

**Mapping the Agencies and Organizations  
That Support Children with, or at Risk of,  
Emotional and Behavioral Problems**

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	
Background .....	
Organization of This Report .....	
<b>Methodology</b> .....	
<b>Findings</b> .....	
Key Players .....	
Activities .....	
Level of Collaboration .....	
Summary of Programs and Their Sources .....	
Education .....	
Health .....	
Juvenile Justice .....	
Child Welfare .....	
Early Intervention .....	
<b>Future Direction</b> .....	
Collaboration .....	
Dissemination .....	

## **Introduction**

The main purpose of the Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice is to promote national preparedness in order to foster the development of children and youth with, or at risk of developing, emotional and behavioral problems and their families. To achieve that goal, we are dedicated to a policy of collaboration at Federal, state, and local levels that facilitates the production, identification, exchange, and use of knowledge about effective practices. In order to encourage partnership among stakeholders, we have undertaken a project to identify and describe Federally funded resource centers, such as clearinghouses, technical assistance centers, and research and training centers, that contribute to the infrastructure supporting these children and youth. This report presents the major findings of this infrastructure mapping project.

## **Background**

Children and youth with, or at risk of developing, emotional and behavioral problems are a diverse group of people with a variety of needs; and several Federal agencies provide resources that contribute to achieving the goal of improving their education and lives. Each funding stream focuses on a different issue connected with the underlying theme of serving children with emotional disturbance. For example, the Department of Education approaches these youth and children from the perspective of providing special education services, while the Department of Health and Human Services focuses on mental health and child welfare issues, and the Department of Justice is concerned with the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Together, the national and regional resource centers funded by these Federal agencies form an infrastructure of support that can be drawn on to promote collaboration—including enhanced communication, networking, and exchange of information—among

key players. To support increased collaboration and communication, we have begun to assemble a database of Federally funded resource centers –113 at this point—to help bring structure to an otherwise fragmented system.

## **Organization of This Report**

The remainder of this report comprises three sections. The first section outlines the methodology we used in identifying the resource centers and projects. The second section presents our findings. The final section touches on future directions for the infrastructure mapping project described in this report. In addition, four appendices are attached to this volume of the report: (1) an index mapping projects by Federal agency; (2) a summary report mapping projects by major subject area; (3) a state by state index of projects; and (4) an alphabetical index of projects in the database, with web-site addresses if available. A final appendix consisting of a one-page summary on each project in the database is available as a separate volume.

## **Methodology**

To map the existing infrastructure of technical assistance and research centers, we examined many sources. Integral to identifying Federally funded projects were the World Wide Web on the Internet; recent publications, such as the *Directory of National Information Sources on Disabilities*; interviews with Center staff and affiliates, such as American Institutes for Research (AIR) consultants and subcontractors; and discussions with participants at conferences. The study also built upon a recent mapping of the infrastructure by the Washington Business Group on Health.

With an initial list of projects compiled, we collected data on individual projects and entered this information into a database. Information was collected on the project's funding source, subject

area, location, and activities. We also gathered contact information, project descriptions, mission statements, and other relevant information. Where the initial list led to other sources, we included those as well. A preliminary summary of identified projects was distributed to experts in education, mental health, juvenile justice, child welfare, and early intervention for review. Feedback was incorporated into the database, including the addition and removal of projects.

In structuring the database, we decided to define our unit of analysis as a Federally funded resource center, operating at a national or regional level, that supports children and youth with, or at risk of developing emotional and behavioral problems. Using this definition, our March 1998 database contains 113 unduplicated projects for which we could find a project description, Federal funding agency, and address.<sup>1</sup>

## **Findings**

Based on the March 1998 database, we briefly discuss four types of findings. First, we identify those Federal agencies —key players—that account for most of the programs serving children with emotional and behavioral problems and their families. Second, we look at the major areas of focus of the resource centers and clearinghouses. Next, we briefly look at where the Federally funded projects are located. And last, we summarize the projects, by category of activity, distinguishing between clearinghouses, technical assistance centers, and other types of projects.

