



640 Anacostia Ave., NE  
Washington DC 20019-1509  
202.727.5604  
educaredc.org

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Media contact  
Pyper Davis  
202-741-8656  
[pdavis@educaredc.org](mailto:pdavis@educaredc.org)

**WASHINGTON (April 12, 2019)** – Today, Educare DC announced that it has been awarded an Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the Department of Health and Human Services. Through this five-year federal grant, Educare DC will nearly double the number of children they serve by partnering with child care programs in DC’s Wards 7 and 8.

Nearly 90% of infants and toddlers in Wards 7 and 8 live in concentrated poverty, compared with 3.8% of infants and toddlers living in Ward 3 (2015 Child Trends/Bainum Family Foundation study), the impact of which creates an opportunity gap, which is measurable before three years of age.

The grant will allow Educare DC to build the capacity of smaller providers in the community. Educare DC will provide resources and expert coaching as partners implement Early Head Start’s high quality standards in classrooms serving 144 low-income children, and add new services including health, oral health, nutrition, mental health, and supports for children with special needs. The grant also funds family engagement services, designed to help low-income families build positive relationships, and to support their journey as their children’s first teacher, and as engaged community leaders and advocates.

“We are thrilled to have this opportunity to bring high-quality early learning to more children, particularly east of the river, where there are fewer high-quality seats and many young children who are eager to learn and grow.” says Pyper Davis, executive director of Educare DC.

Opened in July 2012, Educare DC is part of a 23-school national network that serves as a platform for broader change, inspiring high-quality programs in communities, improving public policies within each state, and demonstrating a comprehensive approach to the first five years of life and learning. Educare DC is a Head Start and Early Head Start provider accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).