

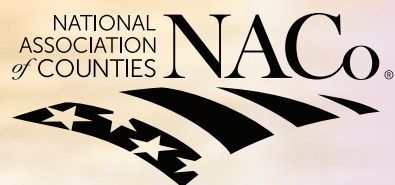
Prenatal-to-Three

COUNTY LEADERS ACADEMY

July 19-20, 2022

Adams County, Colorado

Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center



© NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

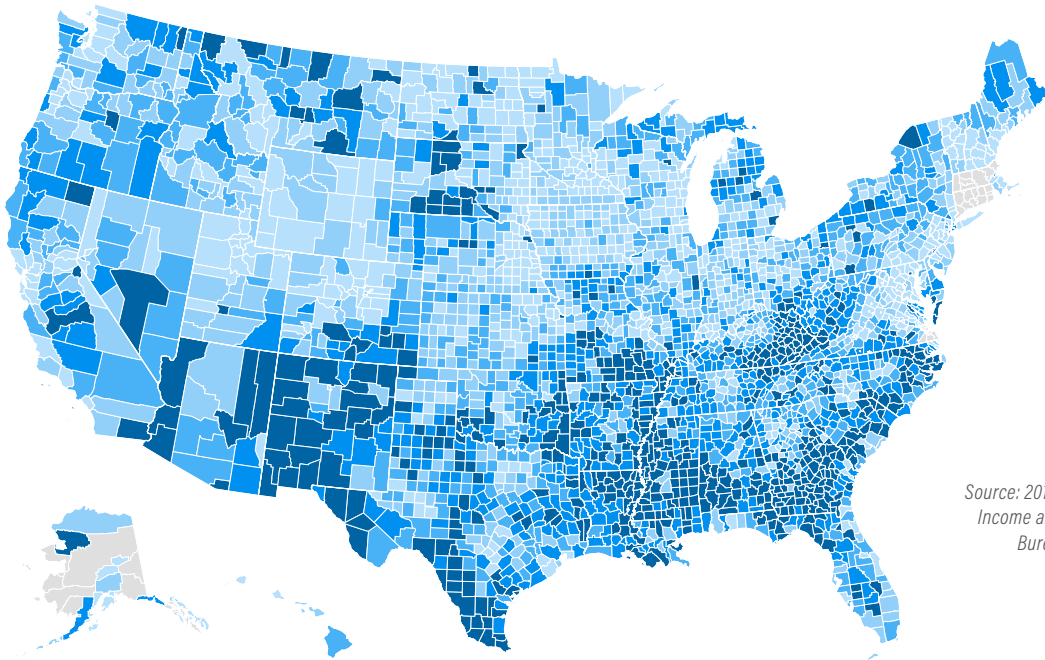


Every child deserves a strong start

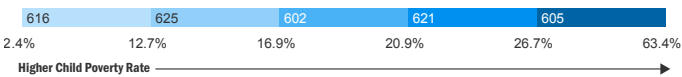
A child’s brain develops faster from birth to age three than at any period later in life. The foundation we provide for them in the early years shapes their future and the future of our counties.

The Challenge

Across the nation, child poverty continues to be a pressing issue. In 2019, over **70 percent** of counties had a child poverty rate that exceeded the national average.



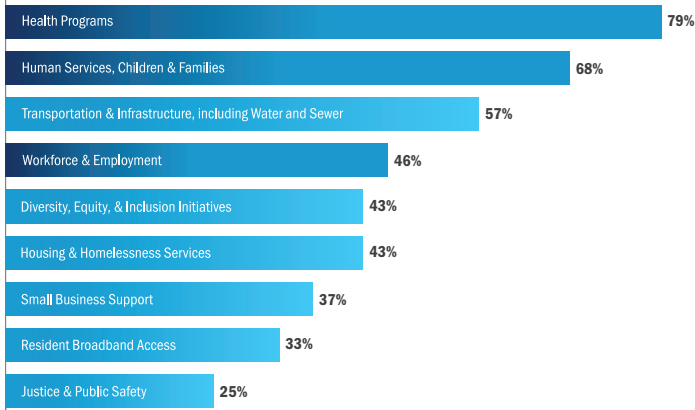
Source: 2019, U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019 5-year Estimates.



The Opportunity

Counties are front line service providers. Each year, counties invest **\$62.8 billion** to serve as a safety net for millions of residents and deliver vital services to our nation’s most vulnerable populations.

