



## WEEKLY UPDATE -FEBRUARY 11, 2010

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### ***INFORMATION AND RESOURCES***

#### **VACANT POSITION IN ESSO PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT UNIT**

Requisition ID: 64065304-51163954-20100126133107

Agency: DOH - Health

Working Title: OPERATIONS REVIEW SPECIALIST Closing Date: 2/19/2010 Location: TALLAHASSEE

Annual Salary Range: \$36,381.54 - \$99,274.50

This is a highly responsible position in the Bureau of Early Steps, Children's Medical Services. Job responsibilities include quality assurance and compliance monitoring and provision of technical assistance to local service providers.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

Extensive knowledge of federal, state and local programs and policies that impact families and young children with disabilities, particularly the requirements of Part C, IDEA.

Expertise in data collection and analysis.

Ability to coordinate interagency collaborations and negotiate roles and responsibilities.

Knowledge and experience in applied research and training delivery.

To apply, go to <https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com/logon.htm>.

## **EARLY HEAD START AND EARLY STEPS COLLABORATION**

Early Head Start is experiencing expansion throughout Florida, both within existing centers and the addition of new centers. Available slots will double, and this is an excellent time for Early Steps to get kids enrolled in those slots. Lilli Copp, Director of Florida's Head Start State Collaboration Office and Lynn Marie Price will be working together on an awareness document in which they would like to include some best practices of local Early Steps and Early Head Start collaboration. We would like to hear about Early Steps that have excellent working relationships with Early Head Start. The awareness document might feature your Early Steps! By **COB Feb. 19**, the ESSO would like all LESs to complete the attached survey and return it to [LynnMarie\\_Price@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:LynnMarie_Price@doh.state.fl.us).

## **NECTAC (National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center) NEWS**

For the current issue of NECTAC eNotes go to <http://www.nectac.org/enotes/enotes.asp>

## **SONGS OF LOVE**

Family Resource Specialist Eliana Tardio, from Southwest Florida, was recently honored by Messengers of Love as the Featured Music Messenger in the recent Songs of Love Newsletter. Songs of Love is a non-profit organization that writes and records songs for individual children with medical, physical or emotional challenges. Each CD is professionally produced with lyrics containing the child's name and references to all of his or her favorite activities, things, people, and pets. Songs are written and performed in any language in the musical style that the child likes best (pop, R&B, rap, rock, alternative, etc.), by a variety of talented professionals.

"Eliana Tardio has been a shining star in our team of Music Messengers. She has given a great deal of time and energy to bringing the "Medicine of Music" to Spanish speaking families. She generously contributed an article about Songs of Love to the Spanish magazine "D'Latinos," as well making other parents aware of us through her website, [www.elianatardio.com](http://www.elianatardio.com) and Early Steps of Southwest Florida <<http://www.hpcswf.com/EarlyStepsFamilies.asp>>.

She also helped a great deal in spreading the word about Songs of Love through her network on Facebook.

Eliana is a huge advocate for families of children with Down Syndrome and has had a 'song of love' written for both of her children, Ayelen and Emir. Because of her efforts, more than 50 Spanish speaking children have received their own song. We thank Eliana for her astounding work!"

For more information on Songs of Love check out their website: [songsoflove.org](http://songsoflove.org)

CONGRATULATIONS ELIANA!!!!

## **IDELIO VALDES LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY AWARD**

Idelio Valdes was a self-advocate who had a tremendous impact on the people around him and the community in which he lived and worked. His life's journey included many ups and downs but he always stayed the course to self realization, commitment to service and dedication to the things that were of most

value to him. His demonstrated advocacy activities, his belief in building partnerships, his initiative in challenging the status quo and his enthusiasm for life and its possibilities endeared him to all who were fortunate enough to know him. This award is dedicated to his memory.

Please go to the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council website at <http://www.fddc.org/news/award-nomination-form> to learn more about this award and to download a nomination form.