

**Webinar Transcript**  
**Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About the EHS-CC Partnerships—**  
**May 1, 2014**

Introduction: Thank you for joining the webinar today. We can see that we still have a few folks logging in, so we're just going to wait about 2 more minutes before we get started.

Hi, everyone. Once again, this is the ACF Central Office, and we thank you for joining today's webinar. We have just a few quick logistical announcements, and then we will get started with our presentation.

First, you might have noticed that all the lines are muted. That's so that we can avoid the distraction of background noise. If you have questions or comments during the webinar, you can type them into your question box, but please do note that we will not be addressing questions live on today's webinar. We'll pass them on to our policy team for review so that they know what questions are coming in from the field.

Also note, our registration numbers for the webinar were higher than our webinar capacity, so there may be some people who are unable to log in. If that happens to you or one of your colleagues or someone that you know, or if you want to access the information later, you should know that we'll be posting the audio, the transcript, and the slides from this webinar on line within a week and we're going to distribute that link to those and other resources widely. So when we do get that posted, we'll make sure that everyone who is registered gets the access to those materials.

I'll also mention that while the slides will be available in a few days, they are not yet available for distribution. And finally, there have been a few questions here and there so I'd like to make sure it's clear to everyone on the line that ACF will not be issuing any completion or training certificates for attendance on this webinar.

With that I will pass it to over to Shantel Meek, advisor for policy for Early Childhood.

Shantel Meek: Hi. I'd like to welcome you all to our webinar on common questions about the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships today. We are so excited that you all could join us here today, and as was mentioned, we'll be posting the webinar and its transcript on our Web site in the coming days for those who could not make it on today.

So, as was mentioned, I'm Shantel Meek. I'm a Policy Advisor for Early Childhood Development at the Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

Also joining me today is Dawn Ramsburg, Child Care Specialist at the Office of Child Care here at ACF, and Amanda Bryant, Division Director for Education and Comprehensive Services at the Office of Head Start.

So, I'm sure many of you have already heard this, but I'll start by giving just a brief overview of the partnerships.

Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships is a new competitive grant opportunity that supports the partnering of Early Head Start programs with child care programs. Under the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships, new or existing Early Head Start grantees will partner with regulated center-based or family child care providers who agree to meet the Head Start program performance standards.

Grantees will be required to leverage current investments in the Child Care and Development Fund or other sources to improve the quality of infant and toddler care. The resulting partnership will allow programs to leverage their funds to provide more high-quality early learning classes in their community.

Successful Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships depend on the shared vision and mission for serving the community. So a few objectives for today—the main goal of the webinar is really to respond to common questions that we have been receiving through various mechanisms, including previous webinars, the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships e-mail inbox, as well as the active question function on the ECLKC application support toolkit Web site.

We will discuss questions concerning grants, applications, funding, and program requirements. Although we can't respond directly to individual questions, we will continue to review all submitted questions and post relevant information so that all interested parties have public access to the same information.

Additional information will also be posted on the FAQ section of the toolkit periodically, so we encourage you to continue using this resource. We'll provide the link to that in a few slides.

Now, I will pass it over to Amanda Bryant, who will kick us off with information on applicant's eligibility.

Amanda Bryant: Thank you, Shantel. Good afternoon, everyone. I'm really thrilled to be here with you this afternoon and have the opportunity to talk with you about some of these questions that have continued to rise in the face of the many webinars that we've provided. So we're really glad to be able to give you hopefully some real clear information and answers.

In terms of who is eligible, we hope that this list will demonstrate to you that we are looking for a very healthy competition, and there are many different kinds of agencies that may be eligible to apply in your community. We hope that the applicants will be based on who in that position meets the community needs.

To just briefly go through the list, eligible entities can include nonprofits who have a 501(c)(3) status, current Head Start or Early Head Start grantees, independent school districts, your local education agencies, public and State-controlled institutions of higher education, Native American Tribal governments or Tribal agencies, public housing authorities, Indian housing authorities, private institutions of higher ed, for-profit organizations, small businesses, State

governments, county governments, and city or local governments. So that really is a very broad list of the types of eligible entities, and we want everyone to be really clear about that.

Next, one question that we've heard a lot is what is the difference between an Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grantee and a partner? So for many years, Head Start and child care agencies, organizations, or programs have established collaborative agreements and memoranda of understanding between themselves in order to better meet the needs of children and families in their communities.

