
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: MSU GRANT PROPOSAL FOR PLANNING GRANT FOR DATA CENTER
DATE: 5/23/2001
CC: BOYD
PROSPERE
TELL

In a meeting with Rep. Eloise Scott on January 30, you told her you would issue an Executive Order creating a Children's Information Center at the R&D Center to gather data to be used in developing the state's agenda for children, including child care and children's health. The Data Center was the priority recommendation to you from the team that we sent to the "Investing Intellectual Capital in Early Childhood Health" conference in Charlotte, NC last October. We haven't issued an Executive Order on this matter.

Louise Davis of MSU's Cooperative Extension inquired as to the status of the Order at yesterday's meeting of the Interagency Advisory Committee for Early Childhood Services and I told her that we had not issued the Executive Order yet. She said she inquired because the National Science Foundation is going to award 8-10 planning grants, averaging \$75,000-\$100,000 each, for states to develop a plans for funding, establishing and operating children's research centers. NSF requires that these centers be operated through schools of human science. Davis is developing a grant proposal in hopes of obtaining one of the planning grants. States awarded planning grants are then eligible to apply for \$500,000 research center funding grants next year. Proposals must be submitted by June 4. No state match is required. The primary objectives for Davis' planning grant proposal are to:

1. Identify children, adolescent and family research partners in MS (including policy makers)
2. Secure commitment from stakeholders to formulate the need for Children's Research Center
3. Design/format a plan of action for the Center and identify a funding stream for the Center
4. Investigate possibility of compiling existing data in the state and synthesize needs assessments
5. Identify research priorities and develop plan of action for MS

The final outcome of the MS Children's Research Center Planning Initiative will be a written proposal to fund the Children's Research Center.

Davis thinks an Executive Order would strengthen the grant application. This has strong potential for funding state activities in the area of children/early childhood, which the advocates have been pushing for. I am going to start drafting an Executive Order unless you advise that you do not want to do so, that you would rather send a letter of support, or that you do not want to take any action.