



ILLINOIS HEAD START ASSOCIATION IS LOOKING FOR PARENT AMBASSADORS – APPLY NOW

Applications must be received by April 30, 2021.

- Position:** Parent Ambassador
- How to apply:** Talk with your Head Start or Early Head Start Director. Answer the questions below and include a letter of support from your Director. Send to Lauri Morrison-Frichtl at lfrichtl@ilheadstart.org
- Questions:** Please contact Lauri Morrison-Frichtl at 217-241-3511 or via e-mail at lfrichtl@ilheadstart.org

Program Overview

The Parent Ambassador Program is a year long, peer to peer training program for Head Start and Early Head Start Parents. Parent Ambassadors will go through an extensive year long, high quality advocacy training program.

Parents will be expected to learn the basics of government, about specific pieces of legislation, how to contact their lawmakers, how to provide effective testimony and how to effectively engage parents in their community.

After trainings, Ambassadors will be expected to take what they have learned and educate, train and mobilize parents back at their local programs and in their communities. Ambassadors will be expected to provide grassroots trainings at Parent Policy Council meetings in their area and to teach parents about pending legislation. They will provide frequent updates to parents in their local programs about legislative issues directly affecting their families and strategic opportunities to weigh in with federal elected officials. Ambassadors will also serve as lead organizers for IHSA advocacy campaign activities. Each selected Parent Ambassador will have a Parent Ambassador Coach. This coach will be someone who provides ongoing support and regular communication with their assigned Parent Ambassador.

Position Description

We are looking for parents who are committed to advocating for their children and communities, serve in a leadership role at a local program, either through policy council or in another area, and have the desire and demonstrated skills to complete the year-long project.

Parent Ambassadors will receive:

- ↗ \$200.00 Stipend for attending all the trainings. Two 4-hour virtual trainings and one face to face meeting in Springfield requiring an overnight stay. \$50 for each of the two virtual trainings, to be given upon completion of the training (\$100 total). Plus, \$100 stipend for the face to face meeting in Springfield, to be given upon completion of the training.
- ↗ Travel expenses to/from Springfield, hotel, food, per diem and materials will be provided.
- ↗ Coaching and mentoring will be provided.



APPLICATION*

All interested applicants must complete the following questions and submit a letter of support from their Director.

Personal Information

Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Email Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____ Alt Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Are you a parent of a current Head Start child? Yes / No If yes, where? _____

Are you a parent of a child currently in Child Care? Yes / No If yes, where? _____

Have you ever been the parent of a child enrolled in Head Start? Yes / No If yes, what program and when? _____

Parents with children who will be enrolled in Head Start/Early Head Start 2020-2021 will be given priority in the selection process.

Skills & Qualifications

Have you reviewed the Parent Ambassador Job Description? Yes / No If no, please review before continuing.

Why are you interested in being a Parent Ambassador?

Do you serve or have you served on your Policy Council Policy Committee or in another leadership position at your local program? Yes / No If yes, please explain including when and where.

What special talents or skills would you bring to the Parent Ambassador position?

Is your director willing to support your participation in the Ambassador program? You must have your director's support prior to submitting an application **and** a letter of support from your director.

**Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2021.*



Availability

Are you able to make the following time commitment to the Parent Ambassador position?

Two 4-hour virtual trainings. Plus all-expense paid training in Springfield, IL.

- One training in May 2021 for 4 hours
- One training in July 2021 for 4 hours
- One face to face meeting in October 2021. Requires an overnight stay. All travel expenses paid by IHSA. (Please note if we are unable to meet in person because of COVID, this meeting will be held virtually.)
- IHSA Annual conference March 2022. Registration fee and travel expenses paid by IHSA.

**Please note: there is no cost to Parent Ambassador or to local programs for the above.

Ambassadors may have an opportunity to attend the NHSA Fall Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C., in January of 2022 (Virtual or In Person / To be determined). IHSA will support the registration fees for this event. Although, local programs are responsible for the travel expenses to/from this Institute.

Are you able to commit to a minimum of one evening monthly conference call at 8:30 pm? Yes / No

If no please explain: _____

Do you have daily access to internet and email? Yes / No

Do you have a cell phone with the ability to send and receive text messages? Yes / No

I certify that I have read, fully understand and have completed the foregoing application truthfully and accurately to the best of my ability:

Signature of Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