The work of coordination typically has fallen primarily to program administrators, with the assistance of the direct-service staff, teachers, other kinds of family workers, and other support staff. Successful Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships we know depend on a shared vision and mission for serving the community. This opportunity brings together new or existing Early Head Start grantees along with local child care programs, either center-based or family child care home providers. Those are the partners.

The applicant is the agency that is going to deliver comprehensive early childhood services, so that could either be an existing Early Head Start or Head Start program or another kind of organization. We're going to talk about that a little bit more, and that agency—the grantee agency—is responsible for ensuring that programs will meet comprehensive performance standards through activities, including training and technical assistance, management, and the delivery of services.

The applicant entity is awarded the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant and is, therefore, considered the grantee. The role for each partner will vary depending on community needs and resources. In general, children will be attending the program at the partnership site. Applicants are encouraged to identify their partners to the extent possible as part of their application.

If it's not possible to do it at the time of application, the applicant and the child care partner may provide a very detailed plan and timeline for identifying the specific partner site where children will receive services. The successful applicant, the group signing off on the grant application, will become the new Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grantee, and the partners will, again, be the places where children are receiving services in their communities. The grantee is responsible for ensuring that all the grant requirements are met by all partner agencies and sites.

Another question we've had is what is the incentive for Early Head Start and child care programs to partner. Why should we go through the effort of reading the funding opportunity announcement that will eventually get posted and responding to this opportunity? We want to say that this grant will allow current or new Early Head Start providers and their child care partners to leverage and bridge their funds to bring high-quality, comprehensive, continuous experiences to more infants and toddlers.

This partnership offers benefits to both Early Head Start providers and child care partners but, most importantly, to the infants and toddlers in the communities where they live. We want to create access to full-day, full-year, high-quality care in early education to income-eligible infants and toddlers. We want to ensure that services are continuous, that children are not dropped in and out based on the availability of subsidies, and that they have the opportunity to be in a continuous setting and form attached relationships with their caregivers or teachers.

We want to ensure that comprehensive services include education, health, mental health, nutrition, and family engagement and services to children with disabilities. This will allow us to create an alliance system of professional development to ensure a growing and overall stronger infant and toddler workforce; that's been an area that has really challenged the country for many years, and this funding opportunity is a direct opportunity to try to improve that and continue growing that workforce. This is the opportunity for many, many States to provide lower ratios and smaller class sizes for child care centers.

We want to see an increase in the number of children being cared for in licensed sites that are getting ongoing supervision and are able to implement an evidenced-based curriculum in the child care centers and family child care homes, so we're really maximizing the developmental opportunity for young children.

We want to more seamlessly integrate Head Start performance standards with State and local regulations to better support quality. And again, we want to be able, through bringing resources from both Early Head Start and the child care subsidy and quality funds, to create a more dependable source of revenue for many child care centers or sites, which we think will result in the delivery of more continuous high-quality services.

The next slide addresses the question of whether there could be an Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant awarded in an existing Early Head Start grantee service area. The answer to this is, yes. So no Early Head Start program, to our knowledge, is meeting 100 percent of the needs in any community. We are only nationally serving 4 percent of all income-eligible infants and toddlers in Early Head Start.

What will be important is that if an applicant is in an overlapping service area and that they are able to really articulate the need in that community and demonstrate how their services are meeting a unique need.

So for example, if an Early Head Start program is in a service area and is providing care for 6 hours a day, and there're a large number of income-eligible families who are really working and need 10 or more hours a day, the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership application would demonstrate how it would meet this unmet need in the community. The opportunity encourages organizations to partner to provide high-quality, comprehensive services to more children in the community.

And finally, in terms of this set of questions, I want to turn this over now to Dawn.

Dawn Ramsburg: Thanks, Amanda. And again, like Amanda and Shantel, I want to welcome everyone, and I'm really glad to be here to be able to answer. We've received I think over 400 questions, and they've been really helpful to read through and put together; we have a few more that fall under this eligibility heading, and then we'll turn to some of the other questions.

But the next question is, "Can a child care program become an Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grantee?" And yes, it is possible that a child care program can become a partnership grantee, but they will need to partner with another center or family child care home. So in that sense—and Amanda has this slide, what's the difference between the grantee and a partner—if a child care center is applying, they're going to become the grantee, and then they will need to have their partner sites that they're working with as part of the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships program.

