



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings January 9, 2017 Vol. 4, No. 1

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](#).

“Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time; the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. Mankind must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

State Information

Input sought on first draft of Iowa’s Every Student Succeeds Act plan Statewide meetings set Jan. 9-19; online feedback accepted through Feb. 15

Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise today announced that the [first draft of Iowa’s state plan](#) for meeting requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act is now available for public comment through an online feedback [survey](#) as well as a two-week [statewide tour](#) that Department leaders will kick off on Monday, Jan. 9.

“We have spent several months collecting feedback from Iowans about what they think student success should look like in our state, and this first draft is a critical step in the process of implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act,” Wise said. “I want to emphasize that this draft is not our final plan, and we need broad input from education stakeholders to guide our revisions so that we ultimately submit a final plan that makes sense for Iowa.”

Wise and other department leaders have sought input on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) through 13 public forums in 2016, a state advisory committee, focus groups with education advocates, education work teams focused on specific components of ESSA, and written comments. Iowans are invited to give feedback on the first draft of Iowa’s ESSA plan in the online feedback survey, which is open through Feb. 15, or in person during the statewide information tour from Jan. 9-19. A meeting schedule is available on the Iowa Department of Education’s [website](#).

Feedback also can be submitted via email at ESSA@iowa.gov or by mail: Iowa Department of Education, Attn: Deputy Director David Tilly/ESSA Feedback, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

Comments will be considered in a revised draft of Iowa's ESSA plan, which is expected in May.

About the Every Student Succeeds Act: ESSA is a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. This update, which received bipartisan support in Congress and was signed by the President in 2015, replaces the No Child Left Behind Act and will be fully implemented in the 2017-18 school year. ESSA maintains a focus on transparency and accountability while returning more authority to states and local school districts to set goals and create systems of support that will improve student learning. Under ESSA, Iowa and other states must develop state plans that address academic standards, assessments, school and district accountability, funding, and support for struggling schools.

Federal Information:

Early Childhood and Housing Working Together

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an annual count of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in the last 10 days in January. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires its Continuum of Care (CoC) grantees to conduct an annual count of sheltered homeless persons. CoCs also must conduct a count of unsheltered homeless persons every other year (odd numbered years). Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally by service providers and trained volunteers. While many CoCs complete their count of unsheltered persons on the night designated for the count, given the additional challenges associated with counting people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, some CoCs conduct their unsheltered count over the seven days following the night of the count. This "post-night" approach may be particularly useful for counting unsheltered families and youth with young children.

Many children in the United States start life without a home: in 2013, over one million children under six were estimated to have experienced homelessness.

Infants, toddlers and preschoolers who experience homelessness are at grave risk of developmental delays due to a variety of factors such as a lack of prenatal and early health care, crowded and unsanitary living conditions, poor nutrition, and the trauma caused by severe poverty and unstable living arrangements.

Early childhood providers who are serving young children and families experiencing homelessness can support the Continuum of Care (CoC) count efforts, thereby ensuring that families with young children are more likely to be included in this important count.

Please see the new 2-page fact sheet entitled *Housing and Early Childhood Programs on the January 2017 Point-In-Time Count*, available at

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/pit_count_2017ecefina.pdf?nocache=1481234077 .

This fact sheet, geared towards an early childhood audience, provides information about HUD's annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count, and suggests strategies for how early childhood programs can help ensure the most comprehensive and effective count of families experiencing homelessness.

ECE involvement in PIT count planning can provide valuable insights into and help with

- selecting child/family-friendly count sites and creating a welcoming environment there,
- selecting child/family-friendly incentives for count participation,
- recruiting volunteers, and
- suggesting other local service providers to assist with the count.

See the fact

sheet https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/pit_count_2017ecefina.pdf?nocache=1481234077.

CDC Releases—Milestones in Action

Parents and Caregivers

You can click on an age above to see photo and video examples of important developmental milestones. This library can be used as an aid in completing the milestones checklist for your child's age. To see these photos and videos with milestones checklists, please visit [this Web site](#).

Professionals

No permissions are needed to use the photos and images in this library for educational or awareness-building purposes.

