Resources: The Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy (CCEC)

The Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy (CCEC) is part of Ohio State University (OSU), the largest research university in the nation. OSU is a nationally-ranked premier Research I institution that is highly committed to promoting the lives of young children, particularly those at risk, through research, practice, and leadership. Located in Columbus, Ohio, national rankings place OSU among the nation's top 25 public institutions, and the College of Education and Human Ecology is ranked 16th. In 2013, the University expended $967,000,000 in research dollars, ranking it in the top ten among public universities in annual research expenditures.

The CCEC is a Center within the College of Education and Human Ecology, and it receives considerable fiscal support from the College to advance its mission of stimulating research that improves the well-being of children. With research as the core of its mission, the CCEC houses an extensive staff within outstanding facilities to facilitate quality implementation of numerous pre- and post-award activities. CCEC has 8,000 square feet of dedicated space, to include facilities on the OSU main campus as well as 8,000 square feet at the Schoenbaum Family Center off-campus, which also houses a university-based preschool program which allocated 50% of spots to low-SES families. Space available to the CCEC includes multiple conference rooms, dedicated transcribing and coding rooms (each with six workstations), workstations and private offices. All project faculty and staff have access to the CCEC's equipment (e.g., specialized software and hardware, scanners) and research inventory (e.g., standardized tests, databases).

The CCEC employs a multidisciplinary team of about 70 researchers and staff including administrative assistant, lab manager, technology coordinator, data manager, software engineer/programmer, communications director, human-resource specialist, and fiscal specialist. Additional team members include numerous graduate and doctoral students, and postdoctoral and professional researchers. Institutional support plus a significant gift from the Crane family funds much of the core personnel as well as seven graduate research assistantships annually.

For post-award support, the CCEC has standardized protocols to implement all phases of research, to include (1) recruitment, screening, and assessments of children, (2) training of caregivers in intervention implementations, (3) data-management and data-entry plans for multisite and longitudinal methods, (4) MOA for partnerships with numerous educational institution, (5) tracking of intervention implementations via logs transmitted over secure servers, (6) coding protocols and dedicated software for assessing treatment fidelity, and (7) training protocols for training field-staff on the reliable use of tools. Additionally, the CCEC has leading-edge computer facilities, including an inventory of tablets to support data collection and Teleform for data processing. Four computers are equipped with video and multimedia production tools and web development and programing software. The CCEC has three dedicated servers and Sharepoint for all project management. All computers and servers are included in a network that is maintained by CCEC and by the College's Office of Technology and Enhanced Learning (OTEL). OTEL is responsible for developing, maintaining, and supporting the technology services for College faculty, staff, and students. These services include website development, instructional support, video conferencing, video and multimedia production, web conferencing, graphic design, web network infrastructure maintenance, and desktop support. Note that the CCEC maintains its own "tech team" to include a tech manager, web developer, software specialist, and systems engineer.