

THE POINT

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM **STARTING POINT**
 SPRING 2018

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NEWS BRIEFS

GOOD NEWS! FED BUDGET ADDS \$3 BILLION FOR CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION

The final Federal budget for FY2018 includes the **largest increase in history** for the **Child Care Development Block Grant**, which provides states with funding to help low-income families afford child care and to improve the quality of child care. Funding was also increased for Head Start and Early Head Start, campus-based child care for low-income parents, enrichment activities for before-and-after school programs, funding for early intervention for infants and toddlers special education and grants to establish or expand high quality preschool programs.

MARCH INTO KINDERGARTEN CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

Getting **kindergarten-age children enrolled early** is important to ensure that schools are prepared, parents have time to gather needed records and children get off to a good start.

The March into Kindergarten Campaign began in March to help families get the information they need to enroll their children and get tips on preparing for kindergarten. More at www.marchintokindergarten.com.

NEW CUYAHOGA COUNTY WEBSITE FOR FAMILIES OF PRESCHOOLERS

The Cuyahoga County Office of Early Childhood-Invest in Children has a great new **website** for **parents of preschoolers**, offering easy-to-access resources to help families find quality child care and preschools (powered by Starting Point), events, places to visit, classes, activities to do with your child and other resources. Go to www.cuyahogakids.org.

STUDY LINKS STEP UP TO QUALITY RATINGS TO BETTER CHILD OUTCOMES

A comprehensive 2017 study of Ohio's Step Up to Quality 1-5 star rating program concluded that "**classrooms in higher rated sites generated higher scores on assessments of classroom quality.**" It also found sites rated 3-star or higher are associated with better child outcomes and that participation in any star-rated site benefits publicly-funded children. Recommendations included: continued support and assistance for child care and early education providers; financial support and resources for stepping up to quality care, including attracting and retaining qualified staff and continuing to track outcomes.



CELEBRATING SUTQ RATED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

We're proud to announce a milestone. The number of Step Up to Quality rated family child care homes has reached 211. **Congratulations** to all the child care professionals who've achieved this important distinction. For information on becoming star-rated, give us a call at 216-575-0061 Ext. 547.

ALERT! ALL PROGRAMS TO BE SUTQ RATED BY JUNE 30, 2020

Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) is a five-star quality rating and improvement system that recognizes and promotes child care programs that **exceed minimum health and safety licensing regulations**. By 2020, any child care program wishing to provide publicly funded child care must be a **star-rated program**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CDA BREAKFAST CELEBRATION!

Starting Point is hosting a breakfast on **Saturday, June 16** to recognize the accomplishments of all who've earned the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and the work of the CDA Institute. It will be held at the **Doubletree Lakeside, 1100 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland from 9 a to 12 noon**. The cost is \$5 per person. Registration begins at 8:30 am.

RSVP to Julie McHugh, 216-575-0061, Ext 354

