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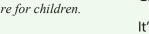






OUR MISSION

To advance an equitable society by supporting early childhood educators and parents who seek to provide the highest quality care for children.



ECE Career Center

Early Childhood Educators Learning Togethe







SILEAPS BOUND

WINTER 2023 / 2024

Greetings:

It's been a very challenging and exciting year! We have modernized our logo, updated our mission statement, reviewed the agency values and added programs. Our commitment, first established in 1988, remains the same: to provide high quality services and resources to families with young children and Early Childhood Educators who provide high quality care and education.

We started talking about these changes with a small group of colleagues, board members and funders some months ago. We finalized plans in late summer 2023 and by October 1st, we were able to seamlessly hire additional staff and expand programs without interrupting our quality service delivery.

Our **Parents as Teachers** program, which works with families with young children, has successfully continued through monthly home visiting. Our commitment to supporting the family, friends and neighbors, **Licensed Exempt providers**, who care for young children has expanded to include training opportunities, health and safety checks and distribution of items need for children in their care.

Our pledge to ensure high quality professional development trainings for childcare providers in Southeastern Michigan has been strengthened through the establishment of the Early Childhood Educators (ECE) Career **Center.** The expansion of professional development trainings supports childcare providers as they strive to improve quality. In turn, more childcare facilities are coordinating with the Great Start to Quality Improvement **Coaches** to achieve higher standards.

In addition, our **Child Development Associate Credential (CDA)** program provides nationally certificated trainings and individualized support to childcare providers. Annually, the CDA program supports over 200 childcare providers in achieving this national post-high school certification. To further support, we have entered into a partnership to pilot a workforce development apprenticeship program through Michigan Works and other partners.

Much of this has been accomplished because of the partnerships and funding from many; most notably the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start and United Way for Southeastern Michigan. None of this could have happened without the generous and thoughtful support from our donors: WE ARE GRATEFUL.

Please accept our wholehearted thanks. Wishing you all a 2024 filled with joy, good health and peace in your lives, our region and throughout the globe.

All the Best

Save the Date!

2024 Annual Fundraising **Dinner Event & Silent Auction** May 8, 2024



PAT & Early On Programs

Parents and Teachers Program (PAT): Provides services to families with children from birth-5 years old. The goals of these at-home visits are to ensure all children will learn, grow and develop, reaching their full potential, and instill that parents and caregivers are a child's earliest and BEST teachers. A total of 463 home visits were completed with a focus on early learning activities, early child development, health and wellness information, along with additional support services. Services are provided throughout Wayne and Macomb counties.





Early On: Works with the intermediate schools to support parents with children age birth-3 years old with developmental delays. Through evaluation and assessment and a series of personalized home visits are complete focusing on the child's development.

This program is for Wayne County families.

Workforce Development

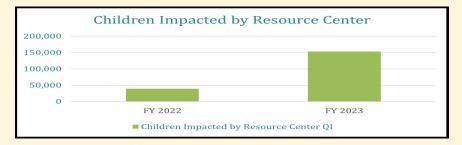
Child Development Associate (CDA), A National Credential Program: Through our CDA trainings 250 childcare professional participated in our 120 hours of instructional training for 5 hours on Saturdays to earn their national certification from the Council for Professional Recognition. In 2023 over 100 additional individuals were provided these CDA trainings compared to 2022.



Quality Improvement for Childcare Providers: Wayne, Oakland, Macomb Resource Center: The Resource Center provides quality improvement support, coaching and workshops to over **2,400** childcare providers and over **500** family licensed exempt providers. In 2023, staff personally met with **352** providers who serve **152,992** children. Compared to 2022, more

than **100,000** additional children were impacted in 2023.

Highlights



Professional Development Training for Childcare Providers: Open to all childcare providers in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb County. Childcare Providers & Early Educators gain skills and knowledge in health and safety, business basics, early literacy, early math and science, and working with challenging behaviors. Over 70 training topics were offered. 5,057 participants attended at least one of the 357 sessions. Compared to 2022 more than 400 new individuals attended these sessions in 2023.



Financial Support to Childcare Providers Through American Recovery Plan Act Funding (ARPA): Through the <u>Facilities Improvement Fund</u> distributing over \$50 million dollars statewide to childcare programs we provided **30** informational sessions and 1-on-1 assistance to over **395** childcare providers with the application process to receive funding. Through the <u>Stabilization Grant Funding</u> we assisted approximately **3,510** childcare providers in the process to secure over \$200 million in funding to stabilize their operations impacted by the pandemic.



Maintaining a Steady Course: Thanks to generous contributions from our donors along with ongoing grants and contracts the agency was able to end the year within its approved operating budget. In 2023, 17,000 emails, 10,000 calls/texts, and over 5,000 mailings were sent to parents & childcare providers. We are hoping with the recent updates to the agency we are able to provide our services to more individuals.