



- Position:** Parent Ambassador
- Closing Date:** Monday, January 12th, 2009, Noon
- How to Apply:** Send a one page cover letter and answers to the questions below to Joel Ryan at wsaparents@yahoo.com. Decisions will be made Friday, January 16th.
- Questions:** Please call Joel at (253) 373-9100 or via e-mail at wsaparents@yahoo.com.

Program Overview

WSA was fortunate enough to receive a grant from the Peppercorn Foundation to support a new advocacy training program called the **WSA Parent Ambassadors Program**. The Parent Ambassadors Program is a year long peer to peer training program for ECEAP and Head Start parents. Parent Ambassadors will go through an extensive year long high-quality advocacy training program. Parents can be expected to learn the basics of government, about specific pieces of legislation, how to contact their lawmakers, how to provide effective testimony, and how to effectively engage parents in their community.

After several trainings, Ambassadors will be expected to take what they have learned and educate, train, and mobilize parents back at their local programs and in their communities. Ambassadors will be the crucial link to their communities. WSA will develop a Parent Newsletter for Ambassadors to use to communicate the latest legislative information and updates. Ambassadors will be expected to provide grassroots trainings at parent policy council meetings in their area and will teach parents about pending legislation. They will provide frequent updates to parents in their local programs about legislative issues directly affecting their families and strategic opportunities to weigh in with both state and federal elected officials. Ambassadors will also serve as lead organizers for WSA advocacy campaign activities.

Position Description

WSA is seeking 20 ECEAP and/or Head Start parents to serve as **Parent Ambassadors** for 2009. Parent Ambassadors will receive year-long advocacy training and be required to provide training, information, and resources to parents at their local program and in their communities. Ambassadors will serve on the front line of our advocacy campaigns including attending hearings, testifying, contacting lawmakers, setting up events and activities, and organizing ECEAP and Head Start parents. All expenses for travel to WSA conferences and training venues will be subsidized by WSA. Ambassadors will receive a training manual, t-shirts, and a small stipend at the completion of the program. We are looking for parents that are committed to advocating for their children and communities, serve in a leadership role at a local program either through policy council or in another area, and have the desire and demonstrated skills to complete the year-long project.

1. Why are you interested in being a Parent Ambassador?

2. Do you serve or have served on your policy council or in another leadership position at your local program?
3. Please describe any previous experience in politics and/or grassroots advocacy.
4. What special talents or skills would you bring to the parent ambassadors program?
5. Are you able to make the time commitment to the ambassadors program?
6. Is your director willing to support your participation in the ambassadors program?
(You must have your directors support prior to submitting an application)

All interested applicants must submit complete answers to the above 6 questions by Monday January 12th at noon. Ambassadors chosen will immediately begin work on the Advocacy Day Rally taking place at the end of January and need to be able to take part in the WSA Winter Meeting. Please remember that WSA has received considerable interest in this program from across the state.