

**NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES
EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION CITY NETWORK
MAY/JUNE 2005**

Thank you for your ongoing interest in strengthening early child care and education. If you have any questions about the network or this update, contact Abby Hughes Holsclaw, Program Director for Early Childhood and Family Economic Success, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, National League of Cities at: holsclaw@nlc.org, phone – 202/626-3107, or fax – 202/626-3043.

NLC NETWORK NEWS

- **Six Cities Selected for Cities Supporting Parents of Young Children Technical Assistance Project-** The YEF Institute has selected six cities to participate in a *Cities Supporting Parents of Young Children Technical Assistance* project. This project will assist mayors, city councilmembers, and other municipal officials in creating local systems of support for parents of young children, in their communities. The selected cities are: Bryan, Texas; Charleston, South Carolina; Enfield, Connecticut; Fort Worth, Texas; Lakewood, Ohio; and Longmont, Colorado. With support from the Freddie Mac Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, YEF Institute will provide individual technical assistance and access to related resources and expertise through conference calls, sharing of materials, and networking opportunities.
- **NLC Offering Afterschool Technical Assistance-** Mayors, councilmembers, and other municipal leaders are concerned about the educational achievement and safety of youth in their communities, as well as the stress that working parents often face in balancing work and family responsibilities. To address these issues, NLC member cities can now apply for help in creating citywide systems that support expanded learning opportunities and align in-school instruction with the learning that occurs after school. This new afterschool reform technical assistance initiative is being offered through the YEF Institute. This new effort, City Leaders Engaged in Afterschool Reform (CLEAR), will provide up to 18 months of technical assistance in selected cities with populations over 30,000. Applications are due by **June 17**. The project is supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. For more information, visit: <http://www.nlc.org/iyef/4170.cfm>.
- **UNICEF Director, Carol Bellamy to Speak at 2005 National Summit On Your City's Families-** Carol Bellamy, the executive director of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and new president and CEO of World Learning and its School for International Training, will be the keynote speaker for the National Summit On Your City's Families to be held September 25 - 28, 2005 at the Westin Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. In her remarks, Bellamy will draw upon both her local and international experiences in focusing on a broad range of leadership opportunities for municipal officials and other community leaders in addressing the needs of youth, children, and families. To learn more about the summit, or obtain a registration form, please see the "Summit on Your Cities Families" section of the YEF Institute website at www.nlc.org/iyef.

CITY SPOTLIGHT:

GREENVILLE, SC (Pop: 56,002)

NOTE: This spotlight provides an opportunity to gather ideas from other network members. You are encouraged to share information about your local efforts, so that we can spotlight your activities and best practices in a future update.

Under the leadership of Vice Mayor Pro Tem Diane Smock, the City of Greenville, South Carolina has taken major steps to become a leader in early childhood initiatives. Greenville's efforts earned the city recognition recently when Greenville became the first city to receive a South Carolina Family Friendly Workplace Award.

Early Childhood Challenges in South Carolina

Just under one in seven children in South Carolina was considered "not ready" to enter the first grade in 1999. The city was also faced with other problems related to early childhood development such as: 13 percent of children failing between 1st and 3rd grade; 29 percent of children living in single-parent families; 21 percent of births to mothers without high school degrees; and 35 percent of young adults not finishing high school.

Recognizing these challenges, Greenville began pursuing ways to improve early childhood success with the help of community partners such as Success By 6 and United Way. The City of Greenville collaborated with United Way to create a Community Impact Agenda of Greater Greenville. The purpose of the Community Impact Agenda was to forge relationships between government, business, non-profit, faith-based, civic, and educational organizations in an effort to concentrate resources on the most necessary and important issues facing Greenville. One major issue area for the agenda identified by the community was early childhood development.

The Freddie Mac Foundation Early Childhood Challenge

In 2004, the City of Greenville sought and received assistance from the YEF Institute to expand upon the early childhood section of the Community Impact Agenda. Through the Freddie Mac Foundation Early Childhood Challenge technical assistance project, Greenville worked to develop and adopt a strong, outcome-oriented early childhood plan to address the key needs of the city's youngest residents in areas such as early learning, health care, and parent education and support. The City of Greenville used feedback from the United Way survey from stakeholders, parents, and the business community to identify the most pressing early childhood needs in Greenville.

