



For immediate release
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Contact Andy Heller
aheller@ecic4kids.org 810.399.3017

Early Childhood Investment Corporation awards \$1 million in grants to Michigan early childhood groups

LANSING – The Early Childhood Investment Corporation today approved \$1 million in grants to fund early childhood projects in 32 Great Start Collaboratives statewide.

This funding is in addition to the \$8.2 million that 55 Great Start Collaboratives received last fall to support their local early childhood system building efforts. The funding is provided through the Kellogg Foundation, which supports the implementation of innovative, collaborative programs.

The grants will further strengthen local efforts to build early childhood systems and supports to ensure children arrive at the doors of the K-12 school system ready, willing and able to learn, according to Alissa Parks, director of Great Start Collaborative development and assistance for ECIC.

“With the Michigan budget and economy in crisis, it is even more critical to ensure that Michigan has an efficient and accessible early childhood system,” Parks said. “These grants will help local Great Start Collaboratives and Parent Coalitions continue to strengthen local coordination, efficiency and address gaps.”

In total, 32 Great Start Collaboratives received the grants, ranging from \$6,700 (Eaton County Great Start) to \$115,573 (Oakland County Great Start Collaborative).

Funded projects include implementing “medical home” efforts in Wayne and Shiawassee counties, coordinating home visiting services in Kent and Wayne counties and improving the quality of child care training and mental health supports in Jackson and Muskegon.

“Great Start” was created in 2004 to restructure the state’s investment in children from birth to 5. The ECIC was formed to build, grow and administer Great Start starting with the creation of local community efforts and also focusing on building a stronger and higher quality child care system for Michigan.

See below for a complete list of grantees and award amounts. A list of project descriptions by county/region is attached to this e-mail.

The Great Start Collaborative in the following counties/regions received grants:

Bay/Arenac - \$36,217
Berrien - \$29,023
Branch - \$16,049
Charlevoix/Emmit - \$15,000
Clare/Gladwin - \$23,365
Copper Country - \$27,200
Delta/Schoolcraft - \$15,000
Dickinson/Iron - \$17,780
Eastern UP - \$17,569
Eaton - \$6,700
Genesee - \$57,247
Ingham - \$30,000
Jackson - \$61,800
Kalamazoo - \$26,443
Kent - \$82,578
Lenawee - \$37,300
Macomb - \$55,000
Mecosta/Oceola - \$17,350
Midland - \$20,000
Monroe - \$25,456
Montcalm - \$20,000
Muskegon - \$45,912
Newaygo - 18,930
Oakland - \$115, 573
Ottawa - \$31,000
Saginaw - \$30,000
Shiawassee - \$19,948
St. Clair - \$25,000
St. Joseph - \$20,000
Traverse Bay/Manistee - \$45,000
Washtenaw - \$32,630
Wayne - \$65,000

For a list of contact information for local Great Start Collaborative coordinators, visit
<http://greatstartforkids.org/content/great-start-your-community>