Counties are prioritizing prenatal-to-three in COVID-19 recovery efforts. **NACo’s analysis of 200 county ARPA Recovery Fund plans found that 68 percent of these plans include investments in human services, children and families.**



NACo analysis of 200 county Recovery Plan Performance Reports from counties with a population of 250,000 and above, as required by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Analysis is as of Nov. 19, 2021. While the bar chart sources Recovery Plans, the narrative examples in this report draw from a variety of resources including the Recovery Plans, press releases and other official documents.

Meeting Agenda – Day One: July 19, 2022

12:30 PM **Networking Lunch and Attendee Check-In**

1:15 PM **Welcome and Opening Remarks**



Rashida Brown

Associate Program Director, Health and Human Services, National Association of Counties



Ashleigh Holand

Director, Counties Futures Lab, National Association of Counties



Arabella Pluta-Ehlers

Program Manager, Children, Youth and Families, National Association of Counties

1:30 PM **Roll Call**

2:00 PM **What's Next for Federal Prenatal-to-Three Policy?**

With movement on the President's signature social spending package stalled, the outlook for new, transformative federal investments in prenatal-to-three remains unclear. However, existing federal policy levers are still available for lawmakers to increase resources and implement policy changes to strengthen these systems. During this discussion, policy experts will discuss the outlook for key prenatal-to-three programs during the remainder of the 117th Congressional Session and implications for county governments.



Rachel Mackey

Legislative Director, Human Services and Education, NACo



Jacob Stewart

Director of State Government Relations, Early Care and Education Consortium



Melissa Mincic

Senior Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislatures

3:00 PM Break

3:20 PM Equitable Recovery for Child Care Post-COVID

As the child care sector recovers from the impact of COVID-19, counties can make critical investments that promote an equitable early childhood system for the early care and education workforce and children and families they serve. In this session, counties will share their local efforts in supporting child care providers and strategies for sustaining and expanding services. Learn from and engage with a panel of county leaders helping to build the supply of child care in their community.



Linda Smith

Director of the Early Childhood Initiative, Bipartisan Policy Center



Hon. Craig Rice

Councilmember, Montgomery County, Md.



Hon. Shannon Jones

Commissioner, Warren County, Ohio

4:35 PM Closing Remarks

5:00 PM Networking Reception

Please join NACoRF and your county peers for drinks and hors d'oeuvres at this invite-only reception. This reception will allow time for networking with cohort members from both the July 2022 and December 2021 Prenatal-to-Three County Leaders Academy as well as attendees of the July 2022 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion County Convening.

Meeting Agenda – Day Two: July 20, 2022

8:00 AM Breakfast

8:30 AM Welcome Remarks

President Johnson will give a welcome address and share details on his presidential initiative, Counties THRIVE. He will share how counties can leverage innovative partnerships and federal funding to help infants and toddlers thrive.



Hon. Larry Johnson

Commissioner, DeKalb County, Ga.; President, NACo

9:00 AM Opening Remarks

9:15 AM Creating Thriving Communities with Early Investments

This fireside chat will explore how county investments in prenatal-to-three can improve short and long-term outcomes for young children and their families and, in turn, create stronger, healthier counties. The conversation will explore the connections between economic and early childhood development and the need to consider young children and families in community planning and development.



Hon. Emma Pinter

Commissioner, Adams County, Colo.



Kevin Hougen

President and Chief Executive Officer, The Aurora Chamber of Commerce

10:15 AM Break

10:35 AM Advancing Racial Equity in Prenatal-to Three Systems

Advancing racial equity in prenatal-to-three systems can ensure that ALL children grow up healthy, safe and strong. Families of color often experience systemic barriers that hinder their access to high-quality services and supports. Learn what your county can do to address racial disproportionality in downstream systems and provide culturally competent, whole family solutions that promote prevention and positive outcomes for infants and toddlers.



Hon. David Crowley

County Executive, Milwaukee County, Wisc.



Hon. Deborah Kafoury

Chair, Multnomah County, Ore.



Steven Almazán

K12 Education Senior Program Manager, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights



Rashida Brown

Associate Program Director, Health and Human Services, National Association of Counties

11:50 AM Networking Lunch

1:00 PM First Breakout

Attendees will break into small groups to discuss opportunities and challenges around equitable access to services and resources within a prenatal-to-three topic. The groups will discuss racial equity in the context of state and local coordination, maternal and child health, child care and community engagement.

