

Don Winstead

Principal, Don Winstead Consulting, LLC

In January 2011, Don Winstead founded Don Winstead Consulting, LLC, a Tallahassee, Florida health and human services consulting practice. Don brings over three decades of state and federal experience in all phases of health and human services policy and practice to the firm.



From March 2009 through December 2010, Don Winstead served as Special Advisor to the Governor for the Implementation of the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Working in coordination with the Governor's Federal Stimulus Working Group, he was responsible for overseeing and tracking the distribution of Florida's federal stimulus dollars and ensuring taxpayers had access to the information needed to hold government accountable for its use of the funds. Overall, Florida expects to receive about \$25 billion in Recovery Act funding.

Don also served as the Deputy Secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families, with responsibility for a wide range of human services. These included child and adult protective investigations, child welfare, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), Medicaid eligibility, adult services, refugee services, domestic violence programs, mental health, substance abuse, homelessness services, and child care licensing. He began his career as a front-line caseworker and has worked in a variety of direct service, administrative and managerial positions ranging from Social Worker to Deputy Secretary. Don was proud to serve as Deputy Secretary for a total of eight years, serving four Secretaries and three Governors.

From late 2001 to early 2005, Don served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this capacity he was a key advisor on human services policy and was responsible for policy development, research and evaluation related to welfare reform, supports for low-income families, and services for families, children and youth.

Don is a nationally recognized expert on federal funding issues and has negotiated ground-breaking federal waivers in welfare reform and child welfare. He is one of only five recipients of the American Public Human Service Association Distinguished Service Award.

Don is a member of the advisory board for the National Poverty Centers as well as an advisor on several federal research projects. He was the 2008 co-chair of the program committee for the National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Child Trends, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research center that studies children at all stages of development.