



For Immediate Release

Contact: Charlyn Harper Browne
404-456-9624

Center for the Study of Social Policy Awards \$5.4 Million to Test Promising Approaches to Reducing Abuse of Young Children

Washington, D.C. – The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) is awarding \$5.4 million to organizations to test four promising approaches to preventing abuse of infants and young children whose families live in high-poverty neighborhoods and face numerous stressors.

“Nationally, there is an urgent need to find effective approaches for reducing the likelihood of abuse and neglect in infants and young children because they face the highest rates of maltreatment,” said Frank Farrow, CSSP director. “These grants will test four programs that could prevent abuse and even save lives. If these programs prove successful, the hope is they could be replicated elsewhere.”

CSSP is awarding each project nearly \$1.4 million over 40 months to implement new models and evaluate their effectiveness. Selected from 41 highly competitive proposals from across the country, the four projects are:

- **Strong Start Study: Strengthening Young Families Affected by Substance Use** in Denver, which will target pregnant women in substance abuse treatment and their babies. The program will intervene early with these women and create systems of support from their families, friends and community. JFK Partners of the University of Colorado Denver Medical School is the lead organization and will conduct the evaluation.
- **DuLCE Family Partners: Developmental-Legal Collaboration for Infants** in Boston, which will target newborns to 10-week-old babies and their families who receive care at Boston Medical Center. A DuLCE staffer will reach infants and families through their routine health care visits and provide them with legal assistance, screen infants for developmental problems and families for mental health problems, and teach families about child development. Staffers also may visit families at their homes if needed. Boston Medical Center is the lead organization, and Boston University School of Medicine will conduct the evaluation.

- **Fostering Hope: Concentrating Services in High-Poverty Neighborhoods to Reduce Child Maltreatment** in Oregon, which will target families, including some migrant farm workers, in two high-poverty counties with home visits, parent education, support groups, volunteer respite care, access to mental health and addiction treatment, relief nursery services, and referrals to employment services, affordable housing, basic needs such as food and utility payment assistance and health care. Catholic Community Services is the lead organization and Pacific Research and Evaluation will conduct the evaluation.
- **Family Networks Projects: Supporting Family Confidence, Competence, and Community Connections** in 12 South Carolina counties, which will target 100 families of young children ages 11 to 23 months who have developmental disabilities. Parents will be trained in their homes to enhance their confidence and competence through the Stepping Stones Triple-P Positive Parenting Program. South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness is the lead organization, and the University of South Carolina will conduct the evaluation.

This research is part of the National Quality Improvement Center on Early Childhood, a five-year project launched in late 2008 to develop and disseminate new knowledge about programs and strategies that prevent child maltreatment and optimal development of infants and children younger than five. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau awarded \$10 million to CSSP to develop the Center with its partners ZERO to THREE: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families; and the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds.

####

The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) is a public policy, research and technical assistance organization. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., CSSP works with state and federal policymakers and with communities across the country. We rely on data, extensive community experience and a focus on results to promote smart policies that improve the lives of children and their families and achieve equity for those too often left behind. For more information, visit www.cssp.org