1:45 PM Break

2:05 PM Second Breakout

Attendees will break into small groups to discuss opportunities and challenges around equitable access to services and resources within a prenatal-to-three topic. The groups will discuss racial equity in the context of state and local coordination, maternal and child health, child care and community engagement.

2:50 PM Reflections and Report Out

3:20 PM Closing Remarks

3:30 PM Academy Ends



Speakers

Steven Almazán

K12 Education Senior Program Manager, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights



Steven Almazán is the K12 Education Senior Program Manager at The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the nation's oldest, largest and most diverse civil and human rights coalition. Steven collaborates and communicates with coalition partners in national, state and local civil rights organizations centered on policy proposals and policy remedies that advance educational equity and protect civil rights for all students in K12 education, specifically addressing barriers for students of color, students with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ youth, immigrant students, students from families with low incomes and students at the intersections of those identities.

Previously, Steven served as the Managing Director of External Affairs with Educators for Excellence-Los Angeles, where he supported teacher leaders in Los Angeles to formulate policy stances on education issues, propose district policies and state laws that elevate the teaching profession and improve student outcomes and author policy reports, issue briefs, and fact sheets. Steven's career began as a special education teacher with the Los Angeles Unified School District and KIPP SoCal Schools. Over the course of his academic and professional career, he has participated in several fellowship programs hosted by New Leaders Council Los Angeles, Education Pioneers, Teach Plus and Leadership for Educational Equity. Steven currently serves as a Board Member of the Latino Community Foundation's Los Angeles Latino Giving Circle Network, the largest network of Latino philanthropists committed to investing in Latino-led organizations in California working to achieve social change.

Steven received his dual bachelor's degree in communication and psychology from the University of Southern California, a master's degree in special education from Loyola Marymount University, a master's of public policy degree in public policy analysis from the University of California, Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy and a Certificate in Education Finance from Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy. Steven is also a proud graduate of Early Head Start and Head Start programs in Boyle Heights, a neighborhood on the eastside of Los Angeles.

Rashida Brown

Associate Program Director, Health & Human Services, National Association of Counties



Rashida is the associate program director of health and human services in the Counties Futures Lab. In this role, she is responsible for leading NACo's human services portfolio and activities in a national initiative addressing early childhood development.

Prior to joining NACo, Rashida served as director of policy, planning and research at the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent for Education within the Early Learning Division. In this role, she provided strategic direction, in collaboration with the Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning, to ensure successful implementation of early learning policies, research and strategic plans, particularly those related to the District of Columbia's Pre-K program, quality rating and improvement system, child care licensing and compliance, Early Head Start and Head Start programs and child care financing and eligibility. She was also a policy analyst at the DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, where she led efforts in developing policies and strategies that focused on prevention and promoted streamlined approaches and coordination among health and human services programs. Rashida holds a master's degree from the Howard University School of Social Work.

Hon. David Crowley

County Executive, Milwaukee County, Wisc.



As a lifelong Milwaukee resident, County Executive David Crowley knows as well as anyone that Milwaukee County is truly a tale of two counties. He has lived the pain and struggle that many in our communities face every day and he knows the joy of bringing people together to conquer those struggles. The fundamental tenet of Executive Crowley's administration is to build bridges to bring people together, not walls that keep them apart.

Growing up in a working-class family in Milwaukee's 53206 neighborhood, David was no stranger to hardship. As a child, David's family moved around frequently, often as a result of evictions. He lived in a home with multiple family members who suffered from mental illness and drug addiction and saw first-hand the impact that these issues have on our community. David credits the Milwaukee youth organization Urban Underground for saving his life. He found a support network and a community of people that cared about him and helped guide him to public service.

While still in high school, David served as a community justice coordinator with Urban Underground, giving him his start in community organizing. He joined AmeriCorps when he turned 18 and worked with several other community organizations including Project Return, Safe & Sound Inc. and COA Youth and Family Centers. David also worked as a legislative aide for the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and the Wisconsin State Senate.

David was motivated by the public servants around him to forge his own path in elected service and was chosen by the 60,000 citizens of the 17th Assembly District to represent them in the Wisconsin State

Legislature in Madison. In two terms in the Assembly, David sat on the Energy and Utilities, State Affairs, Workforce Development and Transportation committees and was the ranking member on the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. He served as the chair of the Milwaukee Delegation, the chair of the Black Caucus and the co-chair of the Black and Latino Caucus. He also served on the Boards of Directors of both the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority and the Outreach Community Health Centers.

