

PRESS RELEASE

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The Children's Home Society of New Jersey Receives National Award to Expand Early Head Start Services for Pregnant Women, Infants, and Toddlers in Trenton



Pictured: Head Start Children on Opening Day

Trenton, NJ (April 11, 2019) – The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ) is proud to announce that the United States Department of Health & Human Services (DHS) Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start has awarded a three million dollar grant that will continue for five years to expand CHSofNJ's Early Head Start (EHS) Center-Based services in Trenton, New Jersey. This grant, the only awarded of its kind in New Jersey, enhances our continuum of services focused on Trenton families with children birth to age five and pregnant mothers. CHSofNJ EHS provides high-quality, full-day, year-round, comprehensive educational, health, nutritional, and social services to promote school readiness and wellness. This competitive grant award will allow CHSofNJ to open a new HS/EHS Center in Trenton, thereby increasing EHS Center-Based service delivery by 169 pregnant women, infants, and children under the age of three. All services will be provided at no cost to families.

The EHS expansion grant meets a dire need for quality infant-toddler care in Trenton. A shortage of early childhood education care slots is a problem experienced statewide by parents, and experienced most acutely by parts of infants and toddlers who are working on pursuing education. CHSofNJ's Head Start/Early Head Start Executive Director Isaac Dorsey, MPA expressed his appreciation for this grant award, saying, "Our Early Head Start Expansion Program will be a continuation of the excellence parents have come to expect from our program. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide nurturing and stimulating educational services for 169 additional pregnant mothers, infants, and toddlers in the City of Trenton and can continue their services up to age five."

Head Start's mission mirrors CHSofNJ's belief in strengthening and engaging parents to lead and plan for their child's early education and well-being, which makes this program an excellent component of CHSofNJ's comprehensive continuum of services. As such, CHSofNJ has provided Early Head Start Home-Based services in Trenton since 2011. The agency has been the sole provider of HS/EHS Center-Based services since 2014. In addition to early childhood and prenatal education and support services, CHSofNJ is a respected leader in school-based youth development programming, child protection and permanency services, community-based support and prevention services, trauma-informed clinical counseling, and kinship services.

If you are interested in enrolling in CHSofNJ's HS/EHS program, visit <https://www.chsofnj.org/headstart> or stop in to any one of CHSofNJ's current HS/EHS Center-Based locations in the City of Trenton: 1198 Southard Street; 715 Bellevue Avenue; 794 East State Street; 1746 South Clinton Avenue.

About The Children's Home Society of New Jersey

The Children's Home Society of New Jersey is a nonprofit child and family serving agency whose mission is to save children's lives and build healthy families. Founded in 1894, the agency protects abused or neglected infants and at-risk children by ensuring stable, permanent, and loving homes for each and every child it serves. All services are confidential and most are free. For more information, visit our website at www.chsofnj.org.

About The Children's Home Society of New Jersey's Head Start/Early Head Start Program

The Children's Home Society of New Jersey's Head Start Program promotes school readiness for children by providing comprehensive educational, health, nutritional, and social services. Parents play a large role in the program, both as primary educators and as participants in administering the program locally. CHSofNJ's Early Head Start Program is offered in both Center-Based and Home-Based environments, and is designed to enhance children's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development, assist pregnant women with prenatal and post-natal care, support parents efforts to fulfill their parental roles, and assist parents in moving toward self-sufficiency. Pregnant women and families with children (birth to age 5) that meet Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines, reside within the city of Trenton, or have children with disabilities and/or special needs may enroll in CHSofNJ's Head Start/Early Head Start Program. For more information, visit our website at www.chsofnj.org.

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