

June 2018 Monthly Liaison Call Notes

1. State budget will be voted on June 30. We are encouraging programs and parents to make phone calls and/or send emails to their legislators encouraging support of the increases to funding for pre-k. ***see below for update***
2. How are your programs implementing their advocacy strategies, i.e. getting sign-ups for the PreK for PA campaign? The info packet is just about ready to be sent out so I will get that to you at that time. If you would like to have me or Sara come to your program's pre-service and/or parent orientation meetings to talk about advocacy and the campaign, just let me know, michelle@paheadstart.org.
3. Sara had trouble logging in to the call. Keep an eye on your emails because she will probably be sending out an update on the partnership we have with Aetna Better Health for our Latino cookbook initiative.
4. Please continue to send me updates on any legislative work that you do, even if it is just making contact with their office to try to set up a visit.
5. Our next call will be July 20, 2018 at 11AM.

UPDATE: The state government voted the budget in early this year. This is great considering in years past we have gone months at a time without a budget. This budget included a \$25M increase for pre-k classes - \$20M for Pre-K Counts and \$5M for HSSAP. If your program is a home visiting program, this budget also included a more than \$6.5M increase for home visiting funding. We are asking programs and parents to thank their legislators and the Governor for making prek and home visiting a priority by calling them or sending emails. In order to find your legislators' contact information go to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us>. On the left-hand side, you will be able to search different ways to find them. As always, if you do make any kind of legislative contact, please let me know so I can keep track of it, michelle@paheadstart.org.

Thank you, all!!

Michelle Smith