



IHSA Advisor:

Reflections & Connections

April/May 2017

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Updates from IHSA Executive Director, Lauri Morrison-Frichtl

Happy Spring! I love spring - the green, the flowers, the smell of fresh dirt and the warmer weather. As a child I picked daffodils from a large field of blooming daffodils on my family's farm in Michigan, placed them in an old, washed out soup can and sold them for twenty-five cents a bunch. I thought I was making the "big bucks". Only if life was still that simple!



As usual lots to talk about and it isn't at all simple. What we know about the FY17 funding approved by Congress last week is that it included an \$85 million increase for COLA and retained the funding for EHS-CC Partnerships and Preschool Development Grants. The \$85 million increase is even more impressive when you consider that the overall FY17 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill is \$934 million below FY16 levels AND that the National Institute of Health received a roughly \$2 billion increase! But, now the not so simple. The President's Budget for FY18 is likely to come out during the week of May 22nd. We will keep you posted as we look for this to be a challenge.

Last week Congressman Banks from Indiana introduced a bill, "The Head Start Improvement Act" that would block grant Head Start. This means, funding would flow to the states instead of directly to local programs. We believe that this is a credible threat. Congressman Banks shared, "It is clear that Head Start needs a new start, and we need a new approach to early childhood education. To do that, I am introducing the Head Start Improvement Act. The bill would give states full control of how they spend Head Start dollars and is a companion bill to legislation introduced by Utah Sen. Mike Lee. If our bill were enacted, states would be free of the strings that always accompany money earmarked for federal programs, and they would have the flexibility to ensure pre-K dollars flow to where they will be used most effectively. State legislators in Indiana and across the country support this concept".

Here's what we have done so far. We have signed on to a national letter sponsored by NHSA. Every state and regional Association across the country signed on to this letter. NHSA sent this sign on letter to Congressman Banks, Senator Lee and then to all Members on the Hill. Next we sent each of our Illinois Congressional Members an email indicating our concerns and shared the sign on letter. Now, we call each office. This includes each of us making calls to your respective Member of Congress. You can go on to the IHSA website, www.ilheadstart.org to find your representative. We want them to know that Head Start stays FEDERAL TO LOCAL. Use these two major points when talking with the office.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Updates from Associate Head Start State Collaboration Director, Donna Emmons

Happy Mother's Day

I hope everyone has a wonderful Mother's Day this month whether you celebrate it with your own mom or with your children or with family.



Anika Todd

The HS State Collaboration Director from DHS resigned her position as of March 31 and has taken a job with DCFS. She formerly worked with DCFS. The job is being re-posted soon and we hope to have someone hired this summer.

Early Childhood Block Grant Re-Competition Delayed until FY 2019

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has announced that a revised plan for the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) funding for FY 2018 is being put in place to allow predictability and stability for currently funded grantees while also allowing for program expansion opportunities. Due to delays in the release of the Requests for Proposals, the full re-competition of the ECBG is being delayed until FY 2019, pending final Board approval. Currently funded Preschool for All (PFA), Preschool for All Expansion (PFAE), and Prevention Initiative (PI) grantees will receive continuation funding for FY 2018 and will complete continuation applications. **For FY 2018, there will be two RFPs, one for PFAE and one for PI, released in May 2017 that will be open to new applicants and continuing programs. Awards for these two RFPs will be based on additional funding being appropriated to the ECBG.**

For the full re-competition for FY 2019, there will be three RFPs: 1) Preschool for All, 2) Preschool for All Expansion, and 3) Prevention Initiative. The anticipated release date for these RFPs is fall/winter 2017. Information will continue to be posted on the Early Childhood RFP webpage.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Say Thank You to Congress for Head Start's Fiscal Year 2017 Funding Increase!

Congress just passed an \$85 million increase to Head Start and Early Head Start funding for Fiscal Year 2017. The bill will now go to the president for his signature. The increase of \$85 million is allocated specifically to support the Head Start and Early Head Start workforce through a cost-of-living adjustment, including the Early

Head Start expansion and Child Care partnerships.

