



Early Childhood Iowa  
Monday Musings  
June 15, 2015  
2015 Vol. 2, No. 24

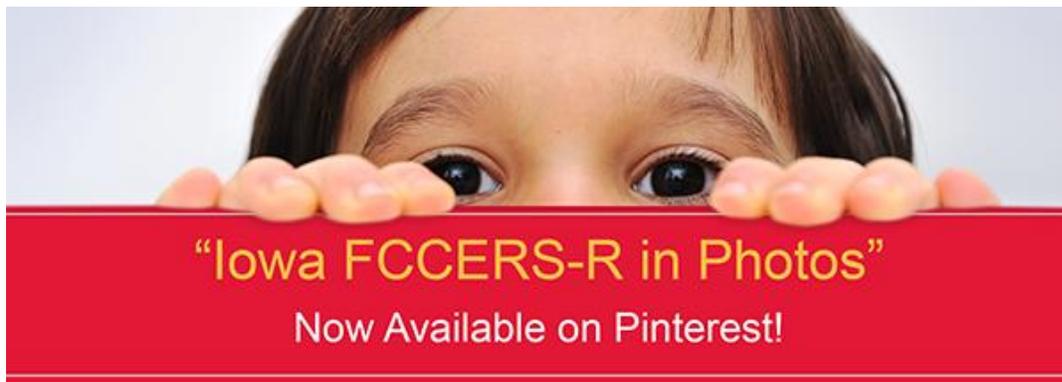
Welcome to the ECI **Monday Musings**. It is a compilation of information, practical advice, training announcements, and/or success stories. **Monday Musings** is intended to disseminate information to Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders in a timely fashion. (We may on occasion send out a separate email with information if it needs immediate attention or if for a specific audience.)

Please let us know if you have something you would like to contribute or have suggestions or comments at [jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov](mailto:jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov)

Back Issues of Monday Musing are available [here](#).

*“Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression”.*  
-Dr. Haim Ginott

### State Information:



For great ideas on how to set up your Child Development Home, see the 2015 ISUEO “Capturing Quality Family Child Care in Action” photo entries and winners on our Pinterest board.

<https://www.pinterest.com/isuhumanscience/iowa-fccers-r-in-photos/>

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach

## ECI Steering Committee Seeks Nominations

The ECI Governance Component Group is seeking nominations to fill two at-large positions on the ECI Steering Committee.

These are unfinished terms (One year and two years) and those elected would be available to fill two additional 3 –year terms.

If you are interested in nominating someone or yourself, please complete and submit the attached nomination form by June 30, 2015. Submission information is included on nomination form.

## Federal Information:

### Federal Office of Child Care Releases Revised State Plan

We are pleased to announce the *Federal Register* publication for a 60-day comment period regarding the FY 2016–2018 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan Preprint for States and Territories. The change in the Plan submission deadline from July 1, 2015, to March 1, 2016, has enabled us to start the normal Paperwork Reduction Act clearance process sooner than initially anticipated. **The public comment period will end on July 27, 2015.**

If you recall, the Office of Management and Budget granted us an emergency clearance for the FY 2016–2018 CCDF Plan Preprint that provided for a single 30-day comment period from January 30, 2015, through March 2, 2015. We received multiple comments from more than 40 entities and have revised the Preprint document to incorporate many of the recommendations.

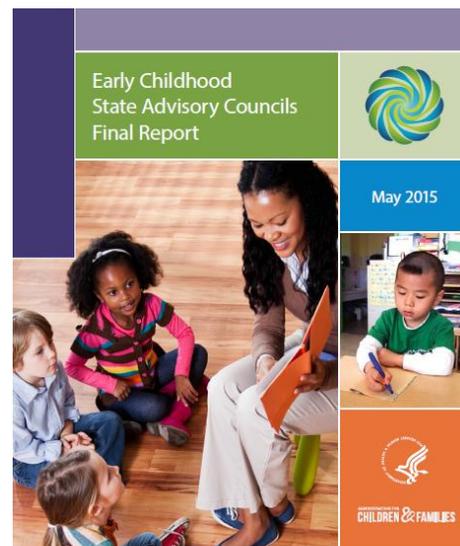
The FY 2016–2018 CCDF State and Territory Plan Preprint can be reviewed [here](#) via the OCC Web site. For instructions on how to comment, please see the [Federal Register notice](#).

