

WINTER 2024

ERICSA Times

NEWS FROM ERICSA & THE CHILD SUPPORT COMMUNITY

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ERICSA'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Putting the Grand in Grand Rapids

REGISTER NOW
TO SECURE YOUR SPOT!

LORETTA EVERETT, PRESIDENT-ELECT



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e are excited to see our ERICSA family and meet some fresh faces at this year's conference. Join us April 7-11 in Grand Rapids, Michigan for our 61st Annual ERICSA conference.

This year's theme, "Helping Hands – Bridging Bright Futures for Families," could not be more appropriate for all the help and love that Michigan has given us. Opening ceremonies will include IV-D Director, Erin Frisch, and our keynote speaker, Shon Hart. Shon will speak about bridging the gap in

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ERICSA
2024
APRIL 7-11

understanding and support for fathers and their essential role in family dynamics. Strengthening families will be an ongoing theme throughout the conference.

We are honored to include in our opening ceremonies lineup, OCSS Commissioner, Tangler Gray. With a start like this, we are all sure to be motivated and rejuvenated to begin the week. The rest of the week will consist of educational and informative workshops, including an array of intergovernmental workshops to choose from. Workshops designed to enhance other skills include behavior economics, tools for performance improvement, and a domestic violence simulation that is guaranteed to leave an impression.

Does three days of learning and improving sound exhausting? If it does, we have also planned some fun activities that will allow you to network and bond with other child support professionals. The President's Reception on Sunday at the Amway Grand Plaza will provide you time to network with other child support professionals and gain those all-important and invaluable new contacts. Wednesday night will start with a banquet, and after a short walk across the street, the evening will continue with dueling pianos for entertainment. Thursday's finale will start with a big breakfast and our annual ERICSA game show, bring your child support knowledge to win a prize!

I hope you are as excited as I am to meet new colleagues and learn new skills. I also want to give huge thanks to the members of the conference planning committee, ERICSA board, and the exhibitors and sponsors. It has been – and is – a wonderful experience creating this conference and you made all the difference.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Join Us in Picturesque Grand Rapids

LISA SKENANDORE, ERICSA PRESIDENT



Greetings! I trust this message finds you doing well and with a positive outlook as we usher in the New Year. It is with great enthusiasm that we extend our warmest welcome to you for the upcoming 61st Annual ERICSA Training Conference in the picturesque city of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

On behalf of the entire Board, I extend a heartfelt welcome, and it is our sincere hope that the diverse content and learning opportunities planned for this year will not only meet but exceed your expectations. The conference planning committee, under the leadership of President-Elect Loretta Everett, has been diligently

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working to curate an impressive and relevant program. We are confident that the lineup of speakers secured for the event will provide valuable insights and contribute to a memorable experience for all attendees.

This year, we are thrilled to announce our support for the charity, Kid's Food Basket. Your generous contributions to the charity raffle, whether through donated items or the purchase of tickets, will undoubtedly make a positive impact in Grand Rapids and the surrounding community.

Having recently explored the charms of Grand Rapids myself, I was pleasantly surprised by the city's beauty, situated along the serene Grand River. Our conference venue offers magnificent views of the water, providing a beautiful backdrop for our gatherings. Additionally, Grand Rapids boasts a reputation as Craft Beverage Capital, featuring a multitude of breweries, as well as a variety of foodie eateries. The city is also home to the Ford Presidential Museum, adding an extra layer of historical significance to our event.

We look forward to your participation in what promises to be a rewarding and enjoyable conference experience. Should you have any inquiries or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to seeing you all soon in Grand Rapids!



GR in Pure Michigan

ERIN FRISCH, *Title IV-D Director,
State of Michigan OCSE*



For a long time, Grand Rapids was known as a humble, mid-size midwestern city with a Dutch heritage, and a focus on furniture design and manufacturing. In the last twenty years, however, it has begun to blossom into a vibrant, multicultural

city with an active arts and foodie scene. Michigan's second largest city, GR (as it is known in these parts), is coming into its own. I'm so excited to welcome you to GR for ERICSA's 2024 Annual Training Conference & Exposition Helping Hands – Bridging Bright Futures for Families.

