Leadership Empowerment Action Project

An Intensive Weekend Training for Madison Area Child Care Teaching Staff, Program Directors and Family Child Care Providers

March 22-24, 2002

At the United Way Building, 2059 Atwood Avenue, Madison

Presented by: Peggy Haack, Angie Roberson, and Kate Thegen - Trainers of the Center for the Child Care Workforce (CCW)

Sponsored by: The Local Child Care Wage Initiative - City of Madison and Dane County, and The Dane County AEYC Worthy Wage Campaign.

Space provided by the United Way of Dane County.

It's Our Profession... and We Can Lead IT!

Who knows better than YOU do what our child care system needs, what children need, what early childhood professionals need? Join your colleagues in declaring ours Worthy Work! Participate in a training that allows you to see yourself as the powerful advocate and leader that you are. As we begin to see ourselves differently, so will others! Fill out the enclosed LEAP application today!
What is LEAP?

The Leadership Empowerment Action Project (LEAP) is a training model of the Center for the Child Care Workforce that helps child care teachers and family child care providers develop the leadership and community organizing skills they need to work more effectively to improve their compensation and working conditions. LEAP training:

- Builds on participants’ own personal and professional experiences.
- Uses an interactive style that includes storytelling, discussions, demonstrations and debates.
- Examines the social, political and economic dimensions of child care employment.
- Provides knowledge and skills that can lead to policy analysis, direct action and community organizing.
- Engages participants in next steps, so that you leave the training with a plan of action for your own workplace and/or community.

The training will kick-off Friday evening March 22, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., beginning with a meal and activities following. We will continue all day Saturday (9:00 am - 5:00 pm) and Sunday morning (9:00 - noon). Continental breakfast will be provided on Saturday and Sunday mornings; lunch and afternoon refreshments also served on Saturday.

Who should participate?

LEAP can be adaptable to a variety of stages of experience in leadership, organizing, community action and child care advocacy — from relative newcomers in the field to budding worthy wage activists to experienced leaders who need to replenish themselves. All participants must have at least one year’s experience working in a regulated child care setting. Because enrollment is limited to 25, participation is by application only.

What will be expected of me?

You will be expected to participate in the entire weekend of activities. You can plan on spending your time doing some intense talking, listening, thinking and playing around with ideas, and you’ll do it in great company! You will also be expected to carry out a portion of an “action plan” designed in cooperation with other retreat participants, or conduct an education or organizing activity in your program or in the community. The LEAP facilitators will provide support and guidance. Feedback from follow-up activities will be shared among the retreat participants, and the seeds of a network will be sown!

What is the cost?

It is FREE to those selected to attend. The actual cost of the training — including meeting space, meals, materials, and facilitator fees — is provided by the generous support of the City of Madison Local Child Care Wage Initiative, United Way, and the Dane County Worthy Wage Campaign. Participants will earn 14 hours of continuing education with the Registry.

Applying for LEAP

Please fill out the application in its entirety, detach, and send or fax it to the address indicated. Early applications are appreciated. Questions? Call Peggy on Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 244-3529. Additional applications are available upon request; please spread the word to anyone you feel may be interested. Application Deadline: March 8, 2002, but the selection process may begin sooner.

Criteria for Selecting LEAP Applicants:

Participants will be selected by a local planning team, primarily on the basis of the written application. We encourage and welcome applicants from diverse experiential, educational, and cultural/racial backgrounds. Because our goal is to create a diverse cadre of leaders in our community, diversity will be factored into the selection process. When there is a suitable pool of applicants, the selection process will begin, to end when the maximum number of participants has been reached. All applicants will be notified of their acceptance status. If selected, you will receive more detailed information about the training facility (directions, parking, etc.) along with an agenda and any other pertinent information. Please apply early!