



# **WSA** Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP

*Serving ECEAP, Head Start, Migrant Head Start,  
Tribal Head Start and Early Head Start*

*Programs and Families*



## **Formerly Homeless ECEAP Parent to Testify in Olympia Against Governor's Proposed Budget Cuts; Credits Program for Helping Her Family Find Housing Getting Her Child Ready for School**

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**Eula Motelet, a parent of a child enrolled in ECEAP, will testify Thursday, January 13 before the House Education Appropriations and Oversight Committee at 1:30pm.** Motelet, whose family was homeless when she enrolled her daughter in ECEAP, credits the program with finding her family housing and getting her child ready for school. She will be testifying against the Governor's proposed budget cut to ECEAP—the state's prekindergarten program for at-risk three and four year olds. The hearing will provide an opportunity for committee members to learn about the Governor's proposed budget cuts to education and early learning and hear how these cuts will impact the most at-risk children and families. The Governor is proposing to cut 460 children from the ECEAP program starting in the fall of 2011.

Eula Motelet has one child enrolled in ECEAP. Her daughter, Phoebe, attends the ECEAP program in Tacoma run by the Puget Sound Educational Service District. When Eula enrolled her child in ECEAP her husband had just lost his business. As a result she and her children were living in a motel in Lakewood. ECEAP helped Eula find stable and affordable housing and the family now rents an apartment. Family advocates also worked hard to ensure that Phoebe had a stable home environment during this very difficult and chaotic time. She says that the program has done a phenomenal job teaching Phoebe all her letters and numbers, ensuring that she has nutritious meals, and taking care of a dental problem that had previously been untreated.

### **Hearing Information**

The hearing will take place at **1:30pm in the House Hearing Room A, John L. O'Brien Building, Olympia WA.**

## **About ECEAP**

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is Washington's pre-kindergarten program serving at-risk three and four year olds and their families. ECEAP provides children with preschool education, health services, intensive family support, and parent involvement and training. In 2009-2010 ECEAP served 8,053 children, with more than 13,000 children eligible for ECEAP, but unable to attend because of a lack of space. More than 85 percent of the children enrolled in ECEAP were living at or below the poverty level, 6.6 percent of the children were homeless, and 2.4 percent were in foster care.

The recent [ECEAP outcomes report](#) found that the ECEAP program was very successful and that children made incredible progress during the school year in the key areas in which ECEAP programs are evaluated: health outcomes, social-emotional development, and learning outcomes.

Studies have shown that at-risk children without high quality preschool were 70% more likely to commit violent crimes, have lower graduation rates and higher drug use. In a 12-year longitudinal study of ECEAP (1988-2000), researchers found that ECEAP children made significantly greater academic gains, displayed more positive behaviors, enjoyed school more, and had fewer health problems than non-ECEAP children.

## **About WSA**

The Washington State Association of Head Start/ECEAP is a statewide organization composed of representatives from ECEAP, Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant/Seasonal Head Start, and Native American Head Start. The association has been in existence since the late 1960's, and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1986. The organization advocates for Head Start and for ECEAP in Olympia and in Washington DC. You can visit our web site at [www.wsaheadstarteceap.com](http://www.wsaheadstarteceap.com).