Early Childhood Strategic Plan

With the YEF Institute's technical assistance, the City of Greenville drafted a three-year Early Childhood Development Strategic Plan to respond to the needs of the community.

The vision of the multi-year plan is: *All children in the City of Greenville will enter school healthy and ready to succeed and families will have the support and resources they need to promote positive early childhood development and balance the demands of work and family.*

The plan's mission is to see that all citizens of the City of Greenville will have knowledge of and access to community resources regarding affordable early childhood development. The plan consists of four strategic goals the city wishes to meet in order to accomplish its mission. Each

goal consists of a set of objectives as well as actions the city plans to take to achieve those objectives, and outcome measures the city will use to evaluate its success.

Greenville's four strategic goals are:

- I. Parents and families have knowledge of community resources regarding early childhood development.
- II. Increase the number of employees in Greenville whose employers offer family-friendly policies and practices.
- III. City residents gain a better understanding of the value of high-quality childhood programs and services.
- IV. Policymakers and institutions understand and support the importance of early childhood development.

Developing Family-Friendly Policies and Practices

One of the objectives under Strategic Goal II is to increase the number of family-friendly programs offered to city employees. The City of Greenville tackled this objective vigorously by establishing city family-friendly policies in a effort to influence area businesses and organizations to adopt similar policies. The city joined Success By 6's "Partners in Productivity" program, which encourages employers to create a workplace that has a balanced family-friendly work-life atmosphere. Greenville asked its employees to complete a survey to determine employees' perceptions of the city's support for a balanced work-life atmosphere, the family issues that are most likely to affect an employee's performance at work, and to learn which programs and services employees are most interested in accessing. This survey helped the City of Greenville develop a list of the five city employee needs:

- On-site lectures by experts on managing stress;
- Easy to access information and on-site lectures by experts on elder care;
- Easy to access information on after-school care for children K-12;
- Easy to access information on pre-school child care; and
- On-site lectures by experts on parenting children of all ages.

Based on the survey results, Greenville took action to create a host of programs and lectures designed to help its nearly 900 employees strike a better balance between work and family.

Greenville's New Family Friendly Programs

Lactation room for nursing mothers – This room is designed for mothers of newborn babies; it is a place where moms can store their nursing equipment and take care of their maternal business at work.

Informative workshops – The city hosted two workshops for city employees to disseminate information on two topics flagged as important by the city survey. The workshops were entitled, "How to Identify Quality Child Care?" and "Making Child Care Less Taxing."

Family Resource Center – The city created an on-site Family Resource Center in its Human Resource Department which distributes educational resource and referral information to city

employees on key subjects including child care, eldercare, childhood development, after school tutorial, parenting, and chronic disease management.

Job-Sharing Program – A program in which one full-time position is split between two workers that can work only part-time so that these workers can tend to family needs as well as maintain a career and a steady-source of income.

Health and Fitness – Greenville converted an old storage space into a locker room for employees to encourage employees to exercise during the day. The city also opened a new fitness facility for the Greenville Police Department and has sponsored a number of workshops and programs designed to educate workers about the importance of health and fitness and to encourage workers and their families to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The South Carolina Family Friendly Workplace Award

The City of Greenville’s proactive efforts to create a strong family-friendly environment for employees have earned statewide recognition.

The 2005 South Carolina Family Friendly Workplace award gives state-level recognition to businesses from all sectors of South Carolina employment that consistently demonstrate family friendly practices through workplace programs, policies, and practices. Six organizations throughout the State of South Carolina were recognized this year. As previously mentioned, Greenville is the first city to receive this award.

According to City Manager James M. Bourey, “Addressing family needs is a necessary component in attracting and retaining the qualified, experienced employees we need to deliver services to Greenville citizens. Our City Council has made a long-term commitment to creating a family-friendly work environment.”

The award is sponsored by S.C. First Steps, S.C. Chamber of Commerce, Office of the Governor, S.C. Department of Commerce, S.C. Department of Education, S.C. Education Oversight Committee, United Way/Success By 6, S.C. Society for Human Resource Management, S.C. Diversity Council, S.C. Association of Nonprofit Organizations, and the Alliance for South Carolina's Children.

