Dear Head Start/Early Head Start Family:

The Illinois Head Start Association (IHSA) stands with persons and communities of color. The last few weeks and months have been profoundly challenging, and illuminated clearly the need for change in the way our country engages with and supports families and communities of color. This injustice, as well as the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on communities of color has been a reminder that our country has a deep history of systemic racism - one that puts more value on White lives than Black or Brown lives.

The Head Start program was born during another time of extreme racial strife in this country. As we know, Head Start is strongly rooted in the belief of the importance of civil rights and equity for all people. Head Start/Early Head Start serves children and families without regard to race, creed or ethnicity. In the recent Childcare Exchange essential article (attached or follow this link) “Our Children, Our Workforce: Why We Must Talk About Race and Racism in Early Childhood Education,” authors Kelly Matthews and Ijumaa Jordan take a clear look at racism in ECE and suggest concrete actions we can take to support each other in our work toward justice.

“Once we start working to end harm, we can begin creating a more just world and a more vibrant ECE system. Racism hurts everyone, though it does not hurt us all equally or in the same ways. We live diminished lives when structures are in place that keeps us from thriving. When we work actively to dismantle racism, we begin to create environments that support healthy racial identity for all children. When we start dismantling racism in ECE settings, we can also begin to support the adults in the programs. By creating strong, healthy models of representation and leadership, our programs thrive.”

We know there is no easy solution to the problems we have faced for centuries. We also know that we need to devote our time, energy and resources toward making a difference. Many have written beautiful statements or letters but these are just words. What we need is action! In the days and months ahead, IHSA will be laser focused on how systemic inequities impact the policies and practices intended to help children and families flourish. IHSA will do the following actions over the next day, weeks and months.

1. Establish an Inclusion and Diversity Task Force that will identify strategies to support Illinois Head Start/Early Head Start programs with building an inclusive and equitable local coalition that values and protects Black and Brown lives. This includes:
   - Identifying and creating opportunities to dive deeper into subjects focused on racial equity, white privilege, and other related topics, so that our individual frames and collective voices are better informed and tuned.
   - Deepening our understanding of the lived experiences of our families and partners so that we can enhance our supports and adaptations.
   - Supporting early childhood curricula and teaching practices that are culturally responsive and strength based.
2. Create an Implicit Bias course to be included in the IHSA Onboarding Modules and encourage all current and new staff to complete prior to the start of the upcoming school year.
3. Provide the opportunity for virtual and onsite training on Implicit Bias.
4. Ensure a diversity/inclusion lens to all of our professional development and leadership opportunities. Together in this work and these commitments, we will continue the fight toward a more equitable and just society. We hope you’ll join us. We can and must do better.

In solidarity and love,

Lauri Morrison-Frichtl
Executive Director

Click HERE for Lauri’s entire article
Watch these OHS webinars:

- Office of Head Start CAMP #1 (Don't miss this!!! And register for the rest of the CAMPs) View webcast on-demand until 08-30-20 [link].
- “Helping Children Thrive During COVID-19 Pandemic” - [link] available 24/7.
- “New Webinar from Erikson Institute about Reopening” - [link] valuable suggestions from this webinar. Stay with it: first is a review of COVID-19.
- “Considerations for Head Start Transportation Services and Vehicles during the COVID-19 Pandemic” Highly recommend: register & access [link]
- “Culture, Identity, and History as Sources of Strength and Resilience for African American Children and Families” One of the BEST webinars I have watched recently! [link].

ECLKC COVID-19 Web Page (new items here as of June 17, June 22, and June 30)

Facilitating Access to Early Care and Education for Children Experiencing Homelessness - read this new Child Trends brief that describes barriers to and considerations for helping children experiencing homelessness access early care and education. The brief also provides a summary of the methods and findings from a series of key informant interviews with agency and organization leaders, and summarizes interview themes, highlights resources, and discusses next steps for supporting ECE access for this vulnerable population.

