



Early Childhood Iowa  
Monday Musings  
February 22, 2016  
Vol. 3, No. 8

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](#).

***"Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives."***

***-Willa A. Foster***

### State Information:

#### The Early Childhood Day on the Hill event is Tomorrow!

We have over 100 people signed up for tomorrow's event at the State Capitol.

The theme this year is:

***"Moving Iowa's Child Care System to Become Child-Focused, Family Friendly and Fair to Providers"***

Registration begins at 9:30 AM.

The Program begins at 10:00 AM.

Folders will be provided for participants and will contain handouts and talking points for the day.

To view the handouts, talking points and other information go to [2016 Day on the Hill](#).

2,000  
DAYS



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!

If were not able to attend the ECI Stakeholder Webinar on February 9 that featured information about the 2016 Early Childhood Day on the Hill, here are videos you may view:

2/9/16 ECI Stakeholders Alliance Part 1: <https://youtu.be/IVvdL93cw64>

2/9/16 ECI Stakeholders Alliance Part 2: <https://youtu.be/xUZDFiHMAJA>

### **2015 Early Childhood Annual Report Now Available on-line**

The 2015 ECI Annual report has been posted on the ECI Webpage.

The Early Childhood Iowa 2015 Annual Report has been written to report on FY 2015 which includes the dates from July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015. Because of the ability to share more information beyond the SFY 2015 within specific sections of the report, additional information has been included when available.

This includes summaries submitted by Area ECI Boards.

To access the Annual Report, Summaries and other information: [2015 ECI Annual Report](#)

### **2016 -2018 Early Childhood Iowa Strategic Plan Now Available on-line**

The new ECI Strategic plan was adopted on January 7, 2016 by the ECI Steering Committee on behalf of the ECI Stakeholders Alliance and adopted by the ECI State Board on January 8, 2016.

The strategic goals for the next three years are:

- **Establish and Promote a Solid Infrastructure to Advance the Early Childhood System**
- **Ensure Access to High Quality Services for Young Children and their Families**
- **Build Public Will for Supporting Young Children and their Families**

To access the plan: [2016-2018 Early Childhood Iowa Strategic Plan](#)

**SOUTHEAST IOWA  
EARLY CHILDHOOD SUMMIT**  
**APRIL 15 & 16, 2016**

**Friday April 15th**

9:30 – 10:00am Check In - IWU Chapel Auditorium  
10:00 – NOON Keynote, Rob Grunewald, Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank  
NOON – 1:00pm IWU Social Hall (presentation of community awards)

**Saturday April 16th**

7:30 – 8:30am Check In – Continental breakfast and vendors – IWU Student Activity Center  
8:30 – 10:00am Keynote – Frank and Kimberlee Spillers, Authors, *The Be WUCA! Way; The ART of Getting Along*  
10:00 – 3:00pm Breakout Sessions and Networking

Join us for a 2 day event to learn about how investing in young children benefits everyone.

**Who should attend?**

- Business Professionals
- Early Care and Education Professionals
- Parents
- Community Leaders

For more Information or to Register:

[SOUTH EAST IOWA EARLY CHILDHOOD SUMMIT](#)

## **Iowa Family Support Nomination Are Open**

We have some exciting news from the world of Iowa Family Support and need your help!

We are seeking nominations for the **Family Support Participant of the Year** and the **Family Support Professional of the Year**. This is our chance to recognize and honor the hard work of families and family support professionals in Iowa.

One family and one family support professional will be selected from all nominations received and will be recognized at the opening night reception of the **2016 Child Abuse Prevention and Family Support Conference** (April 25, 2016). The person who has nominated said family of the year will be notified via email in March if their nominee has been selected. We will not be announcing the Family Support Professional of the Year until the evening of the award ceremony and we hope all of you join us for a fun evening!

**Please see both nomination forms & a release form attached** in the email for today's Monday Musings and feel free to share with others in your agency, your program and as well as family support programs in your area! **Nominations are due no later than February 24, 2016 at 4 p.m** and should be returned via email to PJ West at [pj.west@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:pj.west@idph.iowa.gov). Please also submit a picture of your nominee along with the forms!!

You may also get information and forms at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IowaFamilySupportNetwork/>

Please let PJ know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Again, feel free to share the nomination forms with others within your family support network and let me know if you have any questions! Thank you and we can't wait to read all of the nominations!!!

## **Federal Information:**

### **President's Early Learning Budget for FY2017 and Legislation to Strengthen Child Care for Families with Young Children**

By Linda K. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development  
(February 9, 2016)

Today is a big day for early childhood. I wanted to let you know about all the important early learning actions happening at the federal level, that hopefully, will bring much needed resources to all the states.

First, the President sent his final budget to Congress this morning. For FY2017, the budget continues to show a strong commitment to expand access to high quality child care and early learning settings:

- \$2.96 billion for discretionary funding under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), an increase of \$200 million for FY2017. The increase will help states with CCDBG

implementation and includes a new \$40 million working families pilot – to provide competitive funding to better meet the needs of working families in rural areas, families needing care on an emergency basis, or families working nontraditional hours.

