

For Immediate Release  
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## ECDI and Children's Hunger Alliance Offer Grants and Services to Expand Childcare Businesses with New Initiative

ECDI and Children's Hunger Alliance choose national Child Safety and Protection Month to launch the Ohio Refugee Childcare Entrepreneurship Initiative. This initiative will provide training, mentoring and business capitalization for refugees who establish home-based childcare businesses in Franklin and Cuyahoga counties in Ohio.

Columbus, Ohio (27 November 2012) - Finding safe, reliable and affordable childcare is a challenge for many families. This month, events across the nation celebrate Child Safety and Protection Month, and Ohio takes a giant leap by supporting safe childcare with a new initiative by ECDI and Children's Hunger Alliance. These two organizations are collaborating to expand safe and affordable childcare within Ohio. The Ohio Refugee Childcare Entrepreneurship Initiative (ORCEI) will provide training, mentoring, and business capitalization; helping refugees in Franklin and Cuyahoga counties become economically self-sufficient by establishing successful home-based childcare businesses.

"Just as child safety awareness is raised during the [National Safety Council's](#) Child Safety and Protection Month, ECDI is pleased to work with Children's Hunger Alliance. Together, we will offer more opportunities to build strong and safe businesses which will provide childcare for Ohio families." Inna Kinney, Founder and CEO of ECDI said recently. "Caring for children may come naturally to some entrepreneurs, but how to fund and operate a business may not. Now we can shorten this learning curve by providing business funding, certification and training to refugees in our communities."

The services provided within ORCEI are designed to provide a comprehensive plan for starting and operating a home-based childcare business. The services include state of Ohio home-based childcare certification and grants of up to \$1500 for business startup. This initiative also provides nutrition, education, childcare and specific micro-enterprise training.

"Reliable child care that includes nutritious meals is one of the best ways to ensure safe environments for children and support economically sound families," said Mary Lou Langenhop, president and CEO, Children's Hunger Alliance. "Together with ECDI, we will help provide high quality childcare and support healthy families."

### About ECDI

ECDI is a nonprofit that increases entrepreneurs' opportunities for success by providing access to capital and small business development services, while also offering programs proven to help individuals and families achieve financial stability. ECDI serves 49 counties in Ohio; to find more information about ECDI's [small business loan program](#) and other small business services, visit the organization's [website](#) or call (614) 559-0115.

### **About Children's Hunger Alliance**

Children's Hunger Alliance is known for "feeding hungry minds and bodies." The agency's mission is to ensure all children are fed regular and nutritious meals and develop lifelong healthy eating habits. Children's Hunger Alliance does this by directly feeding children nutritious meals in childcare homes and after school programs, increasing easy access to nutritious foods in schools and summer feeding locations and educating children to make healthy food choices and engage in physical activity to reduce the incidence of obesity and promote lifelong health. To learn more, call (614) 341-7700 or (800) 227-5446 or visit <http://www.childrenshungeralliance.org>.

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