



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings February 16, 2015 2015 Vol. 2, No. 7

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](#).

"If education were defined... to include everything that children have learned since birth, everything that has come to them from living in the natural and the human world, then by any sensible measure what has come before age five or six would outweigh all the rest."

David Hawkins ([The Informed Decision](#))

State Information:

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP – DEADLINE February 25, 2015:

RSVP for the 2015 ECI Day-on-the-Hill March, 5 2015 (RSVP by February 25, 2015)

The 2015 Early Childhood Day on the Hill event will be held on **Thursday, March 5th**! Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. This year's event will focus on the importance of brain development in the first 2,000 days of life. The keynote presentation will be given by Dr. Andrea McGuire, followed by regional and individual meetings with legislators. More information will follow closer to the date.

To register for the 2015 ECI Day-on-the-Hill:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/66KDPRS>

For an outline of the 2015 ECI Day-on-the-Hill visit:

[Save the Date](#)

Child and Family Policy Center Releases the latest KIDS Count Data:

[The Iowa Kids Count 2013 Data Book](#) provides state and county-level data on 20 indicators of child and family well-being, including health, welfare, education and economic status. Iowa Kids Count is supported by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which supports Kids Count activities in all 50 states.



Michael Crawford, Iowa Kids Count Director at CFPC had this to say about the 2013 Iowa KIDS Count: *Trends in the Well-Being of Iowa Children* report:

- It is encouraging that the health and educational status of Iowa children have shown improvement during the past decade plus.
- The teen birth rate and the infant, child and teen mortality rates all have decreased since 2000.
- Educationally, preschool enrollment has increased as has the high school graduation rate.
- At the same time, with many families still struggling financially, it is extremely important that the critical programs supported at the state and federal level are continued as families work to strengthen their economic footing. Programs such as child care assistance, expanding preschool, food assistance and unemployment assistance.
- One in seven people in Iowa received food assistance in 2013, more than triple the rate in 2000.
- In addition, the child poverty rate and the free or reduced-price lunch eligibility rate both saw substantial increases during the last decade plus.
- A bright note is that the unemployment rate has fallen 23% and the low birth-weight, child abuse and neglect, and single parent family rates all have improved slightly since 2010.”

Federal Information:

From the Federal Office of Child Care:

President Obama’s budget was released earlier this month. In support of his budget proposals, the President has spoken in recent weeks on the importance of high-quality, affordable child care for all families. You can find some of the President’s remarks from January 22 at the University of Kansas on [the ACF site](#). The page links to both President Obama’s full remarks and a clip focused specifically on child care issues.

Other Information:

From the McCormick Institute:

How might brain science and public policy connect to build executive function skills in young children? Read the [new brief](#) from the Institute for Child Success. (Many articles are at this website.)

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

April 3

June 5

September 4 November 6

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

February 10 (9:00 AM Webinar)

March 5 (AM) Held in conjunction with the ECI

Day on the Hill

May 12 (PM)

September 8 (AM)

December 8 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

All day

April 8

(June will be regional meetings)

September 16

(December will be regional meetings)

ECI State Dept. Directors

8:30 – 9:30

February 6

March 6

May 1

August 7

October 2

December 4

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

March 12 (9:00 – 4:00 PM)

April 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)

June 4 (9:00 AM – Noon)

August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 1 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)

Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill

March 5, 2015