



Early Childhood Iowa
Monday Musings
February 29, 2016
Vol. 3, No. 9

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](#).

*“Children have real understanding only of that which they invent themselves, and each time that we try to teach them too quickly, we keep them from reinventing it themselves”
-Jean Piaget*

State Information:

The Early Childhood Day on the Hill is a Success

Well over 100 early childhood advocates attended the 2016 Early Childhood Day on the Hill event at the State Capitol on February 23rd.

This year’s theme was:

***“Moving Iowa’s Child Care System to Become
Child-Focused, Family Friendly and Fair to Providers”***

The focus was the implementation of the new federal policies to improve access to higher quality child care environments for children, especially those in low income families. While the Department of Human Services is ultimately responsible for the implementation of the policies, it take a wide spectrum of people from parents to child advocates to businesses to push for the new policies for supporting children and their families.

Speakers for the day, described from their perspective the impact of implementing new polices for the child care assistance program and the use of federal funds to improve the child care system.

Joanne Lane, chair of the Early Childhood Iowa State Board, provided some history about the federal child care bock grant and that we should all celebrate the new federal requirements to move the needle toward better care for children.

Speaking on behalf of children and families, Elizabeth Vitiritto and Rochean Cofield, both parents from the Des Moines area, told their stories how the child care assistance program for low income families helped them keep job and further their education. But, they also talked about how the impending

changes would have assisted them even more in keeping their children in consistent child care environments and in reducing the “cliff effect”.

Wendy Van Haaften, Iowa Department of Human Services, described how the implementation of the new policies will better support children, their families and child care providers.

Dave Arens, of Wells Fargo Private Bank, described how when children are in quality child care, employee productivity is positively impacts. He also visually described how investments in quality child care compounds interest far beyond banking accounts and other financial investment.

Informational tables surrounding the Capitol rotunda were provided by high quality child care providers and child advocacy organizations.

Participants in the day reported supportive interactions with their legislators.

To view the handouts, talking points and other information go to [2016 Day on the Hill](#).

2016 Child at Heart Awardees Announced

As a part of the 2016, Early Childhood Day on the Hill activities, the 2016 Child at Heart awardees were announces. This year’s recipients are **Steve Scott** and **Chris Carman**. Below are the remarks provided by Joann Lane, chair Early Childhood Iowa State Board who presented the awards.

Steve Scott:

Steve joined Prevent Child Abuse Iowa in 1996 as the fourth executive director and only full-time staff member. Over his tenure, he has expanded the organization to six staff who deliver a comprehensive approach to preventing child abuse through building awareness, providing assistance, and promoting advocacy.



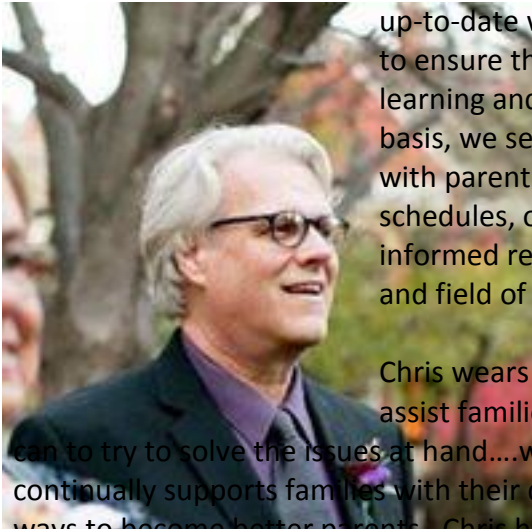
His greatest achievements involve serving as a voice for Iowa's vulnerable children. His advocacy accomplishments include furthering child sexual abuse prevention efforts with increased funding and expanded education for adults; helping form a statewide shaken baby syndrome prevention program that now informs most new parents in Iowa hospitals on the Period of Purple Crying; and ensuring greater funding for family support efforts. He has been a recognized voice for prevention in the media during visible child abuse cases including Shelby Duis in 2000 and the Sandusky child sexual abuse scandal at Penn State in 2011-2012.

Steve leaves Prevent Child Abuse Iowa after 19 years of passion and dedication to making Iowa families stronger and more state and community leaders committed to the cause of child abuse prevention.