David is a member of numerous community organizations including the ACLU, Milwaukee Urban League Young Professionals and the Milwaukee NAACP. He attended Bay View High School, UW-Milwaukee, and currently lives in Milwaukee with his wife, Ericka, and his three young daughters. He was elected to serve as Milwaukee County Executive on April 7, 2020 and was sworn on May 4, 2020.

Kevin Hougen

President and Chief Executive Officer, The Aurora Chamber of Commerce



Kevin joined The Aurora Chamber of Commerce in 1996 as vice president of sales and became president and CEO in 1999. He is a strong advocate for ethical business growth and his energy and enthusiasm enables him to positively influence business and political reforms to benefit the community.

Kevin's reputation has earned him a number of honors and awards and he serves on numerous boards and committees. His knowledge and commitment to business and community make him a valuable advisor to key leaders.

Hon. Shannon Jones

Commissioner, Warren County, Ohio



Shannon Jones was first elected to the Warren County Commission in November 2016 following a decade of elected service in the Ohio General Assembly.

Known as a passionate advocate for children and families and given her extensive background in public leadership, she continues to achieve results to improve the quality of life for all Warren County residents. Committed to fiscal responsibility, Shannon uses data and evidence to evaluate policy to ensure the most efficient and cost-effective way to deliver county services.

Shannon served in the Ohio General Assembly from January 2007 to January 2017 as a State Representative and a State Senator. During her time, she was the only woman in her party and first in Ohio history to achieve the distinction of election to the majority leadership teams in both chambers. Known as a leader who is willing to tackle the most difficult and complex issues, Shannon used her trusted influence to work in a bipartisan fashion to address some of the most pressing issues facing Ohioans. She earned committee leadership posts throughout her tenure, including Chair of the Senate Public Utilities Committee, Chair of the Senate Medicaid, Health & Human Services Committee and Vice-Chair of the powerful Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.

Shannon was appointed to the board of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, which helps to advocate for state policy that supports the needs of counties and the constituents they serve. She is currently a member of the National Association of Counties Human Services and Education Steering Committee. She also serves on various Warren County boards and commissions including the Regional Planning Commission, the Area 12 Workforce One Investment Board, the Educational Service Center Council of Government and the Data Processing & Records Retention and Microfilm Boards.

In addition to her public service, Shannon leads Groundwork Ohio, a statewide, nonprofit policy development and advocacy organization that advances quality early care and education so every Ohio child has the best chance for lifelong success. As President & Chief Executive Officer, she works to ensure every elected leader and diverse stakeholder understands the value of making strategic investments in Ohio's youngest children and why that investment is critical to Ohio's long-term economic success.

Shannon earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati, and in 2008 was selected for the Rodel Fellowship in Public Leadership by the prestigious Aspen Global Leadership Institute.

Hon. Deborah Kafoury

Chair, Multnomah County, Ore.



As Chair of Multnomah County since 2014, Deborah Kafoury represents all of Multnomah County, the state's largest and most populous county and among its most diverse. She serves as Chief Executive Officer of Multnomah County, leading the organization's efforts to create a community where anyone who needs help can find it, everyone shares in opportunity and the most vulnerable among us are protected. Chair Kafoury sets the County's strategic policy direction and priorities that are aimed at serving the community equitably and effectively and works closely with the Board of County Commissioners to implement them.

Over the last year, Chair Kafoury has overseen Multnomah County's COVID-19 response. As the Local Public Health Authority and the state's largest provider of social safety net services, the County's outreach, resources and leadership have been critical to helping our communities stay as safe and healthy as possible throughout the pandemic. She has also worked to ensure that the County's response invested heavily in culturally specific and culturally responsive strategies to prioritize the needs of Black, Indigenous, Latinx and other communities of color, which have been disproportionately impacted by the virus.

In the midst of the pandemic response, Chair Kafoury also directed the implementation of two historic voter-approved bond measures. This includes the creation and administration of the Preschool for All program, which will provide free early childhood education for three- and four-year-olds living in the county, as well as the \$387 million modernization of Multnomah County's library system.

In 2020, she spearheaded the passing of a \$2.4 billion Supportive Housing Services Measure, a landmark investment to fund the tri-county region's response to chronic and short-term homelessness. She also co-founded the Joint Office for Homeless Services with the City of Portland, as well as A Home for Everyone, the region's first community-wide strategy for preventing and ending homelessness which served more than 35,000 people last year.

