



News and Updates

November 2018

Minnesota Awarded National TEACH Grant to "Move the Needle on Compensation"



We are all aware of the woefully low compensation of early childhood teachers whether they are working in a center or a home-based setting. The median hourly wage of a child care worker in Minnesota is only \$11.27 per hour. We know these low wages contribute to high turnover and workforce instability. Child Care Aware of Minnesota was recently awarded a National TEACH grant as part of the second round of "Moving the Needle on Compensation" projects. Minnesota was one of four states to receive this grant. The goal is to raise awareness of early childhood workforce compensation issues as well as create new or significantly expanded policy, strategy development, implementation and/or funding to improve compensation. An 11-member Minnesota team will receive technical assistance from the TEACH National Center and investigate strategies such as wage supplements tied to education, professional development scholarships, tax credits, wage parity requirements and more. We are thrilled to receive this opportunity and thank the Alliance for Early Success and the TEACH National Center for their funding and support.

We strongly believe that Minnesota needs qualified, diverse, supported and fairly compensated early childhood educators.

Field Placements Updates

The National Academies of Sciences' report on [Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth through Age Eight](#) recommends that states strengthen practice-based requirements, including a supervised induction period. Our vision in Minnesota is that early childhood students have access to high-quality field placements and that all field placement staff have access to resources and professional learning in every region of the state. We are thrilled that June Reineke, Early Childhood Collaboration Specialist with the Minnesota Department of Education, has agreed to lead a subcommittee of experts to develop written guidance for field placement sites that includes how to best support cooperating teachers and will include models that ensure high quality placement. This subcommittee will also prepare written guidance regarding best practices for supervised induction and the transition to autonomous practice.



Legislative Opportunities for 2019

The B8 Early Childhood Workforce Core Team has prioritized policy and financing recommendations for 2019 and will be asking partner organizations and other early childhood advocates to help support the following:

- Increased funding for TEACH, REETAIN, CDA and other scholarships for adults to obtain early childhood education
- Continued funding through DEED with a focus on the early childhood workforce
- Expansion of "Grow Your Own" grant programs to include Head Start and community based early childhood education
- Tax credits to support access and quality for families as well as early care and educational professionals

Transforming the Financing of Early Childhood



On October 29, 2018, we brought together 40 experts on early childhood financing and the early childhood workforce to learn from each other, discuss issues and propose next steps. Stakeholders included advocacy organizations, state agency representatives, higher education faculty and administrators, philanthropists, the Federal Reserve of Minnesota, early childhood educators and program directors, as well as national experts including the Early Learning Policy Group, the Committee for Economic Development and the TEACH National Center. Jerry Cutts and Liz Davis, Minnesotans who served on the National Academy of Sciences' workgroup that produced the national consensus study report, [Transforming the Financing of Early Care and Education](#), shared their experience with the process as well as the recommendations from the report. We deepened our understanding of the issues and identified action steps for collective impact.

For more information visit: www.ecworkforcemn.org