Take a moment to [show your appreciation by thanking your Members of Congress](#) for doing what is right by standing up for the children and families of Head Start. It's easy and most importantly necessary!

While we understand that additional funding is still necessary to effectively implement many of the positive changes in the new Performance Standards, this is a great step forward, especially as we try to strengthen our workforce. We want to thank Members of Congress for their support thus far, while ensuring that they continue to prioritize

Head Start funding in the years to come. We want the ability to improve quality without cutting access!

Please take ONE MINUTE today to send a simple message to your Members of Congress, showing your appreciation and gratitude for their commitment to America's most vulnerable children and families by supporting an increase in Head Start's funding this Fiscal Year. It's quick and easy, [just follow this link](#).

Staff Appreciation in Head Start: 14 Ways that We Can Do It!

By The Gravely Group
April 9, 2017

So nobody really talks about it. We speak about big data, family engagement and school readiness all the time. We write memos about it and have meetings and trainings. Are we forgetting there is something else very important? Once a year, perhaps on teacher appreciation week, Office of Head Start may tweet or blog appreciation for all you do. But, there is more to do than that. One researcher found 36% of Head Start teachers left within the first year. The new Head Start Performance Standards adds additional strain to our already overtaxed staff.

- Are you suffering from high turnover rate of staff?
- Do you find staff is burnt out, stressed or frazzled?
- Are you feeling stressed every time you think about your job?

It's not supposed to be like this. Let's commit to a better year. More appreciation, less stress.

Here are some ways to do make your staff feel more appreciated.

- 1. Are your staff's basic needs being met? Have coffee, tea, and drinkable water available. Do they have time to complete their work? Ask them. Perhaps you need to build in more time for paperwork.**
- 2. Give your staff a break when needed. Did a staff member come in with tears, or seems very angry? Offer to take his/her post for ten minutes so s/he can grab a drink and calm down.**

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

Pre-K: Decades Worth Of Studies, One Strong Message

Heather Stanek | Times-Press
Mar 21, 2017

Some of the nation's top researchers who've spent their careers studying early childhood education recently got together in Washington with one goal in mind: to cut through the fog of studies and the endless debates over the benefits of preschool. They came away with one clear, strong message: Kids who attend public preschool programs are better prepared for kindergarten than kids who don't.

The findings come in a report "The Current State of Scientific Knowledge on Pre-Kindergarten Effects," and the authors include big names from the early childhood world: Deborah Phillips of Georgetown University, Mark W. Lipsey of Vanderbilt, Kenneth Dodge of Duke, Ron Haskins of the Brookings Institution and others.

It lays out the current state of preschool education in the U.S. and what research can tell us about what works and what doesn't.

Among their key findings, drawing from across the research base, are:

- While all kids benefit from preschool, poor and disadvantaged kids often make the most gains. "Researchers who study pre-K education often find that children who have had early experiences of economic scarcity and insecurity gain more from these programs than their more advantaged peers."
- Children who are dual-language learners "show relatively large benefits from pre-K education" - both in their English-language proficiency and in other academic skills. Dual-language learners are mostly low income, Spanish speaking children, often with underdeveloped pre-literacy and pre-math skills. But, says Phillips, "there's substantial evidence now that, because they're learning two languages at the same time, they have stronger brain circuits that support self regulation." That may explain why preschool can help them make quick progress: "Their capacity to incorporate new information and to switch attention from one task to another, these are the skills they bring."

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

This May, Empower Kids to Be Physically Active

By Fran Cleland | April 26, 2017

An annual event, National Physical Education & Sport Week, is held May 1-7, to raise awareness for effective health and physical education.

Led by SHAPE America - Society of Health and Physical Educators, this week is dedicated to empowering all children to lead healthy and active lives through effective health and physical education programs - a commitment known as 50 Million Strong by 2029

Active Kids Learn Better

When kids are active they focus more, think more clearly, react to stress more calmly, and perform and behave better in class.

That's why it's so important that our schools offer well-designed health and physical education programs and provide opportunities for students to meet the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity before, during, and after school.

