



Early Care and Education System Assessment



ICF's customized services and innovative solutions make it a leading provider of ECE support around the world.

ICF's ECE System Assessment process can be used to execute the following services for clients:

- Functional cost analysis
- Performance-based contracts
- System development and evaluation
- Strategic planning
- System mapping and profiling
- System integration
- Collaboration and partnership building
- Policy planning and development
- Legislative affairs and networking

Coming Soon!

ICF's Early Education Institute

Organizations and agencies that support early care education (ECE) services are under increased scrutiny to provide better programming and demonstrate accountability. It is critical that ECE systems and programs improve efficiency and collaboration to maximize potentially limited resources and achieve desired outcomes. ICF International's ECE System Assessment process helps clients meet the information, reporting, and management needs of their local, state, national, or international ECE programs.

Our Approach

ICF's customized, comprehensive, and outcome-driven approach uses a cycle of four activities—assessment, reflection, action, and documentation (ARAD)—to improve the accountability, performance, and efficiency of ECE programs and systems.

ARAD Cycle



Assessment defines the status quo and is used to refine the current system and program framework. During the assessment, program/system characteristics are identified, including funding sources, populations served, research and policy drivers, and other resources; as well as current activities, services, and outcomes.

Reflection consists of a review and analysis of the assessments that have been undertaken, including an examination of strengths and weaknesses. Gaps in services and support are identified, and priorities are established.

Action includes a collaborative plan development process, timeline establishment, assignment of responsibilities, and definition of measurable outcomes. It identifies resources and strategies needed to accomplish delineated objectives and outlines the most appropriate course of action for the person, organization, or system.

Documentation is integrated throughout all cycle phases. It is done via surveys, need assessments, focus groups, and other formal tools, and significantly contributes to increased accountability by providing evidence that identified objectives were met. Documentation facilitates the process of establishing the new status quo.

Featured Solutions

West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources

West Virginia Professional Development Program for Infant and Toddler Caregivers

ICF developed a comprehensive professional development program for infant and toddler caregivers for the state of West Virginia. The program was designed to standardize and enhance training in the state's early childhood program settings to improve the quality of infant and toddler care statewide. The training program included an assessment of the existing systems as well as tailored workshops and training modules for caregivers, trainers, program leaders, and administrators. A two-day mentoring workshop was developed to enhance the level of support, communication, and teamwork for statewide trainers and early childhood leaders.

U.S. Navy

Child and Youth Program Continuous Quality Improvement

ICF developed materials and tools to support the U.S. Navy's Child and Youth Program goals of increased program quality, efficiency, and accountability. ICF offered strategic planning services that assisted the Navy in identifying short- and long-term program objectives. This resulted in a plan of action for continuous quality improvement with the following major components: a revised functionality assessment guide focusing on staffing standards and best business practices, revised inspection criteria, an inspector handbook and a mobile Children and Youth Program inspection tool, and accreditation and program guides.

Arlington County, Virginia Department of Human Services

Provision of Consulting Services to Arlington County for Performance Measurement of Child Care, Early Childhood Education, and Parent Education Services

ICF conducted a strategic assessment of Arlington County's child care, early childhood education, and parent education services. First, child care and parent education services offered by the Child and Family Services (CFS) division were assessed to determine types of services, program strengths and weaknesses, and how services compared to local and national standards. Then, service gaps and unmet needs, as well as related costs and returns, were identified. The results of the assessment processes were used to inform the development of CFS's five-year strategic plan, including goals, implementation strategies, timeframes, and potential returns on investment. This assessment validated and enhanced Arlington County's efforts to understand better the needs and issues of the CFS-operated programs.

New Delhi, India

Training of Trainers Program

ICF developed an extensive Training of Trainers Program to strengthen the skills of early childhood professionals who support a large array of dependent care and work-life services for organizations in India. ICF's work included determining the need for services as well as designing and assisting program implementation. As a result, early childhood professionals in India provide extensive, customized training and technical support to government, private, and nonprofit organizations to achieve the highest quality programs and services for children. They also complete ongoing evaluation for program improvements.

About ICF International

ICF International (NASDAQ: ICFI) partners with government and commercial clients to deliver consulting services and technology solutions in the energy, climate change, environment, transportation, social programs, health, defense, and emergency management markets. The firm combines passion for its work with industry expertise and innovative analyses to produce compelling results throughout the entire program life cycle, from analysis and design through implementation and improvement. Since 1969, ICF has been serving the government at all levels, major corporations, and multilateral institutions. More than 2,500 employees serve these clients worldwide. ICF's Web site is www.icfi.com.

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