# NE HSSCO NAIMH I/ECNH Partner Meeting Update – March 14, 2023

* ACF Office of Head Start/Office of Child Care “Dear Colleague Letter” on New Federal Opportunities to Bolster the Early Care and Education Workforce – 3/1/2023; [New Federal Opportunities to Bolster the Early Care and Education Workforce - Colleague Letter (hhs.gov)](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ecd/dear-colleague-letter-new-federal-opportunities-feb-march-2023.pdf)
	+ Overview of recent federal funding prioritizing workforce support and wellness, including Head Start/Early Head Start, Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), Preschool Development Grant (PDG), Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), and a new National Early Care and Education Workforce Center awarded to Child Trends—along with partner organizations like the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, BUILD Initiative, ZERO TO THREE, University of Massachusetts-Boston, and the University of Delaware. [HHS Launches the First National Early Care and Education Workforce Center | The Administration for Children and Families](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/media/press/2023/hhs-launches-first-national-early-care-and-education-workforce-center)
	+ March 8, 2023 – Webinar highlighting new federal funding and resources: [Workforce Wednesday Webinar - New Federal Opportunities to Bolster the Early Childhood Workforce | The Administration for Children and Families (hhs.gov)](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/policy-guidance/workforce-wednesday-webinar-new-federal-opportunities-bolster-early-childhood); [New Federal Opportunities to Bolster the Early Care and Education Workforce (hhs.gov)](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ecd/new-federal-opportunities-early-care-slides.pdf)
* Head Start/Early Head Start FY 2023 Funding includes:
	+ An increase of $960 million for Head Start programs, up to $860 million of which will be invested primarily in the workforce. This includes $596 million for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and $262 million for quality improvement. Additionally included in the funding are three new grant competitions for expansion including a $2 million increase for the Tribal College and University-Head Start (TCU-HS) Partnership program, $100 million for EHS/HS expansion, and $15 million for AIAN EHS/HS expansion.
* Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLCK):
	+ [Head Start | ECLKC (hhs.gov)](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/)
	+ [Upcoming Events | ECLKC (hhs.gov)](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/upcoming-events)
		- **MyPeers Orientation – 3/22/23**; MyPeers is a virtual space for brainstorming, exchanging ideas, and sharing resources. These communities of practice allow Head Start programs, staff, and partners to connect around early childhood topics and roles. Local program staff lend support to fellow early childhood professionals across the country.
		- **Family and Caregiver Access to Child and Youth Mental Health Resources – 3/22/23;** The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) are offering a virtual training to provide parents and caregivers with the information and resources to recognize, manage, and support their children’s mental health needs.
		- **Talking with Families About Substance Use During Pregnancy – 3/23/23**; Join this discussion on how substance use, and substance use recovery affect pregnant people. Learn how Head Start and Early Head Start staff can use motivational interviewing techniques to reduce stigma during conversations on substance use and recovery. Engage in deeper thinking on how these conversations with expectant parents contribute to health equity. This webinar is offered with **simultaneous interpretation in Spanish.**