



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings February 1, 2016 Vol. 3, No. 5

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.)

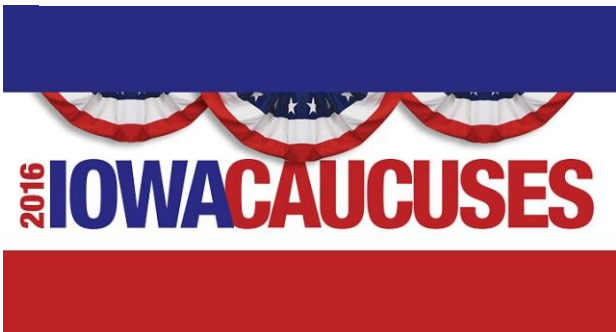
Please let us know if you have something you would like to contribute or have suggestions or comments at jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov

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

**"Let's make a dent in the universe."
-Steve Jobs**

State Information:

Iowa Caucuses Tonight at 7:00 PM!



The Iowa presidential caucuses are local party precinct meetings where registered Republicans and Democrats gather, discuss the candidates and vote for by party preference to elect delegates to the 99 county conventions and choose their candidate for their party's nomination.

The purpose of the caucus vote is to select delegates to attend a county convention. Each caucus sends a certain number of delegates, based on the population it represents. The delegates at the county convention in turn select delegates to go to the congressional district state convention, and those delegates choose the delegates that go to the national convention.

If you have not attended a caucus in the past, here is some information: [Iowa Caucus 2016](#).

To find your caucus location:

[Democrat](#)

[Republican](#)

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.

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

Early Childhood Iowa Presentation to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee –February 4, 2016

The Legislative HHS Appropriations Subcommittee has invited ECI to make a presentation to better inform them about Early Childhood Iowa. Representatives from the Office of Early Childhood Iowa, the ECI State Board and Area ECI Boards will present information about the work and successes of ECI.

The Subcommittee meeting is open to the public.

Here is information about the date, time and location:

February 4, 2016

10:00 AM

Iowa State Capitol

Room 116

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](#)

New Website Allows Citizens to Comment on Government Plans and Programs

Public participation in government helps our state to reform plans and prevent overregulation or red tape, encouraging efficiency, economic growth and job creation. – Gov. Terry Branstad

The purpose of State of Iowa's *Public Comments Website* is to allow members of the public the opportunity to comment on documents.

To access the site: [IOWA PUBLIC COMMENT](#)

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://attendee.gotowebinar.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](#).

The Raising of America Series Available in February

Would your work to improve the well-being of all our young children and their families be a little easier if your colleagues, friends, community and civic leaders saw *The Raising of America*?

They’ll have the chance starting this week.

[From Feb. 1st - 15th, anyone can stream the entire series at **www.raisingofamerica.org** -- for free.](#)

And on **Feb. 3rd or Feb. 7th**, most [public television stations](#) will broadcast *The Raising of America-Signature Hour* on their WORLD Channel during prime time. (You can find your local station, its World

Channel and broadcast schedule for *The Raising of America* in [this Google doc.](#))

Please share both opportunities widely! We've provided some sample Facebook posts and Tweets below. Or forward this newsletter.

After viewing, visit the series' [companion website](#) to:

- [Connect with our partner organizations](#) already using the series to reframe how we view early childhood,
- [find screenings](#) in your area,
- and [join the campaign](#) and host your own screenings and discussions.

We know the conversation needs to change to better assure the conditions all young children need for a strong start--but how?

[Start with our Action Toolkit](#) to spark discussion around the most strategic ways your organization can use the series; [think beyond your sector](#) to consider how your organization can connect with or support living wage jobs, affordable housing, racial justice, paid family leave, high-quality universal early care; etc.; and for inspiration check out a few of the many [innovative ways organizations are using the series](#) to make young children and their families a local, state, even national priority.

Thank you for helping make a strong start the birthright of every baby in the United States!

Sincerely,
The Raising of America Team

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