

HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START

Investing in Wisconsin Today and For Tomorrow

What is Happening Across Wisconsin . . .

Expansion and Quality Improvement/COLA funds awarded to Wisconsin's Head Start & Early Head Start programs through ARRA are enhancing the lives of young children, helping programs support both staff and working families, and improving communities across our state.

Wisconsin ARRA funds have been invested in the following ways . . .

- 12 Head Start/Early Head Start programs to **serve an additional 1,027 young children and their families** through \$11,741,796 in expansion grants. Additional enrollment opportunities are crucial as more families are increasingly affected by the economic recession.
- 26 Head Start and Early Head Start grantees to create a combined **183 new full time employment opportunities** in their local communities. These jobs would not have existed without ARRA funding.



- Numerous programs across Wisconsin to **initiate quality improvement activities suited to individual program needs** through \$7,306,468 in quality improvement/COLA funding. Programs are supporting staff development, improving facilities, implementing classroom projects and curricula, purchasing resources and necessities large (buses) and small (books), and strengthening services to children and families.
- **Every Head Start/Early Head Start program in Wisconsin to provide staff with a 1.84% COLA increase** to improve salaries and boost benefits. The COLA increase makes Head Start wages more competitive and helps programs retain well-qualified staff.

ARRA ACTIVITIES & OBJECTIVES

Unique to Wisconsin's 1st Congressional District

What is Happening in the 1st Congressional District . . .

- There are **three grantees**—Kenosha Achievement Center, Kenosha Unified School District, and Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency—operating two Head Start programs and one Early Head Start program.
- Combined, these three grantees used \$556,225 in quality improvement/COLA funding to **purchase** play systems and classroom supplies, **assess community needs** and **plan for the future**, **retain well-qualified staff**, and provide staff with varied **professional development** opportunities.

Implementation of Baby FAST (Families and Schools Together), a child maltreatment program for at-risk infants and toddlers and their families, and program quality initiative.

Installation of a playground to facilitate children's health and physical development.

Support staff **educational advancement** and pursuit of CDA or Bachelor degrees in early childhood education to **improve staff qualifications and program quality.**

Obtain supplies and technology to advance classroom instruction and children's development.

Promote Child & Family Literacy

- Staff professional development on early language and literacy skills for native English speakers, English language learners, and dual language learners.
- Child assessment in language and literacy.
- Parent training and activity days on language development and literacy.
- Provide children and families with books to read at home.
- Develop classroom libraries.



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