



Early Childhood Iowa  
Monday Musings  
January 11, 2016  
Vol. 3, No. 2

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](#).

***"Conditions are never just right. People who delay action until all factors are favorable do nothing."  
William Feather***

## **State Information:**

### **The Early Childhood Day on the Hill event is coming!**

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Day on the Hill will be held on **Tuesday, February 23' 2016 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** in the Capitol rotunda. The focus of this year's event will be on the importance of high quality child care. Please consider sending an invitation to your state legislators now! Go [here](#) for a Save the Date Announcement.

***Be on the lookout for a pre-Day on the Hill and ECI Stakeholders Alliance meeting Webinar in early February.***

Don't know who your legislators are? Find out by visiting <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>. Get to know your legislators by signing up for newsletters, attending community forums and simply reaching out to them. They want to hear from you! Don't wait until you get to the Capitol. Begin building a relationship today!

## **Federal Information:**

**State Early Childhood Education Systems and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework**

**Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016**

**2–3:30 p.m. EST**

**[Register Online Now!](#)**

In June 2015, the Office of Head Start (OHS) released the It replaces the 2010 Head Start Child The The new Framework is designed to provide continuity for birth to 5 programming. It offers a structure for selecting and aligning curriculum and assessment. This new Framework also helps in designing instruction and individualized learning experiences for all children, including those with disabilities. When used in conjunction with the Head Start Program Performance Standards to provide comprehensive services, the Framework will help programs support children's success in school and in life.

Join us on Thursday, **Jan, 14, 2016** for a look at how states can integrate the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework into their early care and education system. Find out how the new Framework can inform Head Start alignment with state early learning guidelines, professional development systems, and quality rating systems.

#### Presenters

- Linda Smith, deputy assistant secretary for Early Childhood Development, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Rachel Schumacher, director of the Office of Child Care
- Blanca E. Enriquez, director of the Office of Head Start

#### Who Should Participate?

This webcast will benefit an array of audiences, including: Head Start and child care directors and staff; state child care administrators; school principals, educators, and school and community leaders; Head Start State Collaboration directors; and other stakeholders interested in supporting the well-being of young children and their families.

#### How to Register

Select the link to register for the webinar: <https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1086900>

The presentation will be recorded and archived on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) for later viewing.

#### Access the Framework

Explore the Framework on the ECLKC: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/sr/approach/elof>

It is available as a PDF and as an interactive display. Some of you may prefer the **interactive version** as a way to see how the central domains, subdomains, and school readiness goals fit together across age groups and developmental progressions. It also is available as a PDF in **Spanish (español)**.

#### Additional Resources

OHS has provided a **Getting Started Guide** to help Head Start grantees implement the Framework in their programs. Watch the **introductory and implementation webinars** on the ECLKC for more information.

## Strengthening Working Families Grants

On December 17, the U.S. Department of Labor released the application for the Strengthening Working Families Initiative competitive partnership grants (deadline of March 16, 2016), a \$25 million initiative to provide job training and to create stronger linkages with child care through local program and system activities. The public-private partnerships can use as much as 25 percent of the grant for supportive services, including paying for child care and coordinating or establishing child care consumer education and referral services. The grant application is available at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=280609>.

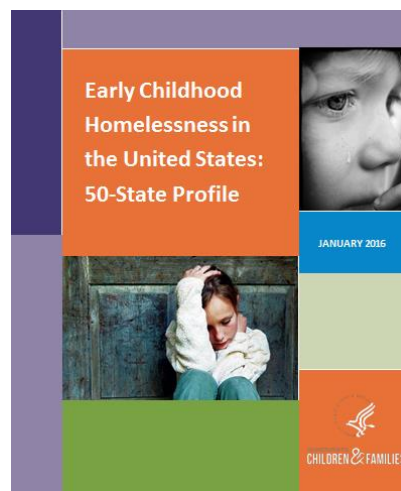
## Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States

ACF released an [\*Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: 50-State Profile\*](#). It provides a “snapshot” of early childhood data available for children who are experiencing homelessness in each state and is a tool for communities in planning to meet the needs of vulnerable children.

Early childhood education is a critical component for healthy developing children. Yet, despite what we know about the importance of high quality early childhood opportunities, many children in the United States lack access to quality programs, especially children from low income families and vulnerable young children experiencing homelessness.

In 2013, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released guidance stressing the importance of providing early care and education (ECE) services to homeless children. Ensuring the well-being of our youngest children is essential to the work of ACF and is especially urgent when considering the vulnerability of young children experiencing homelessness. Quality ECE programs can help buffer the challenges and risks associated with homelessness by supporting children’s learning and development in safe, stable and nurturing environments.

Since that time, we have continued to share these messages and provide leadership in this area. We encouraged states to prioritize access to services for homeless children. Although Head Start already had a requirement to prioritize homeless families, we released [\*Building Partnerships to Address Family Homelessness\*](#). This paper highlighted efforts by local Head Start and Early Head Start programs to connect with public housing associations, emergency shelter providers, local education agencies, and other community service providers. The new Child Care Development Block Grant law encourages States to use their flexibility to prioritize homeless families and provide grace periods that give families sufficient opportunity to gather the required documentation, such as immunizations, within a reasonable time frame.