Physical education is where kids develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be physically active for a lifetime. Offered within schools, it can provide access to physical activity for all students regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, or urban/suburban/rural setting.

Throughout the country, SHAPE America members are leading effective health education, physical education and physical activity programs that make a difference!

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

Helping Young Children Who Have Experienced Trauma: Policies and Strategies for Early Care and Education

APR 27, 2017 by:

Jessica Dym Bartlett, MSW, PhD Senior Research Scientist Child Welfare/Early Childhood Development Child Trends

Sheila Smith, PhD Director, Early Childhood National Center for Children in Poverty Mailman School of Public Health Columbia University

Elizabeth Bringewatt, MSW, PhD Research Scientist Child Welfare Child Trends

This report from Child Trends and the National Center for Children in Poverty includes a review of the prevalence of early childhood trauma and its effects. The report offers promising strategies for child care and preschool programs looking to help young children who have endured trauma, and presents recommendations for policymakers to support trauma-informed early care.

[SEE FULL REPORT HERE](#)

Why Early Learning Matters

By Arik Korman on April 27, 2017

On my first day of first grade, I stood up and said that I wanted to become a teacher. I never wavered from that goal. As I got older, I had the opportunity to work in a school for children with disabilities about the time that PL 94-142 (the first special education law) went into place. I went to Central Washington University and earned my degree in Special Education with an elementary minor. Later in my career I went on to complete two Master's degrees, the first in Curriculum and Instruction, and the second in Educational Leadership.

I worked most of my career in the Marysville School District, about half the time in special education and the remainder of the time in general education. I have taught kindergarten, first grade, second grade, fifth grade, sixth grade, resource room, elementary, middle school, and high school EBD (Emotional and Behavioral Disorder) classrooms. I have also worked on the core education faculty at Antioch-Seattle, the adjunct faculty at Western Washington University at Bellingham, Everett, North and South Seattle satellite campuses. I was the original developer of both distance and online learning components of continuing education for Seattle Pacific University. And I have consulted on a variety of topics in an eight-state region of the Northwest and Southwest US.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

A Path Out Of Poverty: Career Training + Quality Head Start

Jayati Ramakrishnan

April 28, 2017

What makes a high-quality learning program effective not just for the child but the whole family? What else, besides a well-run early ed or pre-K program, is essential to help families break out of intergenerational poverty?

These are some of the key questions that an approach called "two-generation" programs are working to answer. There are many of these "two-gen" programs across the U.S. And while they differ in emphasis and detail, at their core they intentionally focus on ways to help both the child and parent. Usually this happens

through targeted education and career training and other vital support such as health services, mentoring, and transportation. NPR Ed has been keeping an eye on one innovative two-gen program in Oklahoma. It's called Career Advance and is run by the Community Action Project of Tulsa County (CAP Tulsa). I've reported on it here and here. It gives low-income parents access to high-quality Head Start for their children, alongside free career training in nursing and other in-demand health care fields as well as life coaching and support. A new study on the first year impact of Tulsa's Career Advance shows that, so far, Career Advance is working well for both parents and their children. In fact, the study says, CAP Tulsa's program is working better than similar combined job training and Head Start programs elsewhere in terms of job certification, employment, income and overall well-being for the parent. And, the report shows, the program has boosted attendance and reduced absenteeism among participating children.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

New Chicago Nonprofit Gives Needy Kids Clothes They Can Be Proud Of

by Erica Gunderson

Like any garment factory, the clothing that comes out of this Northwest Side warehouse is carefully inspected for quality before getting shipped out to customers. When a flaw is spotted - a stain, a missing button or a broken zipper - the item is pulled off the line and tossed into a bin for recycling.

But Cradles to Crayons, a Boston-based nonprofit organization that opened a Chicago location last spring, isn't a garment factory. It's a giving factory. Here, the clothing is donated, the workers are volunteers and the customers are Chicago children in need.

Executive Director Bernard Cherkasov says that Cradles to Crayons' pickiness serves a purpose.

