



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings January 25, 2016 Vol. 3, No. 4

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](#).

“Management works in the system; leadership works on the system.”

-Stephen R. Covey

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 23rd 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.

To Register for the 2016 EC Day on the Hill go to: 2016 EC Day on the Hill:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S3R6GP8>

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!

ECI Stakeholders Alliance Webinar Meeting – February 9, 2016

Sign up now for an ECI Stakeholder Alliance webinar on February 9, 2016 – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM!

To Register go to <https://zoom.us/webinar/register/eb9293cf4d6bfaf334538d7d4481ef37>

The agenda includes:

- An overview of the recently adopted ECI Strategic Plan
- Introduction of new products developed by ECI Component Groups
- 2016 EC Day on the Hill Preparation information including:
 - Agenda for the day
 - Messaging and materials
 - Developing and Elevator Speech
 - Legislative Update and Tips for meeting with Legislators

Federal Information:

Upcoming Opportunities to learn more about Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships

Later this month, the Partnerships Center will release the first issue of its quarterly newsletter, Making Connections: The Partnership Newsletter. The focus of the issue will be “Strengthening Partner Relationships” and will include early successes experienced by an EHS-CCP grantee, a spotlight on working with Family Child Care, tips and tools for developing a Partnership Agreement, and much more. In conjunction with ACF, the Partnerships Center will host a webinar titled “**Making Strides in Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships**” on **Wednesday, January 27th from 3-4 pm eastern** with Shannon Rudisill, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development, to build on the newsletter release and explore how grantees are individualizing their approaches with diverse child care partners for combined strength. The webinar will include a facilitated dialogue with two current EHS-CCP grantees and partners from Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency in Oregon and United Way of New Haven in Connecticut who will share their exciting, innovative approaches to supporting infants and toddlers and their families through EHS and child care partnerships.

Join the webinar by registering at:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/2547619390256420097>

To stay up to date on all things EHS-CCP, don't forget to subscribe (or update your subscription) on ECLKC to include: Partnerships between Early Childhood Programs.

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/eclkc/customerservice/cmalerts>

New Developmental and Behavioral Screening Resource From the Office of Child Care

Last week the Office of Child Care (OCC) published a new Information Memorandum (IM) on developmental and behavioral screenings in child care and afterschool care programs. The new IM addresses provisions in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 that relate to these screenings and includes background information, guidance, potential policies, and resources related to the topic. Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grantees might find this information helpful as they prepare their plans and consider policies to promote developmental screenings in child care programs.

To read the IM, visit [this page](#) on the OCC Web site. For other policy resources related to the CCDBG Act of 2014, visit the [CCDF Reauthorization page](#) on the OCC Web site.

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>.

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.

New Iowa Kids Count Released

Released January 21, 2016 by the Child and Family Policy Center

Iowa Kids Count provides state- and county-level health, education, welfare and economic data on 20 indicators of child and family well-being.

Explore the latest data through interactive maps and download data snapshots for any of Iowa's 99 counties **[here](#)**.

CFPC's work on Iowa Kids Count is supported by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which supports Kids Count activities in all 50 states.

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.



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.”

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

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