### ACF Releases Final Report Highlighting Significant Accomplishments by State Advisory Councils (SAC) on Early Childhood Education and Care

ACF has released a final report highlighting significant accomplishments by State Advisory Councils (SAC) on Early Childhood Education and Care. State Advisory Councils were a dream of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy. His early vision was to spur states on to better coordinated and higher quality early care and education. With his support, the SACs were authorized in the Head Start Act of 2007 with a goal of promoting partnerships between Head Start Agencies, State and local governments and the private sector.

#### ***[Iowa's SAC is the ECI Stakeholders Alliance]***

They were first funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. ACF awarded nearly \$100 million of ARRA funding to 45 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa in the form of SAC grants. This three-year funding was the administration's first



investment in building the early childhood infrastructure for the President's Early Learning Initiative.

Many states had already begun to develop early childhood development systems prior to receiving the grant. The SAC grant propelled further improvements in the quality of early childhood programs, better coordination among existing early childhood programs, and streamlined service delivery.

Through the SACs' work, states developed an unprecedented level of cooperation among agencies and programs and successfully built efficiencies into program service delivery for children and families.

Councils are following the national direction set by Congress and the Administration. The Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge and Preschool Development grants required states to maintain an active, fully functioning SAC that meets federal requirements. The reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in November 2014 requires consultation with the State Advisory Councils. The Strong Start bill recently announced also includes the SACs and the systemic role in the state's early learning efforts.

**TODAY at 9:00 AM!**

## **THE RAISING OF AMERICA**

### **How Can We Work Together to Raise Awareness About the Importance of Early Childhood Education?**

Expanding access to high-quality early childhood education is one of the smartest investments that we can make. Research has shown that the early years in a child's life—when the brain is forming—represent a critically important window of opportunity to develop a child's full potential and shape key academic, social, and cognitive skills that determine a child's success in school and in life.

Join us for a sneak preview screening of *THE RAISING OF AMERICA* on *June 15, 2015*. This documentary film explores how a strong start for all kids can lead to a healthier and more equitable America. After the viewing, a panel of senior leaders in the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services will lead a discussion on the film.

This event will air on the EDstream network for those who are outside of the ED Network, and with live captioning.

To access the event, go to: [EDSTREAM](#)

Learn more about *THE RAISING OF AMERICA* at: [www.raisingofamerica.org](http://www.raisingofamerica.org)

## **Progress in Preschool but Pace Too Slow**

### ***Message from the Deputy Assistant Secretary Libby Doggett, US Department of Education***

Arne Duncan always says that the best ideas do not come from Washington, but from States and local communities. For early learning this is really true. You all are doing a great job of advancing home visiting, child care improvements, preschool and other parts of our early learning agenda.

Last Month, the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) published their annual [State Preschool Yearbook](#), profiling state-funded preschool programs in the United States. For the second year in a row, NIEER's data show nationally states increased preschool funding and quality, and enrollment grew by 8,335 slots. In January 2014, [Mississippi](#) became the first state in four years not funding preschool statewide to create a new program. Of course, the data lags by a year, so the incredible surges we've seen in cities that have embraced preschool for all – like [New York City](#)– aren't reflected here.

While this expansion is exciting, as Secretary Duncan said at [CentroNía](#) early learning center during the Yearbook release, "The current pace of change is far too incremental. We have to think about transformational change." At the current pace, it would take 75 years to reach even half of the 4 year-olds in America. States want and need the federal government to do more.

