



## **The Children's Home Society of New Jersey Receives Award to Provide Head Start/Early Head Start Services in Trenton**

**Trenton, NJ** (June 23, 2014) – The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ) President and CEO Donna C. Pressma today announces that CHSofNJ has received the award to provide Head Start/Early Head Start services for 300 participants in Trenton, effective July 1, 2014. Those currently enrolled in the program are eligible for registration and continuation in the upcoming school year this September. "When we made the decision to compete for this award, we knew that CHSofNJ could fulfill the needs and expectations of this important program successfully," said Pressma. "The 300 children and families participating in Trenton Head Start's center-based classes will now benefit from our 120 years of experience serving Trenton's young children and families through the 37 additional life-changing programs we offer in Trenton."

Each year, The Children's Home Society of New Jersey reaches over 10,000 young Trenton children and their families through CHSofNJ's Early Head Start Home Based services, early childhood services, CUNA and Body & Soul programs, parenting education services, child and maternal health services, counseling services, school based services, kinship services, and the Women Infant and Children (WIC) nutrition program.

"Prior to our decision to compete for the Head Start grant," said Pressma, "we looked at the program very closely and felt that it built on our mission of *Saving Children's Lives and Building Healthy Families*. It also complemented our decades of early childhood development and parenting education strengths in Trenton." 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, and their Board of Directors and staff believe that the program will benefit from CHSofNJ's fiscal and managerial excellence on which they pride themselves.

CHSofNJ anticipates a smooth transition and a continuation of the classroom excellence Head Start parents have come to expect from the program. A review and assessment of former Trenton Head Start personnel, facilities and programs has been completed in an effort to best serve the young children and families of Trenton. "We are proud to have retained the majority of Trenton Head Start staff, and are excited for them to continue on with us," said Mary Graycar, CHSofNJ Director of Human Resources. In addition to the retention of 55 skilled Trenton Head Start employees, the agency has hired qualified professionals to supplement the already strong staff.

CHSofNJ will partner with community agencies to help parents realize their goals for their child's education and well being, and also goals for their family as a whole. They will partner with the Trenton Board of Education and with the Head Start Regional Office, as well as the NJ State Department of Education. CHSofNJ will continue to work with many other Trenton agencies and faith based services, and their 400 community volunteers eager to enrich Head Start services for the young children and families of this community.

Beginning July 1, 2014, CHSofNJ's Head Start/Early Head Start Executive Director Wendy Garrett and her team will welcome all new and existing Head Start families who would like to enroll their children in this wonderful program. "We are eager to continue our work helping Trenton parents reach the educational goals they have set for their children," said Garrett. "And with the award of the Head Start grant," she continued, "we will ensure that even more children of our community receive the quality education that they deserve."

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### **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 insuring 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 [chsfnj.org](http://chsfnj.org).