

**Head Start State Collaboration Offices  
2010-2011 Mid-Year & Annual Reports**

**Annual Report  
Activities for January – December 2012**

**Washington**

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**Briefly describe your accomplishments and actual outcomes in the following areas.**

Facilitate collaboration among Early Head Start and Head Start grantees and entities that provide child and family services to low-income families. Describe your accomplishments and outcomes in the four required priority areas.

- **School Transitions, including state data systems**

- Early Learning and Development Guidelines

Last year the HSSCO provided support and coordination for the redesign of Washington’s Early Learning and Development Benchmarks now known as Guidelines. This year, the HSSCO has served on the cross agency work team consisting of representatives from DEL, OSPI, and Thrive to oversee roll out of the Guidelines. The HSSCO led the effort to convene a stakeholder input day to gather feedback for inform further implementation with particular focus on meeting the needs of diverse communities. The cross agency work team is scheduled to meet in January to assess the input and determine next steps.

- State Data Systems

The HSSCO has continued to participate in conversations with staff leading build out of the new ECEAP data management system to facilitate the inclusion of Head Start data in future system releases. The HSSCO also participates in the P-20 Data Stewards group convened by the ERDC to explore possible ways to include Head Start data in the P-20 system either through the ECEAP data management system or an alternate pathway.

- P-3 Alignment

The HSSCO supported P-3 alignment activities. This included providing support for the annual Starting Strong conference which brings together teams of early learning and K-3 staff to learn about best practices and engage in community level planning. The HSSCO also provided support for the implementation of the early learning collaboration component of WaKIDS, Washington’s comprehensive kindergarten assessment process through funding for community grants and planning group participation.

- **Professional Development**

- Student Loan Forgiveness

The HSSCO continued to work with OSPI to keep Head Start programs on the updated state list of verified low income schools so that Head Start staff are able to access student loan forgiveness benefits. In addition, the HSSCO worked to get ECEAP programs added to the list as well this year.

- Information Resource

The HSSCO continued to serve as a source of information about Head Start program characteristics and needs for DEL staff working to implement the recommendations of the Professional Development Consortium including the new professional development registry, MERIT.

- Training/Resource Centers  
A key component of Washington's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant application is the proposal to make grant funds available to Head Start and ECEAP programs participating in Early Achievers to serve as resource centers whereby these programs will share training, expertise, and resources with child cares participating in the system. The implementation of this concept is one of the things being explored in the Early Achievers HS/ECEAP pilot project currently underway.
- NAEYC  
The HSSCO served on the Washington team for this year's NAEYC Professional Development Summit. This provided an opportunity to ensure inclusion of Head Start perspectives in state planning conversations.

- **Child Care and Early Childhood Systems/QRIS**

- QRIS  
The HSSCO is currently serving as the DEL staff lead for the integration of Head Start and ECEAP into Early Achievers (Washington's QRIS) per our Race to the Top grant application. Activities for the first year have been focused on a pilot project to test and refine procedures for Head Start and ECEAP participation in Early Achievers including the opportunity for these programs to serve as resource centers within the system. The pilot will run from July through early 2013.
- Build  
The HSSCO continues to participate as a member of the Washington Build team. The Build Initiative supports state efforts to create early childhood systems-coordinated, effective policies that address children's health, mental health and nutrition, early care and education, family support and parenting programs, and services for children with special needs. A key focus of the Build Initiative in Washington is the development of the state's QRIS system.
- Licensing Alignment  
In partnership with the Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP, the HSSCO convened a dialogue with Head Start and ECEAP program staff to discuss current challenges faced by these programs with regard to the existing child care center licensing rules. The group identified a variety of issues and generated proposed solutions. This input has been shared with DEL licensing staff and will help to inform the revision of the rules slotted to take place later this year.

- **Support of Regional Office Priorities**

- Head Start Dental Home Initiative  
The HSSCO has continued to serve as the co-lead for the Washington Head Start Dental Home Initiative, a federal-state partnership designed to increase access to dental homes for Head Start children. The primary focus of the initiative for this year was putting on a 2 day motivational interviewing training for Head Start and ECEAP staff, part of which was also attended by ABCD coordinators which provided a networking opportunity as well.

- DEL/ OHS Region X Communication  
The HSSCO has helped to coordinate the initiation and continuation of regular meetings between OHS RX and DEL leadership.

**Briefly discuss the following aspects of your work:**

**Your activities as a member of the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care**

In accordance with the requirements of the State Advisory Council grant, the HSSCO was added to the Council as a formal member during the summer of 2010. Prior to this, the HSSCO was actively involved with the Council via the role of Department of Early Learning staff to the Council. As a Council member the HSSCO works to ensure representation of state level Head Start/Early Head Start perspectives, seek opportunities for strategic partnerships, and promote the development of comprehensive systems serving low income children and families.