Moving forward, the City of Greenville plans to continue its commitment to making early childhood development a community priority and hopes to achieve continued success in further implementing its early childhood strategic plan over the next 2½ years.

Additional Resources:

- City of Greenville Website: www.greatergreenville.com
- Description of The South Carolina Family Friendly Workplace Award: www.scfirststeps.org/Familyfriendly.htm
- Greenville County United Way/Success By 6: www.unitedwaygc.org/sb6.htm

STRATEGY SPOTLIGHT:

CONNECTING FAMILIES TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES

NOTE: Strategy spotlights can help spark ideas that might be appropriate for your community. If you have additional approaches to contribute on this month's topic, please pass them along so we can add them to this list for future use.

There are many valuable resources available to parents of young children. Access to quality child care, health insurance, and activities that promote early learning, are among the many resources parents may find useful. New parents and those with very young children are often in particular need of advice and information on how to nurture their children and how to connect to available services. However, even when quality services for families with children ages 0-5 are available, many parents are not aware that these benefits exist. In some cases, navigating the often-confusing community and social service systems is so difficult and time consuming that families choose not to take advantage of them. Several cities have attempted to tackle this problem with innovative initiatives designed to inform and connect parents to community resources.

Moreover, cities have a stake in encouraging parents to take advantage of community resources for early childhood development. Research has shown that children under the age of five that receive quality healthcare and education are more likely to succeed in the future. By directing parental attention to valuable resources and services, cities broker a low-cost method of investing in the future of the community.

THE STRATEGY IN FOCUS

Community resources for parents of young children may include information on child safety, health and nutrition, discipline, early literacy, and school readiness. Parents may also need referrals to affordable, quality child care, healthcare providers, public libraries, and other organizations that provide unique support for parents of young children. Additionally, resources such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, free or low-cost health insurance, and public transportation subsidies can be key to supporting parents. Given the importance of the earliest years of a child's life, it is critical that parents know what resources are available and can access assistance and information in a timely way.

Municipal leaders interested in providing hands-on, local support for families with young children may want to consider establishing or supporting one or more of the following strategies:

- **Family Resource Centers.** Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are places where parents can go to get information on raising and educating their children. While services vary depending on the FRC, most offer assistance in the following core areas: child health and development, parenting education, and information and referral to other community services. One of the most valuable roles FRCs play is coordinating and centralizing access to key supports for families.
- **Parent Resource Kits.** Another way that cities can support parents as they nurture the healthy development of their young children is by creating and distributing a set of high quality, practical resources for new parents. Commonly, parent kits include information about child development, early brain development, health and safety, and the availability of

licensed child care and early learning programs in the community. The content and scope of a city-prepared parent kit will vary depending on the availability of resources and funding, as well as the needs in the community. Additionally, parent resource kits may include items such as educational videos, written guides to resources in the community, informative brochures, tip sheets, and children's books.

- **Community-Wide Events.** Community-wide events targeted at or including the parents of young children is not only an effective way to disseminate information to families, but a way to engage local businesses and community-based organizations in promoting early childhood development as well. Such events are often designed to provide valuable information to local parents and to create a fun outing for the entire family. Event ideas may include: health and safety fairs, first day of school festivals, immunization days, child care preview fairs, or fitness events. Community events give cities an opportunity to bring a variety of local service providers together allowing families to gather information directly from the source.
- **Employer-Based Programs.** Cities may encourage local businesses and organizations to support parents by connecting them with employer-based programs and existing community resources. Employers who offer support to working parents in these areas not only help improve outcomes for children, but also frequently find that their employees are more productive and more dedicated workers. One of the ways cities and towns can start emphasizing the importance of early childhood is by supporting municipal employees with young children. By establishing family friendly policies and procedures and offering resources to help parents provide quality care for their children, cities and towns can lead by example as a model employer in the community. Additionally, hosting informational gatherings to highlight existing community resources is a great way to expose employees to parental support programs.
- **Online Information.** Cities can provide a wealth of information to parents of young children by posting an easy-to-use, comprehensive list of resources online. The list may include links of area resources such as community-based organizations, programs and services, government benefits available to parents of young children, and information on topics such as child development, early literacy, and school-readiness. The following list of websites provide useful information to help city leaders support parents of young children:
 - **Child Care Aware** – www.childcareaware.org
 - **Parents Action for Children (formerly the I Am Your Child Foundation)** – www.iamyourchild.org
 - **National Association for the Education of Young Children** – www.naeyc.org
 - **PBS Ready to Learn** – www.pbs.org/readytolearn/
 - **Zero to Three** – www.zerotothree.org

WHAT CITY LEADERS CAN DO

- **Establish community partnerships.** A first step city leaders could take is meeting with the leaders of area businesses and community-based-organizations. Establishing partnerships

within the community will help to establish a network of organizations interested in promoting early childhood development.