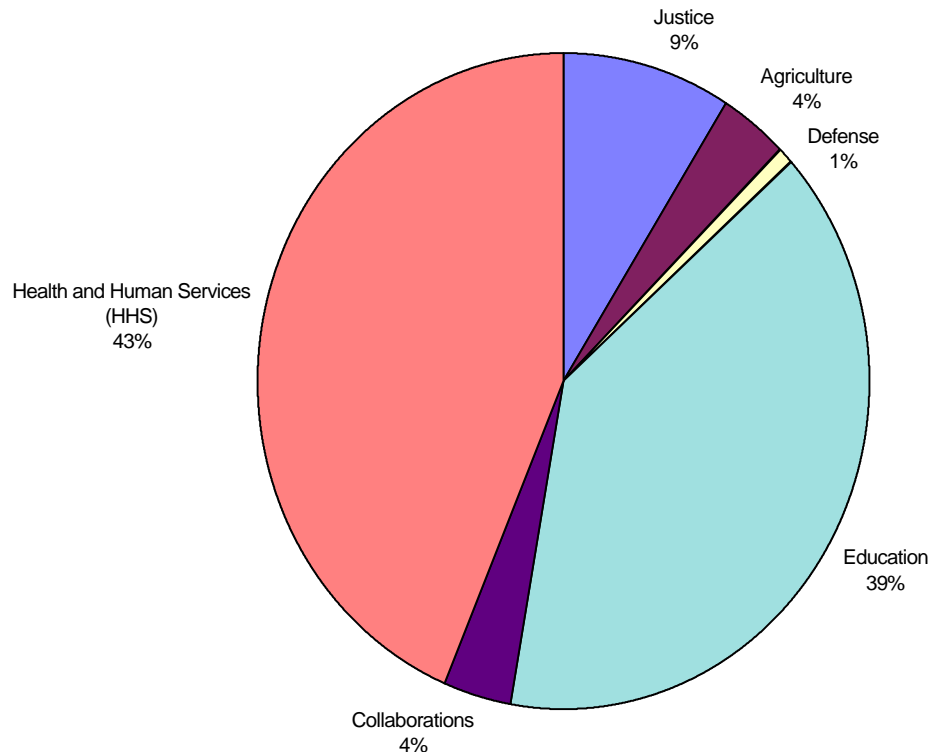
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<sup>1</sup> We excluded from the March 1998 database an additional 200 projects, programs, agencies and private organizations that did not fit our final definition for the unit of analysis. The excluded database elements were private organizations and projects, and Federal agencies and programs providing direct services to at-risk children and youth, as well as duplicated and outdated projects, or projects for which we could not find sufficiently complete information. None of the preliminary data have been discarded, and these data could be culled for additional useful information in the future.

## Mapping Projects by Federal Agency

As shown in Exhibit 1, the national and regional resource centers included in the database are funded by six Federal agencies: the Departments of Agriculture (USDA), Defense (DoD), Education (ED), Health and Human Services (HHS), and Justice (DOJ). In addition, a small number (4 percent) of projects are sponsored by two or more agencies. By far, the Departments of Health and Human Services and Education account for most (43 percent and 39 percent, respectively) of the identified projects. A list of key players is shown in Exhibit 2, and a complete mapping of projects by agency is shown in Appendix A.<sup>2</sup>

**Exhibit 1: Key Players among the Federal Agencies**



n=113

<sup>2</sup> The six Federal agencies in Exhibits 1 and 2 are the only agencies identified as funding relevant *clearinghouses* and *technical assistance centers*. Other agencies, however, do fund direct services to at-risk children and youth. For example, the Department of Housing and Urban Development funds after-school demonstration programs, the Department of the Interior operates Indian youth shelters, and the Department of Labor administers youth employment and training programs.

### ***Department of Education***

The Department of Education (ED) accounts for 39 percent of the projects identified in the database. As shown in Exhibit 2, most centers are funded by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), and more specifically, by its Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Examples of these resource centers include the seven centers in OSEP's Regional Resource and Federal Center Network, as well as our own Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice.

### ***Department of Health and Human Services***

A large proportion (43 percent) of Centers in our data base are funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. The majority of these projects originate from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) (see Exhibit 2). The ACYF projects include eight Children's Bureau resource centers, three projects funded by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect and twelve regional Head Start disability services resource centers. Another key player within HHS is the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). In addition to collaborating with the Department of Education in funding two research and training centers, CMHS is the direct sponsor of 11 relevant projects, including three projects that focus on improving service delivery and outcomes for children with emotional disturbance.

