



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings February 15, 2016 Vol. 3, 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](#).

"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 February 23rd!

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 information for the day.

To Register for the 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!

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. 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!!!

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:

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.

Inclusion in Early Childhood Programs— Webinar Series Kickoff – Two Important Dates

Thursday, February 11th, 3:00 pm, EST.

The U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services invite you to join them via Google Hangout for a discussion about [inclusion in early childhood programs](#) and why it matters to states, early childhood programs, families, and young children with and without disabilities.

Speakers include:

[Michael Yudin](#) Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, U.S. Department of Education

[Linda Smith](#) Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

[Libby Doggett](#) Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Early Learning U.S. Department of Education

[Aaron Bishop](#) Commissioner of the Administration on Disabilities, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The discussion kicks off a series of webinars on the research, practice, and public awareness of inclusion in early childhood programs, to be held over the next several months.

[Click here to view the event.](#)

[We recommend you use your most up-to-date browser for viewing]

If you have questions for our speakers prior to the event, please post them on twitter at [#inclusiongov](#), or email ECinclusion@ed.gov

National Inclusion Webinar

Thursday, February 18, 2016, 3:00 - 4:00 pm EST

Preschool Inclusion: What's the Evidence, What Gets in the Way, and What do High-Quality Programs Look Like?

Presented by:

Linda Smith (Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development for the ACF at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)

Phil Strain (Director, PELE Center; Faculty, ECTA Center; Professor, Education Psychology & Early Childhood Special Education, University of Colorado Denver)

This webinar will focus on:

1. an overview of the 40 years of research supporting early childhood inclusion,
2. a review of myths surrounding the children, adults and systems that support inclusion, and;
3. a review of common features across the inclusion models that have produced the most powerful outcomes.

We hope everyone will register independently, even if they plan on viewing the webinar with a group! If you miss the live event, we'll make a recording available afterward.

Sign-up here: https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bOTYadlytmCOWiV

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

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.



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.”

Results Leadership Group Offers Free Webinar

Results Leadership Group is proud to present its first FREE Results Scorecard Community of Practice Webinar: [Results Scorecard Community of Practice: Best Practices to Turning Curves](#). The webinar will be held on Tuesday March 15th, on GoTo Webinar from 1:00pm – 2:30pm (EST). Lauren Chambers, Certified Results Scorecard Administrator and Scorecard Training Manager at Results Leadership Group will be presenting the webinar.

To Learn more to Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4130546699030496770>

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

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