- **Parent surveys.** Cities may find it helpful to conduct a survey of local parents to determine which needs are being met and which areas can be improved. A survey is a useful way to gather information on where parents are within the community and what the key issues are surrounding early childhood development. Moreover, a survey may reveal how knowledgeable parents are of existing programs and services.
- **Targeted outreach.** Along with making community resources available to parents, cities must get the word out about programs and services. City leaders can engage in targeted outreach such as fliers; bulletins; radio, television, and newspaper advertisements; or even printing ads on grocery store receipts. By connecting parents with the information they need to make good decisions about their children's health, early care and early education, and by facilitating access to needed services, cities can create more positive early childhood experiences. Supporting programs that connect parents to community resources is a prime opportunity for mayors, city council members and other municipal leaders to strengthen outcomes for young children.

CITY EXAMPLES

- The City of **Seattle, Washington** uses its city website to make available a wide-variety of information regarding local programs and services for parents of young children, community involvement and advocacy, and child care and after school programs. The City of Seattle's website is only one of city's initiatives to connect parents to community resources. As part of Project Lift-Off (now called SOAR), the city's early childhood initiative, Seattle created the Getting School Ready Resource Kit. The kits are designed to inform adults and ease the transition for children between home and school. For more information, visit Seattle's website at:
<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/humanservices/fys/CHILDREN.HTM#Children's%20Services>
To learn more about the Getting School Ready Resource Kit, visit:
<http://www.uwkc.org/ourcommunity/initiatives/children/helpkids.asp> .
- In the City of **Charleston, South Carolina**, the Mayor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families (MOCYF) established the First Day of School Initiative. The initiative, which was created as a result of Charleston's participation in the NLC Municipal Leadership in Education Project, encourages parents to accompany their children to school on the first day of the school year. A First Day Festival is held the Sunday before school to connect parents with community and school-based resources. In August of 2004, more than 6,000 parents and children participated in the First Day Festival to celebrate the beginning of the school year. Children received free school supplies and over 60 exhibitors distributed information to parents about community programs and services. For more information, visit Charleston's website at:
<http://www.ci.charleston.sc.us/dept/content.aspx?nid=547&cid=768> .

- Since 1994, the City of **Lakewood, Ohio** has operated the Lakewood Family Room, which is a family resource center aimed at providing direct services to parents of young children such as support groups, parent education, family activities, and resource and referral services. The Lakewood Family Room also helps to link families to other Lakewood services and support. The City of Lakewood aims to increase ethnic, religious, and cultural sensitivity, enhance parents' ability to facilitate the optimal development of their child, and strengthen the family unit. The Lakewood Family Room sponsors family activities and community events throughout the year. Lakewood was recently selected to participate in the YEF Institute's Cities Supporting Parents of Young Children Technical Assistance project and one of their goals for the project is to establish and effectively publicize a second Lakewood Family Room in an under-served area of the city. For more details on the Lakewood Family Room, visit:
http://www.ci.lakewood.oh.us/human_echild_family_room.html.
- The City of **Alexandria, Virginia** works to connect parents to community resources through its annual publication, *Resource Guide for Alexandria's Children Youth and Families*. The guide is divided into four chapters: Parents and Families, Infants and Toddlers, Young Children, and Teenagers. The guide also contains a section of tips and brief information about a variety of topics for local parents, ranging from Internet safety to breast feeding. The 108 page guide is a free document available for download on the Alexandria Department of Human Services Website and contains comprehensive information on the services and programs that are available to parents through city, state, regional and community agencies that serve Alexandrians. To download the guide, go to:
http://ci.alexandria.va.us/dhs/children_and_youth_services/CHILDI&R.PDF.

