

**Report for the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood**  
*January 2015*

**Partner Group:** Missouri Head Start-State Collaboration Office (MHSSCO)

**Liaison to the Board:** Stacey Wright, Director

1. On December 12, the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) today announced preliminary winners for its [Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership](#) grants to improve the quality of existing child care programs and expand access to high-quality care for infants and toddlers. According to the release, thus far, 234 **preliminarily** selected grant applicants in 49 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands will receive over \$435 million in funding to help offer care and services to ensure that infants and toddlers have access to Early Head Start services in their communities. The DHHS will continue to negotiate with these and other applicant agencies to award all grants on a rolling basis beginning January 1, 2015. The full allocation of \$500 million will be awarded by the end of March 2015. **With this first round, 3 Missouri grantees will benefit.** They are:

**Missouri**

Hannibal	Douglass Community Services, Inc.	\$ 1,200,000
Saint Charles	Youth In Need	\$ 1,500,000
Sedalia	Children's Therapy Center of Pettis County, Inc.	\$ 200,000

Also of note:

**Kansas**

Kansas City	The Family Conservancy	\$ 17,400,000
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2. Work is currently underway by Dr. Louis Manfra, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, University of Missouri to conduct a study on Head Start-Local Education Agency Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs). Dr. Manfra and his team will survey HS and Local Education Agency representatives to compare perceptions on the productivity of their partnership and what qualities enhance the partnership. The anticipated completion of the study and final report is early 2015.
3. The 2014 Governor's Committee To End Homelessness (GCEH) Homeless Awareness Conference. The Cooperative Media Group, University Extension provided professional services in recording two segments of the 2014 Homelessness Awareness Conference. Following editing and approval from lead agency, the links will be made available via the Missouri Head Start website. The MHSSCO is pleased support this activity as it assists us in extending the reach of this relevant, research-based information to varied stakeholders interested in homelessness, including the effects of homelessness on early childhood education. The following sessions will be available:
  - Opening Remarks and the Plenary: *Housing Issues in the Child Welfare System*, Dr. Patrick Fowler, Brown School, Washington University
  - *Effects of Homelessness on Early Childhood Education*, Dr. Louis Manfra, University of Missouri.

In collaboration with the Missouri Head Start Association, the Head Start Training and /Technical Assistance system, and an interagency planning team representing HS/EHS, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and various State Departments to sponsor the Missouri Transition Summit on December 5, 2014 in Jefferson City, MO. Purposes of the Summit included:

- To bring together key stakeholders in early childhood education, including Head Start representatives, other early childhood education providers, Local Education Agencies, representatives of Higher Education and family members. Bringing stake-holders together to work in a neutral setting is an important first step in collaborative kindergarten transition planning.
- To communicate the importance of successful early transition experiences for children. Reaching this goal involves providing content on how well children are doing in kindergarten and how successful transition experiences can help children, families, communities, and schools become more “school ready,” which in turn, helps close gaps in kindergarten performance.
- To allow participants to share current transition and alignment practices and ideas for practices. This can be achieved through group discussions focused on practices that participants are already using or through panel discussions featuring leaders who have successfully addressed transition and alignment planning, and have overcome common challenges, and have achieved successful outcomes in their work.

The day’s sessions were video-taped and links will be available on the MO Head Start website [www.moheadstart.org](http://www.moheadstart.org)