



ECEC Site-Visit Campaign Kicks Off!

With Congress adjourned for the August recess and members back in their districts, the ECEC August Site-Visit Campaign is officially underway! The goal of the campaign is to help Members of Congress learn more about high-quality child care programs around the country programs like yours by having them visit programs. We're SHOWING Members of Congress what high-quality child care is, and asking them to take action when they return

to Washington, DC.

To see photos and stories from visits that have already taken place, or to find more information about how you can host a legislator at your center, [click here!](#)

ECEC Radio Discusses the Early Learning Challenge Fund and What it Means for You

Last month, we reported that a bill that would establish an Early Learning Challenge Fund was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Challenge Fund would make a significant new investment in early learning: \$1 billion per year for 8 years. The proposal places an all-new focus on the development of state early learning systems, and makes a commitment to increasing the number of low-income children in high-quality programs.



Recently, Dr. Ruth Friedman, Senior Education Policy Advisor to Rep. George Miller (D-CA), Chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor - and a chief architect of the proposal, [sat down with ECEC Radio](#) to discuss the proposal and what it means to child care program providers like you.

To listen to the broadcast or find more information and news about the status of the legislation, visit our [Federal Legislation](#) page.

State Budget Outlook Grim

As states wrap up their budget work and begin FY 2010, the outlook for future state budgets is poor. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, nearly every state faced budget problems in FY 2009 and that trend will continue for FY 2010 as revenues continue to slide, forcing more cuts to services and programs.

Florida One Goal Conference Brings Over 1,000 Early Learning Advocates Together

This year's One Goal Summer Conference, held July 22-24 in Tampa, brought together early education and care providers and leaders from around the state to discuss a wide range of issues. Participants shared information on best practices in the field as well as how to build common frameworks to assist in unified planning for young children and their families.

One Goal Summer Conference



Early Care and Education Consortium members and staff presented at the conference. Their session, "Child Care Providers and Early Learning Coalitions: Policy and Practice to Improve Access and Quality," is available [here!](#)

The One Goal Summer Conference is sponsored by a number of organizations, including the Children's Forum, the Florida Departments of Health and Education, and the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Policy and You: Legislator Site-Visits

Hosting legislators at your program is a great way for them to learn more about high-quality child care programs around the country and what it is you do every day.

Have you ever hosted a legislator at your program? What was your experience like? Did you find it rewarding? Did the legislator learn something new? What did you take away from the visit? [Please tell us your story!](#)

Resources and Events

NCSL Examines State Budget Actions toward Early Childhood Education Programs in FY 2009

The National Conference of State Legislatures new report "[Early Care and Education State Budget Actions FY 2009](#)" summarizes budget actions states took last year for early childhood programs. The report finds that, over all, states increased spending for early care and education programs in FY 2009 by \$651 million. As the data was gathered in the spring of 2008, it does not however reflect budget realities faced by states since the economic downturn.

National Head Start Association Leadership Institute

September 21-25 in Arlington, VA

The Leadership Institute aims to help Head Start leaders learn how they can lead in the early childhood education and policy field. ECEC Executive Director Eric Karolak and other invited panelists will be discussing emerging federal early care and education policy issues. [Click here](#) for more information!

NAEYC's Annual Conference & Expo

November 18-21 in Washington, DC

This year's Conference features more than 900 sessions on diverse topics and themes reflecting both traditional strategies and cutting-edge practice. Look for presentations by Early Care and Education Consortium members and staff on topics ranging from how to plan an effective elected-official's visit to your center to the role of quality rating systems in professional development, and what's on the early childhood federal horizon. Housing and registration are [now open!](#)