



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

East Coast Migrant Head Start Project Ready to Open Two New Centers in Anadarko and Tahlequah

Raleigh, North Carolina, May 28, 2021 – East Coast Migrant Head Start Project (ECMHSP) is ready to bring its successful proven model of Head Start services to the hard-working farmworker families residing in Oklahoma. During the first week of June, almost 40 children of agricultural workers will begin to receive high-quality and comprehensive Head Start services in the cities of Anadarko and Tahlequah.

Head Start services will be at no cost for families working with beets, cabbage, corn, carrots, cauliflower, onions, and melons. Additionally, those working at plant nurseries; diverse vegetable and root vegetable crops; poultry products, dairies; trees and tree crops. “Our program believes parents are a child’s first teacher. We will work hand in hand with parents to build their trust and the community’s as well,” said Maria C. Garza, ECMHSP Chief Executive Officer. For all children, ECMHSP ensures they have a medical home, up to date immunizations, and nutritional supports to help them develop and grow.

The opening of our two Head Start centers will have great economic impact in Oklahoma. Earlier this year, Maria C. Garza, ECMHSP Chief Executive Officer, had a special meeting with the Mayor of Tahlequah, Sue Catron. “Our future is our children. Early [childhood] education determines how well our children do and how well our children do, determines how well our community does. So, your long-range community impact may be greater than what you think,” said Mayor Catron. We are honored to have the presence of Mayor Catron during our ribbon cutting ceremony on June 7, taking place at our Oklahoma state office and early childhood education center.

East Coast Migrant Head Start Project was established in 1974 through a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Under the leadership of Sister Geraldine O’Brien, Head Start centers were opened along the east coast of the United States to ensure continuity of services, as families migrated to work in agriculture. Currently, ECMHSP operates 47 Head Start Centers in nine states.

Additional information about ECMHSP can be found by visiting www.ecmhsp.org.

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