April is a great time to be in Michigan. Spring flowers will be bursting from the ground and residents, eager for some fresh air, will be out and about enjoying the trails, cafes, and parks. GR affords many recreation opportunities through hundreds of miles of recreational trails. It's also within an hour and a half drive to Lake Michigan, with state parks and sandy beaches, though it will not yet be warm enough to take a dip.

As a USA Today's Best Beer City (2023, 2022 and 2021), the beer connoisseur will have a lot to enjoy, with 40 craft breweries within a 30-minute drive. From Belgian and French country-style ales (Brewery Vivant), hazies and fruit sours (Arvon Brewing) to big name breweries (Founders), there's something for every taste.

I wouldn't recommend spending your entire time in GR drinking beer, though some may try. Here are some other suggestions:

- GR is home to ArtPrize, an open international art competition held annually in September. While it won't

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coincide with this conference, many winning pieces can be viewed around town. The Grand Rapids Art Museum is also a great stop for the art lover.

- Frederik Meijer Gardens is a jewel of the region, with beautiful outdoor gardens and sculptures, a Japanese garden, seasonal exhibits and several gorgeous Chihuly glass sculptures. I recommend a stroll there if weather permits. Tram rides are also available.
- Heritage Hill Historic District is one of the largest urban historic districts in the country and walking tours are recommended. It includes a beautifully restored Frank Lloyd Wright home, the Meyer May House.
- Both the Grand Rapids Public Museum and the Gerald R. Ford Museum are within walking distance from the conference hotel and feature interesting exhibits.
- Keep your appetite sated by visiting several of the many exceptional downtown restaurants.

Welcome to Grand Rapids, Michigan! The Michigan Child Support Program is proud to support ERICSA and its mission, and is thrilled to welcome ERICSA members to springtime in Michigan. Many members of our team will be in attendance and helping out. I encourage you to ask anyone where they live, you'll get a "first-hand" experience of our mapping skills! We look forward to reconnecting with old friends, meeting new colleagues, and learning about the latest in child support in Grand Rapids!

I hope you enjoy your time here and I look forward to talking with you during the conference.



CONFERENCE PLANNING

Grand Rapids Welcomes ERICSA Back to Michigan

RAYMOND CIVITELLA, VICE PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE OPERATIONS



ERICSA is returning to Michigan! Michigan last hosted the ERICSA conference in the Spring of 2000 and in 2024 we are excited to be returning to "The Great Lakes State." Grand Rapids is hosting the 2024 ERICSA conference

and we could not be more excited for all that this city offers. Grand Rapids is famously known for its amazing craft beer, renowned arts and culture, delicious cuisine, and beautiful scenery. Make sure to leave yourself time to explore and taste all things Grand Rapids.

Our hosting venue is the historic Amway Grand Plaza. The Amway Grand Plaza dates to the early 1900's and was designed by Warren & Westmore of New York City, who also designed New York's Grand Central Station. Take a walk through this historic building and admire the exquisite architecture throughout the hotel.

The President's Reception will be held Sunday evening in one of the hotel's ballrooms from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. This function will feature light fare and a cash bar along with a three-piece jazz ensemble. It kicks off the conference and is a perfect event to meet new friends and reunite with old ones.