## CCDF FY 2016-2018 Final Plan Preprint for States and Territories and Program Instruction

Dear Colleagues:

I’m pleased to announce that the CCDF FY 2016–2018 Final Plan Preprint for States and Territories and the accompanying Program Instruction have been posted on the Office of Child Care (OCC) Web site at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf-reauthorization>. The Program Instruction (CCDF-PI-2015-09) provides guidance on the Plan submission, implementation plans, as well as the criteria and process

for requesting temporary waiver extensions for requirements that are not met at the time of the Plan submission. States and Territories will use this Plan Preprint, approved by the Office of Management and Budget, to submit their Plans to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) via the e-submission site on or before March 1, 2016.

On behalf of OCC, I want to thank all our commenters for your thoughtful consideration of the Plan Preprint. We believe that the CCDF FY 2016–2018 Final Plan Preprint will serve as an important blueprint for implementing our shared commitment to improving the number of high-quality choices available to low-income families through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program.

ACF has compiled technical assistance resources on reauthorization topics and has cross-walked those topics with major CCDF Plan sections. The collection of resources can be found at <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/ccdf-reauthorization>. As additional resources become available, they will be posted to that Web site as well.

Thank you for all you do for children and families.

Rachel Schumacher  
Director, Office of Child Care



**Head Start and Early Head Start Economic Mobility Week**  
**Building Foundations for Economic Mobility**  
**Webinar Series and Virtual Resource Fair**  
**Feb. 22 - 25, 2016**

**[Register Online Now!](#)**

Supporting families' financial security and economic well-being is not new to Head Start. Let's recommit to this important part of our family partnership work. Please join the Office of Head Start (OHS), national experts, and Head Start and Early Head Start programs as we highlight successes and examine the challenges in supporting family financial stability and employment, training and education, and career opportunities.

Schedule of Events

Monday, Feb. 22: A Message from OHS Director Dr. Blanca Enriquez

Tuesday-Thursday, Feb. 23-25: Building Foundations for Economic Mobility Webinar Series

Friday, Feb. 26: Virtual Resource Fair and Networking

## Other Information:

### Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Conference Update

The [2016 Child Abuse Prevention Conference](#) will take place April 25-27 in downtown Des Moines. Hotel rooms at a discounted rate are now available to reserve with the Des Moines Marriott Downtown. Registration will be launched by late January.

**[THE ELEPHANT IN THE CLINIC: Early literacy and family well-being.](#) By Dipesh Navsaria, MEd, MSLIS, MD, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and Amy Shriver, MD, Reach Out and Read Iowa. October 2015.**

Over time, many dimensions of how we address the health and well-being of children and families have improved. According to a 2013 statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Community Pediatrics, “As understanding of the mechanisms and impact of biological, behavioral, cultural, social, and physical environments on healthy development deepens and expands, the long-standing role of pediatricians in promoting the physical, mental, and social health and well-being of all children must also evolve.”

To read this brief, co-authored by Dr. Amy Shriver, Blank Children’s Hospital, Des Moines, IA go to [The Elephant in the Clinic](#)

### From Crawling to Walking

Right now only about one-third of all children attending school in the United States can read proficiently by fourth grade. The numbers are even more dismaying for our most vulnerable students. How can state policymakers lessen the achievement gap and improve literacy outcomes for all children? A new report from *New America’s Education Policy Program* examined the state of early education policy in all 50 states and Washington, DC and offers a framework for moving forward. See more [here](#).

### School Mobility: Implications for Children’s Development

More than one-fifth of children in the United States are living in [poverty](#). Children growing up in poverty face numerous adversities that can negatively affect their learning and development, starting at a very early age. For example, these children are less likely to have access to books and to hear rich vocabulary; and are more likely to be exposed to violence in their neighborhoods, attend low-quality, under-resourced schools, have stressed parents, live in crowded and/or noisy homes, and have unstable home environments. All of these stressful life experiences can compromise children’s learning, as well as their cognitive and social-emotional development.

Moving from school to school can adversely affect child outcomes. *NIEER* researcher Allison Friedman-Krauss examines the issue in *NIEER’s* latest blog [post](#).

**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>

**2016 ECI Meeting Calendar:**

**ECI State Board**

10:00 – 1:00

April 1

June 3

September 9

November 4

**Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill**

February 23, 2016

**ECI Stakeholders Alliance**

3 – 4 Hour meetings

February 23 (Early Childhood Day on the Hill)

May 10 (PM)

September 13 (AM)

December 13 (PM)

**ECI Area Directors**

April 6 All day

(June will be regional meetings)

September 13 (afternoon)

December 7 All day

**ECI State Dept. Directors**

8:30 – 10:30

May 6

October 7

**ECI Steering Committee**

Time Varies

March 3 (9:00 – 4:00 PM)

April 7 (9:00 AM – Noon)

June 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)

August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 6 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 3 (9:00 AM – Noon)