- \$6.58 billion for mandatory funding under CCDBG, an increase of \$3.6 billion in FY2017 and \$82 billion over the next 10 years.
- \$9.6 billion for Head Start, an increase of \$433.6 million for FY2017.
- \$645 million for Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership funding, an increase of \$10 million for FY2017.
- \$350 million for Preschool Development Grants, which will provide a fourth year of continuation grants for the 18 states with Preschool Development Grants and provide \$100 million for the newly authorized Preschool Development Grants under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015.
- \$463 million for IDEA Part C (for infants and toddlers), an increase of \$41 million for FY2017.
- \$368 million for IDEA Section 619 (preschool grants), an increase of \$35 million for FY2017.

This budget represents a landmark investment that will expand access to high quality child care to more than 1 million infants, toddlers, and three-year-olds by 2026 – increasing the number of low income children (under 200% of poverty) who receive a subsidy to 2.6 million children.

The mandatory funding increase is specifically targeted toward increasing access to and strengthening the quality of child care for children under age four. On average, CCDBG provides about \$5,500 a year to support infant subsidies. At the same time, we know that the cost of center-based high quality care paid by private pay parents for infants is closer to \$11,000 - \$12,000 per year (and as high as \$17,000 per year in some states). The gap between subsidy payments and the cost of operating a high quality program means that many low income families can't access high quality care or many programs can't offer high quality care, especially if they rely on state subsidies for a significant portion of the children they serve.



For FY2017, the President's budget includes a \$3.6 billion increase for child care to support families with children under age 4 – to support higher subsidy rates, which in turn would support higher wages for child care staff, more professional development to strengthen the workforce, and more quality choices for parents in every community.

Of the increased funding for Head Start, \$292 million will help ensure that Head Start will offer more children a full day-full year program. Currently, only about 40 percent of children in Head Start programs receive full-day and full school year services. In addition, funds for Early Head Start/Child Care partnerships would receive an increase of \$10 million to further expand access to grants that

demonstrate how we can better coordinate, collaborate, and integrate federal resources to meet the needs of children under age 4.

Also today, Senator Casey and Representatives Crowley and Frankel introduced the Child C.A.R.E. Act, a bill that supports the President's budget request to boost the quality of care for children under 4. In order to receive the funds states would have to submit a specific plan that outlines how they would use the funds for four specific uses - 1) to improve the skills and competencies of the child care workforce aligned with the recommendations in the 2015 Institute of Medicine and National Research Council Report, 2) activities to support training and technical assistance through a statewide network of infant and toddler specialists; 3) activities that provide start-up grants; or 4) activities to establish/expand networks of family child care providers).

Strengthening the quality of child care for families with children under age 4 is not easy. We know that it costs more to provide higher quality than most parents can afford to pay. But, it is time to match what we know about the neuroscience, what we have learned about best practices based on the research, with the resources to make a difference – for families who want to access high quality care and for programs that want to operate high quality care.

### **ACF Announces Availability of Funds for Expanding Access to High Quality Services**

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announces the availability of approximately \$135 million to be competitively awarded for the purpose of expanding access to high-quality, comprehensive services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families through Early Head Start – Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnerships or through the expansion of Early Head Start services. ACF solicits applications from public entities, including states, or private nonprofit organizations, including community-based or faith-based organizations, or for-profit agencies that meet eligibility for applying as stated in Section 645A of the Head Start Act.

Three forecasts for upcoming EHS-CC Partnership Funding Announcements were posted on February 18, 2016.

- For Early Head Start Expansion and EHS-Child Care Partnership Grants, see [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/hhsgrantsforecast/index.cfm?switch=grant.view&gff\\_grants\\_forecastInfoID=73942](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/hhsgrantsforecast/index.cfm?switch=grant.view&gff_grants_forecastInfoID=73942)
- For American Indian/Alaska Native EHS Expansion and EHS-Child Care Partnerships, see [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/hhsgrantsforecast/index.cfm?switch=grant.view&gff\\_grants\\_forecastInfoID=73943](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/hhsgrantsforecast/index.cfm?switch=grant.view&gff_grants_forecastInfoID=73943)
- For Migrant and Seasonal EHS-Child Care and EHS Expansion Partnerships, see [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/hhsgrantsforecast/index.cfm?switch=grant.view&gff\\_grants\\_forecastInfoID=73944](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/hhsgrantsforecast/index.cfm?switch=grant.view&gff_grants_forecastInfoID=73944)

Interested applicants may e-mail [EHS.CCPartnerships@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:EHS.CCPartnerships@acf.hhs.gov) for additional information.

For more information about Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships, visit <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehs-ccp>.

## **WEBINAR: Supporting High Quality Services & Preventing Expulsions in Faith-based and Community Early Childhood Programs**

**Wed, Feb 24, 2016 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM EST**

Join your colleagues for a discussion about how to support high quality services and prevent suspensions and expulsions of young children in early learning settings. The beginning years of life serves as the early foundation of learning, health, and wellness needed for success in school and later in life.

