2) provided these services to children under age 5, and (3) delivered services in an

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<sup>1</sup> This report was a follow-up to a 1994 report in which we found that there were 90 early childhood programs at the federal level: *Early Childhood Programs: Multiple Programs and Overlapping Target Groups* (GAO/HEHS-95-4FS, Oct. 31, 1994).

educational or child care setting. Based on this review, we selected over 70 programs as potentially meeting these criteria and provided agencies with the opportunity to comment on this assessment.

Generally, we found that the landscape of federal programs offered remained largely the same as in 2000. We identified 69 programs as meeting our criteria and found that 10 agencies administer these programs.<sup>2</sup> While the total number of programs remained the same, there were, however, some changes in the makeup of the list. Specifically, 16 programs were removed<sup>3</sup> from the list and 16 were added.<sup>4</sup> The Department of Education, the agency responsible for the most programs on the list, had the biggest change, dropping 11 programs from the original list and adding 5 programs.

For 13 programs in our 2000 report, agencies questioned in their comments whether the program should be included based on our criteria. For purposes of our report, we have interpreted our criteria broadly. Based on our review of the relevant legal and program documents and discussions with agency officials, we found that our criteria warrants including all but 2 of these 13 programs as providing or supporting care and education programs for children under 5 in an educational or child care setting.

There are several caveats associated with this current work. This analysis does not provide information on the types of services provided by these programs, their budget outlays, or the number of children they serve. In addition, it is important to note that providing child care or education is the sole focus for some programs while for others it is only an allowable service. For these programs, some agencies noted that the utilization of these services was minimal or nonexistent. Finally, we did not examine the role that tax expenditures such as the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit or Employer Provided Child Care Tax Credit play in supporting child care or early education.

The results of our analysis are provided in two enclosures. The first enclosure is a table updating the list of programs that we included in our 2000 report. The second enclosure shows additional programs that meet our criteria and merit inclusion in the list of education and child care programs.

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As agreed with your offices, unless you publicly announce its content earlier, we plan no further distribution of this letter until 30 days after its date. At that time, we will send copies of this letter to the Departments of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security, along with the Appalachian Regional Commission and General

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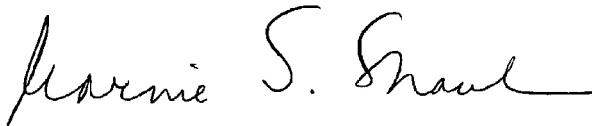
<sup>2</sup> The one additional agency that is now part of our list is the Department of Homeland Security, which absorbed a program that had previously been included under the Department of Justice in our 2000 report.

<sup>3</sup> Of the programs removed, 13 were no longer in the CFDA because they had been ended, consolidated, or transferred since 2000, 1 was consolidated into another, and we determined that 2 should not be in the 2005 list based on agency comments and our review of relevant legal and program documents.

<sup>4</sup> Of the programs added, 12 were additional programs that warranted inclusion and 4 stem from the CFDA making further distinctions among WIA programs than it did in 2000.

Services Administration and other interested parties. The letter will also be available on GAO's home page at <http://www.gao.gov>.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at (202) 512-7215. You may also reach me by e-mail at [shaulm@gao.gov](mailto:shaulm@gao.gov). Patrick diBattista served as assistant director on this engagement. Scott Heacock was the analyst-in-charge. Sara Schibanoff and Linda Stokes were also key contributors to this letter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marnie S. Shaul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Marnie Shaul  
Director, Education, Workforce,  
and Income Security Issues

Enclosures

**Table 1: Update of 2000 Report List**

	Removed from CFDA <sup>a</sup>	Remains on list	Notes
<b>Agriculture</b>			
10.550 Food Distribution Program		X <sup>b</sup>	Program name is currently Food Donation
10.553 School Breakfast Program		X <sup>b</sup>	
10.555 National School Lunch Program		X <sup>b</sup>	
10.556 Special Milk Program for Children		X <sup>b</sup>	
10.558 Child and Adult Care Food Program		X	
10.559 Summer Food Service Program for Children		X	
10.564 Nutrition, Education and Training Program	X		Agency reported that this program is no longer funded.
10.565 Commodity Supplemental Food Program		X <sup>b</sup>	
<b>Housing and Urban Development</b>			
14.218 Community Development Block Grants/Entitlement Grants		X	
14.219 Community Development Block Grants/Small Cities Program		X	
14.231 Emergency Shelter Grants Program		X	
14.235 Supportive Housing Program (transitional housing)		X	
14.870 Resident Opportunity and Supportive Services		X	
<b>Interior</b>			
15.043 Indian Child and Family Education (FACE)		X	
<b>Justice</b>			
16.201 Cuban and Haitian Entrant Resettlement Program		X <sup>b</sup>	Program transferred to 97.009 (Cuban/Haitian Entrant Program) in 2003 under the Department of Homeland Security.
16.730 Reduction and Prevention of Children's Exposure to Violence (Safe Start)		X	
<b>Labor</b>			
17.211 Job Corps		X	Despite being deleted from the CFDA, this program still exists and warrants inclusion according to agency.