New Vision Screening Resource from Prevent Blindness - did you know that up to 1 in 17 preschoolers, 1 in 5 Head Start children, and an estimated 1 in 4 school-aged children has a vision disorder requiring treatment? Did you know that vision disorders can interfere with a child’s learning and development?

Most vision disorders are common, and those that are not found and treated early can interfere with learning. Children can fall behind in school, show behavior problems in the classroom, lag behind other children in reaching key developmental milestones, and even have permanent vision loss. Clear vision assists with healthy development, a child’s ability to learn, a child’s self-esteem and confidence, athletic ability, and improved behavior.

Vision screening using evidence-based tools and procedures, and best practices, is an efficient and timely way to:

- identify children with possible vision impairments;
- educate parents and caregivers about the importance of vision screening and support their role in arranging and attending eye examinations and ongoing vision care for their children;
- refer identified children to eye care professionals for comprehensive, confirmatory eye examinations, diagnosis, initial treatment, and ongoing follow-up care;
- help parents and caregivers to understand the importance of following the eye care professionals’ treatment plans.

The National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness has launched a new webpage, “Vision Screening Guidelines by Age” This new site will help you navigate quickly to vision and eye health guidelines and resources for children ages:

- Birth to 1 year
- Toddlers ages 1 and 2 years
- Preschoolers ages 3, 4, and 5 years
- Children ages 6 years and older, and adolescents

The new website also includes guidance for rescreening, children who should bypass vision screening, tools for instrument- and optotype-based screening, parent/caregiver resources, an Ask the Experts section, and MORE. Check it out!

IDEA Part C Early Interventions (EI) Services Still Available to Families during COVID-19

This Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document (link attached below) addresses common questions EI referral sources may have regarding how to connect families to EI during COVID-19, and the family’s experience with live video visits (also known as teletherapy or telehealth). Through live video visits and/or phone consultation, families continue to have access to the EI services for their infants and toddlers who have or are at risk of developmental delays that are so critical to their development.

Information covered in this FAQ is based on several guidance documents developed by the Bureau of Early Intervention, which can be found [HERE]. Children and families can still be referred for EI, including initial evaluations to determine eligibility, assessments, development of Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs), and receive all .. (see more details here)
IHSA NEEDS YOUR PARENT LEADERS to apply for one of our several Parent Ambassadorship positions.

Does your agency have parents interested in an IHSA Ambassadorship?
It's exciting & fun & valuable.

You might have someone in mind at this very moment!

Meet one of our 2019-2020 Parent Ambassadors, Daisy Loa .. click here to read her story in her own words.

Visit our webpage to see more about our Parent Ambassadorship Program.

Check out our application process & more!

Call us (217) 241-3511 with any questions.
Below are the updates for the IHSA July events. Please know your health and safety is our number one priority! We continue to work hard to analyze all the information and guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and will continue to do this regarding all future event decisions.

**Sizzling Summer Clinics** - IHSA had to cancel due to low participation numbers [Registration is now closed].

**Workplace Wellness Academy** - Illinois Head Start Association has partnered with Generation Wellness to bring you this online course for half price! Learn new strategies and feel empowered during these stressful times. You can begin the course immediately after you register. So check it out soon!

**2020 e-VRLE** -- Join us for the Virtual Vanessa Rich Summer Leadership Retreat! July 21st through July 23rd [Registration is now closed].

As you know, the CLASS Observation Training (previously offered in April) was postponed. We will notify you of any rescheduled dates as soon as possible.

LOOK for our 2020-2021 Training Planning At-A-Glance to be out soon! Visit our website and Facebook page for our latest news and updates.
2020 HEAD START GRADUATES ARE READY!