### ***Department of Justice***

The Department of Justice funds 9 percent of the Federal projects in our database. These projects include several clearinghouses, such as the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Criminal Justice Reference System (NCJRS) and its affiliated clearinghouses, as well as several projects within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

**Exhibit 2 : Mapping Projects by Federal Agency**

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Division and Office</i>	<i># Cntrs.</i>
Collaborations	– Agriculture (USDA) and Defense (DoD)	1
	– Education (ED) and Health and Human Services (HHS)	2
	– 7 agencies: USDA, DoD, ED, HHS, HUD, Justice, Labor	1
Agriculture (USDA)	– Research, Education, and Economics, * Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service	4
Defense	– Department of the Army; Morale, Welfare, and Recreation * Army Community Service	1
Education (ED)	– Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), * National Library for Education [ERIC Clearinghouses]	5
	– Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), * National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research	3
	* Office of Special Education (OSEP)	35
	* Rehabilitative Services Administration (RSA)	1
Health and Human Services (HHS)	– Administration for Children and Families (ACF), * Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF); [Child Care Bureau, Children’s Bureau, Family and Youth Services Bureau, Head Start Bureau, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect]	26
	– Collaboration of HRSA and SAMHSA	1
	– Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) * Maternal and Child Health Bureau	6
	* Office of Minority Health	1
	– National Institutes of Health * National Institutes of Mental Health	2
	– Office of the Secretary * Office of Public Health and Science	1
	– Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) * Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)	11
	* Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)	1
	* Office of Applied Studies	1
	Justice	– Office Justice Programs, * Bureau of Justice Assistance * Bureau of Justice Statistics * National Institute of Justice * Office for Victims of Crime * Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

### *Collaborations*

Four of the projects were identified as collaborations of two or more Federal agencies. These include Partnerships Against Violence Network (PAVNET) Online, a collaborative initiative of seven Federal agencies providing information over the Internet about violence and at-risk youth; two research and training centers jointly funded by the National Institutes on Disability and Rehabilitative Research, ED and the Center for Mental Health Services, HHS; and a collaboration between the Department of Defense and USDA's Cooperative Extension Service to address family violence prevention at military installations and bases.

### *Other*

Two other Federal agencies fund projects included in our database. The Department of Agriculture funds four projects through its Cooperative Extension Service, including the Children, Youth and Families-at-Risk Network (CYFERnet), an Internet-based information and communication system. Finally, the U.S. Army has an Exceptional Family Member Program, which works in partnership with other agencies to provide education and other services to military families with special needs.

## **Mapping Major Projects by Subject Area**

In mapping the infrastructure of clearinghouses, technical assistance centers, and resource and training centers, we chose to include a broad array of projects that address issues directly or indirectly related to the improvement of services for children and youth with, or at risk of, emotional and behavioral disturbance, and their families. In fact, only 4 percent of the 113 projects state that their central focus is improving services to these children and youth. These five projects are:

- the Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice, operated by the American Institutes for Research and funded by the Office of Special Education, ED;

- the National Resource Network, administered by the Washington Business Group on Health and funded by the Center for Mental Health Services, HHS;
- the National Technical Assistance Center for Children’s Mental Health at Georgetown University, funded by the Center for Mental Health Services, HHS;
- the Research and Training Center for Children’s Mental Health at the University of Florida, funded by the Center for Mental Health Services, HHS); and
- the Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children’s Mental Health, located at Portland State University and funded by both the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, ED and the Center on Mental Health Services, HHS.

The remaining projects serve broader populations, such as children and youth with needs for special education, or children and youth with mental health needs. To aid in summarizing the projects, each was assigned to one of six categories, depending on the focus and nature of their activities. These six subject area categories are:

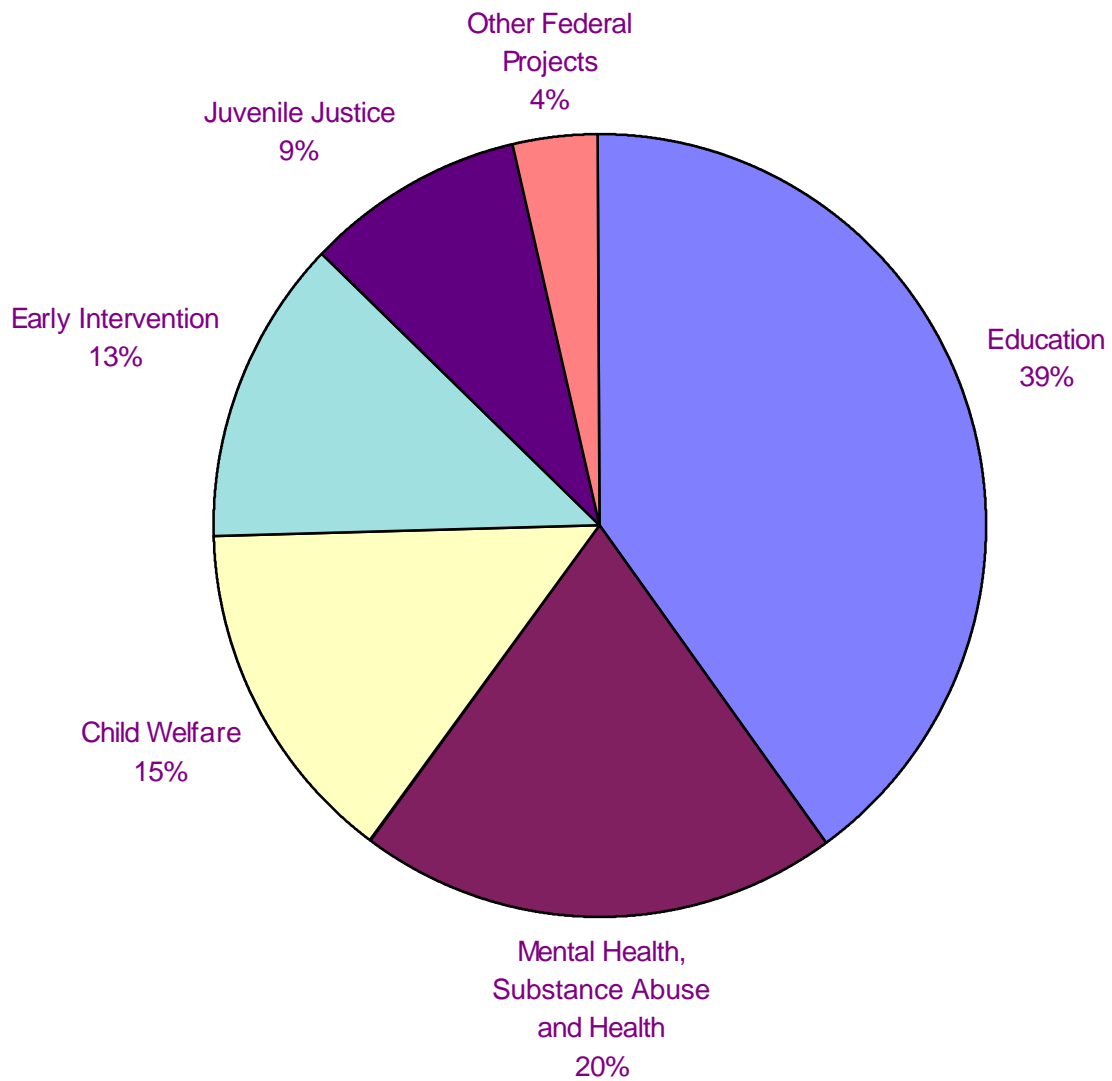
- Education
- Mental Health
- Child Welfare
- Early Intervention
- Juvenile Justice, and
- Other

The last category primarily includes programs that provide general support to children, youth, and families.

Exhibit 3 presents the percentage of clearinghouses and technical assistance centers identified within each of the six subject area categories. In general, the mapping of projects by major subject area corresponds to a large degree with the classification by agency. That is, most Education projects originate from the Department of Education; most Mental Health, Child Welfare and Early Intervention projects are funded by the Department of Health and Human Services; the Juvenile Justice projects originate from the Department of Justice; and projects classified as “Other” originate from other

agencies. A complete listing of projects within each of these six subject areas can be found in Appendix B, which contains a summary report providing the project name, description, and source of federal funding for each element in the database.

### Exhibit 3: Mapping Projects by Major Subject Area



### ***Education***

The largest category (39 percent) are projects that focus on education, which include 43 projects funded by the Department of Education and one project funded by the Department of Defense. Most of these projects address the educational needs of students with disabilities. Target audiences for the projects are diverse; and include parents (i.e., the National Parent Information Network, regional Technical Assistance for Parents Programs), state education agencies (i.e., Federal Resource Center for Special Education), local education agencies (i.e., Consortium on Inclusive Schooling Practices), educators (i.e., National Center to Improve Practice) and researchers (i.e., National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research).