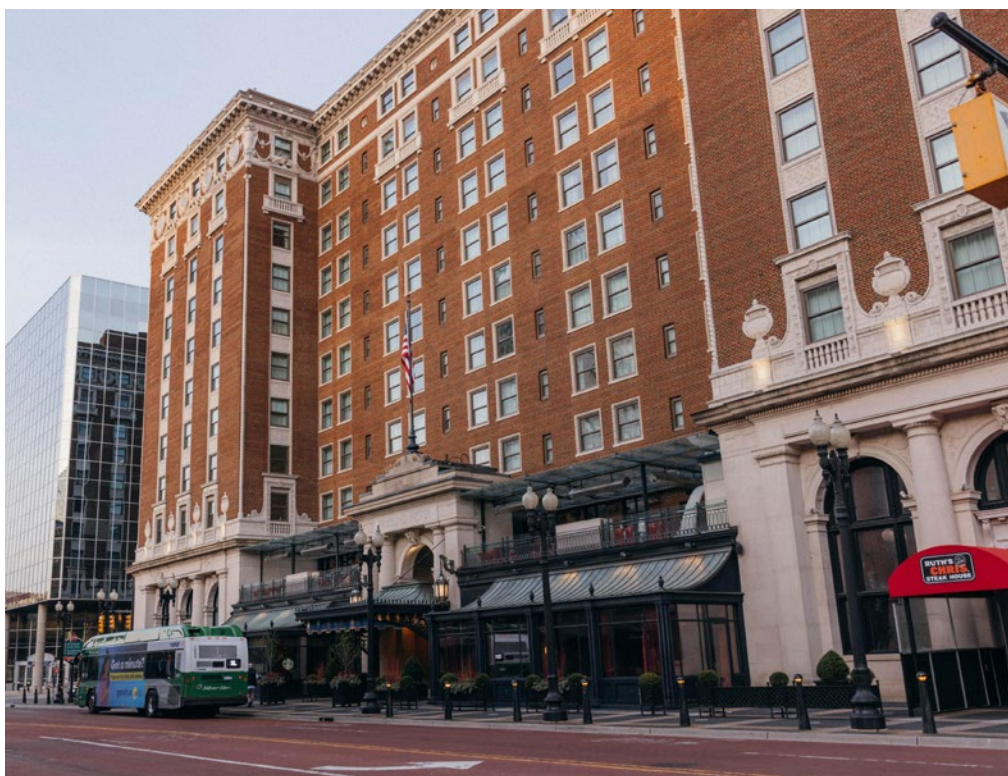
Monday and Tuesday evenings do not have any planned events which provides the opportunity to explore the city and all its offerings. Be sure to stop at the ERICSA booth to see a list of

local points of interest. In the meantime, check out the resources that are helpful for conference attendees:

Conference Attendee Info Know Before You Go

A fun-filled Wednesday evening will begin with dinner at the hotel. Gather with friends for cocktails at 5:30 pm, followed by a dinner banquet at 6:00 pm. Following dinner, walk directly across the street to a fun packed night at MOJO's Dueling Piano Bar. The entire venue has been secured for a private ERICSA after party including dueling pianos on the first floor and a DJ and dancing on the second floor.

On behalf of the ERICSA Board of Directors I hope all attendees have an enjoyable fun filled learning and networking experience in this superb environment.



CONFERENCE CHARITY

Kids' Food Basket

RIEDA ABRAMS-MILLER, Vice President of Exhibitors and Sponsors



Each year, ERICSA holds a fundraising activity during conference for a child/family focused charity in our conference location. We do it as a way of giving back to the community that hosts us. The generous spirit of our

conference attendees, sponsors, and exhibitors has been evident in the donations we have made in years past. This year, we hope to continue that tradition.

This year, our charity is Kids' Food Basket (KFB) based in Grand Rapids. KFB is a children's food equity organization that nourishes thousands of children and families in West Michigan facing food insecurity and poverty with daily, healthy evening meals. By the time conference arrive, KFB will have served more than 900k meals since July 1, 2023.

To learn more about KFB, please visit their website, **Kids Food Basket - Nourishing kids to be their best, in school and in life.**

To support this amazing organization this year, we are excited to have a raffle! A raffle gives everyone a chance at winning, just buy your tickets and drop them into a correlating repository (gift bag, it'll be a sealed gift bag.)

