



WSA Parent Ambassadors - Transforming Lives, Policy, and Communities

- Position:** Parent Ambassador
- Closing Date:** Saturday, January 27, 2018 by 5:00 pm.
- How to Apply:** Email a one page **cover letter/email and answers to the questions** below to Mila Foote, at mila@wsaheadstarteceap.com, or apply online here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ambassadorapplication2018>. HS/ECEAP/EHS applicants must also send the Executive Director Letter of Support below.
- Questions:** Please call Mila Foote at 425.453.1227

Program Overview

WSA has support from the Peppercorn Foundation, Child Care Aware of Washington, Thrive Washington and Save the Children Action Network to support parent leadership and the early learning advocacy training program called the **WSA Parent Ambassadors Program**.

The Parent Ambassadors Program is a one year leadership, advocacy and peer-to-peer training program for ECEAP, Head Start, Early Head Start and child care parents. Parent Ambassadors will go through an intensive year long high-quality leadership development and advocacy training program. Parents will be expected to learn and grow leadership and advocacy skills. We will engage in training and develop skills in the basics of government, specific state and national policy and legislation, how to contact lawmakers, how to provide effective testimony, and how to effectively engage parents in their early learning programs and greater communities.

After trainings, Ambassadors will be expected to take what they have learned and share, train, and mobilize parents back at their local programs and in their communities. Ambassadors will be required to do a minimum of two trainings throughout the year. WSA will provide tools and support to Parent Ambassadors in order to share information and provide grassroots trainings at parent policy council meetings, family gatherings and/or parent trainings. They will provide updates to parents in their local programs about legislative issues directly affecting their children and families. Parent Ambassadors will support other parents/caregivers with strategic opportunities to weigh in with both state and federal elected officials. Ambassadors will also serve as organizers for advocacy day and other outreach activities.

Position Description

WSA is seeking up to 20 parents to serve as **Parent Ambassadors** for 2018. Parent Ambassadors will receive year-long advocacy training and be required to provide training, information, and resources to parents at their local early learning programs and in their communities. Ambassadors will serve on the front line of our advocacy efforts including attending hearings, testifying, contacting lawmakers, setting up events and activities, and organizing ECEAP/Head Start/child care parents. All expenses for travel to WSA conferences and training venues will be subsidized by WSA. We are looking for parents that are committed to advocating for their children and communities, serving in

YES	NO	
		Are you able to commit to a minimum of two conference calls each month on Mondays at 8:30 pm?
		Do you have daily access to internet and email? Can you be committed to checking and responding to the Leadership team?
		Do you have a cell phone with the ability to send and receive text messages? Do you have limited or unlimited minutes?
		Will you be able to secure child care for your children in order to participate in EVERY face to face training?
		Do you have a nursing infant that you would need to bring with you to face to face trainings? (This is not affect your application, just info we need for planning purposes).
		Are you able to attend the four <u>required</u> Face to Face meetings? The meetings are scheduled for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 12-14, 2018 Dumas Bay Retreat Centre, Federal Way • June 25-27, 2018 Central Washington University, Ellensburg • October 22-24, 2018 Red Lion, Wenatchee • February 5-7, 2019 Red Lion, Olympia

The Parent Ambassador program provides child care and mileage stipends to help support participation. Please be aware that at most of our face to face conferences, rooms are shared; this fosters networking amongst the Ambassadors and helps with our limited budget. We **do not** provide on-site child care at any of our trainings or events. **It is your responsibility to recruit and/or secure a child care provider for each and every face to face training/meeting. Nursing non-mobile infants are welcome. Please consider your child’s growth and your commitment to nursing when applying. Nursing infants (0-12 months) very quickly grow into mobile and active toddlers. The spaces that we meet in are not suitable and safe for toddlers.**

All interested applicants must email complete answers to the above questions by Saturday, January 27th, 2018 by 5:00 pm.

Chosen Ambassadors will immediately begin coming together by conference call, to discuss the logistics of the first face to face meeting.



***HEAD START/ECEAP/EHS ONLY: YOU AND YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MUST ALSO SUBMIT THIS FORM
WSA Parent Ambassadors - Transforming Lives, Policy, and Communities***

This letter of support acknowledges that our program is aware and supports the Parent Ambassador application of _____ and if chosen, I understand the responsibilities of a Director with a Parent Ambassador are:

- Each Director will make time at Policy Council and parent meeting for Ambassadors to share information.
- Each Director will support their Ambassador(s) by mentoring via check-ins and/or through the help of family engagement/parent staff

In closing, we would like to remind you of the costs of participation, although the grant from the Peppercorn Foundation covers the basic cost we **may** request your consideration of extending additional fiscal support from your program, especially when additional educational and training opportunities may become available throughout the year. Making this kind of commitment creates additional growth opportunities for parents and lessens the pressure on the small Parent Ambassador budget. As you know, education, training and other professional development opportunities, including the Parent Ambassadors program, for parents may be supported with the use of program dollars and HS/EHS PA training dollars.

Costs for Participation

All travel expenses for the Parent Ambassador Program are paid for by the Parent Ambassador program. This includes hotel, travel, child care, food, materials, and any registration fees. There are two exceptions to this:

1. If a Parent Ambassador is a WSA voting representative for your local program then we expect the local program to cover the cost of the winter and fall conference. Is this applicant a WSA voting representative for you program? ____Yes ____No
2. In January/February the National Head Start Association will hold its Leadership Institute in Washington DC. We plan to send 2-3 parent ambassadors to this event. While the PA program will pick up the majority of the travel costs, we are asking programs to contribute and help defray the costs.

Signature _____ Title _____

Program _____ Contact Information _____