



EARLY INVESTMENTS

A monthly newsletter from the Foundation for Early Learning



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March 2009

Early Learning Community: 500th Member, Chat & Contest

ELC Tops 500 Members

Launched less than four weeks ago, the [Early Learning Community](#) has already grown to include members from across the state and nation.



We are proud to announce that [Child Care Resources](#) is the 500th member of this new social network dedicated to the world of early learning. Share this new site with your friends and colleagues by [inviting](#) them to join today.

New Chat Feature

The Early Learning Community now features the ability to chat online with other members of the ELC. You can collaborate with other community members or discuss early learning ideas and information.

Log into the [Early Learning Community](#) and click on the bar at the bottom of the page to see who is online. You can also watch a demo of the new feature by [clicking here](#).

Photo Contest

Win a \$25 Starbucks gift card by entering the [Early Learning Community Photo Contest](#). Upload a baby photo you took by March 31st and encourage friends to vote for their favorite photo. The winning image will be featured on the homepage of the Early Learning Community.



Enter to win today at www.earlylearning.org/community.

Voting ends April 7th, 2009.

Federal Economic Recovery Funding Webpage

The [Department of Early Learning](#) (DEL) has created a new webpage to



Washington State Department of
Early Learning



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help explain the early learning funding within the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Currently, the package includes funding for two key early learning initiatives:

- About \$2 billion nationally for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Block Grant.
- \$2.1 billion for the federal Head Start and Early Head Start program.

DEL will update the site regularly as more information is available.

To learn more about this new online resource visit www.del.wa.gov/government/recovery/

UWPC Funding Changes

[United Way of Pierce County](#) invites you to attend a special session to hear about important changes to the Community Safety Net Investment process. These changes will go into effect with the July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013 funding cycle. Applications become available in February 2010.



This information session is helpful if you are considering applying for funding. It will also help you better prepare for this competitive funding process. The session is open to all.

Click [here](#) to learn more or how to RSVP.

2009 ELPLP Symposium



Early Learning
Public Library Partnership

The Early Learning Public Library Partnership (ELPLP) hosted their first Symposium on March 13. Over 50 members from across Washington came together to share, learn, and explore new ways to connect with the community.

Learn more about the [ELPLP](#).

Presentations included *Strategies for Reaching Out to Diverse Communities*, *Play and Learn*, and *Engaging Children and Families Through Music*.

Join the [ELPLP group](#) on the Early Learning Community.

Coalition-Building Grants Awarded

[The Foundation for Early Learning](#) is pleased to award our latest round of coalition building grants. Located in communities across Washington State, our coalitions are building capacity, creating infrastructure, and mobilizing early learning champions to ensure children birth to five are prepared for success in school and life.

Grantees include:

- *Lewis County Eye on Early Learning Coalition*
- *Inland Northwest Alliance for Early Learning*
- *Olympic Kitsap Regional Early Learning Partnership*
- *Partnership for Children and Families*
- *Skagit Early Learning Coalition.*

[Click here](#) to learn more about these coalition grants.

Visit the Foundation's website to learn more about our coalition-building [grants](#) and community-focused [projects](#).

Thank You for Investing!

A special note from Foundation for Early Learning Executive Director, Vaughnetta J. Barton.

I would like to thank all those who attended the [2009 Leadership Luncheon](#) and who helped make this event a success!



I am humbled by the many faces who made it to our luncheon, and who invested in the future of the children in Washington State. We had over 600 guests join us and raised more than \$200,000.

I would like to especially thank [Andrea Levere](#), the keynote speaker, along with our sponsors, table captains, and the Foundation's spectacular [board](#) and [staff](#) for making this event a success!

Warm regards,

Vaughnetta J. Barton
Executive Director

Early Investments is a monthly newsletter from the Foundation for Early Learning. To request an event or announcement to be included in an upcoming issue, please contact Joel Ballezza, Communications Manager, at joel@earlylearning.org.

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