



## **Richard Gonzales**

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Richard Gonzales is the Director of Interagency and Special Initiatives within the Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care (HHS/ACF/OCC) collaborating with various federal agencies and non-profit organizations to support multiple ACF/OCC early childhood care and education efforts and Initiatives.

Richard has an MS in Early Childhood Education N-6 from Bank Street College and he began his federal work at ACF in February 2010, continuing his life-long commitment to education - and early childhood development. In the previous 36 years Richard moved through the ranks as a child care assistant teacher and teacher, a Head Start education director, assistant director, and delegate agency director. He also served as the NYC Head Start Grantee Director for 6 ½ years, where he oversaw operations for nearly 20,000 children in 77 delegate agencies, made up of 235 centers, across NYC's 5 boroughs.

In September 2000 Richard left NYC to come to Washington, D.C. to assist the American Institutes for Research (AIR) in its contract work with the Head Start Bureau, where he played a lead role in the development and implementation of multiple Head Start projects and initiatives.

Richard's primary focus at ACF these past 10+ years has been providing funding, direction, guidance, and support to the 50 State Advisory Councils; leading the HHS-ACF half of the HHS-ACF/Department of Education interagency team in all aspects related to the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge, the Preschool Development Grants for 4-Year Olds, and the Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five (PDG B-5).