**Instrument 1—Topic Guide for Semi-Structured Interviews**

|  |  | **Program level** | | **State level** | | | **Regional/Federal TA** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Head Start program directors | Head Start finance managers | EHS-CCP directors | State-level ECE policy individuals | State-level CCDF-focused and PDG-focused staff | Head Start Collab Office directors | Regional Office Staff | T/TA staff that develop guidance for grantees on meeting fiscal requirements |
| **Structures and Governance** | | | | | | | | | |
| Policies | What type of policies or systems are in place to support/enable programs to braid funding (both Head Start and non-Head Start programs)? | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| How often do policies related to braided funding change? | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Please tell us about your role in supporting financing decisions at the state and at the local/program level. | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| What governance structures exist to support collaboration/braided funding approaches? |  |  |  | X | X | X |  |  |
| Partnerships and collaboration | Who do you work with at the state level around ECE funding? What type of financing work do you collaborate on (policy, TA/support)? |  |  |  | X | X | X | X | X |
| What state agencies are involved in supporting E/HS-child care partnerships? | X |  | X | X | X | X |  |  |
| What types and how often is there communication across Head Start-state partners with regard to funding approaches? | X |  |  | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Braided Funding Models and Approaches** | | | | | | | | | |
| Models and approaches | Which funding streams do you focus on or use for braiding funding? | X | X | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| What are the types of braided funding approaches you have seen in programs? | X | X | X | X |  |  | X | X |
| How does (the approach to) braiding support differ by program components (e.g., transportation, staffing, etc.)? | X | X | X |  |  |  | X | X |
| Does approach to braiding funding differ year-to-year based on enrollment (mix of children enrolled)? By how much money is available? | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |
| What informal guidance do you share with programs about braiding funding? |  |  |  | X | X | X | X | X |
| Providing support for target populations | How do different braided funding approaches support provision of comprehensive services to children and families? | X | X | X |  | X |  | X | X |
| How do you approach braiding funding to support children with disabilities? Does your approach to braided funding vary for children with disabilities specifically? | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |
| What aspects of braided funding approaches do you think might best meet the needs of children and families? | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| What aspects of braided funding approaches do you think best meet the needs of the workforce? | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Decision-making** | | | | | | | | | |
| Steps in decision-making | What prompted you to consider braiding funding? | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |
| What considerations are needed for a program to braid funding? | X | X | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| What steps does a program need to take to braid funding? | X | X | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Where do you find information about braiding approaches, regulations, and requirements? | X | X | X |  |  | X | X | X |
| How do you think about braiding source **X** with others? With Head Start funding and requirements? | X | X | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| **Benefits and Challenges** | | | | | | | | | |
| Benefits and challenges | What are benefits to braiding funding? | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| What are key challenges (or barriers) programs face to braiding funding? | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Other** | | | | | | | | | |
| Additional information | Tell us examples of strong Head Start partnerships that are not supported by EHS-CC Partnership grant funds? |  |  | X | X |  | X |  |  |
| Is there anything else you would like to share with us that is important to this topic or would add to our understanding? | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| How does uncertainty of funding year to year (or over time) affect decisions around braiding funding? | X | X | X |  | X |  |  |  |