This webinar will increase awareness of the expulsion and suspension issues in early childhood settings, particularly faith-based and community early childhood programs. It will also spotlight policies and practices that support healthy development. Participants will learn how they can help strengthen the overall quality of child care and pre-K programs to ensure the best services possible for children in their community.



[Linda Smith](#), Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development at the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services will provide opening remarks, describing current federal efforts addressing this matter.

[Dr. Walter Gilliam](#), Associate Professor in the Child Study Center and of Psychology; Director, Yale-China Program on Child Development; Director, The Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy and leading researcher on child development and early childhood education will describe trends seen across the country and potential policy solutions.

Register to Participate: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6450521731880484108>

Additional resources on expulsion and suspension issues can be found here at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/child-health-development/reducing-suspension-and-expulsion-practices>.

### **Earned Income Tax Credit Can Help Rural Families**

Thanks to the hard work of Rural Americans, along with record investments in infrastructure under the Recovery Act and the 2014 Farm Bill, over the last seven years America was able to pull itself out of one of the deepest economic recessions since the Great Depression. While we've seen wages rise and unemployment fall in rural areas over the last several years, workers in rural America still receive less hours and earn less pay than those in urban areas. Fortunately, for those who need help making ends meet, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can help.

To learn more: [EITC](#)

## Other Information:

### Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Conference

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. To learn more or to Register, [use the link above](#).

### Calling all Superheroes!

Grab a sidekick and your cape and join Prevent Child Abuse Iowa's third annual [Superheroes Pedaling for Prevention](#) bike rides! There will be a Family Ride and a Community Ride. Both rides will take place Saturday, May 14. For more information or to register go to the link above.

### New CLASP Analysis Highlights Disparate Access to CCDBG and Head Start by Race, Ethnicity

In a unique analysis released on February 17, 2016, [Disparate Access: Head Start and CCDBG Data by Race and Ethnicity](#), CLASP finds that access to child care subsidies and Head Start is sharply limited for all eligible children and even more so for particular racial and ethnic groups and in particular states. The report confirms low levels of access nationally to Head Start preschool, Early Head Start, and child care funded through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), because of the large gap between current investment and need. It also finds distressingly low levels of access for particular groups of children:

- **Eligible Hispanic or Latino children have sharply lower access to CCDBG than eligible children of other backgrounds.** While 13 percent of eligible children (ages 0-13) and 21 percent of eligible Black children receive child care assistance through CCDBG, only 8 percent of eligible Hispanic or Latino children get help.
- **Poor infants and toddlers are unlikely to access high-quality early childhood services through Early Head Start.** No more than 6 percent of eligible children in *any* racial/ethnic group have access to Early Head Start.
- **While gaps in access to Head Start preschool exist, since fewer than half of all eligible children have access, program access does not appear to be as significantly impacted by race/ethnicity.** Fifty-four percent of eligible Black children and 38 percent of eligible Hispanic or Latino children are served in Head Start preschool, with additional eligible Hispanic or Latino children served through the Migrant Head Start program.

The report includes state-level differences in access by eligible children to Head Start, EHS, and CCDBG, which are also striking. While more analysis is needed to fully understand the causes of differential access across racial and ethnic groups and across states, we offer some hypotheses and insights. Stagnant federal funding and outdated funding formulas prevent states with growing or diversifying child populations to target new resources to underserved communities. State-level decision making in CCDBG may result in state policies that contribute to inequities in access and Head Start's explicit focus on reaching underserved families and communities may contribute to less disparate access in that program.

With this analysis, CLASP intends to begin a conversation about how to ensure equal access to critical early childhood programs across low-income communities of all backgrounds.

[Read \*Disparate Access: Head Start and CCDBG Data by Race and Ethnicity\* >>](#)

### **Iowa Reggio Emilia Facebook Page**

Soh Meacham, PhD., University of Northern Iowa College of Education, has set up an Iowa specific Facebook Page Group on Reggio Emilia. It is called **Reggiowa**

To visit go to [REGGIOWA](#)

### **The changing geography of U.S. Hispanics**

The communities in which Hispanics live are increasingly diverse, in location and character, with implications for the well-being of Latino children and families (via access to healthy food and green space, exposure to violence, and more). In this brief, the [National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families](#) reviews the changing locations of Hispanic populations and key drivers of these changes.

### **State Policies and Practices Supporting Child Care for Infants and Toddlers**

This research brief, which is derived from a larger study on collaboration among early care and education programs at the state and local levels, summarizes states' policies, practices, and regulations specifically designed to support early care and education programs for infants and toddlers (that is, children from birth through age three). To read the article: [State Policies and Practices Supporting Child Care for Infants and Toddlers](#)

**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

### **ECI Stakeholders Alliance**

3 – 4 Hour meetings

February 9 (Webinar)

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**

February 23, 2016