



Recent brain science shows that the most rapid period of brain development occurs within the first three years of life - developing faster from birth to age three than at any later period, building the foundation for all future learning, behavior and health. Although there are opportunities to intervene later, there is a potential for large gains if investments in quality programs and services are made early.

Counties play pivotal role in the development of their youngest residents, often working in coordination with community partners to deliver equitable, comprehensive, and complex programming that, together, are critical to the success of young children, families and communities. These programs and services:

- **Ensure children have a healthy start in life** providing access to prenatal care, immunizations, developmental and behavioral health screenings and consultation, and early intervention services);
- **Support families** through child welfare and court models, parent education classes, home visiting, and federally mandated programs like WIC, CHIP and Medicaid; and
- **Provide access to affordable, high-quality child care and early learning** through Early Head Start, child care subsidies, and professional development and training opportunities for caregivers.

Counties are not only responsible for service delivery, but many times are also the catalyst for national, state and local systems change - coordinating intake and referral to a continuum of supports; building data systems that allow agencies to share information and measure progress; coordinating planning and financing to target resources most in need; fostering community and political will to enhance support for investing in infants and toddlers; and creating continuous quality improvement processes to sustain improvements.

This resolution (or proclamation) is an opportunity to demonstrate your county's leadership and commitment to strengthening services, programs, policies and systems vital to the success of all infants and toddlers. Please join the National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers (NCIT) and National Association of Counties (NACo) in this national effort to ensure families have the support they need to give their infants and toddlers the foundation for a strong start in life by passing this resolution today.

Once your county has passed a resolution, please forward a signed copy to NACo to gain access to additional resources that help to facilitate action for infants and toddlers in your community.

For more information on this effort, please contact:

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