

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.



What is Happening in the 3rd Congressional District . . .

- There are **five grantees** and **one delegate agency**— Head Start Child and Family Development Centers, Ho-Chunk Nation, Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program, and Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council, and the Eau Claire Area School District—operating five Head Start and one Early Head Start programs.
- **Nearly 10 full-time employment opportunities** have been created to better serve children and families with quality improvement/COLA funding.
- \$721,981 in quality improvement/COLA funding has led to **renovations** at two facilities, the **building** of outdoor play spaces, and the **purchase** of a bus. Additionally, quality improvement funds have helped **retain staff** and provided staff with varied **professional development** opportunities.

ARRA ACTIVITIES & OBJECTIVES

Unique to Wisconsin's 3rd Congressional District

Increase staff compensation and benefits.

Advance the quality of classroom learning by purchasing literacy, multi-cultural, science, math, music, and movement materials and equipment.

Retain teachers by supporting professional development and higher education opportunities and supplementing expenses.

Install new playground equipment to improve accessibility and safety.

Through targeted training, **enhance staff abilities and program capacities** to:

- Work with infants and toddlers.
- Teach early language and literacy skills.
- Work with children with disabilities.
- Improve children's health and wellbeing with movement and music activities using "I am Moving, I am Learning."
- Complete Strategic planning and determine community needs through assessment.

Provide staff with professional development opportunities or support staff higher education to improve staff qualifications and program quality.

Offer an ADDITIONAL WEEK OF PROGRAM SERVICES through partnerships with local schools!



Wisconsin Head Start Association
122 East Olin Avenue, Suite 110, Madison, WI
Phone: 608-442-6879
Email: Shelley Cousin, Executive Director, cousin@whsaonline.org