



JULY 2008 Update

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Federal Fiscal Year 09 Appropriation

Federal funding levels for key early care and education programs have been established by both the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee. For Head Start each propose a modest amount, House \$242m, Senate \$223m. In addition the Senate has set-aside \$3m for Head Start Centers for Excellence. This amount is close to a one-year COLA, which is very welcome after an accumulated 11% in cuts since 2002.

In addition, the House/Senate purposed a \$55m/\$75m increase for Child Care Block Grant, House a \$50k increase to 21st Century Community Learning Centers and \$1m to Child Care Access Means Parents in School.

As reported in the press, it is anticipated neither the House nor the Senate will bring spending bills to the floor for final approval. The federal government will operate on a Continuing Resolution (CR) from October until the 111th Congress meets in January 2009. Head Start's 2007 reauthorization bill called for spending levels for FFY 09 of \$7.65b. If the final FF09 spending bill is passed next year the high mark proposed by the House would be \$7.12b, or \$530m less than the authorized level.

Federal Legislation: House PreK Bill Advances

In late June the House Education & Labor Committee, under the leadership of Rep. George Miller, D-Contra Costa, passed **HR 3289**. This legislation, if it moves forward, would increase the Federal involvement in State PreK by providing incentives to States to increase quality and in some circumstances add access. The Bill's author Ms. Hirono, D-HI received over 120 cosponsors, including 25 California Congressional Members.

This legislation would amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and authorize \$500m annually for grant based funding to eligible or selected states. California would not be automatically eligible under the legislation because of our CA Title 5 allowance of a group size over 20. Head Start advocates have expressed concern for the bills lack of connection to the 2007 Head Start reauthorization with the exception of State Early Learning Councils. As the bill advances, efforts to insure links between State PreK systems and Head Start Grantees will be of interest. In particular, advocates must pay special attention to this bills workforce development

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and supply planning elements to avoid conflicts at the local level. On a positive note, this legislation calls for greater investment in children – and that is very good news!

NHSA's Leadership Institute: September 23 – 25, 2008 – Washington DC

California Head Start Association strongly encourages parent leaders, governing board members and senior management to attend NHSA's Leadership Institute in September. Please go to nhsa.org and review the registration materials. This year's Leadership Institute is designed to enhance participants understanding of the public policy framework that affects Head Start funding and regulations. In addition, CHSA builds teams of advocates that spend one day on Capitol Hill visiting our congressional members and their staff. If you plan to attend or send agency parents and staff, please inform CHSA so that we may assist in making this event valuable.

Contact Double Tree Crystal City at 703-416-4100 for room reservations and rates.

Voter Education & Voter Registration: NHSA & CHSA are strongly encouraging Head Start leaders to reach out to local League of Women Voters to plan for the upcoming Fall Presidential Elections. You may download a list of local LWV groups by going to the LWV-CA at <http://www.ca.lwv.org/lwvc/aboutlwvc/lldir.html> CHSA will be distributing materials electronically during September. We encourage you to plan now to host a non-partisan voter education night. In a recent nationwide poll conducted by Every Child Matters Education Fund, voters of both parties are deeply concerned about a variety of problems facing America's children and find it important for the candidates for President to address them with specific proposals in their platform. Voter Education Nights are a great opportunity to inform, educate and invite our community to act. **NOTE: October 20, 2008 is the last day to register in California to participate in the November 4, 2008 Election.**

Region IX Head Start Association – 2008-2009 Scholarships

Applications Due Sept. 30

All RIXHSA members have been mailed the RIXHSA Scholarship application, which details RIXHSA's three (3) Scholarship Awards, the application process, and the September 30th due date. Your State Association does not screen, recommend, select or approve the RIXHSA Scholarship applicants. RIXHSA Scholarship applications are mailed by the applicant directly to the RIXHSA Scholarship Committee at RIXHSA Scholarship Committee, 4305 University Avenue, Ste – 400, San Diego, CA 92105. Each Scholarship is for \$1,000 and dedicated to a specific applicant audience. Parents and staff applying for a scholarship must be from agencies that are current members of RIXHSA.