Chair Kafoury is also currently seeing through the construction of the County's Behavioral Health Resource Center, which will bring life-saving supports to people experiencing chronic homelessness in downtown Portland. She has overseen \$1 billion worth of new capital projects, including a new Central Courthouse and Health Department headquarters. In both projects, the Chair ensured the prioritization of apprenticeship programs and contracting requirements that open the door for more women, people of color, and veterans to pursue construction careers.

Rachel Mackey

Legislative Director, Human Services & Education, National Association of Counties



Rachel serves as legislative director for human services and education. In this role, she staffs NACo's Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee and works with county officials from across the nation to advance organizational priorities and policies related to children's issues, foster care, public assistance and income support, services to senior citizens and individuals with disabilities, immigration

policy, social services and elementary, secondary and post-secondary education. Rachel also staffs NACo's Veterans and Military Services Committee, which engages NACo and its members to develop and highlight county best practices and policies to promote innovative programs, services and benefits for our nation's military, veterans and their families.

Before joining the team at NACo Rachel served as Director of Policy and Research at First Focus, a bipartisan child advocacy organization where she specialized in policy analysis and government relations related to federal budget and appropriations policy, child hunger and nutrition and family tax policy. Rachel has her Master's in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

Melissa Mincic

Senior Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislatures



Melissa Mincic is a senior policy specialist with the early care and education project, part of the children, youth and families team at NCSL. Mincic joined NCSL in March 2020, where she tracks legislation, authors policy briefs and organizes meetings and networking opportunities for legislators focused on a range of early childhood topics related to child care and early education. She specializes in the topics of infant and early childhood mental health consultation, early childhood intervention, school readiness and preschool/prekindergarten programming.

Prior to joining NCSL, Mincic was an early childhood researcher in higher education settings, including the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver and the Marsico Institute for Early Learning and Literacy at the University of Denver. She has also worked at the administrative level at the Colorado Department of Education and Denver Public Schools, the largest school district in the state of Colorado.

Over her career thus far, Mincic has designed and conducted approximately 12 small-and large-scale applied early childhood research studies focused on curriculum development, program evaluation and needs assessment and secured nearly \$60,000 in research grant and travel funding. She has also provided training and technical assistance to over 1,500 state legislators and legislative staff; K-12 administrators in over 180 school districts across the state of Colorado; and educators, staff and parents of children ages preschool through 12th grade. She's developed 20+ tools, briefs and additional resources supporting educational best practices and published over 40 peer-reviewed journal articles and professional conference presentations. Mincic earned her Ph.D. in applied developmental psychology with a specialization in social-emotional development in early childhood from George Mason University.

Hon. Emma Pinter

Commissioner, Adams County, Colo.



Commissioner Emma Pinter is a qualified leader who has dedicated her life to public service, whether as an attorney working in legal aid clinics or serving on local boards and commissions. She is the daughter of an immigrant and granddaughter of union steelworkers whose leadership reflects working family roots. Commissioner Pinter has always loved the Colorado way of life. During college she would drive out to Colorado to work as a mountaineering guide. After finishing law school, she and her husband made Colorado their home, started a family and founded a business in Westminster.

Elected to Westminster City Council in 2013, Commissioner Pinter served on the boards of the Youth Initiative of Adams County, Adams County Economic Development and the Mile High Connects Advisory Board. She was selected as the "Woman of Metro North" in 2018 by the Metro North Chamber, and also the Colorado Women's Chamber.

Commissioner Pinter currently serves on the following boards/committees: Adams County Regional Economic Partnership, Airport Coordinating Committee, Rocky Mountain Partnership/Policy and Legislative Advisory Network, Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, North Metro Denver Small Business Development Center Advisory Board, Aerotropolis Regional Transit Authority, World Trade Center Board of Directors, Colorado Counties, Inc., County & Commissioners Acing Together, Child Welfare Allocation Committee, Metro Area County Commissioners and National Association of Counties. Pinter also serves as a liaison to the Tri-County Health Department Board.

Commissioner Pinter believes we need more opportunities for everyone who lives in Adams County to have a chance to succeed and earn a good life.

Hon. Craig Rice

Councilmember, Montgomery County, Md.



