



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings January 19, 2016 Vol. 3, No. 3

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

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

"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus."

Sr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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:

Annual Early Childhood Conference Changes Name (ACF)

By Marsha Basloe, Senior Advisor, Early Childhood Development

We want to announce an exciting change in the early childhood research field. Head Start's National Research Conference on Early Childhood is changing its name!

To encourage participation of researchers, practitioners and policymakers from across the early childhood disciplines, the research conference will now be called the **Administration for Children and Families' National Research Conference on Early Childhood**.

Since 1991, this conference has highlighted cutting-edge research on low-income families with young children and early childhood programs.

The event draws more than 1,200 early childhood researchers, practitioners and policymakers to Washington D.C.

Participants exchange ideas and learn the latest research on early childhood services and young children ages 0 to 8 years.

One goal of the conference is to encourage dynamic interactions among researchers, practitioners and policymakers interested in the evidence base regarding:

- Early care and education services
- Early childhood development
- Impact of early childhood policy on the daily lives of children, families and practitioners

It's always a pleasure to feel the energy from this crowd. These people actively improve opportunities for young children.

The conference welcomes participants from across the programs that serve young children:

- Child care
- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Pre-K
- Home visiting
- Child welfare
- Other early childhood programs

The conference draws an unusual combination of experts with widely varying perspectives!

In the last decade, numerous national activities have advanced the integration and strengthening of early childhood programs.

For example, the Quality Rating and Information Systems have been established across most states. This ratings system highlights quality in early childhood programs. It also informs parents about their best care and education options.

Another ground-breaking change is creating combined Early Childhood Technical Assistance centers. These centers will provide support across child care and Head Start programs.

We look forward to seeing you all **July 11-13, 2016, at the Grand Hyatt Washington D.C.!** [**Get more information about the conference.**](#)

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>.

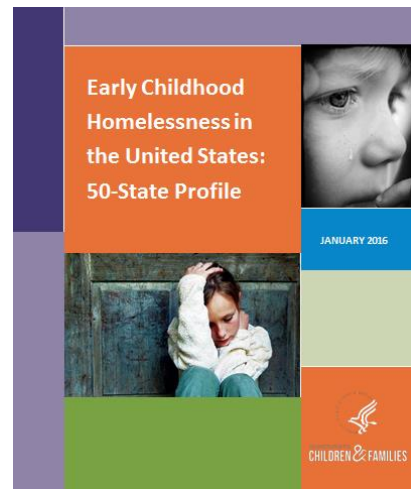
Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States

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 (CDDF-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, MPH, 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](#)



An initiative of



Child & Family
POLICY CENTER

With support
from the
Annie E. Casey
Foundation

Measuring the well-being of Iowa kids since 1991

Kids Count Data Release Briefing

Thursday, January 21 / Room 116 of the Iowa State Capitol

11:30 a.m. lunch begins

11:45 a.m. presentation

Please join us for an informational lunch as the Child and Family Policy Center releases its latest Kids Count data.

CFPC staff will unveil a new, web-based, interactive interface for Iowans to access 20 indicators of child well-being across the areas of health, education, family stability and economic success. We will summarize key trends and connections to policy needs across the state.

For more information, contact policy director Sheila Hansen at shansen@cfpciowa.org or (515) 778-8259.



Toddlers Recognize Written Word As Meaningful Symbols

The [AP](#) (link) covers a report published in the journal “Child Development” which found that toddlers are able to recognize written words as symbols at an earlier age than experts had previously thought, which marks an important step on the path to reading readiness. In the words of Temple University psychology professor Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, who specializes in literacy development, recognizing that writing is “something that stands for something else, it actually is a vehicle for language — that’s pretty powerful stuff.”

**Interview with the Director of Early & Elementary Education Policy at *New America*
Laura Bornfreund**

"Children are learning from birth. And to make sure all kids have the opportunities they need and deserve when they enter kindergarten and later in life, there needs to be a greater investment in access to high-quality early education."

Laura Bornfreund is Director of Early & Elementary Education Policy at **New America**. She examines state and federal policies related to learning and teaching birth through grade 3. She writes on a variety of topics including the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, federal education grant programs, teacher preparation, retention, evaluation and support, kindergarten, and early childhood assessment. Read 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

February 23, 2016

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

February 9 (Webinar)

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)

Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill