**EOEL Updates - for the Early Learning Board Meeting, December 8, 2022**

(as of December 3, 2022)

**Legislative Updates**

* Of the budget requests made, the following were approved:
  + $660,000 for the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program
  + 2 FTE position counts only (no funding requested)
  + $3,000,000 appropriation ceiling for the Early Learning Special Fund
* The intention behind the budget process was to ensure a steady state budget and not adding new services. Departments will be submitting another budget for the new administration to review related to expansion of new programs.

**EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program**

* No new updates

**Early Childhood State Plan and PDG B-5**

* We anticipate we will receive notification of the PDG B-5 Renewal at the end of the month. We will keep the board informed when notification is received.
* No new updates related to the Early Childhood State Plan.

**Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO)**

* Head Start (HS)/Early Head Start (EHS) grantees are continuing to work with their Office of Head Start (OHS) Regional Program Specialists on strategies to recruit and retain staff, as well as to meet their funded enrollment numbers. Staffing challenges continue to impact full enrollment in several programs.
* A new OHS Information Memorandum issued in November 2022 provides guidance to programs who are considering requesting a reduction in slots due to staffing shortages, the need to change their scope of services, and/or to increase compensation in order to retain staff. Several directors are in communication with their Program Specialists about the possibility of reducing slots in the future.
* EHS representatives, along with child care directors and others, will be meeting with staff from the DHS Child Care Program Office in early December. This meeting is being coordinated by the HSSCO Director and ECAS backbone staff, to discuss both short-term and long-term strategies to address/meet current infant/toddler staff qualifications which are a contributing factor in staffing shortages for EHS and infant/toddler programs in general.

**Please see** [**this link**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yn_QvVXSoNPldfiC1WIt0eb2N0dQWWpQ_u-zEiuy3DU/edit?usp=sharing) **to reference the Googledoc presentation**