

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

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

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2015 Head Start Needs Assessment Survey: To fulfill the requirements of the Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, the MHSSCO has engaged in various processes to annually assess the needs for collaboration of Head Start grantees and delegates in Missouri to better address the issues faced by young children (birth to school entry) and their families with low income. In 2015, MHSSCO received updated information from the OHS about the priority areas in which they want grantees to foster collaboration. The MHSSCO determined that major revision of the survey to reflect these changes would be helpful for the purposes of assisting grantees, updating the current strategic plan, and preparing for completion of the 5-year grant application. Thus, the revised survey focused on these five areas prioritized by the OHS:

- Partnership with State Child Care Systems (Emphasizing EHS-CC Partnerships);
- Work with States in Efforts to Collect Data on Early Childhood Programs and Child Outcomes;
- Support for Expansion and Access of High Quality Workforce and Staff Opportunities for Career Development;
- Work with State School Systems for Continuity between Head Start and Kindergarten Entrance Assessment; and
- Collaboration to Support Quality.

The needs assessment was conducted via an online survey accessed through an Internet link sponsored by UMKC-IHD. Twenty-one of 23 grantees that serve families throughout Missouri were represented in the dataset, including one of the two Migrant and Seasonal Head Start grantees that offer services in Missouri. The response rate was exceptionally high, with someone responding from all but two grantees. UMKC-IHD is currently finalizing the full report.

State Child Care System Priority. MHSSCO is working with a consultant to conduct activities within the federal priority area of Child Care systems. The MHSSCO and the consultant is working closely with representatives from the Missouri Department of Social Services, Children's Division, Early Childhood and Prevention Services Section to design the activities. Key activities currently being discussed include:

1. Utilize the Side-by-Side Comparison of Federal and State Requirements template*(post CCDF 2015 Reauthorization) for Early Childhood Education services, outlining key elements of EHS and CCDF legislation and regulations and enter state-specific early education requirements for infants and toddlers.
2. Develop a Missouri Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership booklet. The EHS/CC Partnership booklet will serve as an informational booklet for awardees/their partners, and include overview information on the various EHS to assist stakeholders in understanding the difference in the models.

3. Develop an EHS-CCP article featuring the 6 MO awardees that will be highlighted in the 2015 edition of the Strategic Collaboration Manual.

New 5-Year MHSSCO Grant Application. Over the next several weeks, the MHSSCO will be working with University officials, the MHSSCO advisory Council, the Head Start Community, and other stakeholders to inform the MHSSCO 5-year grant application. A Key activities in this process will be engaging stakeholders to:

- Finalize the Long Range Goals for the Priority Areas of:
 - Partnering with State Child Care Systems, Emphasizing EHS-CC partnerships
 - Working with State Efforts to collect data regarding early childhood program and child outcomes;
 - Supporting the expansion of, and access to, high quality workforce and career development opportunities for staff;
 - Collaborating with Systems that Support Quality; and
 - Working with State school systems to ensure continuity between Head Start and Kindergarten Entrance Assessment (KEA).
- Reviewing and Discussing
 - Accomplishments of MHSSCO during the current 5 year period; and
 - 2015 Head Start Needs Assessment Results Summary.
- Develop Preliminary Process Goals, Short Term Objectives and Expected Outcomes for the priority areas.