This project will help to re-envision a truly coordinated approach to program implementation designed to advance equitable early childhood and family well-being outcomes. Findings aim to:

- Facilitate integration of services and improve program efficiency and effectiveness
- Streamline program eligibility and support enrollment into services
- Enhance comparability, consistency, and standardization of assessment, measures, and metrics across programs
- Reduce systemic barriers to services
- Enable deeper understanding of factors that support family resiliency and well-being

**What will the project accomplish?**

By September 2022, this project will develop recommendations to improve—and tools to support—alignment, coordination, and equity across federal programs that serve expectant parents, children ages 0–8, and their families.

**Recommendations will focus on:**

- Potential changes to federal statutes, regulations, and guidance around five key program elements—eligibility criteria, needs assessments, outcomes and performance measures, well-being metrics, and equity
- Potential changes that states, tribes, and localities can implement within current federal requirements and guidance

**Tools will include:**

- Catalog of federal statutes, regulation, and guidance to understand program requirements around the five key program elements
- Crosswalk of program requirements around the five key program elements that highlight areas of alignment and misalignment
- Tools to support federal staff and technical assistance providers in coordinating across early childhood programs at the state, tribal, and local levels
- Tools to support state, tribal, and local program leaders in coordinating across early childhood programs

**What is the anticipated long-term impact?**

- Enact recommendations that improve the collective impact of early childhood federal programs
- Increase coordination and alignment of programs at federal, state, tribal, and local levels
- Ensure improved and equitable child and family health, development, and well-being outcomes

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, in collaboration with the Health Resources & Services Administration, has contracted with Mathematica and their partner, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, to carry out the project.