"Our model is that quality equals dignity. We want kids on the other end who are receiving these coats or shoes or pants to feel proud to wear them," he said.

"So we want to make sure that they're in great condition, that the zipper's working, the buttons are still on, that there are no rips or stains before we pass it on to the kid."

Cherkasov says their model allows families who have plenty to serve families in need. "Kids grow up so fast and by the time they've grown out of their coat or their shoes or their sweater, the item is still in great condition but they can't fit into it anymore, so we provide a new loving home for that article of clothing."

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

Thank you US Rep Mike Bost for visiting SIU Carbondale Head Start!



Thank you US Rep Mike Bost for visiting Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council!



Improving the Social-Emotional Competence of Preschoolers: The Head Start CARES Demonstration



IHSA Upcoming Training Opportunities

Check out our
**UPCOMING
TRAININGS**
..... FEATURED BELOW

MAY

May 30 & 31: New Leaders Series #3 / Oak Brook
May 31 - June 1: 2017 Directors Institute / Oak Brook

JUNE

May 31 - June 1: Directors Institute / Oak Brook
June 19 & 20: Vanessa Rich Leadership Experience / Oak Brook
June 27: New Leaders Series #4 / Springfield
June 27 & 28: Practice Based Coaching - Coaches Training / Springfield

**2016 - 2017 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
TRAINING PLAN**

DATES-AT-A-GLANCE

Current Job Openings



NEW POSITIONS

- [Chicago, IL / YMCA Metropolitan, Early Head Start Director](#)
- [Chicago, IL YMCA Metropolitan, Family Advocate Specialist & Family Advocate Supervisor](#)
- [Chicago, IL, YMCA Metropolitan, Early Head Start Education Manager](#)
- [Chicago, IL YMCA Metropolitan, Disabilities and Mental Health Specialist & Teacher Coach](#)
- [Chicago, IL, YMCA Metropolitan, Early Head Start Operations & Quality Assurance Supervisor](#)
- [Chicago, IL, YMCA Metropolitan, Fiscal Specialist & Professional Development Specialist](#)
- [Chicago, IL, YMCA Metropolitan, Early Head Start Data and Compliance/ERSEA Specialist](#)
- [Chicago, IL, The Ounce, Technical Assistance and Training Specialist](#)
- [EHS](#)
- [Hickory Hills, Pillars, CFDC Site Manager](#)
- [Hickory Hills, Pillars, Teacher III](#)
- [Bellwood, IL, Presence Health, Teacher Child Care](#)
- [Schaumburg, Palatine, and Carpentersville, IL - Lead Teacher](#)
- [Carpentersville, Illinois, Childrens Home & Aid - Teacher](#)
- [Schaumburg and Palatine, IL, Childrens Home & Aid - Early Head Start](#)

[Teacher](#)

[Champaign, IL - Champaign County Head Start - Teachers, Teacher Aides, Substitute Teachers and Teacher Aides, and Bus Drivers](#)

OPEN POSITIONS FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS

[Springfield, IL - Springfield Urban League - HS Teacher Assistant](#)

[Springfield, IL - Springfield Urban League - HS Teacher](#)

[Springfield, IL - Springfield Urban League - EHS Teacher](#)

[Springfield, IL - Springfield Urban League - Family Resource Advocate](#)

[Kankakee, IL - Kankakee School District - Director of Pre-School](#)

[Programs](#)

[Chicago, IL - Region V OHS and Office of Grants Management](#)

[- Information Management Support Specialist](#)

[Joliet, IL - Catholic Charities of Joliet - Senior Site Supervisor](#)

[Maywood, IL - PLCCA - Program Accountant Head Start](#)

[Champaign, IL - Tap In Leadership Academy - Tap In Prep Academy \(TIPA\)](#)

[Head Start Director](#)

[Champaign, IL - Tap In Leadership Academy - Tap In Prep Academy \(TIPA\)](#)

[Coordinator](#)

[Carbondale, IL - SIUC - Assistant Director of Head Start](#)

[Bloomington, IL - Heartland Head Start - Family Resource Advisor](#)

2017 Parent Ambassador Application

PARENTS!! Don't forget to turn in your
2017 Parent Ambassador Applications!
Deadline extended to May 19, 2017!

