

# 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 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

### What is Happening in the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District . . .

- There are **four grantees** –ADVOCAP, Sheboygan Human Rights Association, United Migrant Opportunity Services, and University of Wisconsin System (at Oshkosh)—operating four Head Start programs.
- Two grantees received program expansion funds. Combined, these Head Start programs have expanded to **serve an additional 59 preschoolers and their families** with \$565,702 in expansion grants.
- **Over 11 full-time employment opportunities** have been created to better serve children and families with expansion and quality improvement/COLA funding.
- \$383,075 in quality improvement/COLA funding helped programs **retain staff** and provided staff with varied **professional development** opportunities.

#### Increase staff compensation, including benefits, to improve overall program quality.

*Purchase classroom supplies to aid instruction and aid children's development.*

Staff development to ensure effective case management and center operations.

Attending workshops and seminars to increase individual abilities and program capacities to promote children's language, literacy, and developmental growth.

#### Serve children and families previously on waiting lists.

Support staff in obtaining higher education and increased qualifications to better serve children and families.

Make Spanish language proficiency training available to all interested staff.

Support eight Teacher Assistants to obtain either an Associate Degree or Bachelor Degree in Early Childhood Education.



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