



Family Services, Inc.

An affiliate of Sheppard & Enoch Pratt Foundation

For Immediate Release

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FAMILY SERVICES' EARLY HEAD START TO RECEIVE \$1.77 MILLION TO EXPAND SCHOOL READINESS AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Gaithersburg, MD (November 24, 2009) – Family Services, Inc. (FSI) received official notification from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families that it has been selected as an Early Head Start expansion site.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the funding awarded will allow Early Head Start to serve 72 additional infants, toddlers and pregnant women in northern Montgomery County, Maryland, including Derwood and Olney. This brings the total number of children served at the center to 147, with 28 in the child development center.

“We are excited to be offering 14 more slots at the Discovery Station Child Development Center for parenting teens,” says Monica Ortiz, Program Manager for FSI’s Early Head Start program. “And, an additional 58 families will be served through home visiting services.”

Grants worth nearly \$1.2 billion will allow Early Head Start programs to expand nationwide and serve 55,000 more pregnant women, infants, toddlers and their families; nearly doubling the number of Early Head Start participants. The increased number of children and families served by these grants will create new jobs, as construction projects are created and additional staff is hired to work with the children in the programs.

FSI’s award will involve a major expansion of existing services at the Early Head Start’s Discovery Station Child Development Center, which will include the hiring of up to 19 new staff members.

“Receiving this grant couldn’t have come at a better time as area families continue to deal with the stressors of today’s economic downturn,” says Thomas Harr, Executive Director for Family Services, Inc. “At least 90% of EHS families are at 100% of the Federal Poverty Line or lower, and we are extremely grateful to offer these expanded services to the community.”

In addition, the FSI EHS program was also awarded an \$80,448 Program Improvement health and safety grant to renovate the existing toddler playground during this program year.

Plans are beginning for a ground breaking ceremony, with an opening date for the expanded center to be in late March 2010.

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