### ***Mental Health***

The second largest category (20 percent) are mental health projects, a category that includes clearinghouses and resource centers addressing mental health, substance abuse, and health issues. Examples include the Center for School Mental Health Assistance, the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information, and the National Adolescence Health Resource Center, all funded by agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services.

### ***Child Welfare***

A smaller proportion (15 percent) are child welfare projects. These include the Children's Bureau's network of child welfare resource centers and the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect's national clearinghouse and national data archive. Other projects address family resiliency, missing and exploited children, and family violence.

### ***Early Intervention***

The early intervention category is slightly smaller (13 percent). Its 14 projects include the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance System (NEC\*TAS), which assists in the development of services for children with special needs, birth through 8 years; 12 regional resource centers

addressing the inclusion of infants, toddlers and preschoolers with disabilities in Head Start programs, and the National Child Care Information Center.

### ***Juvenile Justice***

Less than one-tenth (9 percent) of the projects are categorized as juvenile justice projects. Of primary importance is the Partnerships Against Violence Network (PAVNET) Online, a “virtual library” of information about violence and at-risk youth, representing data from the Department of Justice and six other Federal agencies. The other resources in this category include projects focusing on school safety, juvenile justice, and delinquency and crime prevention, as well as clearinghouses with more general criminal justice data and literature.

### ***Other***

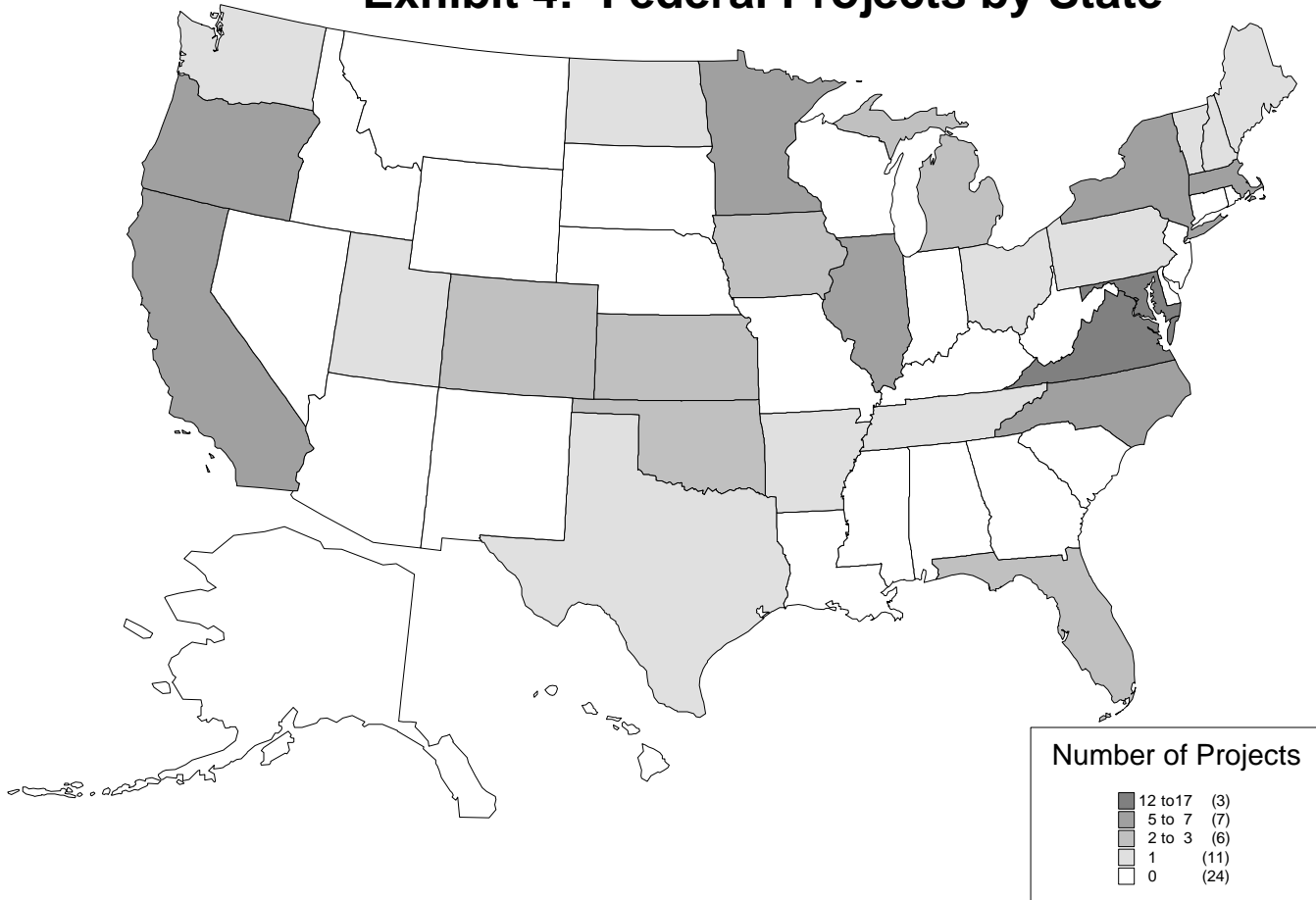
Finally, the database includes a few projects (4 percent) that do not fall into any of the other subject area categories. These projects provide information about general children, youth, and family issues, such as the National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth, which links people interested in youth issues with the resources they need, and the National Network for Collaboration, working with Cooperative Extension System partners to foster collaboration to improve the lives of children, youth, and families.

