



Federal Agencies Responsible for Implementing Programs Affecting Infants and Toddlers

❖ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Nutrition Education Program

www.usda.gov

Secretary Tom Vilsack
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Overview: USDA was founded in 1862 and is in charge of the federal government's anti-hunger effort with SNAP, School Meals, WIC, and CACFP. It also cares for our national forests and rangelands; protects soil, water, and wildlife on private lands; brings housing, modern telecommunications, and safe drinking water to rural America; is responsible for the safety of meat, poultry, and egg products; conducts research; helps ensure open markets for U.S. agricultural products; and provides food aid to needy people overseas.

Relevant USDA Agencies:

- The [Food and Nutrition Service \(FNS\)](#) administers the food and nutrition assistance programs in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. FNS provides children and needy families with better access to food and a more healthful diet through its programs and nutrition education efforts including: WIC, SNAP, School Meals, Food Distribution Programs, Disaster Assistance, CACFP, Summer Food Service Program, Farmers Markets Nutrition Programs and Nutrition Education.
- The [Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion \(CNPP\)](#) works to improve the health and well-being of Americans by developing and promoting dietary guidance that links scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers including: Dietary Guidelines for Americans, Food Pyramid, Food Pyramid for Kids, Healthy Eating Index, Healthy Eating Index and Physical Activity Calculator, Interactive Food Supply Tool and Nutrition Insights.

Relevant USDA Offices:

- [Office of Budget and Program Analysis \(OBPA\)](#) provides centralized coordination and direction for the Department's budget, legislative and regulatory functions. It also provides analysis and evaluation to support the implementation of critical policies. OBPA

administers the Department's budgetary functions and develops and presents budget-related matters to Congress, the news media, and the public.

❖ **United States Department of Education (DOE)**

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Title I Education Programs for the Disadvantaged, Education for Homeless Children and Youth, Literacy, Higher Education and Professional Development, Financial Aid

www.ed.gov

Secretary Arne Duncan
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Overview: The Department of Education was created in 1980 by combining offices from several federal agencies. Its main goal is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation by distributing and creating policies on federal financial aid for education, collecting data on America's schools and disseminating research, drawing attention to key educational issues, and prohibiting discrimination as well as ensuring equal access to education. It also administers Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which authorizes the creation of early intervention programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities, and provides federal assistance for states to maintain and implement statewide systems of services for eligible children, aged birth through two years, and their families.

Relevant DOE Offices:

- [The Office of Special Education Programs \(OSEP\)](#) provides leadership and fiscal resources to assist state and local efforts to educate children with disabilities in order to improve results for those children and to ensure equal protection of the law. Its programs assist public agencies to provide infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities early intervention services and a free appropriate public education which emphasizes challenging standards and access to the general curriculum to the extent appropriate. These programs are intended to assure that the rights of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and their parents are protected.
- [The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services \(OSERS\)](#) directs, coordinates, and recommends policy for programs that are designed to meet the needs and develop the full potential of children with disabilities through the provision of special educational programs and services. Its goal is to reduce dependency and enhance the productive capabilities of persons with disabilities through the provision of independent living and vocational rehabilitation services as well as increasing knowledge about, fostering innovation in, and improving the delivery of services for persons with disabilities through the performance of rehabilitative and special education research and demonstration activities.

- [Office of Vocational and Adult Education \(OVAE\)](#) administers, coordinates, and recommends policy for improving the quality and excellence of programs that are designed to: prepare students for adult education and literacy, career and technical education, and community college.
- [Office of Postsecondary Education \(OPE\)](#) serves as the principal adviser to the Secretary on Departmental matters related to postsecondary education. The Office directs, coordinates, and recommends policies for programs that are designed to: provide financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in postsecondary educational institutions and improve postsecondary educational facilities and programs through the provision of financial support to eligible institutions.
- [Office of Elementary and Secondary Education \(OESE\)](#) directs, coordinates, and recommends policy for programs designed to assist state and local educational agencies to improve the achievement of elementary and secondary students, to strengthen the management capabilities of state educational agency personnel and foster educational improvement at the state and local levels, to provide financial assistance to local educational agencies whose local revenues are affected by federal activity, to provide financial assistance to states to assist with comprehensive education reform efforts at state, local, and district levels, to assist state and local educational agencies in the process of school desegregation, as well as a variety of other activities.

❖ **United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

Child Care, Child Welfare, Disaster Relief, Early Head Start, Head Start, Home Visiting, Social-Emotional Health, Maternal and Child Health Programs, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF)
www.dhhs.gov

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius
 200 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20201

Overview: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is primarily responsible for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services. It administers more than 300 programs including those that: conduct health and social science research, prevent disease, provide immunization services, assure food and drug safety, provide health insurance for elderly and disabled Americans (Medicare), provide health insurance for low-income people (Medicaid), provide financial assistance and services for low-income families, improve maternal and infant health, provide pre-school education and services (Head Start), provide comprehensive early childhood development services (Early Head Start), and provide child abuse and domestic violence prevention and services as well as substance abuse treatment and prevention services.

Relevant HHS Agencies:

- The [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#) funds state, territory, local, and tribal organizations to provide family assistance, child support, child care, Head Start services,

Early Head Start services, child welfare treatment and prevention, and other programs relating to children and families. Actual services are provided by state, county, city and tribal governments, and public and private local agencies. ACF assists these organizations through funding, policy direction, and information services.

- [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) administers health programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), as well as several other health-related programs.
- [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#) is responsible for improving access to health care services for people who are low-income, uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable. It is comprised of six bureaus, including the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and 13 offices including the Office of Minority Health. HRSA provides leadership and financial support to health care providers in every state and U.S. territory. HRSA grantees provide health care to uninsured people, people living with HIV/AIDS, and pregnant women, mothers and children. They train health professionals and improve systems of care in rural communities.
- [Indian Health Service \(IHS\)](#) is responsible for providing federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The provision of health services to members of federally-recognized tribes grew out of the special government-to-government relationship between the federal government and Indian tribes. The IHS currently provides health services to approximately 1.5 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who belong to more than 557 federally recognized tribes in 35 states.
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) was created to focus attention, programs, and funding on improving the lives of people with or at-risk for mental and substance abuse disorders. SAMHSA works in collaboration with the states, national and local community-based and faith-based organizations, and public and private sector providers to treat addiction and dependence, to prevent substance abuse, and to provide mental health services.

❖ **United States Department of Justice (DOJ)**

Child Welfare
www.usdoj.gov

Attorney General Eric Holder Jr.
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Overview: The Department of Justice is primarily responsible for enforcing the law and defending the interests of the United States according to the law; ensuring public safety against threats foreign and domestic; providing federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; seeking just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior; and ensuring fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

Relevant DOJ Agencies:

- [Office of Justice Programs \(OJP\)](#) provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, improve the criminal and juvenile justice systems, increase knowledge about crime and related issues, and assist crime victims.
- [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention \(OJJDP\)](#) is one of five bureaus and four offices with grant-making authority under the Office of Justice Programs. OJJDP provides national leadership, coordination, and resources to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and victimization. OJJDP supports states, communities, and tribal jurisdictions in their efforts to develop and implement effective and coordinated prevention and intervention programs and to improve the juvenile justice system so that it protects public safety, holds offenders accountable, and provides treatment and rehabilitative services tailored to the needs of juveniles and their families.