



The July 2016 issue of Education Connections introduces two recent ICF ventures in research and evaluation on behalf of states and state systems: an evaluation of a statewide health care initiative in Tennessee, and a state-of-the-art survey methodology that is strengthening child care systems in several states. We also take a look at the ICF Insights series, which chronicles leaders who are making a difference in state and regional education policy.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information about ICF in education. Our expertise extends from early education to K-12 schooling, to postsecondary education and workforce development. The solutions we devise with our clients enhance their capacity to achieve the outcomes they seek.

ICF Evaluates Health Care Training in Tennessee



ICF is completing a comprehensive evaluation of Roane State Community College's program "A Prescription for Health Care Training in Tennessee (RxTN)." The college is leading a consortium of 13 Tennessee Board of Regents community colleges and 27 Tennessee Technology Centers to develop and strengthen pathways into health care employment. The purpose of ICF's complex evaluation is to generate evidence about the extent to which increasing the availability of health care training and student support services positively affects employment opportunities for Trade Adjustment Assistance-eligible workers and others in health care fields. The ICF team is using a mixed methods

approach to address the evaluation questions, collecting quantitative data through extant data sources, the RxTN student tracking database, and surveys, and collecting qualitative data through program documentation review, open-ended survey items, interviews/focus groups, and a case study. Visit [this link](#) for the executive summary of ICF's final evaluation report, which was also posted on this [website](#) as an example of a high quality, informative evaluation report.

Researchers Survey the Early Childhood Landscape in Four States

ICF's survey research team has led large-scale, multi-mode surveys of the early childhood landscape in California, Maine, Massachusetts, and Minnesota. Our surveys produce actionable recommendations to support policy, including early childhood workforce surveys, family surveys, and child care market rate surveys. In California, ICF designed a market rate survey administered to nearly 15,000 child care providers. Conducted every two years, this multi-mode survey measures local prices in the state's complex child care landscape using market profiles that ICF developed based on zip codes with similar socioeconomic features.



The survey results are used in settling child care payment rates that are high enough to enable families receiving child care assistance to find and afford care.

In Minnesota, ICF designed an annual child care survey that collects data from the state's 11,000 providers. The data enables updating of Minnesota's referral database and

preparation of its child care market rate analysis. The methodology that ICF developed has allowed Minnesota to measure local child care prices more accurately and simplify the reimbursement rate structure. Visit [this link](#) for a white paper on child care market rate surveys.

ICF Insights Legacy Series: Gene Wilhoit Reflects



The ICF Insights Legacy Series examines the significant contributions of individuals working in education within the Appalachian Region. ICF's Tony Marchese interviews Gene Wilhoit in this multi-part conversation about his professional journey as an educator, which began as a middle and high school teacher. He has served as a state Commissioner of Education, first for Arkansas, then for Kentucky. He currently directs the National Center for Innovation in Education at the University

of Kentucky. Visit [this link](#) to see the interview.