



## Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings May 9, 2016 Vol. 3, No. 18

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](mailto:jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov)

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

*“The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen”  
-Frank Lloyd Wright*

### State Information:

#### Early Childhood Iowa Senate File 2299

Senate File 2299 was passed by the Iowa House on April 28, 2016 and is ready for the Governor’s signature.

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: [SF2299](#)

#### Iowa Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan

The Iowa Department of Human Services, Division of Adult, Children and Family Services submitted the State Plan to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care on March 1, 2016 and are now awaiting federal approval. Click [Child Care Development Fund State Plan](#) to see the current plan.

### Federal Information:

#### STEM starts early! Supporting our Youngest Innovators

Building on the President’s [early learning](#) and [“Educate to Innovate”](#) agendas, the White House, with the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services, seeks to advance a [focus on STEM experiences in a child’s earliest years](#) by identifying research gaps, best practices, and technologies to support young children, parents and caregivers, educators, and communities. This spring, the

Administration and [Invest in US](#) will hold an event at the White House on this important work and highlight external commitments along with federal resources and materials.

### **Benefits of Two-Generation Efforts in Early Learning**

The U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services has issued a [policy statement](#) that sets a vision and provides recommendations to states, local educational agencies, schools and public and private early childhood programs for implementing effective family engagement policies and practices to improve outcomes for children from birth through third grade. Strong family engagement in early learning systems is central—not supplemental—to promoting children’s healthy intellectual, physical, and social-emotional development; preparing children for success in school; and supporting academic achievement in elementary school and beyond.

### **Other Information:**

#### **What is Systems Building? – (BUILD)**

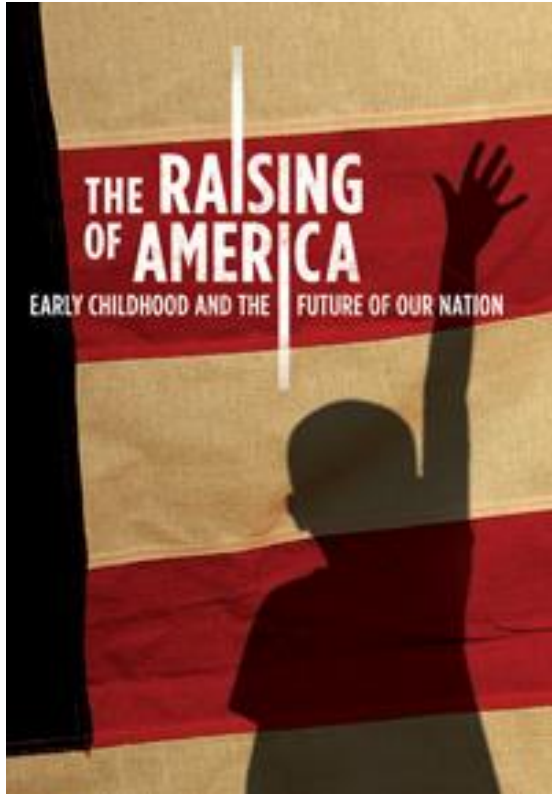
Since 2002, the BUILD Initiative has worked to promote a vision of a comprehensive early childhood system in which families can easily access high-quality early learning and development opportunities, regardless of their neighborhood, and agencies working with children and families can have the resources to meet the needs of our diverse young child and family population.

Today, we are thrilled to share with you a [video](#) that describes that vision and explains why systems building is so crucial for achieving equitable outcomes for our youngest children. Systems building is complex, but we all know that we must work at the program, practice, policy and systems levels to achieve our goals of young children thriving.

### **5 Ways Trauma-Informed Care Supports Children's Development (Child Trends)**

Childhood trauma is [common](#). More than two thirds of children in the United States experience a [traumatic event or circumstances](#)--such as [abuse or neglect](#), death of a loved one, or [community violence](#)--by the time they turn 16. [Young children \(birth to age five\)](#), in particular, are disproportionately exposed to [traumatic events and circumstances](#).

To find out more: [5 Ways Trauma-Informed Care Supports Children's Development](#)



## SAVE THE DATE

### **The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation**

Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion

**Wednesday, May 25**

**2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Plymouth Church

4126 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines IA

Join us for a screening of this powerful documentary that explores how a strong start for all our kids can lead to a healthier, safer, better educated and more prosperous and equitable America.

A panel of early childhood experts, advocates, and community leaders will engage participants to discuss current efforts and future needs to invest in kids and parents. **Registration Information Available Soon**

### **Diversity Makes Us Smarter**

An excerpt from a **Scientific American** article, "[How Diversity Makes Us Smarter](#)," which makes this same argument from a scientific point of view:

"Diversity of expertise confers benefits that are obvious—you would not think of building a new car without engineers, designers and quality-control experts—but what about social diversity? What good comes from diversity of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation? Research has shown that social diversity in a group can cause discomfort, rougher interactions, a lack of trust, greater perceived interpersonal conflict, lower communication, less cohesion, more concern about disrespect, and other problems. So what is the upside?

"The fact is that if you want to build teams or organizations capable of innovating, you need diversity. Diversity enhances creativity. It encourages the search for novel information and perspectives, leading to better decision making and problem solving. Diversity can improve the bottom line of companies and lead to unfettered discoveries and breakthrough innovations. Even simply being exposed to diversity can change the way you think. This is not just wishful thinking: it is the conclusion I draw from decades of research from organizational scientists, psychologists, sociologists, economists and demographers."

**Save the Date: Iowa AEYC Fall Early Care and Education Institute**

Mark your calendar for September 30 and October 1, 2016 for the Early Care and Education Fall Institute. Registration materials will be available in early summer. Again this year, the Institute will be held at Prairie Meadows Events & Conference Center, Altoona, IA.

To view the Announcement: [Early Care and Education Institute](#)

**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

June 3

September 9

November 4

**ECI Steering Committee**

Time Varies

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)

**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