



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**EDUCARE DC ANNOUNCES FIVE-YEAR GRANT AWARD FROM HEAD START**

*Grant will provide high-quality education and support services to 244 young children*

WASHINGTON DC - Today, Educare DC announced that it has been awarded a grant through the Office of Head Start to provide high-quality education and support services to 244 young children in the District of Columbia.

The work done through this grant will strengthen Educare DC's contribution to making the District of Columbia a place where young children can grow, thrive, and be prepared for success in school and in life. With this grant, Educare DC will now have capacity to serve a total of 424 children from prenatal through age 5.

Specifically, the five-year grant will enable Educare DC to work with partners to:

- Open up to twelve new high-quality Early Head Start classrooms in Wards 7 and 8
- Launch a prenatal program to serve 24 pregnant women with health supports and parenting education
- Provide 60 pre-Kindergarten children with essential Head Start services
- Create over 40 new jobs, including teachers, family engagement professionals, and health and well-being specialists
- Provide student teaching opportunities for high school students interested in becoming early educators, as part of their certification program

As a result of systemic racism and historic underinvestment, nearly 90% of infants and toddlers in DC's Wards 7 and 8 live in concentrated poverty, compared with just 4% of infants and toddlers living in Ward 3. This disparity creates a measurable opportunity gap that can hinder critical early childhood development and future educational success. Therefore, bringing these types of services to these neighborhoods is especially important.

"We are thrilled to have this opportunity to bring high-quality early learning to more children east of the river. We are also excited to launch a prenatal support program to serve pregnant moms. The timing of this award is particularly welcome right now, when children and families are more vulnerable than ever. Our team at Educare DC is grateful to be a part of bringing more resources to our community," said Pyper Davis, executive director of Educare DC.

High-quality early learning is essential for the developing brains of infants and toddlers. Research from the Center for the Developing Child at Harvard University shows that in the first years of life children's brains create an astounding 1 million new neural connections each second. They are rapidly building the foundation for their future academic achievement and are developing critical social and emotional skills. This grant will allow Educare DC to provide an array of services including high quality early learning, health and wellness, early intervention and family support services - to children during this important developmental period to support their future success.

Opened in July 2012, Educare DC is part of a 24-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, rated as a High Quality program through the Office of the State Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia (OSSE)'s Capital Quality program, and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

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