RESOURCES

- **Using Family Resource Centers to Support California's Young Children and Their Families.** Bruce Waddell et al, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, August 2001. Although this publication specifically addresses the implementation of Family Resource Centers as a mandate of Proposition 10 in CA, it gives useful information about types of FRCs and funding strategies.
Available at: <http://healthychild.ucla/reports/materials/waddell.resourcecenters.pdf>
- **Family Resource Centers: Vehicles for Change.** California Resource Center Learning Circle, April 2000. Available at: www.familyresourcecenters.net/pdf/vehiclesforchange.pdf
- **Financing Family Resource Centers: A Guide to Sources and Strategies,** Finance Project, April 2002. Available at: www.financeproject.org/techassist.htm
- **Child Care Aware** – www.childcareaware.org
Child Care Aware links parents to their local child care resource and referral agency (CCR&R). CCR&Rs help parents locate quality child care resources in their community. The Child Care Aware website includes, "5 Steps to Choosing Quality Child Care" and other helpful materials on early care and education.

- **Parents Action for Children (formerly the I Am Your Child Foundation)-**
www.iamyourchild.org
I Am Your Child is a national non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of early childhood development and school readiness. IAYC develops a wide variety of resources for parents, early childhood professionals, child advocates, health care providers, policymakers and the media including instructional videos.
- **PBS Ready to Learn-** www.pbs.org/readytolearn/
Ready to Learn provides extensive outreach services to communities, including workshops for parents, child care providers, and other early childhood professionals as well as the distribution of children's books.
- **Zero to Three-** www.zerotothree.org
The mission of Zero to Three is to promote the healthy development of infants and toddlers by supporting and strengthening families and communities. Zero to Three's "Healthy Minds" child development brochures for parents are available at:
http://www.zerotothree.org/ztt_parents.html
- **Promising Practices Network for Children, Families and Communities-**
<http://www.promisingpractices.net/default.asp>
This site highlights programs and practices that are effective in helping children, families, and communities.

Resources for Communities

Born Learning

The United Way of America, The Ad Council, and Civitas have launched "Born Learning," a public engagement campaign to help parents and caregivers create quality early learning opportunities for the children in their care. The Born Learning Web site, <http://www.bornlearning.org>, features an array of useful information addressing topics such as opportunities to engage children in learning activities in different settings and at every age to maximize their ability to learn in the future.

The Born Learning campaign is a collaborative effort, bringing together local, regional, state, and national early childhood stakeholders and a nationwide grassroots network that includes community leaders. The purpose of the initiative is to raise awareness of the importance of quality early learning and increase knowledge of simple actions parents and caregivers can take to help their children be ready for school.

Spanish Edition of Family Pocket Guide: Raising Healthy Infants, Children, and Adolescents

The Bright Futures Family Pocket Guide is a quick reference for families, highlighting six important child health topics. A Spanish version is now available at:
http://www.brightfuturesforfamilies.org/pocket_guidesp.shtml.

Request for Information: School Connections to the Earliest Years

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is seeking examples of programs or initiatives that integrate or connect schools to children from birth through age three for its new initiative that will identify, analyze, and advance successful practices in connecting schools and very young children. The goal for CCSSO's *School Connections to the Earliest Years* project is to create knowledgebase that will assist chief state school officers and their local education partners in establishing a policy foundation to support a continuum of services for infants, toddlers, and their families. Selected examples will be highlighted at a roundtable of state and local superintendents, principals, and other education leaders on Thursday, September 29, 2005 in Washington, DC, and included in a CCSSO publication on linking schools to the early years. [For more information, please see visit: http://www.ccsso.org/content/PDFs/MailmanRFI.doc](http://www.ccsso.org/content/PDFs/MailmanRFI.doc).

Research and Reports

Pre-K Now Report on Governor's Pre-K proposals for 2006

Pre-K Now recently released report on governors' proposed spending on pre-K initiatives for fiscal year 2006. Twenty states have proposed spending increases and the governors of Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Tennessee have proposed increases of more than 50 percent. For more information, visit: <http://www.preknow.org/documents/LeadershipReport.pdf>.

Center for Economic Policy & Research report on Family-Friendly Policies

A new Center for Economic and Policy Research report, *Family-Friendly Policies: Boosting Mothers' Wages*, examines two family-friendly workplace policies: scheduling flexibility and access to leave for the birth of a child. For more information, visit: http://www.cepr.net/publications/labor_markets_2005_04_06.pdf.

