

April 4, 2020

Dear Head Start Grantee,

President Trump signed into law H.R.748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, on March 27, 2020. This legislation includes up to \$500 million for Head Start programs to operate supplemental summer programs.

The intent of supplemental summer programs is to make up for time children lost as a result of program closures due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). These summer programs will primarily focus on children transitioning to kindergarten and children with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Programs are expected to provide social and emotionally supportive learning environments along with multiple benefits to children, families, and staff while also promoting successful transitions to school. Summer programs are expected to provide social and emotional support and consistent daily routines; to support families in bringing their children up to date on needed medical, dental, and other follow-up services; and to connect children and families to receiving schools.

We estimate this funding will be able to provide summer programming for all children who are entering kindergarten at the beginning of the 2020–2021 program year and currently enrolled children with IEPs. Pending availability of funding, programs may be able to serve other vulnerable populations that would greatly benefit from a summer program in addition to rising kindergarteners and children with IEPs.

In order to ensure there are sufficient funds for all interested programs, the Office of Head Start (OHS) is asking all Head Start grantees to quickly indicate their interest and capacity to operate a summer program during the summer of 2020. **OHS is asking grantees to indicate their interest by submitting the "Intent to Apply" form in the Head Start Enterprise System (HSES) by April 13, 2020.**

The "Intent to Apply" form **is not** your application for supplemental funds. The application for supplemental funds is titled "Summer 2020 Program Supplement" and will be released once the "Intent to Apply" process is complete, which is anticipated in mid-April. The purpose of the "Intent to Apply" is to provide grantees with information on the funding opportunity, gauge interest, and estimate the amount of incoming requests.

Following the submission of the grant application in HSES titled "Summer 2020 Program Supplement", funding will be awarded on a rolling basis.

Programs may not receive funds for days during the summer when they would already be fully operational. For example, programs already funded to be operational for the full calendar year for all children would not be eligible for this funding. Programs that currently operate for only a portion of the summer may apply for funding to provide additional weeks of service to rising kindergarteners and children with IEPs.

We understand this is a fluid situation and programs may not be able to fully predict whether they will be able to open their doors in time for a summer program. We are asking programs to plan for a summer program with the belief they will be able to operate. If all or some programs are unable to operate as intended due to health and safety concerns, we will revisit our plans and funding decisions.

Please contact your Regional Office if there are questions.

The "Intent to Apply" form will be available in HSES under the "Financials" tab and "Add Amendment" icon on Monday, April 6, 2020. It is due on Monday, April 13, 2020.