Chris Carman:

Chris Carman is retiring after 16 years as the Director of the Linn County Child Development Center in Cedar Rapids. There are many accomplishments that I could tell you about.....things like how Chris was chosen by Scholastic’s “Early Childhood Today Magazine” as the Early Childhood Director of the Year in 2001. I could also tell you that in 1994 he was invited to attend the White House Presidential signing of the Head Start Reauthorization Act by the

National Head Start Bureau in Washington, D.C. I could even tell you that from 1993-1997, he was a member of the National Advisory Committee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's, "Free to Grow" Head Start Substance Abuse Prevention Projects. But the real Chris Carman can best be reflected in the words that his staff uses to describe him. Here is what they say:



"Chris is always in the forefront, making sure the center is up-to-date with Accreditation and DHS licensure. He strives to ensure that all staff is trained in areas that promote the learning and development of young children. On a daily basis, we see Chris interacting with the children, meeting with parents, providing support in classrooms, creating staff schedules, organizing staff development and keeping staff informed regarding the many issues that affect our center and field of early childhood.

Chris wears his heart on his sleeve and is always willing to assist families in need. Chris not only listens, but does all he can to try to solve the issues at hand...whether it takes 5 minutes or 5 days. Chris continually supports families with their day-to-day needs as well as educating them on ways to become better parents. Chris has a strong belief that every child deserves an education in a stimulating environment with well-educated teachers. He values his employees' hard work and commitment to their students.

What many of us do not see are the immeasurable hours Chris spends finding the funds and resources necessary to keep the operation of our center running smoothly. Chris has secured several grants for the betterment of the center, including new equipment for the gym and a redesign of the playground in order to make it an outdoor learning environment. As teachers, we are grateful for his creativity and ability to find funds for items we need in our classrooms.

As an advocate for young children, we often see Chris on the road meeting with local community leaders and state legislators to discuss how vital support and funding for early childhood programs are, and what it means to the future of our communities to provide early educational opportunities for our children.

Words cannot express the tireless efforts of Chris Carman on behalf of young children and their families. Chris sees the gaps in early childhood programming and doesn't just make a note; he strives to make a change on both the local and state levels. Chris' political advocacy has provided not only funding for children in Linn County, but also assistance in educating legislators in the research surrounding early education and the benefits it provides to children, families and community.

Chris Carman is a visionary, a collaborator, an advocate and a change maker. He is a true champion for young children and their families."

Senate Study Bill 3128 Update

Senate Study Bill 3128 was discussed by a sub-committee of the Senate Appropriations committee recommended it be sent back to the full committee for further discussion.

This bill relates to the early childhood Iowa initiative. The early childhood Iowa (ECI) initiative was created to empower individuals, communities, and the state to work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of early care, education, health, and human services systems provided to families with children from zero through age five. The ECI state board, ECI area boards, and other state and local government agencies provide support, leadership, and facilitation of the growth of individual, community, and state responsibility in addressing the desired results for improving the quality of life in this state for young children and their families.

To read more about the bill go to: [SSB3128](#)

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 in February. 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.

ACF Announces Availability of Funds for Expanding Access to High Quality Services

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announces the availability of approximately \$135 million to be competitively awarded for the purpose of expanding access to high-quality, comprehensive services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families through Early Head Start – Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnerships or through the expansion of Early Head Start services. ACF solicits applications from public entities, including states, or private nonprofit organizations, including community-based or faith-based organizations, or for-profit agencies that meet eligibility for applying as stated in Section 645A of the Head Start Act.

Three forecasts for upcoming EHS-CC Partnership Funding Announcements were posted on February 18, 2016.

- For Early Head Start Expansion and EHS-Child Care Partnership Grants, see http://www.acf.hhs.gov/hhsgrantsforecast/index.cfm?switch=grant.view&gff_grants_forecastInfoID=73942
- For American Indian/Alaska Native EHS Expansion and EHS-Child Care Partnerships, see http://www.acf.hhs.gov/hhsgrantsforecast/index.cfm?switch=grant.view&gff_grants_forecastInfoID=73943
- For Migrant and Seasonal EHS-Child Care and EHS Expansion Partnerships, see http://www.acf.hhs.gov/hhsgrantsforecast/index.cfm?switch=grant.view&gff_grants_forecastInfoID=73944

Interested applicants may e-mail EHS.CCPartnerships@acf.hhs.gov for additional information.

For more information about Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships, visit <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehs-ccp>.

Current Wages, Despite Educational Attainment, Undermine Quality Care Goals

By Linda K. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development

One of the top goals of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 is to increase the number and percentage of low income children in high quality care. What we know is that high quality care is related to the strength of the workforce, which means the education and training, the experience, and pay to attract and retain teachers and caregivers who can offer high quality care.