And so again, that long list that Amanda read, any eligible organization or agency in a community can apply, but specifically, it is possible for a program to become one of these child care programs and specifically to become a partnership grantee. And I think what's important also to note here is that, and again Amanda talked about this a little bit, because anyone can apply, it doesn't mean that existing grantees will have specific priority. Everyone is going to be treated—this is a new competition and everyone will be treated—in a new way and evaluated in a new way.

So let's look at the next question, kind of along these same lines. "Will the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships grant fund Early Head Start slots or child care slots?" And I think this is a really important question and really the answer is that this grant is going to fund Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership slots.

It's not Early Head Start slots; it's not child care slots. You're funding partnership slots. And what's important to think about with this is that there's going to be something that touches the children who are enrolled through the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships, the projects that get funded, there are going to be specific things that specifically touch those enrolled children that are eligible for Early Head Start.

They're going to be the ones that receive the highest quality, comprehensive Early Head Start services through the child care programs. So for those direct services, such as home visits, health tracking and promotion, and the family partnership agreement, it's going to be the partnership children that receive some of those direct services, but there are still benefits through the partnership that are going to be available to all the children in that child care setting.

And so they're going to—again, Amanda I think touched on this when she was talking about the benefit slide, but all the children in that child care setting are going to benefit from the low ratios and class size. Having the qualified staff with ongoing supervision, the curriculum, and the broad parent engagement, and so it's really important to not think of this as an EHS program or a child care program; this is an Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership. And what has to happen

specifically for the partnership children but what happens for everyone that's being touched in that partner site.

And then finally, in our questions that fall under the eligibility category, we've had questions about whether an applicant can propose a home visiting or Early Head Start home based, meaning home visiting approach, and if home based was part of the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships.

So, this is really important, and this is something that I'm learning coming from the child care side as well, is that in Early Head Start home based means the home visiting, and so these partnership grantees will be for center-based child care and family child care homes, but the home-based or home visiting through EHS would not be covered specifically by the partnership. However, the EHS home-based program can apply to deliver full-day, full-year, comprehensive services in a center or family child care home. In other words, they can apply to become a partnership with child care but to only use that approach would not be under this program.

What Early Head Start home-based programs would also have the option of is applying for an expansion opportunity under the maternal infant early childhood and home-visiting program that's also in ACF. So, there are options on the table for the EHS home-based, meaning home visiting, but as far as the model for the grants, it is not directly part of that.

And so I'm going to turn it over now to Shantel who is going to talk to us a little bit about some of the funding questions that have come in.

Shantel Meek:

Thanks. So one of the big questions that we've been getting is, "How will State allocations work?" So when the funding opportunity announcement is published, it will include a list of funding allocations by State based on the number of young children and poverty. So these allocations represent the total funding available within a State.

So in other words, it's the pot of funding from which all awards within that State will be made, and it's possible that the competition could result in multiple awards from that pot of money. And really importantly, we will only fund high-quality applications.

Another question that we've been getting is, "Will State applicants and local organizations be competing against each other for Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grants." Yes, and we encourage all eligible entities to apply for this funding opportunity.

All applicants will receive equal consideration in the competitive process regardless of how many are submitted from one geographic or service area. Eligible entities include, as has been mentioned many times, nonprofit organizations, for-profit [organizations], child care centers, Early Head Start grantees, schools, and local and State government. We encourage you to check out the applicant support toolkit, which we will provide the link to at the end of the webinar to see a full list of eligible applicants.

So the next question is, “What percentage of funds will be available specifically for American Indian/Alaska Native Head Start programs and from migrant and seasonal Head Start programs?” So the answer to that is no less than 3 percent for American Indian/Alaskan Native Head Start programs and 4.5 percent for the migrant and seasonal Head Start programs. And, again, similar to the other allocation, only high-quality applications will be funded.

And the next question is on startup funds. “Will startup funds be available, and will there be startup time for grantees?” So, startup funding requests must be justified based on the needs. The amount of startup funding in time depends on whether an applicant identifies partners in applications or sets out a process for identifying the partners.

So, for the first 18 months of the grant partnership, grantees will receive TA to ensure a successful implementation of the program, and onsite visits during the beginning phase will be conducted to assess TA needs. Formal onsite monitoring will take place after the initial 18 months of the grant.

So, now I will hand it over to Amanda.

Amanda Bryant: Thank you so much, Shantel. And now it is my pleasure to get to talk about some of the questions regarding program requirements that we have received.

