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MONEY MATTERS

A GUIDE to FINANCING QUALITY EDUCATION and OTHER CHILDREN'S SERVICES

THE FINANCE PROJECT

THE FINANCE PROJECT

February 10, 1997

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to send you a copy of The Finance Project's most recent publication, *Money Matters: A Guide to Financing Quality Education and Other Children's Services.* This guide is intended to serve as a valuable resource for state and local leaders seeking to improve financing for education, health, and other services for children and families. It lays out a set of interrelated principles that should guide finance reform efforts. Building on these principles, the document presents options, ideas, and alternative approaches for:

- Generating revenue to fund supports and services for children;
- Improving current budgeting policies and procedures;
- Developing effective intergovernmental and public-private partnerships;
- Realigning financial, program, and other incentives; and
- Building public and political support for change.

Written in simple, clear language, the guide also contains numerous examples of the practical experiences of states and communities that have experimented with different initiatives. In addition, it suggests an array of written and organizational resources to assist state and local leaders in improving finance systems.

As you may know, The Finance Project produces a variety of reports and papers on topics related to financing for education and other children's services. Some are developed by project staff, others by outside researchers and analysts. Some provide background for our ongoing empirical studies and development activities, or conceptual frameworks and analyses of salient policy and programmatic issues. Others provide tangible tools to stimulate new thinking and to induce a variety of public jurisdictions, private organizations, and individuals to advance their own efforts to improve public financing strategies.

Additional copies of this guide and other resources in the Working Papers Series are available from The Finance Project.

With best regards,

Cheryl D. Hayes
Executive Director

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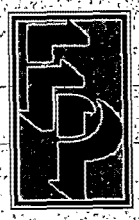

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