**The work you have completed to date on the required annual needs assessment update of the needs of Head Start grantees in the State with respect to coordination, collaboration, alignment of services and alignment of curricula and assessments.**

Last year the WA HSSCO conducted a comprehensive needs assessment using the template developed by the national HSSCO network. This year the WA HSSCO released an abbreviated survey based upon the existing HSSCO Five Year Strategic Plan. The survey was designed to assess changes to need from the previous year. The survey was released in Survey Monkey format in October. Results were interpreted in partnership with the HSSCO advisory team and a report was made available to the public in December.

**How you have involved the State Head Start Association and other partners in the ongoing work of the State Collaboration Office throughout the grant year.**

The HSSCO maintains a joint advisory team with ECEAP, Washington's state pre-k program. This team serves as a key mechanism for engaging HSSCO partners in the strategic direction of grant activities and includes representatives from state agencies, local programs, state Head Start association, and parents. Sharing an advisory team with ECEAP also makes this team a key mechanism for growing and maintaining partnerships between Head Start and ECEAP.

The State Head Start Association is a key partner of the HSSCO. The Association is represented on the HSSCO Advisory Team. The Association is a member of the Head Start/ECEAP Partnership for Quality which is a group that meets monthly via phone to share cross program updates and discuss opportunities for partnership. The HSSCO attends Association conferences and meetings throughout the year.

**Your efforts to support the coordination of Head Start services to American Indian/Alaska Native and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs in your State.**

The HSSCO continued to support AIAN and MSHS programs through data sharing agreements, described below, which provide programs with DSHS client data to be used in recruitment.

AIAN and MSHS programs are included in all HSSCO communications to programs.

The HSSCO serves on the Native American Early Learning Coalition (now renamed the First People's First Steps Alliance). A primary focus of this group is exploring ways to support Head Start programs serving native children to meet professional development requirements while maintaining an emphasis on keeping experienced tribal staff in the classroom.

The HSSCO participated in a DEL consultation with the Tribal Leader's Congress on Education to explore ways that DEL can work more closely with Washington Tribes in the future.

The HSSCO served as the DEL staff co-lead for this year's DEL sponsored Tribal early care and education conference. This year's conference planning team included active participation by Washington AIAN programs. The conference was designed to meet the needs of both child care and Head Start programs serving native children and families.

**Describe additional activities and successes for the year.**

- **Advancing Racial Equity**

The HSSCO serves on the work team for Thrive by Five's effort to develop a racial equity theory of change which will be used to guide efforts to apply a racial equity lens to key areas of Early Learning Plan implementation.

- **Strengthening Families Washington**

The HSSCO provided support to the Strengthening Families Washington Collaborative. The work formerly held by Council for Children Families which moved over to DEL in July is now titled Strengthening Families Washington. While affiliated, the Collaborative remains a separate and independent effort representing a collaboration between many state and local partners. The HSSCO supported the strategic planning process for the Collaborative to articulate and refine their role in this shifting environment.

- **Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness**

The HSSCO worked in partnership with ESIT, ECEAP and OSPI McKinney-Vento staff to put on a webinar for staff from across these and HS programs to learn about each of the programs and best practices for partnerships to better serve children and families experiencing homelessness.

- **ECEAP, Head Start, Early Head Start State Profile**

The HSSCO updated the Washington ECEAP, HS, EHS State Profile to reflect current year data and information and made hard copies available to Head Start and ECEAP programs as well as to various partners.

- **Head Start/ECEAP Partnership for Quality**

The HSSCO facilitates monthly conference calls of the Head Start ECEAP Partnership for Quality. This group includes representation from ECEAP, the state Head Start association, Head Start regional office, Head Start T/TA, and local Head Start/ECEAP programs. These

calls serve as a key mechanism for sharing information about partner activities and opportunities for coordination and collaboration.

- **Data sharing**

The HSSCO has continued to support Washington Head Start grantees through data sharing agreements that allow grantees to access Department of Social and Health Services client data for recruitment purposes.

- **State legislative session**

The HSSCO served as a source of data and information about Head Start programs in Washington during state legislative session.

- **Newsletter**

The HSSCO continues to distribute a bimonthly newsletter which is sent to Washington grantees and partners providing updates on HSSCO activities as well as other relevant state level initiatives and opportunities for grantee participation.

- **Foster Care**

The HSSCO has continued to build relationships with DSHS Children's Administration including coordinating an interview with a foster parent accessing Head Start services for inclusion in the foster care newsletter, supporting the development of a proposal for the delivery of training to child welfare staff about HS and ECEAP, as well as serving on the interview committee for hiring of an Early Childhood Program Manager which is a new position within Children's Administration.