Each day we will have different items available. Items for the raffle are donated by our amazing sponsors and exhibitors, and you, our ERICSA family. Popular raffle items (there *might* be a spoiler or two in this list) are (and certainly not limited to):

- Gift Cards
- Jewelry
- Adult Beverages (legal under MI charitable gaming laws)
- Luxury Brand Handbags

- Electronics
- Sports Jerseys & Memorabilia

If you would like to donate something, and you don't want to schlep it in your luggage or you aren't going to be able attend, please reach out to me at abramsmillerr@auctor.com for more information on how to get items to the conference.

As a heads up, ticket* prices for raffle items will be:

- One ticket - \$1
- 6 tickets - \$5
- 25 tickets - \$20

*Michigan rules require that tickets purchased on a given day also be used that day. This rule and others will be posted near the raffle items.

SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS

THANK YOU, in advance, to our cherished sponsors and exhibitors. ERICSA is honored to continue these partnerships, and we appreciate how their participation and presence adds to the conference experience.

One of the beautiful things about ERICSA is the blending of public and private organizations, all with the goal of helping families to become successful and self-reliant. Plan on mingling with our exhibitors during the breaks, at their booths (and on your way to buy raffle tickets), and you'll learn more about how their business goals align with child support agencies' goals. This year, we continue with our Vendor Spotlight. This is an opportunity for a vendor to educate attendees on what and how they can assist in reaching performance goals and, more importantly, making sure the families we serve get the money they need to become successful and self-reliant.

Thank You to Our Current Sponsors and Exhibitors

ELITE PARTNERSHIPS

PREMIER PARTNERSHIPS

 CONNECTING IV-D PROGRAMS
 WITH COURTS FOR BETTER OUTCOMES

SIGNATURE PARTNERSHIPS

PREFERRED PARTNERSHIPS

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EXHIBITORS

 The Messaging Experts

 Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania

 CONNECTING IV-D PROGRAMS
 WITH COURTS FOR BETTER OUTCOMES

 Interstate Data Exchange Consortium

 Shaping the Future of Child Support

 Office of Child Support Services

 Technology - Innovation - Partnership

2024 RECOGNITION AWARDS

ERICSA Professional Excellence Awards

JOHN HURST
Recognitions Committee Chair



Each year, ERICSA recognizes child support professionals that have distinguished themselves as outstanding in their respective roles. You have the opportunity to nominate your co-worker or someone from

another child support jurisdiction that has stood out in the past year. ERICSA will present awards at the 2024 conference in Grand Rapids for the following categories:

- Award of Professional Excellence – Frontline Child Support Professional (same jurisdiction)
- Award of Professional Excellence – Manager/Supervisor (same jurisdiction)
- Award of Professional Excellence – Intergovernmental Cooperation (different jurisdiction)
- Patrick W. Quinn Intergovernmental Award

The Recognitions Committee looks forward to celebrating the award winners in Grand Rapids in April!

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Gordon Moseley Rising Star Scholarships

TIM CAWOSKI
Scholarship Chair



ERICSA has established a minimum of two Gordon Moseley Rising Star Scholarships to help ensure dedicated child support enforcement workers are

able to attend the annual ERICSA training conference for each year. The purpose of these scholarships is to help expand knowledge of the child support program and to promote professional development. One scholarship will be awarded to a child support worker in the state hosting the conference, and the other to an out-of-state applicant.

Scholarship recipients will be announced soon!

POLICY AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Supporting ERICSA's Legislative Work

DIANE POTTS, Vice President of Policy and Legislation



The Policy and Legislation Committee (P&L) supports the important policy and legislative work of ERICSA. P&L monitors, analyzes, and drafts comments on proposed legislation and regulatory changes.

It is responsible for keeping the Board of Directors informed on policy issues, as well as developing Resolutions, Policy Statements, and Fact Sheets for Board approval to support ERICSA initiatives.

P&L had an exciting and busy year this fall and winter! The work started with P&L developing ERICSA's comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Modifications to Performance Standards During National Disasters and Other Calamities. ERICSA's Board approved and President Skenandore filed the comments on September 6, 2023, with the Office of Child Support Services (OCSS).