Do You Want To Be An IL Head Start Association Parent
Ambassador?

[Here's What You Need To Do!](#)

[Memo to Directors](#)

Sign Up Now! Parent Leaders In Action Network



IHSA is starting a new project for parent leaders

in your program. It's called "IHSA Parent Leaders In Action Network". This does not replace our Parent Ambassador program but builds on our nationally recognized work with parents. Our Parent Ambassadors will support and provide direct leadership for the Parent Leaders In Action Network. We are looking for all Illinois Parents who are a member of their Policy Council or Parent Committee! Don't Miss This Opportunity to Connect with Parents from Across the State Take Action and Learn What You Can Do to Make a Difference Learn how government works and build a relationship with your Member of Congress.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

[SIGN UP](#)

ONLINE Food Handler & Food Safety Manager Certification Training

Check This Out!

Illinois Head Start Association is now offering YOU.....**ONLINE** Illinois Approved **FOOD HANDLER TRAINING** and **FOOD SAFETY MANAGER CERTIFICATION TRAINING** at *SPECIAL PRICING* only for Illinois Head Start members!

[**CHECK THIS OUT!!!**](#)

Food Safety Manager Certification Training

This Enhanced e-Learning course has been accepted for Professional Food Managers Certification training by most of the nation's regulatory agencies.

[Learn more here](#)

Food Handler Training

The State of Illinois requires an ANSI-accredited food handler card. The TAP Series Food Handler card is from an ANSI-accredited program, carries the ANSI logo, and is accepted by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

[Learn more here](#)

IHSA Staff Alumni Project

IHSA Staff Alumni Project - check us out on [FaceBook!](#)

Illinois Head Start Staff Alumni project mission: To encourage and support former Head Start staff who still love the program to reconnect, become informed, and receive opportunities to make a difference in local programs and the state association. You are Head Start.

Were you on staff in a Head Start program? Did you love it? Was it one of the most exciting times in your life? Did it seem like a calling rather than just a job?

IMAGINE if you could:

- Reconnect with colleagues from Head Start throughout Illinois;
- Build a social network; plan some activities including attendance at the Friend's component annual meeting at an affordable price;
- Get updated and informed on Head Start in Illinois and across the nation;
- Lend your voice to advocate for this wonderful program
- Get ideas and opportunities to volunteer or donate if you choose....
- Have fun
- Be a model for other Head Start programs across the country.

\$2 Per Child Campaign!



\$2 Per Child Campaign

Head Start Works in Illinois!

The IL Head Start Association & the National Head Start Association support IL Head Start programs and their work by advocating on the state and national level. We need local agencies to support advocacy efforts through a local level \$2 Per Child Campaign. \$1 will be sent to NHSA and \$1 will stay in Illinois for the local association's work.

YOUR ILLINOIS \$\$ @ WORK!

- * Advocacy Visits to State & Federal Legislators
- * Parent Ambassador Support
- * Ensuring Head Start has a voice in state level discussions about issues that affect us.

Local Campaign Ideas for HS Parents, Alumni & Volunteers

Spare Change Drive
Silent Auction
Bake Sale
Raffles of Donated Items
Car Wash
Decorate Your Classroom Door Contest (\$1 per vote)
Pie in the Face (pay per vote to see your favorite manager take a pie)
Chili Cook Off Contest (pay to taste & vote)
Pay to PJ (staff pay to wear pjs to work)

SAVE THE DATE! 2018 IHSA Annual Conference!

SAVE THE DATE!

**2018 ILLINOIS
HEAD START
ASSOCIATION ANNUAL
TRAINING & PARENT
CONFERENCE**

FEBRUARY 20—FEBRUARY 23, 2018



**EMBASSY SUITES RIVERFRONT
HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
EAST PEORIA**



Illinois Head Start Association
<http://www.ilheadstart.org>
3435 Liberty Drive
Springfield, IL 62704



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