CLASP Brief: *State Experiences in Using Community-Based Child Care to Provide Pre-Kindergarten*

This brief discusses the emergence of a mixed delivery model, in which community-based settings and schools deliver pre-kindergarten programs. This policy brief describes the main approaches states use for the implementation of the mixed delivery model. For more information, visit: http://www.clasp.org/publications/cc_brief5.pdf. The full report can be found at http://www.clasp.org/publications/all_together_now.pdf.

Preparing for Success: How Head Start Helps Children with Disabilities and Their Families

In 2004, 13 percent of the children in Head Start and Early Head Start (more than 134,000 children) were diagnosed with a disability. Without Head Start, some of these children might have gone undiagnosed, leaving their disabilities unaddressed for years. This paper details the requirements that Head Start grantees must meet to serve children with disabilities and provides data on how the programs are meeting them. For more information, visit: http://www.clasp.org/publications/hs_disabilities_updated.pdf. (also reported in NACO's update)

New report highlights the importance of kindergarten to the educational system

In an article published in the National Association for the Education of Young Children's March 2005 Young Journal, "Why We Care About the K in K-12", kindergarten's role as a link between early childhood education and the K-12 education system is discussed. The article highlights research used to develop top-notch kindergarten models.

For more information, visit: <http://www.journal.naeyc.org/btj/200503/>.

Report urges policymakers to make early education a national priority

Early Childhood Education for All: A Wise Investment urges discussion about making investing in early education a national priority. The report draws on research and ideas presented at the December 2004 conference "The Economic Impacts of Child Care and Early Education: Financing Solutions for the Future," which was sponsored by Legal Momentum's Family Initiative and the MIT Workplace Center. The full report and the executive summary are available at www.familyinitiative.org.

In Other News:

Preschool Expulsion

Earlier this month, newspapers across the country exploded with the news of new research by Yale Child Study Center's Mark Gilliam. His report, *Pre-kindergarteners Left Behind: Expulsion Rates in State Pre-kindergarten Programs*, examines the expulsion rates of pre-kindergarteners across the country versus students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The study finds that pre-k students are expelled at more than three times the rate of k-12 students. In a release statement, Gilliam noted that "the likelihood of expulsion decreases significantly with access to classroom-based behavioral consultation," but added that this resource is unavailable to most parents and teachers. The policy brief and full report are available at <http://info.med.yale.edu/chldstudy/>.

Tennessee Assembly Approves Excess Lottery Funds for Pre-K

The Tennessee General Assembly recently approved a plan that will increase spending on pre-kindergarten programs for low-income children. The state's focus on pre-kindergarten initiatives began when Nashville's mayor, Bill Purcell, designated the early childhood specialist on his staff to work with the leadership of the Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC) to develop a plan of action for promoting universal pre-kindergarten on the state level. Subsequently, Governor Phil Bredeson announced a legislative proposal to spend \$25 million from excess state lottery funds to expand the state's existing small, voluntary pre-kindergarten program for low-income three- and four-year-olds. For more information, visit: <http://www.state.tn.us/governor/viewArticleContent.do?id=513&page=0>.

Operation: Military Child Care to provide relief for military families

For the families of the deployed guard, reserve, and active duty service members, juggling work and child care can be particularly challenging. Relief for those families is on the way due to a new joint initiative between the Department of Defense (DoD) and the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) which will provide financial assistance and help locating quality child care. This effort, Operation: Military Child Care (OMCC), will serve the families and guardians of the children of mobilized and deployed service

members of the Global War on Terrorism. For more information, call the Child Care Aware Hotline: 1-800-424-2246; visit www.childcareaware.org; or contact DeVere Kutscher at 202-393-5501 x144 or dkutscher@naccrra.org. To read the full press release, visit: <http://www.naccrra.org/pr/?id=15>.

City Lends a Hand to Preschool

An article highlighting Littleton, Colorado's efforts to keep preschool a priority appeared in a recent edition of the Denver Post. Susan M. Thornton, former mayor of Littleton, Colorado for eight years, mayor pro-tem for four years, and a city councilmember for 16 years is the author of the article. Thornton was a 10-year member of NLC's Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Steering Committee. To read the article, please see the attached Word document.