#HeadStartHelpsIllinois

CONSIDER THE 4-MONTH-OLD WHO HAS BEEN AT HOME SINCE COVID-19 BEGAN AND HAS ONLY INTERACTED WITH HIS PARENTS AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY. CONSIDER THE TODDLER WHO STAYED AT HOME FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AND HAS RETURNED TO HIS CHILDCARE THAT LOOKS VERY DIFFERENT THAN WHEN HE LEFT. CONSIDER A GIRL WHO ASKS HER PARENTS OFTEN WHAT HER FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN WILL BE LIKE AND IS TOLD, “I DON’T KNOW. WE’LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.” AS ADULTS, WE HAVE EXPERIENCED THE STRESS OF THE PANDEMIC, SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER, AND GRADUAL REOPENING. CHILDREN ARE EXPERIENCING THIS STRESS AS WELL AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD. WITH THIS IN MIND, IEL IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING TIMELY AND RESPONSIVE RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS. (CONTINUED BELOW)
MEMBER AGENCY JOB PAGES (MULTIPLE OPENINGS):
- CHAMPAIGN COUNTY RPC
- CHILDREN'S HOME AND AID
- EDUCARE CHICAGO--THE OUNCE
- EDUCARE WEST DUPAGE
- EL VALOR-DELEGATE-YOUNG SCHOLARS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
- (*) ERBA, INC.
- HEARTLAND HEAD START
- HOWARD AREA COMMUNITY CENTER
- IL ACTION FOR CHILDREN
- IL VALLEY EDC GILLESPIE
- RIVERBEND HEAD START AND FAMILY SERVICES
- ROCK ISLAND-MILAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

(*) IHSA MEMBER AGENCIES (INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS):
- ECICAA-ASSOCIATE DIR FINANCE-POSTED-JULY
- ECICAA-CHIEF EXEC OFFICER-POSTED-JULY
- ECICAA-ASST DIR FAMILY+COMMUNITY-POSTED JULY
- ECICAA-CLASSROOM TEACHER ASST-POSTED JULY
- ECICAA-FAMILY ADVOCATE-POSTED JULY
- ECICAA-ECO SPECIALIST-POSTED JULY
- ECICAA-TEACHER1-POSTED JULY
- ECICAA-TEACHER2-POSTED JULY

OTHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
(*) SCHOOL ASSN. FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION (SASED)

CLICK ON THE LOGO FOR OUR JOBS WEB-PAGE AND FIND OUR IHSA POSTING REQUIREMENTS THERE AS WELL!

#HeadStartHelpsIllinois
IHSA BRIDGE ORIENTATION MODULES

YOUR ONBOARDING SOLUTION!

STAFF HAS 24/7 COURSE ACCESS

ENROLL HERE NOW!

CLICK HERE TO PRINT OUR "1-2-3 STEPS" FLYER
IHSA mobilizes and strengthens its membership by creating a passion for leadership and advocacy in the interest of our most vulnerable children and families.

IHSA Purposes
To engage in and to receive, maintain and expend funds for benevolent and charitable purposes. To conduct activities designed to upgrade the quality and quantity of Head Start services for children, families and communities and to safeguard, upgrade and promote the social welfare of the children and families in the State of Illinois. To develop policies, positions, and statements which reflect a consensus of opinion of Head Start parents, directors, staff and friends. To provide a referral of service to maximize the use of community resources and governmental agencies.

IHSA MISSION STATEMENT

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Anna Waters (DMCOC)
Baby Talk Early Head Start
BCMW Community Services, Inc.
CAA of McHenry Co.
CAP of Central Illinois
CAP of Lake County
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet
CEFS Economic Opportunity Council
Centerstone
Champaign Co. Head Start (with CCRPC)
Chicago Commons Early Head Start
Chicago Department of Family Support Services
Child Care Resource & Referral
Childcare Network of Evanston
Children’s Home + Aid
Christopher House Early Head Start
City of Rockford Head Start
Community Link/1st Step
East Central IL Community Action
Easter Seals Head Start & Early Head Start
Educare of West DuPage
El Valor – Chicago
ERBA, Inc.
Evanston-Skokie Community SD#65
Governor’s State University Early Head Start
Heartland Head Start
Howard Area Community Center
Illinois Dept. Human Services Migrant & Seasonal Head Start
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation
Kankakee School District #111
Metro Family Services DuPage
Mount Vernon School District #80
NICAA (Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency)
Ounce of Prevention Fund
PACT (Parents and Children Together)
PCCEO, Inc.
Project NOW, Inc.
Proviso Leyden Council for CA (PLCCA)
Quincy Public Schools
Riverbend Head Start & Family Services
Rock Island-Milan Head Start Program
SIU-Carbondale Head Start
SIU-Edwardsville Head Start
Southern 7 Health Dept.
Springfield Urban League
Tazewell-Woodford Head Start
Tri-County Opportunities Council
Two Rivers Head Start Agency
Wabash Area Development, Inc.
West Central Community Services
Western Egyptian Economic Opportunities Council
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

