



PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY – October 26, 2022

1. **Early Childhood Policy Works Fellowship** – We have been working with our fellows to increase their fluency in communicating important issues. This month, we brought them to the Capitol to have a tour and also present their issue before staffers and members that work in our field. Each group met in a different location that included some meeting in conference rooms to others presenting in a committee room. The following day they met with state agency leaders, a representative from the Chamber and our own Claudia Davant to gain advice on being an effective advocate at the agency and organizational level. The feedback from the fellows was extremely positive. Additionally, the staffers, members, and agency leaders all reported a renewed passion for our cause and thanked us for allowing them to be a part of the process.
2. **Legislative Planning** – The Help Me Grow team has finalized a cost analysis to determine expansion estimates. This information was shared with DEL and will be used in our conversations around program expansion. We are also looking to gain support for shifting the nonrecurring dollars to the recurring dollars.
3. **Relationship Highlights** –
 - a. The *American Rescue Plan Act* Spending Plan was revised and approved by the Legislature in September 2022. This plan allocates ~\$85,000,000 in funds toward training, coaching, and stipends. We hope to partner with ELCs to help administer some of these projects. We are currently in the process of setting this relationship up with the ELC of Miami/Dade and Monroe. This is a potential five-year contract with a potential contract amount of \$5.8M in the first year
 - b. We continue to work with the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood to coach their team on spending plans for additional state funding that has been made available for supporting early childhood education.
 - c. The Miami Children's Trust contracts have been renewed with the agreement that we will look at an increase for inflation every two years. With the previously mentioned adjustments, we were able to move the admin rate back to 15% (previously at 5%),
 - d. The proposal for hosting Arkansas's T.E.A.C.H. program has been submitted. This SAAS contract will be around \$120,000 and will require minimal work from our team as it is an agreement to access our portal and other system functionality.
4. **Recent/Upcoming Events**
 - a. 9/7-9/8/22 - Florida Planning Conference – I participated on a panel to discuss the importance of including early learning in your city planning alongside an ELC CEO and the Manager of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council.
 - b. 9/19-9/22/22 - Help Me Grow National Forum – The Annual Help Me Grow National Forum was an opportunity for affiliates and partners to network, learn from one another, and create new partnerships. HMG Florida was the host site for the 2022 virtual conference. During the event, I participated on a panel with Vance Aloupis and others to discuss advocacy for expanding HMG. In addition to the Policy Panel, virtual site visits were facilitated by four HMG Florida affiliates. Liz Randall and Denise Bishop were on the National Planning Committee and facilitated a networking meeting focused on messaging for HMG.
 - c. This month I attended the Council for Professional Recognition's Early Childhood Leadership Institute. While there, I was awarded the CDA Council Advocate of the Year Award for 2022. During this visit I was able to connect with CDA Council staff about work that we are doing in Florida and some potential partnerships we may be able to form. They would love to mimic a lot of the work that has happened in

Florida within other states. We are going to connect soon about how the Forum can partner with them in this work.

- d. I have been invited to attend the National Child Care and Early Learning Advocate's Conference in January 2023. This event that brings state advocates together to discuss strategies for addressing both long-standing and newer challenges and opportunities for child care and early learning. We will strategize about how to build on successful practices and policy changes.