Other Information:

New flu-prevention course for child care providers

The American Academy of Pediatrics has a new online influenza-prevention course for early education and child care providers. The free online course educates staff who work in Head Start and other early education and child care programs about influenza policies and strategies that help keep children healthy. The AAP also has other online training modules for child-care providers. [Click here](#) for more, including a registration link.

The Father Effect

"A father is a son's first hero and a daughter's first love." - Parenting Matters

In July 2016, The Academy of Sciences released its report, partially supported by the Department of Education, Parenting Matters: Supporting Parents of Children 0-8. The report reviews research on parenting practices and programs which have been successful in supporting parents, as well as suggests areas where greater work in parenting intervention is needed. One of the areas for improvement highlighted was the inclusion of fathers in parenting intervention programs, and perhaps more importantly, "starting with the expectation that they will participate."

The Academies of Science convened interested parties in a follow-up to this report to talk specifically about supporting fathers in November 2016. Representatives from stakeholders such as Health and Human Services, Virginia Department of Health, Campaign for Black Male Achievement, Harvard Medical School, and the Department of Education, gathered to discuss ways to better include and support fathers in parenting. The importance of engaging fathers in school was also discussed at the NCFE Family Summit in October, as well as in initiatives from the National PTA.

Why this emphasis on fathers? Research supports that when nurturing fathers are involved in their children's lives, children develop:

- better linguistic and cognitive skills and capacities,
- increased academic readiness,
- more emotional security, and

better social connections with peers as they get older (source: The Father Effect, The National Academies of Sciences) The initiatives and interest of these different stakeholder organizations and agencies, in various ways, encourages programs, schools, and organizations which support parents to make the effort to reach out to fathers, to invite them to bring their skills and interests to the organizations, to enhance their parenting skills, and to assist them in seeing the importance of fathers in the development of their children.

For more information, see the [study on the National Academies of Science website](#).



OpportUNITY Insights is a weekly email that highlights some of the top stories in reducing poverty. If you see or hear about best practices that could inform and support our work in Central Iowa, please send them to Eric Kinman, OpporTUNITY Project Manager, at eric.kinman@unitedwaydm.org.

- Quality early education programs can produce long-term returns - [NPR](#)
- Exploring the stark dividing lines between rich and poor in American cities - [Wealth Divides](#)
- Pilot program provides same-day work for Denver's homeless - [The Denver Post](#)
- The Crippling Effect of Incarceration on Wealth - [Prison Policy Initiative](#)
- Two Minneapolis grocery stores / clinic to be built in an underserved area - [Star Tribune](#)
- Refugees Resettled In Chicago Help Make Its Most Famous Cheesecake - [NPR](#)
- Child Care Scarcity Has Very Real Consequences For Working Families - [NPR](#)
- Partnership for a Hunger-Free Polk County to expand further - [Business Record](#)

OpportUNITY is collective impact initiative designed to increase opportunity and prosperity for the 192,000 central lowans living in poverty. OpportUNITY brings together community members from different sectors to focus on the major factors impacting poverty, including employment readiness, food insecurity, adult and youth education, homelessness, transportation, housing, and more. OpportUNITY's goal is to increase the percentage of people who are financially self-sufficient from 64.7% in 2013 to 75% in 2020 (American Community Survey Poverty Thresholds, 2013).

Free Online Instruction Provides Overview of the Development of Dual-Language Learners (FPG):

Through [these videos and reflection assignments](#), early childhood professionals will begin to identify ways to support DLLs in their own care settings. This free module provides an overview of the cognitive, social-emotional, and language development of dual language learners (DLLs) as well as examples of how early childhood professionals can support children.

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>

2017 ECI Meeting Calendar:

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00

April 7

June 2

September 8

November 3

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

March 2 (9:00 – 4:00 PM)

April 6 (9:00 AM – Noon)

June 1 (9:00 AM – Noon)

August 3 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

February 28 (PM)

May 9 (PM)

September 12 (AM)

December 12 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

April 19 All day

(June will be regional meetings)

September 12 (afternoon)

December 6 All day