

Research and Analysis: FISCAL MAPPING

Fiscal mapping provides a clear picture of how funding is allocated across state and local agencies to fund services for children and youth. It lays the groundwork for new state and community-level financing strategies by providing:

- A detailed account of all federal, state, and local expenditures on programs supporting children and youth;
- An analysis of the adequacy, flexibility and stability of existing funding; and
- An identification of opportunities to more effectively coordinate, maximize, and align resources to support improved outcomes for children, youth, and families.

Why conduct a fiscal mapping study?

A fiscal mapping study is a critical tool for state and local government leaders, public-private partnerships and task forces, community coalitions and others to:

- Develop better coordinated systems of supports and services;
- Fund new policy initiatives; and
- Address budget shortfalls or increased demand for services.

A fiscal mapping study provides critical information for leaders to design effective financing strategies intended to sustain initiatives over time and achieve good results for children, youth, and families.

How can a fiscal mapping study help?

A fiscal mapping study helps state and community leaders to:

- Identify programs and revenue streams that align with key goals and indicators for children, youth, and families;
- Identify gaps in current funding and services;
- Identify new funding sources that could be leveraged to support programs and services; and
- Maximize funding opportunities through improved coordination, the use of matching funds, blending or braiding funds, administrative claiming, and other strategies.

Services offered by The Finance Project

The Finance Project customizes its fiscal mapping process to meet the specific needs and goals of each client.

- **Study Design and Tool Development:** Develop a methodology and customized tools for data collection and analysis aligned with the framework and goals identified by the client.

- **Data Collection and Analysis:** Collect and analyze data from record reviews, budget analyses and interviews with key program leaders and staff. Share findings through written reports and graphic presentations.
- **Follow-up Technical Assistance and Training:** Provide on-line and phone support, conduct in-person meetings, and develop tailored resources and tools to support leaders' efforts to use the fiscal mapping analysis to develop effective financing strategies.

In addition, The Finance Project develops customized tools and provides technical assistance and training for state and community leaders to conduct their own fiscal mapping analysis.

Examples of Our Work

The Finance Project has experience conducting fiscal mapping studies across a range of policy areas- including afterschool programs and early childhood initiatives- and with a wide range of clients- including state-wide afterschool networks, and county and state governments. Recent examples of our work include:

- [Delaware's Early Childhood Council](#) (2010). The Finance Project conducted a study of funding available to support early care and education, family support, and health services for children from prenatal to age five in Delaware. This study was conducted in coordination with a state early childhood policy audit by the National Center for Children and Families. Information from both studies will inform strategic planning for Delaware's early childhood system.
- [Michigan Early Childhood Investment Corporation \(ECIC\)](#) (2007). The Finance Project conducted an analysis of the funding available to support Michigan's Early Care System for children ages birth to five across the core components of the Great Start Initiative, including education and early care, physical health, mental health, basic needs, and family support. The Finance Project [updated this report in 2010](#), with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, to include up-to-date funding information for services supporting children from birth to age eight. The report notes impact of the economic downturn on programs for children and families and makes recommendations for sustaining early childhood system building. The Finance Project, also with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, developed a [strategic financial planning toolkit](#) that provides state policy makers with a detailed set of decision points, strategies, and worksheets to guide new investments in a coordinated statewide system of evidence-based home visiting services.
- [Smart Beginnings, South Hampton Roads](#) (2009). The Finance Project conducted an analysis of available funding to support five cities' action plans for comprehensive early childhood services in South Hampton Roads, Virginia. Staff also produced a report of promising financing strategies to support implementation of key goals.
- [Campaign for Educational Equity](#) (2008). The Finance Project conducted an analysis of all federal and state resources available for children ages birth to 18 in New York State to support key goals for children, youth, and their families.
- [Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Statewide Afterschool Networks](#). (ongoing) The Finance Project is providing consultation and technical assistance

in the planning, study design, and data collection phases of fiscal mapping studies for statewide afterschool networks, using customized tools specifically designed for statewide coalitions.

For more information contact The Finance Project at 202-628-4200 or services@financeproject.org.