



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings December 22, 2014 2014 Vol. 1, 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.)

The ECI Office wishes all of you a safe and happy Holiday Season.

Please let us know if you have something you would like to contribute or have suggestions or comments at jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov

Quote: A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.
Chinese Proverb

State Information:

T.E.A.C.H Supports Early Childhood Endorsement Options (Iowa AEYC)

Dear Partners,

In our new for YOU update this week, we are pleased to share information about new early childhood endorsement options that T.E.A.C.H. can support!

- ❖ Morningside College – Obtain Endorsement 103, PreK-K completely online. Contact Joe Rosener at rosener@morningside.edu for more information.
- ❖ University of Northern Iowa – Will begin offering Endorsement 100, Birth – Grade 3, including special ed, in summer 2015. Courses will be mostly online and will allow for 17-18 credits in approximately 17 months. Contact Gloria Kirkland-Holmes at Gloria.holmes@uni.edu for more information.
- ❖ University of Iowa – Will begin offering Endorsement 103, PreK-K, in Fall of 2015. Contact Susan Lagos at susan-lagos-lavenz@uiowa.edu for more information.

Visit our website for links to all of the [EC Endorsements](#) and [ECE degrees](#) offered at Iowa's accredited colleges and universities. Remember that T.E.A.C.H. can support students on a scholarship for a Bachelor degree in Elementary Education with an Early Childhood Endorsement if the school does not offer a Bachelor degree in Early Childhood.

If you're interested in a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship, please give us a call at 515-331-8000 ext 13 or email teach@iowaaeyc.org. You can also read more about bachelor scholarship options on our [website](#).

Ashley Otte

T.E.A.C.H. Program Coordinator
Iowa Head Start Association Coordinator
515-331-8000 Ext. 13 or 800-469-2392
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Meeting Notes from the December 9, 2015 ECI Stakeholder Alliance Meeting

Attached to this email are the notes from the ECI Stakeholder Alliance meeting and additional attachments of presentations on the Strategic Plan and from Save the Children Action Network.

Key Take Away Messages from the meeting include:

- March 5, 2015 Early Childhood Day on the Hill activities
- Save the Children Action Network now has a presence in Iowa. You can sign up to join efforts.
- Update about the various component groups, learned about activities focused on each workgroup
- Reviewed the progress on the ECI Strategic Plan and recognize we'll be updating over 2015.

If you attended the meeting, please take a few minutes to complete the post meeting survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PY752DT>

Reminder: 2015 ECI Day-on-the-Hill March, 5 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. A preparation webinar is planned for February 10, 2015. Watch for the announcement.

2015 ECI Meeting Calendar:

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00

January 9
April 3
June 5
September 4
November 6

ECI State Dept. Directors

8:30 – 9:30

February 6
March 6
May 1
August 7
October 2
December 4

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

February 10 (TBD)
March 5 (AM) Held in conjunction with the ECI Day on the Hill
May 12 (PM)
September 8 (AM)
December 8 (PM)

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

January 8 (9:00 AM – Noon)
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)

ECI Area Directors

All day

April 8
(June will be regional meetings)
September 16
(December will be regional meetings)

Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill

March 5th, 2015



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Federal Information:

Office of Child Care (OCC) Announces new CCDF Data Explorer

The Office of Child Care (OCC) is pleased to announce the updated and expanded *CCDF Data Explorer* on the Child Care Technical Assistance Network (CCTAN) Web site (<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov>). The CCDF Data Explorer, which allows users to browse and visualize information from numerous sources, has increased usability features and opportunities for more complex statistical analysis.

The CCDF Data Explorer is now divided into two main areas: “Custom Search” and “Early Care and Education State/Territory Profiles.”

- Custom Search allows users to create reports using a wealth of data points on a variety of early care and education topics. Reports can contain demographic information, program participation and funding, subsidy innovation and program integrity statistics, program quality improvement activities, and professional development (PD) and workforce initiatives data.
- The Early Care and Education State/Territory Profiles include commonly requested information about various aspects of child care programs. The data for these profiles include a selection of the most relevant data available via Custom Search.

Custom Search is available at <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/data>.

The Early Care and Education State/Territory Profiles are available at <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/state-profiles>.

New Resource for Supporting Homeless Families: Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) recently released a new resource as part of its early childhood (EC) work on the Interagency Workgroup to End Family Homelessness. The [Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters](#) is designed to help shelter staff create shelter environments that are safe and developmentally appropriate for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. The tool provides specific recommendations and information on how shelter environments, programming, policies, and staff can support EC safety and child development.

Comments Sought: Caring for Our Children Basics: HHS/ACF Proposed Model Standards

This call for public comment is to obtain information to help HHS further develop the voluntary set of minimum health and safety standards for early care and education settings. Because quality care cannot be achieved without consistent, basic health and safety practices in place, ACF seeks to provide a helpful reference for states and other entities as they work to improve their health and safety standards across program type. Public input will be helpful in providing HHS with practical guidance to aid in the refinement and application of “Caring for Our Children Basics.” For more information, please see: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/12/18/2014-29649/caring-for-our-children-basics>

Comment deadline – February 17, 2015

Child Care Reauthorization Webinar Recordings

If you were not able to participate on the CCDF Reauthorization webinars held earlier this month. Please be advised that the presentation slides are now available on the CCDF Reauthorization resource page at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/occ/occ_reauthorization_webinar.pdf

Other Information:

Video about Brain Development

The Alberta Family Wellness Initiative recently unveiled an animated video, which presents the core story of brain development in an accessible and visually engaging format. This video, "[How Brains are Built: The Core Story of Brain Development](#)," can be used in staff development and parent education as well as advocacy efforts.

Tax Tips for Child Development Home Owners

Tom Copland shares his five tips for 2014.

http://www.tomcoplandblog.com/2014/12/end-of-the-year-tax-savings-tips-2014.html?utm_source=McCormick+Center+Subscribers&utm_campaign=dae0fa92f2-Happy+Holidays+from+the+McCormick+Center12+9+2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8653d0e879-dae0fa92f2-222674061

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>