



# **WSA** Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP

*Serving ECEAP, Head Start, Migrant Head Start,  
Tribal Head Start and Early Head Start  
Programs and Families*



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## **WSA To Receive \$247,000 Grant From The W.K. Kellogg Foundation To Support Financial Literacy Training And Asset Building With Head Start and ECEAP Parents**

The Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP (WSA) has been awarded a two year grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to provide financial literacy training and asset building for parents that have children enrolled in Head Start and ECEAP. We will be partnering with the Washington Asset Building Coalition and the Washington State Department of Commerce. This innovative approach will be integrated into WSA's Parent Ambassadors Program which provides high quality peer to peer leadership and advocacy training to 25 low income parents each year.

Starting in January 2013 each Parent Ambassador selected will go through a series of financial literacy trainings and individual intensive coaching. After successful completion of the program they will be eligible to set up an Individual Development Account (IDA) with matching funds provided by the Kellogg Foundation. The combined funds can then be used by the recipient to pay for college expenses or to help start a small business.

### **Joel Ryan, Executive Director of WSA, of said the following:**

"WSA is happy to receive this grant and believe it will provide Head Start and ECEAP parents with the necessary financial know-how and skills they need to manage their household budgets, plan for the future, and make the right financial decisions with the limited funds they have. In addition, we are excited that our parents will be eligible to receive a small amount of financial support so that they can go back to school or start a business. We expect that this innovative approach will give us and policy makers some clues to what it may take to break the cycle of poverty."

### **Stephanie Bowman, Executive of Washington ABC, said the following**

"Washington ABC is thrilled with the opportunity to partner with WSA to create a model program to help parents achieve their personal savings goals. The WABC network of local asset-building coalitions will be a valuable resource for connecting parents with community services."

### **Diane Fay, Washington State Department of Commerce, said the following**

"The whole-family approach provided by the Parent Ambassador Program is a unique opportunity for low-income families as they work to overcome economic and social struggles. Commerce is excited to support such an innovative program, and one that is the leading the nation in strengthening the economic success in low-income parents."

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The **Washington State Association of Head Start/ECEAP (WSA)** is a statewide organization composed of representatives from ECEAP, Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant/Seasonal Head Start, and Native American Head Start. The association has been in existence since the late 1960's, and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1986. The organization advocates for Head Start and for ECEAP in Olympia and in Washington, DC. You can visit our web site at [www.wsaheadstarteceap.com](http://www.wsaheadstarteceap.com).