

Updates from the Head Start State Collaboration Office

October 2011



PURPOSE: The purpose of this newsletter is to provide updates on Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) projects and to share other relevant information and opportunities to participate in state level activities and events. The HSSCO in the Department of Early Learning helps to develop and maintain state and local partnerships that benefit low-income children and families and works to coordinate federal, state and local policy to help unify the early care and education system in Washington.

Early Learning Guidelines Redesign

There is still time to comment on the draft redesigned Early Learning and Development Guidelines. State Early Learning Guidelines provide a common language for understanding and supporting child development across programs. In order to develop Guidelines that truly represent all Washington families it is critical that get the broadest input possible. If you have not yet taken the time to comment and share this info with the staff and families in your programs, please take a few minutes to do so before the October 27th deadline. Materials and information can be accessed at:

www.del.wa.gov/development/benchmarks/Default.aspx

Head Start/ECEAP State Profile

The Head Start, Early Head Start and ECEAP State Profile is now available in electronic form! The document serves as a single source of information about Washington's Head Start, Early Head Start and ECEAP programs. This document builds upon the 2002 state profile although the new version is:

- Updated to reflect current data and information
- Written at a more accessible reading level
- Shorter

A copy of the Profile is attached to the Newsletter distribution email. The profile is also posted on the DEL website at: www.del.wa.gov/publications/partnerships/docs/ECEAP_HS_Profile_2011.pdf

HSSCO Needs Assessment

Head Start Directors will be receiving a survey via email within the next week or two. The Head Start Act of 2007 requires that Head Start State Collaboration Offices (HSSCOs) conduct an assessment of the needs of Head Start grantees in the State in the areas of coordination, collaboration, and alignment of services and assessments. Once within each five year HSSCO grant period we conduct a comprehensive assessment using a survey template developed at the national level and do short update surveys for each of the intervening years. All HSSCOs have been asked to do the full comprehensive survey this year so that we can compare data at a national level. We'll be sending it out as soon as the national template is finalized. You may want to have multiple staff members work together to complete the different sections of the survey. Your responses will provide critical information about Head Start needs across the state. We really hope that you will be able to carve time out of your busy schedules to participate.

DEL Report: Working Connections Child Care Program and the Impacts of HB3141

In 2010 the legislature passed E2SHB 3141 which authorized families enrolled in Head Start, Early Head Start and ECEAP to receive 12 months of WCCC eligibility. Traditionally, families receive six months of WCCC eligibility before they must reapply. To assess the impacts this decision, the Social & Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC) conducted a study and completed an impact report. The report provides:

1. An analysis of the impact of the 12-month authorization on the stability of child care, program costs, and administrative savings.
2. Reasons families leave WCCC.
3. Recommendations for expanding the application of the 12-month authorization period to additional populations of families that receive WCCC.

To view the full report visit:

www.del.wa.gov/publications/research/docs/WCCC_12monthauthorizationimpactstudy_9012011.pdf

Openings for Families with WIC Nutrition Program

The Washington Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program is welcoming new families. WIC helps pregnant women, new mothers, and young children eat well, learn about nutrition and stay healthy. Unfortunately, there are many unfilled openings and the Washington Department of Health is asking for your help in spreading the word. Below are some quick facts about the program:

1. WIC serves pregnant and breastfeeding women, babies and children under age 5
2. All ECEAP and Head Start children and their families are income eligible for WIC
3. Most families get checks to buy up to \$100 worth of healthy foods each month, when two are on the program
4. WIC covers most of the cost of formula for babies who are not breastfed
5. WIC helps families eat healthy and support breastfeeding mothers

Free WIC outreach posters and flyers are available in ten languages at:

www.withinreachwa.org/ordermaterials_qty#WIC,TheNutritionProgramforWomen,Infants&Children

For more information about WIC visit: www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/WIC/default.htm

To find a WIC clinic nearby visit: www.parenthelp123.org/resources/wic-family-planning

The Coalition for Safety and Health in Early Learning (CSHEL)

The Coalition for Safety and Health in Early Learning (CSHEL) is composed of health, safety, nutrition, mental health and early learning professionals committed to quality early childhood care and education for children in Washington State. CSHEL membership is free, and the bi-monthly meetings provide the opportunity for voluntary information exchange. Individuals can join the meetings in person at Puget Sound ESD or via webinar/telephone. This is a great opportunity for health staff to come together to network and share information. Each meeting includes time set aside for Head Start and ECEAP specific topics.

The next meeting will be Friday November 18th from 9-2pm.

For more information:

- Visit the website: www.cshelwa.org
- Contact Suzanne Kohoya at SKohoya@psesd.org or 800-636-2931 x7874

Apply to be on DEL's Trainer Approval Board

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) is seeking applicants for the Trainer Approval Board, which reviews and qualifies trainers for child care provider continuing education. DEL is seeking seven to 11 board members who will meet monthly to review applications. Board positions are unpaid, but members will receive travel stipends. Board member qualifications are:

- An Associate's Degree or Bachelor's Degree with at least five years of demonstrated leadership in early care and education or school-age settings.
- At least three years of experience designing curriculum/training for adults.
- Skill and expertise in adult learning, such as coursework in instruction design and/or adult education.
- Leadership in early care and education or school-age settings.
- One year of experience working directly with children birth through age 18.

For more information about the Board and the application process visit:

www.del.wa.gov/publications/partnerships/docs/Trainer_approval_board_requirements_101411.pdf

Honor Our Voices: Children Respond to Domestic Violence

Honor Our Voices is an online learning module providing people with the opportunity to see domestic violence through the eyes and voices of children. The purpose of this learning module is to create a multi-pronged response to increase the awareness and sensitivity of shelter advocates and other social service providers to the needs of children and suggest promising ways of enhancing services for children exposed to domestic violence.

For more information or to check out the module, visit: www.honourourvoices.org

Rural Development Grant Opportunity

The USDA recently released a policy memo regarding the Rural Development Department Community Facilities (CF) program. The CF program provides loans and grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. The grants offer a unique opportunity for non-profit organizations, public bodies, and tribal organizations to upgrade their community's child nutrition facilities and purchase equipment that could improve access to healthy, locally, or regionally grown products.

For more information:

- Visit the website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html
- Contact the Washington's USDA Rural Development Office at: (360) 704-7740
- See USDA Memo attached to Newsletter distribution email
 - For a copy of this memo contact Kaelyn.bristol@del.wa.gov

Growing Up Wild Training

- November 5th at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Early childhood educators, providers, parents and volunteers are encouraged to attend this all day training. *Growing UP Wild* is Project Wild's new early education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature, and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. The *Growing Up Wild* curriculum includes 27 activities aligned to the NAEYC Accreditation Criteria and the Head Starts Child Outcomes Framework.

For more information contact Dianna Avery at davery@esd113.org or 360-464-6717.

Other News

For more information about what's happening in DEL, check out the DEL newsletter at:

www.del.wa.gov/publications/communications/

Contact Information

If you have suggestions for future newsletter topics or feedback/questions regarding any of the HSSCO's activities, please send those thoughts along to Kaelyn Bristol at (360) 725-3517 or

Kaelyn.bristol@del.wa.gov - we would love to hear from you.