

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 7th Congressional District . . .

- There are **11 grantees** –Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, CAP Services, Cooperative Educational Services Agency (CESA) 11, Family and Child Learning Centers of Northeast Wisconsin, Family Forum, Indianhead Community Action Agency, Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board, Marathon County Child Development Agency, Merrill Area Public Schools, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, and St. Croix Tribal Council –operating 11 Head Start and six Early Head Start programs.
- Two grantees in received program expansion funds. Combined, these Early Head Start programs have expanded to **serve an additional 160 infants, toddlers, or pregnant women and their families** with over \$2.2 million in expansion grants.
- **Nearly 21 full-time employment opportunities** have been created to better serve children and families with expansion and quality improvement/COLA funding.
- \$1,616,903 in quality improvement/COLA funding led to **renovations** and facilities upgrades at four programs, the **purchase** of a bus, playground **maintenance and repair**, the **retention of staff**, and multiple **professional development** opportunities for staff.

ARRA ACTIVITIES & OBJECTIVES

Unique to Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District

Increase staff compensation and benefits to improve overall program quality.

Provide an additional \$500 to all teachers that are working on their associate or bachelor's degree.

Replace classroom sinks and countertops, air conditioner, furnace, and old windows.

Update playgrounds so children's physical environments promote health, wellbeing, and effective program services.

Professional Development Opportunities

- SIGN LANGUAGE 1 and 2 to improve services to children with hearing disabilities.
- Training on SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL developmental screening and assessment tools to identify children who are struggling and who need early intervention.
- CREATIVE CURRICULUM training for an education system that promotes the use of interest areas as a way of providing experiences that promote cognitive, social, physical, and language development for preschool children.
- SPANISH language training for each center's education personnel to facilitate bilingual education and services to English language and dual language learners.
- I AM MOVING, I AM LEARNING training to help improve children's physical health and wellbeing through music and movement activities.

Increase the hours of program operation by converting part-day classrooms to full-day classrooms at several sites.

Employ additional teacher assistants to reduce the staff to child ratio and hire family service staff to reduce the family to staff ratio.

Award scholarships to 10 teachers to supplement higher education expenses and provide CDA training for 12 teacher assistants to improve staff qualifications.

Help staff cover the rising cost of health care by paying an additional 15% of insurance premiums.
Provide coverage for vision and dental insurance.

Purchase mental health, developmental, hearing, and blood level screening or assessment tools and equipment.

And, through a CCDF grant, provide childcare financial assistance to low-income working families by decreasing co-pays and fund activities to improve the quality of childcare. Assist families who are on the waiting list with childcare services.



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