<b>Labor</b>			
17.247 Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers		X <sup>b</sup>	Program consolidated into 17.264 (Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers) in 2002.
17.251 Native American Employment and Training Program		X	Program consolidated into 17.265 (Native American Employment and Training) in 2002.
17.255 Workforce Investment Act (WIA)		X	Program consolidated into 17.258 (WIA Adult Program), 17.259 (WIA Youth Activities) in 2001. WIA also includes 17.260 (WIA Dislocated Workers), 17.263 (Youth Opportunity Grants), and 17.266 (Work Incentives Grant). All five programs are counted on this list.
<b>Appalachian Regional Commission</b>			
23.002 Appalachia—Supplements to Federal Grant-in-Aid (area development)		X	Name changed to Appalachian Area Development in 1999.
<b>General Services Administration</b>			
39.003 Donation of Federal Surplus Personal Property		X	
<b>Education</b>			
84.010 Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies (basic, concentration, and targeted grants)		X	
84.011 Migrant Education—Basic State Grant Program		X	
84.027 Special Education—Grants to States		X	
84.041 Impact Aid		X	
84.060 Indian Education—Grants to Local Educational Agencies		X	
84.162 Immigrant Education	X		According to agency, this program no longer exists.
84.173 Special Education—Preschool Grants (IDEA)		X	
84.181 Special Education—Grants for Infants and Families with Disabilities		X	
84.186 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities—State Grants		X	
84.196 Education for Homeless Children and Youth		X	
84.209 Native Hawaiian Family Based Education Centers	X		According to agency, the No Child Left Behind Act consolidated the program into one broader authority.
84.213 Even Start—State Educational Agencies		X	
84.214 Even Start—Migrant Education		X	
84.258 Even Start—Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations		X	

Education			
84.276 Goals 2000—State and Local Education Systemic Improvement Grants	X		According to agency, this program was repealed in 2000.
84.282 Charter Schools		X	
84.287 Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers		X	
84.288 Bilingual Education—Program Development and Implementation Grants	X		According to agency, these programs no longer are authorized. All four bilingual programs were consolidated under the No Child Left Behind Act.
84.289 Bilingual Education—Program Enhancement Grants	X		
84.290 Bilingual Education—Comprehensive School Grants	X		
84.291 Bilingual Education—Systemwide Improvement Grants	X		
84.295 Ready-to-Learn Television		X	
84.296 Native Hawaiian Community-Based Education Learning Centers	X		According to agency, the No Child Left Behind Act consolidated the program into one broader authority.
84.298 Innovative Education Program Strategies		X	
84.299 Demonstration Grants for Indian Children		X	Despite not being listed in the CFDA, this program still exists and warrants inclusion according to agency.
84.303 Technology Innovation Challenge Grants	X		According to agency, this program no longer exists.
84.310 Goals 2000: Parental Assistance Program		X	Name changed to Parental Assistance Centers in 2002.
84.318 Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grants		X <sup>b</sup>	Name changed to Education Technology State Grants in 2003.
84.321 Alaska Native Home-Based Education for Preschool Children	X		According to agency, this program was not reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act.
84.323 Special Education—State Program Improvement Grants for Children With Disabilities		X <sup>b</sup>	
84.327 Special Education—Technology and Media Services for Individuals With Disabilities		X <sup>b</sup>	
84.332 Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration		X <sup>b</sup>	
84.335 Child Care Access Means Parents in School		X	
84.338 Reading Excellence	X		According to agency, this program was replaced by Reading First, a program focusing on children in kindergarten to third grade.

HHS			
93.101 Grants for Residential Treatment Programs for Pregnant and Postpartum Women		X	According to agency, these two programs were consolidated into 93.243 (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services – Projects of Regional and National Significance), which meets our criteria.
93.102 Demonstration Grants for Residential Treatment for Women and Their Children		X	
93.125 Mental Health Planning and Demonstration Projects	X		According to agency, this program no longer exists.
93.558 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)		X	
93.566 Refugee and Entrant Assistance—State-Administered Programs		X	
93.571 Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Awards—Community Food and Nutrition <sup>c</sup>			Agency reported that this program did not meet our criteria; our review confirmed this.
93.575 Child Care Development Fund		X	Name changed to Child Care and Development Block Grant in 1995.
93.576 Refugee and Entrant Assistance—Discretionary Grants		X	
93.583 Refugee and Entrant Assistance—Wilson/Fish Programs <sup>c</sup>			Agency reported that this program does not meet our criteria; our review confirmed this.
93.584 Refugee and Entrant Assistance—Targeted Assistance		X	
93.600 Head Start		X	
93.645 Child Welfare Services—State Grants		X	
93.667 Social Services Block Grant		X	

<sup>a</sup>In some cases, programs were deleted from the CFDA. In other instances, they were transferred or consolidated.

<sup>b</sup>The agency questioned whether its program meets our criteria. For purposes of our report, we have interpreted our criteria broadly and have determined that each of the programs listed meets the criteria. For example, we determined that grants to state agencies and nutrition programs in school settings are forms of support and that some of the children who benefit will meet our age criteria.

<sup>c</sup>This program is not included in the 2005 list.

**Table 2: Additional Programs**

<b>Interior</b>
15.130 Indian Education—Assistance to Schools
15.144 Indian Child Welfare Act—Title II Grants
<b>Justice</b>
16.575 Crime Victim Assistance
16.736 Transitional Housing Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault <sup>a</sup>
<b>Education</b>
84.245 Tribally Controlled Postsecondary Vocational and Technical Institutions
84.356 Alaska Native Educational Programs <sup>a</sup>
84.359 Early Reading First <sup>a</sup>
84.362 Native Hawaiian Education <sup>a</sup>
84.365 English Language Acquisition Grants <sup>a</sup>
<b>HHS</b>
93.569 Community Services Block Grant
93.577 Early Learning Fund <sup>a</sup>
93.596 Child Care Mandatory and Matching Funds of the Child Care and Development Fund

<sup>a</sup>Program added to CFDA since 2000 report.

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