This question is related to the accountability structure for partnerships, and we know that’s been a concern for many people who have written to us. We want to emphasize that grantees from the 1st day of operation must have a system for ensuring that children’s health and safety needs are met so that if a program has a partner site, they feel confident they have met the mechanisms of knowing that the program has met all the health and safety requirements for Early Head Start and, in fact, that the program also has a child care license to operate.

Additionally, grantees need to develop systems for implementing and delivering comprehensive services. Some of the things that are included in this would be recordkeeping, reporting, and ongoing monitoring. So there’s got to be a mechanism by which if there’s a problem and something goes wrong at an Early Head Start partnership site, there’s a way for the partner to report the problem and for the agency to provide whatever resources are needed to correct the problem.

And this is, again, particularly important with regard to health and safety issues. In addition to the opportunity for sites to be able to report concerns, agencies have to develop mechanisms to, in an ongoing way, ensure that programs are meeting all the requirements of Early Head Start and that children and families are receiving needed services.

I think it’s really important to stress these are not meant to be bureaucratic administrative burdens or systems that exist only to pacify some government agency; these are really about mechanisms to ensure that children are in very high-quality settings that will allow them to be healthy and to develop and to learn, so that is the reason for these requirements.

And if partners are thinking about what they have to implement, it should be from the point of view of what do we need to do to ensure the ongoing health and safety and environment of the children who are enrolled in this partnership.

Ultimately, the grantee is responsible for ensuring that the partners that they're working with have the resources that they need and the systems in place to meet the requirements. And similarly, the Office of Head Start and the Office of Child Care will be working together to think about how we ensure the ongoing accountability and compliance of all the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships.

A number of people have been curious, the question is kind of phrased as, “What are the differences in requirements between CCDF and Head Start—the Child Care and Development Fund and Early Head Start or Head Start.” And I think another way that this question has come in is how can these two things work together, or why do we need both of these programs working together. They're quite different, and they also are both serving really important roles.

And the idea about this partnership grant is to bring the two funding sources together in a way that will better benefit the highest risk children and families in communities. So, Head Start funding flows directly from the Federal Government to local grantees, and CCDF funding grants are awarded to the States. Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships, again, aim to bridge the differences and capitalize on the unique contributions.

We also really want to be clear that we understand—I think nationally something like 1 in 10 children who are eligible for CCDF actually get a subsidy, and the income eligibility is a little higher than it is for Head Start—so we know that not all children who will be enrolled or who are enrolled in child care receive a subsidy. So, I think it's very important to note that. Policies in States—because CCDF funds flow to States, there are also variations in how States may implement those policies and in the rules that govern how child care providers receive the funding.

But there's enough flexibility, there will be, I think—applicants will find enough flexibility when the funding opportunity announcement is finally published so that they'll be able to see how their unique State implementation of CCDF in their local community can implement an Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership. So, I think we're just reflecting that we know there are variations and that this is built so that those variations can easily be represented by applicants.

We also wanted to bring participant's attention to these resources, again, that we have available and you will be able to get; I think those are live links now if you click on them and also at the end of the webinar. They're not live links now, but we'll make sure you get these as the webinar is ending. They look like live links, but that's just a trick to see if you're really paying attention.

And another question that comes up a lot, and this is one of our favorites to answer because this, we think, speaks a lot about the quality of services, and this

is an area where there's considerable variation across the Nation. And Head Start is actually not the most stringent. There are some States that are more stringent, so this is about the ratios that are required for Early Head Start. In Early Head Start we require that there's one teacher for every four infants and toddlers.

That's important because in preschool often we have a teacher and the teacher's assistant for a class of 20, and that's okay. But for infants and toddlers, there must be one teacher for every four children and a group size of no more than eight, so you have to have two teachers with eight infants and toddlers. Lots of programs have mixed age groupings for Early Head Start. And for the family child care option, we have a maximum group size of one teacher for six young children, with no more than two under age 2.

And there's some additional variations of the regulations around age and group size ratios and group size for family child care, and that's also available through the toolkit, which we will be providing the link for.

And I would say here, I mentioned as I introduced the slide, that some States are more stringent, and Early Head Start requirements are written to specify that either the Head Start requirement or the State requirement or regulation apply according to which is more stringent. So, for example, in the great State of Maryland where I live, the ratio is one to three infants and toddlers, and so Early Head Start in Maryland has a ratio of one to three infants and toddlers.