[Representatives Hanna and Scott in the House](#) and [Senator Murray in the Senate](#) have re-introduced the Strong Start for America's Children Act. And very soon, members in both chambers will make decisions on the [FY 2016 budget](#). President Obama is asking for \$750 million to continue funding for the [Preschool Development Grants](#) and expand to many more states, the territories and Indian lands. Last competition, 36 states applied to partner with the federal government in expanding preschool, but there was only enough funding for 18.

Recently at the [Fordham Institute](#), Robert Putnam, author of *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, said that early childhood education does work, has a very high pay off, and is what we ought to be doing it everywhere. Parents, educators, [researchers](#), [law enforcement](#), and [business leaders](#) are all calling for increased investments in early education. I hope that our representatives will hear these bipartisan voices and pass a transformative budget that ensures more of our children enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

## **Other Information:**

### **Orchard Place Seeks Candidates for Child Care Resource and Referral Director Position**

Cathy Wheatcraft will be retiring from her position as Region Director for Region 4 of the CCR&R Program early in October.

Orchard Place is currently recruiting candidates for the director position.

Individuals can contact Marilyn Kline-Johnson, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, Director of Human Resources at [hr@orchardplace.org](mailto:hr@orchardplace.org) with questions or to email a resume.

The position is posted on the Orchard Place website at [www.orchardplace.org/careers](http://www.orchardplace.org/careers)

## **The Drake University Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement:**

### **Join us for Coffee with Robert Putnam**

On **July 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM**, the Drake University Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement will host Robert Putnam, the author of *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*. The book examines why fewer Americans today have the opportunity for upward mobility. Through Putnam's research, he identifies the need to reach across party and ideology boundaries to provide solutions for our kids.

The event is sponsored by Every Child Matters in Iowa, Save the Children Action Network, the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, the Greater Des Moines Partnership, the Iowa Community Action Association, the Child & Family Policy Center, the United Way of Central Iowa, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Iowa Chapter, First Focus, and the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children. The event is free and open to the public. However, space is limited to ensure an intimate experience. [Please CLICK HERE to register for tickets.](#)

## **Preventing Childhood Injury Conference**

**Registration is now open for the 2015 Preventing Childhood Injury Conference!**

**September 29, 2015**



# **Blank Children's Hospital**

## **UnityPoint Health**

**Registration:** Pre-registration is required; limited seating. Only online registrations will be accepted. For more information or to register: [Click here](#).

**Intended Audience:** Injury prevention advocates, public health professionals, nurses, public safety officials (fire, law enforcement, EMS), school professionals and others interested in injury prevention.

**Purpose:** To educate health professionals and injury prevention advocates on injury prevention strategies and interventions for lasting success. This program will provide participants with tools that they can take back to their local community and use to promote the health and safety of children.

**Objective:** To explore the ever-changing world of technology and its impact on childhood injury.

### **Tentative Topics:**

- Pediatric Concussion
- Bullying Research and Prevention
- Prescription Drug Abuse in Youth and Adolescents
- Days, Weeks, Months? How to make sense of safety initiatives all year long.

**Cost:** \$30 - Early Bird Registration until July 31.

\$50 - Registration from August 1 - September 18.

**CEUs:** EMS CEUs will be provided at no cost.

**UNC's Most Popular TED Talk of the Year Tells the Story of FPG's Abecedarian Project**

Frank Porter Graham (FPG) scientist Kate Gallagher spoke about the most famous study in early education, and you can watch her talk here... [more](#)

**For more information about Early Childhood Iowa, visit our website:**

<http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org/>

**To join the ECI Stakeholders, please complete the commitment survey at:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FSXR5F2>

**2015 ECI Meeting Calendar:**

**ECI State Board**

10:00 – 1:00

September 11 (Council Bluffs)

November 6 (Des Moines)

**ECI Stakeholders Alliance**

3 – 4 Hour meetings

September 8 (AM)

December 8 (PM)

**ECI Area Directors**

All day

(June will be regional meetings)

September 16

(December will be regional meetings)

**ECI State Dept. Directors**

8:30 – 10:30 AM

October 2

**ECI Steering Committee**

Time Varies

August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 1 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)