## **Mapping Projects by Location**

A significant proportion (38 percent) of the Federally funded projects addressing issues affecting children and youth with, or at risk of developing, emotional disturbance, are located in the District of Columbia, or in the neighboring states of Maryland or Virginia, as shown in Exhibit 4. Most of the remaining projects are distributed across 25 different states. States with many projects include Massachusetts (7), Minnesota (6), California (5), Illinois (5), New York (5), North Carolina (5) and

Oregon (5). Two projects provided no address other than a web-site address, and three projects are located in multiple locations (i.e., one in every state, or across a large number of military

### Exhibit 4: Federal Projects by State



bases or installations). An index of Federal projects by state, and by location within each state, is attached, as Appendix C.

Often two or more projects are co-located at one organization. Many of the twelve regional Head Start disability centers, for example, are administered by an organization that also administers projects funded by the Office of Special Education Programs. Specific examples of organizations that are listed multiple times within the database include the Academy for Educational Development in Washington, DC, which runs five projects, and the Education Development Center in Newton,

Massachusetts, which administers three projects, and the American Institutes for Research, in Palo Alto, California and Washington, D.C., which administers two other projects in addition to the Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice.

## **Mapping Projects by Activities**

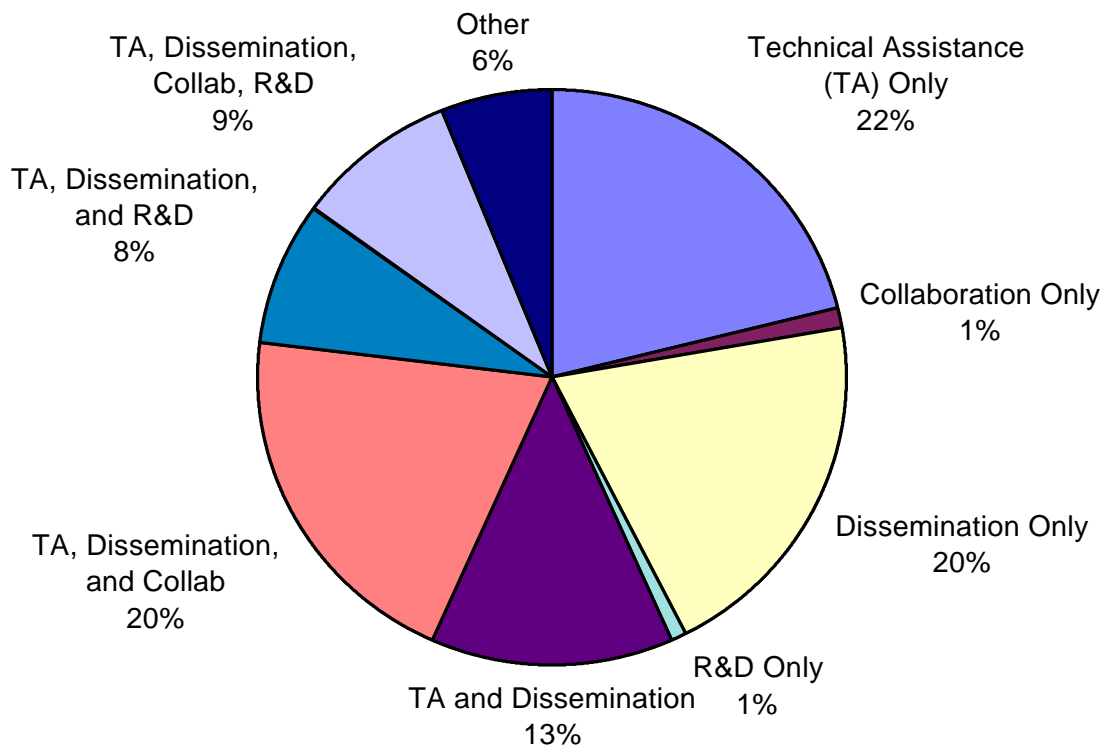
Our aim was to include in the database Federally funded projects that served as resource centers by engaging in one or more of the following activities:

