

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 4th Congressional District . . .

- There are **four grantees and five delegate agencies**—Community Relations-Social Development Commission, Council for the Spanish Speaking (grantee and delegate), Day Care Services for Children, Milwaukee Public Schools, Next Door Foundation (grantee and delegate), Northcott Neighborhood House, and Urban Day School—operating seven Head Start and two Early Head Start programs.
- Three grantees received program expansion funds. Combined, these Head Start & Early Head Start programs have expanded to **serve an additional 266 infants, toddlers, preschoolers or pregnant women and their families** with over \$3.1 million dollars in expansion grants.
- **Nearly 40 full-time employment opportunities** have been created to better serve children and families with expansion and quality improvement/COLA funding.
- \$1,955,361 in quality improvement/COLA funding has also led to needed **building renovation, maintenance, and improvement projects**, the **retention of program staff**, and provided staff with **professional development and educational advancement** opportunities.

ARRA ACTIVITIES & OBJECTIVES

Unique to Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District

Attract and retain staff by increasing compensation and benefits to improve overall program quality.

Increase hours of operation by converting part-day classrooms to full-day classrooms and adding additional weeks of program operation.

Employ additional classroom and family services staff.

Provide professional development opportunities for teaching and social service staff in health, mental health, and nutrition.

Increase staff knowledge in the areas of infant/toddler development.

Improve the qualifications and skills of educational personnel to teach and provide services to children with disabilities.

Ensure physical environments are conducive to effective program services through facilities maintenance.

Promote early language and child literacy skills.

Convert part-time employment positions to full-time positions.

Help educators become certified and licensed bilingual education teachers or as teachers of English as a second language.

Address the challenges of serving children families who: are immigrants, refugees, experiencing homeless, have limited English proficiency, are migrant, or are in crisis by supporting staff training, child counseling, and related services.

Improve staff educational qualifications.

Assist staff with their implementation of career development programs.

Support ongoing improvement of staff skills and expertise.

Pay staff for extra summer hours for program recruitment activities.



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