

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 5th Congressional District . . .

- There are **four grantees**—Cooperative Educational Services Agency (CESA) 2, La Casa de Esparenza, National Centers of Learning Excellence, and West Bend Joint School District—operating three Head Start and two Early Head Start programs.
- Two grantees received program expansion funds. Combined, these Head Start & Early Head Start programs have expanded to **serve an additional 166 infants, toddlers, preschoolers or pregnant women and their families** with almost \$1.7 million in expansion grants.
- **Over 31 full-time employment opportunities** have been created to better serve children and families with expansion and quality improvement/COLA funding.
- \$367,652 in quality improvement/COLA funding allowed programs to provide staff with significant **professional development** opportunities to improve program quality, **retain staff, extend contracts** for consultants, and **assess community needs** and plan for the future.

ARRA ACTIVITIES & OBJECTIVES

Unique to Wisconsin's 5th Congressional District

Increase staff compensation and benefits to improve overall program quality.

Hire a Spanish speaking English language learners (ELL) teacher to work with our growing number of Spanish speaking or dual language learners and their families.

Increase program and staff ability to work with families outside of the school day. **Expanded hours** allowed us to offer five more family educational nights, offer three more male involvement events, and increase our home visitation time by 21%.

Provide all program employees with an additional ten days of pre-service training.

We have been able work more collaboratively with our community Dental partners to discuss and enact ways to better serve children in desperate need of dental care.

Strengthen program services for families.

Training and technical assistance to advance both **staff professional development** and **program organizational development** on:

- Management issues.
- Social-emotional screening and assessment tools.
- Early Head Start programming and serving infants, toddlers, and pregnant women.
- Pre-service program training.
- Monthly technical assistance with program support specialist.
- On-site partner visits.
- Classroom and teaching strategies.
- Internal Reporting and documentation.
- Family Service credentialing.

Support assistant teachers to obtain a CDA.

Plan and implement enhanced internal monitoring systems and protocols.

All program staff participated in five additional days of professional development activities to enhance their individual professional development plans.

Increase staff hours.



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