- **Technical Assistance (TA)** activities such as developing training materials, offering workshops and conferences, establishing networks, identifying and providing access to expert consultants, responding to telephone inquiries, and providing on-site technical assistance;
- **Dissemination** or clearinghouse activities, that is, making information widely available through libraries, toll-free numbers, computerized databases, mailing lists, newsletters, web pages, etc;
- **Research and Development** including direct research, support of research, and development of products; and
- **Collaboration** including initiatives promoting communication, networking and exchange of information across local, state and Federal agencies and organizations.

Each project was identified as offering one or more of these activities, based on their project descriptions, mission statements, or other information collected through their web pages or written materials. We found that 44 percent of the resource centers emphasized one major activity: 22 percent are TA centers that provide technical assistance only; 20 percent are clearinghouses established to disseminate materials; 1 percent have a sole focus on research and development; and 1 percent are classified as engaging in collaboration activities only (see Exhibit 5).

The most common activities are technical assistance and dissemination. In addition to those providing TA or dissemination only, 13 percent of the centers provide a combination of these two activities, and an additional 20 percent combine TA and dissemination with collaboration.

## Exhibit 5: Federal Projects by Activity



n=113

The projects in this database place less of an emphasis on research and development. We identified 9 percent of the projects as conducting all four activities, that is, research and development in addition to technical assistance, dissemination and collaboration. An additional 8 percent offer technical assistance, dissemination and research and development, but without an explicitly stated focus on collaboration. Finally, the remaining 6 percent provide some other combination of two or three of the activities<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Three provide TA, collaboration, and R&D; one provides collaboration and dissemination, one provides TA and R&D; one provides TA and collaboration; and one provides dissemination and R&D.

## **Future Directions**

The Center's goal in undertaking this mapping task was twofold. Our first objective was to identify projects and their funding agencies in order to promote collaboration, including partnerships, on behalf of children with emotional and behavioral problems. Our secondary purpose was to create a database of resources usable by the general public. The issuance of this report marks an important milestone toward the accomplishment of both these goals, but we would like to expand this project further, resources permitting.

A first step would be to use this mapping exercise as a jumping-off point for discussions – with the Center's partners and at advisory meetings—about enhancing collaboration among Federal partners.

Another important step toward further accomplishment of our goals would be to make the database more accessible to the general public. The database could be disseminated on the Center's Web site, located at <http://www.air-dc.org/cecp/cecp.html>, along with a link taking users to directions for using the database. In addition, the Center's Web site could add linkages to the projects that have their own Web site (see Appendix D for an alphabetical listing of projects, with Web sites, where available). The database also could be made more user-friendly by adding such data elements as the target audience of each project (i.e., parents, researchers, state education agencies). In addition, the geographical index could be further developed to allow a parent, educator, or other provider to determine which regional resource centers serve his or her state, and the database itself might be expanded to provide addresses of some Federally funded centers that operate on a state by state basis.

Another future direction would be to expand the database to include private organizations such as the Council for Exceptional Children, the Learning Disabilities Association of America and the National Association of State Directors of Education.

Finally, minor updates to the database should probably be made, at least annually, as new projects are funded, old projects are terminated or re-named, and projects that may have been inadvertently omitted are identified. Suggestions of additional projects may be directed to Center staff by contacting Julia Isaacs ([jisaacs@air-dc.org](mailto:jisaacs@air-dc.org) or (202) 944-5369) or Suzanne Weidberg ([sweidberg@air-dc.org](mailto:sweidberg@air-dc.org) or (202) 944-5452).