



Student Parent Success Initiative (SPSI) Update

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March was a busy month for the IWPR team affiliated with the Student Parent Success Initiative. From the publication of the project's first major report to participation in a number of presentations and conferences, SPSI staff were hard at work getting the word out about the importance of on-campus child care options for parents seeking higher education.

At the same time, we have been laying the groundwork for year two of the project and researching options for better connecting our dispersed network. Stay tuned for more information.

A few highlights from this month's update include:

- The release of SPSI's first major report, *Improving Child Care Access to Promote Postsecondary Success among Low-Income Parents*;
- A new support network at the University of Wisconsin for student parents pursuing medical degrees; and,
- New funding opportunities for student parents and the postsecondary programs that serve them.

As always, please feel free to forward this e-mail to interested friends or colleagues or to contact us to share updates or information relevant to student parents, advocates, and service providers around the country.

We are thrilled with the positive response and level of interest expressed by you and others since we launched the network in December--keep those ideas and suggestions coming!

Also, we want to thank departing intern Sam Myers for his work on the monthly update and many other SPSI-related activities. Good luck, Sam!

Activities & Publications

New SPSI Project Report: *Improving Outcomes for Low-Income Student Parents: The Role of Child Care Access on College Campuses*

On March 23, 2011 IWPR's SPSI project released its first [major report](#), focusing on child care access for student parents on college campuses. The report garnered mentions in national and international publications and outlets, including the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) and [the American Prospect](#). The report's release coincided with a panel discussion on the same day, which provided a forum for sharing the report findings, as well as the insights of expert service providers, advocates, government officials and some student parents.

In addition to valuable information about the child care opportunities and challenges by student parents, Dr. Joan Lombardi, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, highlighted some key facts and figures for children receiving services through the Child Care Development Fund.

Implications for Low-Income Student Parents of House Bill H.R. 1, Proposed Continuing Resolution for FY 2011 Appropriations

This [fact sheet](#) examines the proposed funding reductions laid out in the House Appropriations Committee's February 2011 proposal and the implications for federal funding streams that support the activities of student parents. The final budget agreement slated for an April 14 vote by both Houses of Congress contains fewer funding reductions than the original proposal, but retains a number of the cuts outlined in the fact sheet, including LEAP, TRIO and Tech-Prep.

2011 Student Parent Support Symposium, June 23-24, 2011

SPSI's Kevin Miller will present findings from the recent child care report as part of a joint panel session with Women Employed entitled, "Investing in Completion: Policies and Practices to Help Student Parents Complete." Sponsored by the Ohio State University, the [symposium](#)'s theme is "The Critical Role of Public Assistance & Quality Child Care in the Success of Student Parents in Higher Education."

Student Parent Funding Opportunities and Upcoming Events

- **Minnesota Department of Public Health announces \$4 million in funding to support young student parents in higher education.** [Read](#) the request for proposals and more information about the Young Student Parent Support Initiative.
- **Patsy Takemoto Mink Foundation announces Education Support Awards.** The awards are intended to assist low-income women with children who are pursuing education or training. [Apply online](#) between May 15, 2011 and July 15, 2011.
- **Generation Hope Sponsors Town Hall Discussion, April 28, 2011, 6:00-8:30 PM:** A new non-profit organization, Generation Hope, will host a kickoff event at the Community College of the District of Columbia. Titled "Access in Action," the town hall meeting will focus on the importance of college access and completion for teen parents, and will feature a number of

expert panelists. [Register online](#) .

Student Parents in the News

- [Student-Parents Get By with Some Help from Their Friends](#) *School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin*; March 24, 2011.
- [Students more likely to deliver babies on Medicaid than non-students](#). *The Salt Lake Tribune*; March 30, 2011.

Other Research

- [VA Education Benefits: Actions Taken, but Outreach and Oversight Could Be Improved](#). U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) publication, February 28, 2011.
- [Keeping Students Enrolled: How Community Colleges Are Boosting Financial Resources for Their Students](#). Demos publication, January 11, 2011.

[The Student Parent Success Initiative \(SPSI\)](#), a project of the [Institute for Women's Policy Research](#), is designed to improve supports and services for student parents seeking postsecondary education. Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, SPSI serves to initiate new research, raise awareness on the need for student parent supports, and foster communication and collaboration among advocates, policymakers, educators, and practitioners.

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