LOOK --- HERE IS A LINK TO 2020 AGENCY MEMBER SITES
The Illinois Head Start Association is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of (20) members: (5) Parent Representatives, (5) Staff Representatives, (5) Director Representatives, and (5) Friend Representatives. In March, the Board of Directors elected a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer to serve a two year term.

**BOARD OFFICERS**

Gene Howell (Director Rep), President  
Kyle Hubert (Parent Rep), Vice President  
Lea Maue (Director Rep), Treasurer  
Michelle Wood (Friend Rep), Secretary

**CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Alisa Newman (Director Rep)  
Betty Edwards (Friends Rep)  
Carla Ford (Parent Rep)  
Cathy Blevins (Staff Rep)  
Curt Holderfield (Friend Rep)  
Dana Garner (Friend Rep)  
Ericka Williams (Staff Rep)  
Gene Howell (Director Rep)  
Jamie Bann (Staff Rep)  
Kathy Fudge-White (Director Rep)  
Katie Day (Parent Rep)  
Kyle Hubert (Parent Rep)  
LaChar Crayton (Parent Rep)  
Lea Maue (Director Rep)  
Linda Wang (Director Rep)  
Mario Perez (Friend Rep)  
Marquita Jackson (Staff Rep)  
Michelle Wood (Friend Rep)  
Robert Jackson III (Parent Rep)

The Board members are appointed to an IHSA Committee in which they do valuable work for the association and the young children of Illinois. Our current IHSA Standing Committees include:

**Professional / Leadership Development** - This committee will position IHSA as the preferred training and technical assistance provider for Head Start/Early Head Start in the state of Illinois; and foster and disseminate innovative practices within the membership community, and develop competent leaders.

**Organizational Capacity Building/Finance** - This committee will grow and diversify revenue; build organizational capacity; and enhance membership services and resources.

**Awareness and Advocacy** - This committee will set direction and provide leadership for supporting revenue growth, including the dollar per child campaign, with a continued focus on providing quality services for membership.

[Click HERE for our IHSA Board webpage]
IHSA STAFF ALUMNI PROJECT

Were you on staff in any Head Start program?
Was it more of a calling, rather than a job .. and you loved it, right?
Wasn't it one of the most truly fulfilling times in your life?

Well, it can be again!

Join our IHSA Staff Alumni! Call with any questions 217-241-3511.

Staff Alumni 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.

Goals of the Staff Alumni:
- Reconnecting with colleagues from Head Start throughout Illinois
- Building social networks & planning activities (plus Annual Friend's Component Meeting)
- Getting updated and staying informed on Head Start in Illinois and across the nation
- Lending YOUR VOICE to advocate for this wonderful program
- Sharing ideas, getting to volunteer, and/or donate, IF you choose
- Adding fun into your life by being part of this program model -- for across the country!

Get the word out to your retired Head Start friends & staffers.

Tell them the Annual Fee to become a Staff Alumni Member is $35
*Were you AWARE that the first year is free?*

*Note: if you are looking to join IHSA as a regular member -- and currently working as director or staff, OR are a parent associated with an EHS/HS Program, THEN YOU ARE ALREADY A MEMBER -- through that same agency! Click HERE to review our member list. You might also be a delegate member through the City of Chicago or CPS.*
It’s that time again (each July) to update our Shared IHSA Database ..with your agency’s MOST current Wage and Benefit input.

Click to see how your agency may participate!

Visit our Wage and Benefit page today!