

# THE OHIO HEAD START PARENT AMBASSADORS INITIATIVE

The role of a Head Start Parent Ambassador is to be an advocate for Head Start at the local level and where possible the state and national level as well, and to focus that advocacy through participation in events, social media and training at a local, state and when possible a national level.

The work of individual parents will include:

- 1) encourage advocacy in each individual Head Start program and among the parents of that program;
- 2) collaborate with other Parent Ambassadors and parent leaders in the Head Start and Early Head Start community
- 3) Participate in training at a state level
- 4) Ultimately lead training at a local level
- 5) Participate in advocacy events when and where possible
- 6) Serve as a resource to the local program if appropriate

OHSAI will provide:

- 1) Mentor coaches for the parent ambassador team
- 2) Training opportunities throughout the year that will focus on:
  - a. Personal skill building in articulation and communication
  - b. Personal professional approaches – manner, demeanor and appearance
  - c. Intensive Head Start history and background along with an in-depth focus on current program operations and the political framework in which we operate
  - d. The current political landscape – both federal and state
  - e. The critical nature of Congressional and Legislative support
  - f. How to develop my own Head Start story or the Head Start story
  - g. The critical nature of consistent and persistent advocacy
  - h. The critical nature of community based advocacy
  - i. Other pertinent information
- 3) Materials, trainers and other necessities
- 4) A framework for advocacy activities by the Ambassadors
- 5) Complimentary registration for the OHSAI events where this training and foundation work will occur
- 6) Paid registrations for the NHSA Leadership Conference in DC – January 2017
- 7) Recognition of their participation in the program.

Agencies will provide:

- 1) Travel and per diem for each parent in the program in their agency
  - a. Breakfast and dinner per diem (unless otherwise stated) Lunch is provided by OHSAI
  - b. Hotel accommodations, if needed

