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New “Race for Results” Report Released Today Compares children on key milestones across racial and ethnic groups

Salt Lake City, UT – Today’s release of the AECF report, ***Race for Results***, provides a timely opportunity for Utah to ensure the potential of all children is maximized as demographics in the state continue to change. The report unveils a new index comparing progress among children across key areas of child well-being. The index, which is broken down by race and ethnicity, uses a single composite score on a scale of one (lowest) to 1,000 (highest). The index is based on 12 indicators that encompass important variables from birth through adulthood.

“The future prosperity of Utah depends on widely distributed opportunity for all children, regardless of where they live or what racial or ethnic group they belong to,” says Terry Haven, Deputy Director for Voices for Utah Children. “That’s why this new report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT Project is so important.”

Overall, the index shows that in Utah, as in the rest of the nation, children of color lack the opportunities that are needed to help them succeed. The index results for Utah show that out of a score of 1,000:

- African American children scored 511
- American Indian children scored 400
- Asian & Pacific Islander children scored 627
- White children scored 712
- Latino children scored 370

Because children of color are living in poverty at a higher rate than other children in Utah (the percent of non-Hispanic white children living in poverty in Utah is 10% compared to 37% of Hispanic or Latino children) any policies and programs put in place to aid in raising children and families out of poverty will improve these statistics.

“For poor and low-income children, securing opportunity necessarily requires complex solutions. Any effort Utah makes to move children out of poverty is going to improve the outcomes,” says Haven. “That is why two- generation strategies that address access to postsecondary training or education, early childhood development, child care, disconnected youth, workforce training, job quality, income supports, basic skills, employment strategies, and work/life balance must all be put on the table for consideration.”

Since this report will be replicated over time it serves as a benchmarking scorecard on child well-being that can drill down on specific topics. This will ensure its value as a tool for thoughtful public policies targeting areas of concern.

The 12 indicators can be found on the KIDS COUNT Data Center at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#USA/1/2702/2704>.

In addition, at 10:15 a.m., Tuesday, the Foundation will host a panel of experts on racial equity to discuss the report and its findings. We invite you to watch the event live at www.youtube.com/AnnieECaseyFound.

In addition to Foundation leaders, the event features journalist Soledad O'Brien, who will moderate a panel that includes:

- Sherry Salway Black, National Congress of American Indians
- Angela Glover Blackwell, PolicyLink
- Wade Henderson, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- Meizhu Lui, author and independent consultant
- Arturo Vargas, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials

The full report can be found at www.aecf.org/race4results. For more Utah specific data, contact Terry Haven at terryh@utahchildren.org or 801-364-1182.