

## February Parent Call Notes 2/15/2018

### Federal

Passed budget agreement to end a shutdown that included reauthorization for MIECHV, made an agreement for the funding level for discretionary funding to raise the amount for defense spending and raise HHS funding 57B, giving potential for a funding increase for Head Start. This allows money not only for new slots but also for quality i.e. classroom space, teacher pay, duration requirements. President Trump released his budget proposal with a proposed increase of 22M for Head Start. Child care got an enormous increase, almost double. Many people sent in comments around the DRS. PHSA supported those comments. They have sent out more questions to get further comments, and we will get more information out as it becomes available.

### State

Governor Wolf released his budget. Funding to come from shale tax. He proposed an additional 40M for prek - 10M Head Start Supplemental, 30M PreK Counts, an additional 4M for HV, and additional money for child care for more slots and improving and raising the subsidy rate. We are pleased and thankful given how tight the funding is. It will be a challenge to make sure the increases make it into the budget, but it is a good place to start. Keep in mind this year we have two advocacy opportunities - budget advocacy and election advocacy. It is an election year - not just in November, but also state and senate seats elections in the spring - primaries and general elections. We will reach out around the primaries to go to community meetings to talk about Head Start.

### PHSA

Online registration for the annual conference 4/11-4/12 in Seven Springs, PA is now open. Pre-conference sessions on 4/10 will be centered on challenging behaviors, inclusion, diversity, expulsion and suspension. A main focus of this conference is parents' voices. The keynote speaker is a Head Start parent from Washington State. We are looking to move forward on parent engagement in advocacy for oral health with our Healthy Smiles taskforce, as well as food access in our partnership with the Food Trust, Ready Set Grow. We are still planning Capital Caravans for programs interested in bringing parents and staff to visit their legislators in Harrisburg. For those who cannot make it to Harrisburg, we are strongly encouraging them to make district office visits when their legislators are not in Harrisburg. I have the dates for when the House and Senate are in session that I can forward to anyone interested in planning these visits. I am still taking feedback on the timing of the parent update call. For the month of April, I am considering changing the time to 9:30AM on the third Thursday to see if more parents would be available during that time. For March, the next call will be 3/15/18 at 7PM.