



Forum Second/Third Quarter Updates

1. **Building Update** – The permanent lease has been executed and floor plans have been approved. Construction will begin shortly, and we have an anticipated completion date of January 2024. In the meantime, the staff are working well from the remote or temporary locations. A copy of the final lease can be provided for review if requested.
2. **Legislative Planning** –
 - a. We have preliminary agreement from Senate and House appropriations staff for increasing the T.E.A.C.H. nonrecurring dollars to \$5M. We will continue to confirm this agreement throughout session, but this is wonderful progress for this early in the year.
 - b. FDOE's final Legislative Budget Request was approved by the State Board of Education last week. The increase to Help Me Grow (\$2.7M) was included in this request. This likely means it will roll into the Governor's final budget. This is another indicator of success for this program. Claudia and I will work with the team to see if we need member sponsorship to accompany this proposal.
 - c. There may be a push to increase Gold Seal funding so that more staff can be available for quality assurance and approvals. This would be an increased contract amount received through FDOE (if we continue to be awarded the contract). The stakeholders feel this is needed to ensure the quality of the program is consistently maintained.
3. **Relationship Highlights** –
 - a. The Early Learning Consortium will be working to create a five-year strategic plan for quality improvements in the ECE system. Forum staff will play an active role in this process as the development progresses.
 - b. The ELC of Marion County and the Emerald Coast are currently working with the WI team to bring INCENTIVE\$ to their communities.
 - c. The Iowa AEYC is wrapping up contract negotiations with our team to finalize the SaaS contract. This contract would give them a replica of our portal that can be used to administer their state's WAGE\$ program.
 - d. I was recently asked to present for the Tampa Bay Partnership and the Florida Philanthropic Network. These presentations covered the current ECE system, its history, and upcoming advocacy needs. I think this will grow into a great partnership with these entities as we work to advocate for systemic improvements in Florida.
4. **Recent/Upcoming Events**
 - a. 9/6-9/8 - The Hunt Institute has invited me to attend their national early childhood summit as a content expert for Florida. This will be a convening of legislators from around the nation to discuss strategic advocacy in the next year.
 - b. 10/13-10/15 - The team will be participating in the FLAEYC conference as a partner in an effort to do program outreach.
 - c. 10/18-10/20 - Members of our staff will participate in the AELC Training Camp. We will be networking with ELCs to discuss partnerships with our programs as well as conducting training on system thinking and project implementation.

Project Updates

- a. Last year the Forum:
 - a. Served over 5,000 scholars in our T.E.A.C.H. Program
 - b. Conducted over 3,000 CLASS observations for ELCs
 - c. Operated Help Me Grow in 31 counties

- d. Administered \$3,625,302 of INCENTIVE\$ stipends in 4 counties
 - e. Supported 1,817 providers in Florida's Gold Seal Program
 - f. Completed the statewide workforce study (awaiting public release)
 - g. Set up a portal for the Arkansas AEYC to administer their state's TEACH program.
 - h. Supported professional registries for Palm Beach and Miami-Dade Counties
- b. Children's Week has been moved to the week of 2/26/24. The change was due to a scheduling conflict with DMS. This move, however, has been helpful as more partners have been able to participate.
 - c. The ACSU team is currently negotiating with a few companies (curriculum, tech, etc.) to provide coaching and training to supplement their implementation. They are also working on proposals to offer program evaluation services through our research department.
 - d. The membership team is developing a business leadership level of our membership. This should launch this fiscal year and should increase participation in our membership program.