- **Al Orozco Memorial Scholarship** is offered to present or former Head Start parents who will be or are presently attending college or an accredited vocational or technical school.
- **Torcey Wiley Memorial Scholarship** is offered to current Head Start employees who will be or are presently attending college or an accredited vocational or technical school.
- **Ron Bernard Memorial Scholarship** is offered to high school seniors who graduated from a Region IX Head Start program who will be attending college or an accredited vocational or technical school.

State Department of Education – RFA – Facilities

The FY 2008-09 Facilities Renovation and Repair Funding RFA is posted on the CDE Funding web site. Facilities Renovation and Repair (FRR) funds must be used to maintain compliance with health and safety requirements established by State licensing regulations and local health and fire departments, to comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, or to purchase or replace equipment necessary for the health and safety of children enrolled in State-subsidized child care and development programs. These funds must be used for child care facilities serving state-subsidized children only. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact Holly Miller, FRR Coordinator, CDE/CDD, by phone at (916) 323-7195 or by email at hmiller@cde.ca.gov **Application Deadline: August 18, 2008, 5 PM**

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State Child Care and Development Reports

RAND's series on California's preschool system - the first comprehensive statewide look at early care and education for preschool-age children in California - provides policymakers and advocates with exciting new data to bolster the case for high-quality preschool. California must create a high-quality early care and education system that helps close our achievement gap and benefits our state's economy. To date three reports from RAND have been generated;

- **Study 1:** Who Is Ahead and Who Is Behind?
Gaps in School Readiness and Student Achievement in the Early Grades for California's Children
- **Study 2:** Early Care and Education in the Golden State
Publicly Funded Programs Serving California's Preschool-Age Children
- **Study 3:** Prepared to Learn
The Nature and Quality of Early Care and Education for Preschool-Age Children in California

Preschool California has built an excellent web page for RAND's series on California's preschool system. <http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/rand-study/>

State Child Care and Development Legislation & Budget

Legislation by Senator Steinberg (SB 1629) would establish a commission to create an early learning quality improvement system. This would establish a Quality Improvement Commission charged with developing a framework for assessing program quality and an enhanced reimbursement system beginning with Title 5 programs. Language in the bill requires the California Children and Families Commission cover the cost of the activities detailed in this bill. Status: SB 1629 is in the Senate appropriation suspense file.

California's State budget is over one month past due, one area of debate is the California Children and Families Commission Funds Reserve. In this very difficult budget year, there are attempts to use these funds more immediate and non-children and families State needs. When Proposition 10 was passed in 1998 these funds were excluded from the legislative oversight and targeted for specific spending priorities - parents, caregivers and children ages 0 to 5. CHSA urges you to tell your State Assembly member and Senator to protect this important funding source so that it remains available to meet the needs of the families you serve.

SAVE THE DATE

CHSA Technology Institute: October 8 & 9th Sacramento, Hilton Arden West – CHSA is pleased to announce our 1st Technology Institute to be held in Sacramento October 8 & 9. Registration materials will be mailed early August. This Institute will focus on issues and resources related to technology in both program administration and classroom based services. *This Technology Institute is in collaboration with STG Region IX TA Network.*

CDPI Fall Forum: October 20-21, 2008 Sheraton Grand Sacramento - A yearly, high-level policy event that focuses on a current issue that will impact the early education field. Past speakers include senators, assembly members, representatives from the Governor's office, and state department staff. Go to www.cdpi.net for more information.

CHSA Parent & Education Conferences: January 26 – 30, 2009 – San Diego, CA – CHSA is Calling All Presenters! Our annual Parent and Education Conferences will be held in San Diego January 26-30, 2009. This Conference week offers us an excellent opportunity to showcase many of the best practices in the California Head Start community. Go to caheadstart.org

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