What we also know is that quality care costs more to provide (i.e., it costs more to attract and retain higher educated staff and to maintain low child:staff ratios, which studies show lead to higher quality/more effective interactions between children and adults). The challenge to expanding access to high quality care in every community is that parents already struggle to afford the cost of care. They simply can't pay more. And, yet, most children in early learning

settings today, are in settings financed through parent fees. To promote high quality care across settings, with a well-educated and trained workforce, it is essential that we find an alternative way to finance our early learning system – the current system doesn't work. We need to close the gap between what parents can afford to pay and what it costs to ensure high quality teachers.

The [National Survey of Early Care and Education](#), a study funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, presents the first nationally representative portrait of ECE teachers and caregivers working in center and home-based settings, including a review based on their educational attainment, years of experience, and wages earned.

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

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.**

Calling all Superheroes!

Grab a sidekick and your cape and join Prevent Child Abuse Iowa's third annual [Superheroes Pedaling for Prevention](#) bike rides! There will be a Family Ride and a Community Ride. Both rides will take place Saturday, May 14. For more information or to register go to the link above.

Iowa AEYC Spring Leadership Institute Registration is Open

IA AEYC is pleased to present the [registration booklet](#) (link) for the 2016 Iowa AEYC Spring Leadership Institute. This year's event will be held Saturday, May 7, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Holiday Inn & Suite Northwest, 4800 Merle Hay Rd, Des Moines, IA 50322. The attached registration booklet contains a detailed agenda for the day focused on the subject of **STEM**. We will be joined by Dr. Douglas Clements, University of Denver, who will present a keynote address on the subject, "Why Math? The Importance of Mathematics in Early Childhood Education Programs."

In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of break-out sessions on such topics as:

- Strategies for Teaching Mathematics for Children Ages 3-5
- Farm to Early Childhood Education: Using Healthy Locally Grown Foods and Fitness to Impact Children's Futures
- Math and Science in the Iowa Early Learning Standards and Iowa Core, Birth through Grade 3
- Ramps and Pathways

- Project Approach and Outdoor Education: Infusing STEM into Curriculum
- STEM in Infant-Toddler Care Settings

Registration fees are \$75 for AEYC members; \$95 for non-members. We hope you can join us for this important event.

New CLASP Analysis Highlights Disparate Access to CCDBG and Head Start by Race, Ethnicity

In a unique analysis released on February 17, 2016, [*Disparate Access: Head Start and CCDBG Data by Race and Ethnicity*](#), CLASP finds that access to child care subsidies and Head Start is sharply limited for all eligible children and even more so for particular racial and ethnic groups and in particular states. The report confirms low levels of access nationally to Head Start preschool, Early Head Start, and child care funded through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), because of the large gap between current investment and need. It also finds distressingly low levels of access for particular groups of children:

- **Eligible Hispanic or Latino children have sharply lower access to CCDBG than eligible children of other backgrounds.** While 13 percent of eligible children (ages 0-13) and 21 percent of eligible Black children receive child care assistance through CCDBG, only 8 percent of eligible Hispanic or Latino children get help.
- **Poor infants and toddlers are unlikely to access high-quality early childhood services through Early Head Start.** No more than 6 percent of eligible children in *any* racial/ethnic group have access to Early Head Start.
- **While gaps in access to Head Start preschool exist, since fewer than half of all eligible children have access, program access does not appear to be as significantly impacted by race/ethnicity.** Fifty-four percent of eligible Black children and 38 percent of eligible Hispanic or Latino children are served in Head Start preschool, with additional eligible Hispanic or Latino children served through the Migrant Head Start program.

The report includes state-level differences in access by eligible children to Head Start, EHS, and CCDBG, which are also striking. While more analysis is needed to fully understand the causes of differential access across racial and ethnic groups and across states, we offer some hypotheses and insights. Stagnant federal funding and outdated funding formulas prevent states with growing or diversifying child populations to target new resources to underserved communities. State-level decision making in CCDBG may result in state policies that contribute to inequities in access and Head Start's explicit focus on reaching underserved families and communities may contribute to less disparate access in that program.

With this analysis, CLASP intends to begin a conversation about how to ensure equal access to critical early childhood programs across low-income communities of all backgrounds.

[*Read Disparate Access: Head Start and CCDBG Data by Race and Ethnicity >>*](#)

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

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