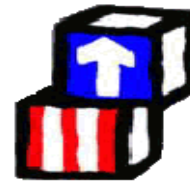


Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report

November 2023



Federal Updates: HHS Awards \$2.1M to Bolster Supportive Services for Families Living in Affordable Housing

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently awarded \$2.1 million to fund the Affordable Housing and Social Services Demonstration (AHSSD) program, a new federal pilot program aimed at strengthening and enhancing wraparound and supportive services available to residents in affordable housing. The funding will support nine grant recipients in eight states and one tribal community.

AHSSD funding will help build and strengthen the capacity of owners and operators of affordable housing to provide wraparound supportive services to residents. AHSSD grant recipients will use their award to enhance a variety of supportive services including onsite childcare, financial literacy and coaching, GED preparation classes, transportation assistance, early childhood and youth programs and mental health services.

AHSSD is administered by the Office of Community Services (OCS) at ACF. Grant recipients will leverage other OCS-funded services and programs to help address the immediate and long-term needs of residents in affordable housing, including employment and workforce development programs, energy and water assistance and support with material needs. The AHSSD grant recipients will serve individuals and families in Alaska, Arizona, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Virginia.

State Updates:

- Recently released JLARC report on “Virginia’s Self-Sufficiency Programs and the Availability and Affordability of Child Care” <https://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2023-virginias-self-sufficiency-programs-and-the-availability-and-affordability-of-child-care.asp>
- Fall CLASS observations are almost completed.

NRCA Program Updates:

- Our Head Start Program’s FY24 recertification application for the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) was approved on October 31, 2023. This allows us to continue to receive monthly reimbursement for meals provided to our enrolled children.
- **Enrollment-** Please see the attached “Enrollment Dashboard.” We have not reached our full enrollment.
- **Personnel-** We have a few staff moving through the background check process and continue to advertise and interview for the following position openings. Floyd Head Start AT, Christiansburg AT, Christiansburg CA and IA, Margaret Beeks IA, Check IA, McHarg IA and McHarg AT.
- **Finance Updates-** Please see the attached “Fiscal Dashboard.”
- We are planning some parent engagement opportunities for Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Radford sites.
- Pearisburg and Rich Creek sites were able to visit the pumpkin patch in October.
- Music with Kari started in Christiansburg.
- Family/Health Advocates are meeting with families to establish their IFPAs.
- Staff are submitting BIRs for Specialist Review and Follow up.
- Health file reviews will begin soon.
- We have a tentative schedule for CHC Smile checks.
- Coaching has begun.

Document Submissions for your review:

- 5-year goals for the next grant cycle. 2024-2029
- School Readiness Goals
- Streamin3 Curriculum and Assessment change.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services