Next, P&L worked on a lengthy response to another NPRM issued by OCSS, *Parentage Establishment in the Child Support Program*, which supported child support programs that provide parentage establishment services to same sex parents. While approving of most of the NPRM, P&L explained in its comments that states must give full faith and credit to all voluntary acknowledgments if legally enforceable under the laws of the state where the acknowledgment was executed. After receiving overwhelming approval by the Board, ERICSA filed the comments on November 27, 2023.

Finally, P&L drafted comments to the legislative testimony, *Strengthening the Child Support Enforcement Program*, before the Joint Ways and Means Work and Welfare and Oversight Subcommittees. P&L supported the testimony urging legislation that would allow access to the income tax refund offset program and federal tax information by tribal child support programs and child support program contractors. Those comments were filed on December 11, 2024.

Finally, P&L is excited to announce its first FREE webinar! The P&L webinar will be held on June 5, 2024. More information to come!

The Policy and Legislation Committee members are Lisa Skenandore, Konitra Jack, Margot Bean, Irene Curran, Teddy Andreopoulos, Nick Palos, Ryann Levering-White, Tomiko Hicks, Joshua Lieberman, Kelly Micka, Elizabeth Schriber, Laura Stone, Patterson Poulson, Susan Smith, Rob Velcoff, Amy Gober, Surrena Little, Tommy Howard, Zachary Rasmussen, Lara Fors, Liz West, Samuel Merritt, and Ollise Burley.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL TRAINING & EVENTS**ERICSA WILL BE HOSTING THREE FREE WEBINARS THIS YEAR**

1. The Intergovernmental Committee is pleased to announce that there will be two FREE webinars this year. The first webinar will be on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. ET and is titled Intergovernmental Communication Tools: Effectively Managing the Flow of Information. The link to the recording will be available [here](#).
2. The second Intergovernmental Webinar will be on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. More information to come!
3. The Policy and Legislation Committee is happy to announce their first webinar and it will be FREE to attend! The webinar will be held on June 5, 2024. More information to come!

**JOINT VIRTUAL MINI IJ FAIRS**

ERICSA is excited to partner with WICSEC and NTCSA again this year to bring you two virtual IJ Fairs. The Joint Virtual Mini IJ Fairs will be:

May 29th and October 30th

2:00 – 3:15 pm ET

ERICSA, WICSEC and NTCSA child support professionals have joined together to bring you this Creating Connections and Expanding our possibilities IJ Fair event to network, exchange contact information, and learn about the IV-D programs of other jurisdictions. "Ambassadors" from various county, state, tribal, countries, and federal levels will be on the call to share best practices and attendees will be provided opportunities to chat with other child support professionals. Ambassador contact information will be provided to all attendees to optimize cooperation and eliminate barriers associated with multi-jurisdictional cases. The Joint IJ Fair will have representation from IV-D programs across the nation and attendees are encouraged to showcase their area virtually through decor and/or attire during the speed dating type Zoom sessions. We look forward to "seeing" you at the Joint IJ Fair!

NEWS FLASH!! Not only will we have the two virtual IJ Fair events where ERICSA is partnering with WICSEC and NTCSA,

we are also bringing back the in-person IJ Fair at the conference this year. If you would like to showcase your program, register to be an ambassador at the Conference! We hope to see you in Grand Rapids, Michigan. **Register online!**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRAINING EVENT**

September 11, 2024

10:00 am – 4:00 pm ET

The Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association is pleased to announce our fourth annual virtual Intergovernmental Training Event. ERICSA's middle name is "Interstate," and we are excited to continue this tradition. ERICSA is committed to providing entertaining and useful information to our members, especially in intergovernmental issues. There will be an opening plenary and eight presentations during four time slots. If you are registered for the 61st Annual ERICSA Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan this year, your attendance is included in your ERICSA membership. If you are not a member of ERICSA, you can still attend this training event by registering for the event or paying the \$75 membership fee.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Watch our social media for more information about the upcoming conference and other events. Use hashtag **#ERICSA2024** in your news and comments.
SEE YOU IN GRAND RAPIDS APRIL 7 – 11!