And there have also been lots of questions about the Early Head Start staff qualifications, which again, I'm delighted to have the opportunity to answer. The first thing I want to say—and people often kind of look at this and say, well, it doesn't have any teeth—but all Early Head Start teachers must have the knowledge and skills necessary to develop consistent, stable, and supportive relationships with young children and their families.

We know that young children can really only learn in environments where they are safe and have formed strong attachments with consistent primary caregivers and parents and teachers. So what this is saying is, while it's not specifying in an exact piece of paper that someone has to possess, it's saying that Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership teachers must be able to demonstrate the skills and knowledge to be effective teachers of the youngest children in America. And so, I think actually, while it may not have peaked, it's actually a very high order and an important thing for applicants to think about.

And now to get to the kind of more specific things—center-based Early Head Start teachers have to have a minimum of an infant-toddler Child Development Associate or a comparable credential, or they could have a preschool CDA or comparable credential with training in infant and toddler development. Family child care Early Head Start teachers must have previous early child care experience and at a minimum enroll in a child development associate program, an associate's degree program, or a baccalaureate degree program in child development within 6 months of beginning service.

And such a family child care provider who starts in the partnership without that credential must be able to, in effect, acquire it within 2 years of service. Early Head Start directors have to have demonstrated abilities and skills in human service program management. And there are other various staff qualifications that are relevant and, again, you can find more about them in the toolkit.

And now I'm very pleased to be able to turn the webinar over to Dawn again.

**Dawn Ramsburg:** Thanks, Amanda. So I'm going to talk about a very specific question that's come in on the child care side. Amanda's been talking about some specifics on our Early Head Start.

And so one of the questions that we've been getting as people have been looking about how to bring Early Head Start and child care together through these partnerships is a question about whether a partnership grantee could accept parent fees. And parent fees are something very specific to the CCDF—the child care subsidy program.

Under the Child Care and Development Fund, families are required to make a contribution for their care, and so, that's what the parent fee is referencing. And so, through the partnership, families receiving subsidies would still be required to pay the parent fee unless that State, Territory, or Tribe, which are who our grantees are, our lead agency, has elected to waive the copayment requirements for families below the Federal poverty level, and Early Head Start-eligible children would fall into that category.

So, our grantees have that flexibility to waive that requirement, and we can't make the requirement go away, but at the grantee level, State, Territories, and Tribes have that flexibility to do that waiving. However, we know that at the local level many of you may be in communities, or your community may be in a State, Territory, or Tribe that has chosen not to waive that copayment. And so under the partnership, the partnership grantee may collect that fee for the purposes of meeting the subsidy requirement.

What we would say here, though, is that we really would encourage States, Territories, and Tribes to think about waiving that because it's an important step that you all have the ability to say—to do this alignment of policies to benefit the children and families being served in these partnerships.

And so like I said, communities may not—you aren't going to be in the position to be able to make that change, your States, Territories, and Tribes would, but you do have the option under the partnership to look at some choices as well in terms of choosing to collect that fee.

So it's a really important question, and it's one of the places where when we think about how the programs can work together, this is such an important step that can be taken to help align the programs for families that the flexibility does exist, and it's a step that people can move forward to really make these partnerships more successful.

So now I get to turn to a few questions. I got to talk about something I think that I feel at least more comfortable knowing about in terms of parent fees. Now I'm going to talk about a few questions about things that I'm learning about as well in terms of the DRS, which is the Designation Renewal System, which is part of the recompetition for Early Head Start and Head Start programs that has been taking place. So, people have been asking what is the DRS, and I would probably be one of those people in some of our early conversations.

And so, the DRS was established in the Head Start Act that was reauthorized in 2007, and it was to determine which grantees would continue to receive funding noncompetitively and which grantees must compete for renewed funding. And so, I think it's typical for a lot of Federal grants to kind of have a time period, and I think what came through in the Act was that there would be some fine points where programs would have to compete for certain reasons.

And so, more information about the DRS can be found at the link that is listed below on the ECLKC, and I think there's lots of information there that can help people know more specifics about that, but I think what's important to know is that it is a system and that some people are going to be competing for funding at certain points and times.

Turning to the next question, though, how this impacts the partnership, especially if you are a current Early Head Start grantee that might be competing under the DRS. Lots of people have been asking us then if they're eligible to apply for a partnership grant.

