



P.O. Box 901
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

919-967-3272
fax: 919-442-1988

www.teachecnationalcenter.org

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Contact:

(919) 967-3272

Suer@teachecnationalcenter.org

Five States Awarded Grants to Address the Compensation of the Early Childhood Workforce

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center (Center) announces the award of grants to five (5) state teams to work on improving public awareness, public policies and funding to address the compensation of the early childhood workforce in those states. The five states and their lead organizations are Children's Forum, Inc. (Florida), Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children, Child Care Services Association (North Carolina) and Wisconsin Early Childhood Association. "We are grateful for funding from the Alliance for Early Success to help states try to address one of the most difficult challenges states face in improving the early care and education system and in attracting and retaining qualified teachers for our youngest children," said Sue Russell, Executive Director of the Center. "Parents struggle every day with the high cost of child care; yet teachers are often paid very low wages. This project will allow states to explore strategies that decouple what parents can afford to pay from what well-educated, competent teachers deserve," Russell continued.

With grant funding from the Alliance for Early Success, a national alliance of state, national and funding partners, each state will assemble teams comprised of stakeholders who are committed to addressing the education, compensation and retention issues facing the early education workforce in their states and work to create and implement a strategic action plan to move the needle on compensation over the coming year. The Center will host a national Summit, April 27-28, 2017 in Chapel Hill, NC to bring these state teams together for 2-days of learning from national leaders and each other and to begin mapping out their strategies for policy, advocacy and funding actions back home. "We see this as great opportunity to bring together national thought leaders in the early education field and the movers and shakers in these five states to work toward advancing workforce compensation strategies in those states and to contribute to the compensation conversation across the country," said Julie Rogers, project director. "We are confident these state teams will make an important contribution to the critical work of ensuring our country's youngest children have the best start possible by making sure their teachers in those early years are well educated, fairly compensated and stay in their chosen field. It simply won't happen for our children until teachers can earn a living wage doing this most essential work."

About the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center provides leadership in the early childhood education field to states across the country and to our nation's policymakers on the critical importance and value of an educated, well-paid and stable early childhood workforce to ensure the long term success of our nation's children in school and in life. The Center collects and disseminates data on the workforce, provides tools, resources and strategies for creating a stable, well educated and fairly compensated early education workforce and contributes to national conversations and initiatives aimed at advancing policy, funding and advocacy in support of the early childhood workforce. Through the work of the T.E.A.C.H. Center over 136,000 early childhood professionals in over half the states in the nation have received T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarships to help them earn college credits, credentials and degrees. For more information please visit www.teachecnationalcenter.org.

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