Craig Rice was first elected to the Montgomery County Council in November 2010, at the time becoming the youngest African American ever to serve on the nine-member Council and the second African American man to serve in that role. In December 2013, his colleagues elected Craig to serve as president of the Council. In 2014 and again in 2018, he was re-elected to a four-year term on the Council. As the District 2 representative on the County Council, he represents the Up-County, Montgomery County's most geographically diverse district and fastest growing region.

Craig's commitment to public service includes serving as a member of the House of Delegates in the Maryland General Assembly from 2006 until 2010, where he was on the legislative body's prestigious and influential Ways and Means Committee.

With a deep commitment to education, Craig has chaired the Council's Education and Culture Committee since 2013. He also serves on its Health and Human Services Committee. In addition, Councilmember Rice serves as the Council's representative to the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) in Annapolis and chairs MACo's Education sub-committee. Craig served on the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission), leading the Early Care and Education workgroup. This commission met for three years to research and develop a Blueprint for Maryland's Future for public education.

Councilmember Rice is the past chair and current member of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee and is the co-chair of their Food and Agriculture Regional Member Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee. Appointed to serve on the National Association of Counties Board of Directors in 2019, in July 2021 he was selected to serve as Chair of the Human Services and Education Steering Committee.

A lifelong resident of Montgomery County, Craig attended Montgomery County Public Schools and went on to the University of Illinois, majoring in Aerospace Engineering. Later he transferred to the University of Maryland, where he graduated with a major in Computer Science. Craig's interest in seeing the County improve its economic development strategies stems from his background of having worked with Fortune 500 companies including Marriott International and Aramark Corporation. He also served as a business development manager for the government of Puerto Rico.

Linda Smith

Director, Early Childhood Initiative, Bipartisan Policy Center



Linda Smith is director of BPC's Early Childhood Development Initiative. She previously served as the deputy assistant secretary for early childhood development in the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this role she provided overall policy coordination for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs and the Child Care and Development Fund. She also served as the department's liaison to the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies.

Previously, Smith served as the executive director for the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), where she represented more than 650 community-based agencies concerned with the care of children in their earliest years. Key components of NACCRRA's advocacy efforts included strengthening child care licensing and oversight, requiring comprehensive background checks and establishing minimum training requirements for all child care workers.

Smith served as a legislative fellow and professional staffer on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee under the chairmanship of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Prior to this work, she was the director of the Office of Family Policy for the Secretary of Defense, where she was one of the primary architects of the military's child care program. Additionally, she has held positions with both the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force.

Smith began her career in early childhood education on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in her native state of Montana. She is a graduate of the University of Montana.

Jacob Stewart

Director, State Government Relations, The Early Care & Education Consortium



Jacob leads the state government relations practice of the Early Care and Education Consortium, deploying advocacy strategies and in-state grassroots campaigns on behalf of the coalition. He works closely with ECEC members to align their interests into a synchronized approach for engagement and coordinates on-the-ground advocacy efforts in statehouses across the country. As key debates on education policy unfold in political arenas, Jacob can be found at their epicenter, advocating for the needs of early care providers.

Before joining ECEC, Jacob served as manager of policy and governmental affairs at a leading non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. dedicated to providing children with access to early learning programs. In this role, Jacob served as project manager for a foundation grant regarding Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) implementation and led the creation of a 50-state report on the impact of increased CCDBG funding. He also tracked and analyzed federal and state policy developments in a continually evolving education landscape. When opportunities arose to advance the interests of aligned parents, student and providers, Jacob engaged state legislatures and Congress on child care and early learning policy.

Prior to his position, Jacob served as a staff assistant to Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) where he provided front-line communication to constituents and wrote letters, evidence summaries and memos on education and foreign policy issues. Before arriving in Washington, Jacob served as a policy analyst for the United Nations Development Program in Amman, Jordan and as a Teach For America corps member advisor in Phoenix, Arizona. He spent the first three years of his career as a secondary math teacher at Kennedy Middle School in Gallup, New Mexico.



© NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

660 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NW
SUITE 400 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
202.393.6226 • WWW.NACO.ORG

-  [FB.COM/NACoDC](https://www.facebook.com/NACoDC)
-  [TWITTER.COM/NACoTWEETS](https://twitter.com/NACoTWEETS)
-  [YOUTUBE.COM/NACoVIDEO](https://www.youtube.com/NACoVIDEO)
-  [www.NACO.ORG/LINKEDIN](https://www.linkedin.com/company/naco)