If you're under the DRS and because these are new grants, [Early Head Start –] Child Care partnership grantees will, first of all, not be subject to DRS until 18 months after the day of award, and there's kind of two answers here. One, yes, even if you're under DRS now—a current EHS grantee that's under DRS—you're eligible to apply.

And then the second part of this is that all the new partnership grantees won't be subject to DRS until 18 months after the date of award. So, I think that's two very important pieces of information for everyone, and like I said, we've received lots of questions about those.

Similarly, moving off of DRS and going back thinking about the direct-service program, we've received lots of questions about. Are programs required to provide full-day, full-year services, and what does that mean? And I think it's really important to underline that one of the goals of this partnership program is really looking at getting that continuity of high-quality care for the children and the families.

And so, partnership grantees are required to provide the full-day, full-year services that meet the needs of the families being served. And full day means at least 10 hours a day, and full year means a minimum of 48 weeks per year. And that's really—these are low-income, at-risk families, and in terms of their needs, they're going to need care, and they're going to need continuity of high-quality care, so that is where we are on this question.

And then finally, I'm going to turn to the last question. That kind of is another one in terms of whether the partnerships will be required to serve children with disabilities. And again, this is something that's part of the Early Head Start requirement. Some people have been asking how this EHS requirement fits with the partnership.

And so, what's really important to understand in terms of serving children with disabilities is that under Early Head Start, there is a requirement that 10 percent of the grantees' total enrollment must be children with disabilities, but the important work here is the grantee, and that's why it's important to think about this, especially for family child care providers. I think people get worried when they're thinking about serving six or eight kids; how do I have 10 percent to meet that? And this is at the grantee level; it's not at each individual partner site that you have to meet the 10 percent requirement.

And so if you have a community and you've got four or five centers and family child care homes together, and you're serving 100 kids, it would mean across all those four or five partner sites you have 10 kids that you're serving with disabilities, but you would not be meeting that requirement within every one.

And the other part that's important on this is because I think people worry again about making sure that they are finding and serving this, and there are lots of resources available to help support the needs of children with disabilities, and I think you'll find lots of resources out on that.

And then I also think that the expectation is that people will make an effort to meet the requirement, but there is the option of applying for a waiver, but the expectation is going to be that different resources and different efforts have been tapped into before you would just ask for that waiver.

And so I think that is the broad summary of the list of questions, and Amanda is going to talk a little bit more about where to find the information and resources that we've referenced as we've been talking.

Amanda Bryant: Okay. Well, we mentioned that we were going to make sure that you have the Web site about how to apply for funding, and you can find that right on this slide. Don't panic if you can't write it down before we advance because you'll be able to look at it later. We advanced quickly passed the slide that gave you the information about how to get more information and resources.

This Web site will take you to the toolkit that tells you everything you could ever possibly have dreamed about knowing related to the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships. And I would like now to turn it over to Shantel to make our closing.

From the Office of Head Start and on behalf of our Acting Director, Ann Linehan, we want to thank you so much for joining us, and we're looking forward to eventually receive your exciting applications. Shantel?

**Shantel Meek:** That concludes our webinar today. Again, thank you all for your interest and for your participation today. We will be posting the slides. On behalf of EHS and, particularly, Linda Smith, ACF Deputy Assistant Secretary, we thank you for joining today, and we're excited to receive all of your applications and have a really robust and exciting competition in the coming months.

So thank you for all your interest and for your work on behalf of children and families, and I'll hand it over to Dawn.

**Dawn Ramsburg:** And again, on behalf of the Office of Child Care and our Director, Shannon Rudisill, we have been so excited to be working with all of our partners across ACF and are really looking forward to having the funding opportunity announcement and to start seeing—because we know that you all will be very innovative and come up with lots of ideas beyond what we can imagine, as we've been talking here.

And so again, your questions have really been helping to drive that conversation with us and help us think about things in different ways as we've been moving the resources and the pieces forward. So we really are looking forward to having the competition and having the partnerships move forward.

Thank you all again for joining. You can watch for two different e-mails from us in the coming days. The first will either be immediately following the webinar or first thing in the morning. It will include some of the links that we referenced in the webinar that we might have moved passed a little too quickly. And then within the next week, we'll send you another e-mail that has the link to where you can find the transcripts, the slides, and the reporting of today's webinar.

Thank you again for joining. Have a wonderful afternoon.