**East Coast Migrant Head Start Project expands its Early Childhood Education Services to Valdosta, Georgia**

* ***Approximately three thousand children of farmworker families attend high quality head start services instead of going to the agricultural fields with their parents.***

Valdosta, Georgia, Sep 28, 2022 - East Coast Migrant Head Start Project (ECMHSP) is proud to announce the official opening of a new Educational Campus in Valdosta, Georgia to serve the hard-working farmworker families in the counties of Echols Lowndes, Brooks, Berrien, Lanier, and Cook.

The East Coast Migrant Head Start Project serves families harvesting fruit and vegetables, packing houses. They also work in poultry, dairy farms, aquaculture (fish farms), pine straw farms, greenhouses, and plant nurseries. “We serve essential workers that put food on our tables. Every day Americans taste some fruit or vegetable picked by a farmworker”, said Maria C. Garza, CEO at East Coast Migrant Head Start Project. “We provide professional services including educational, health and nutrition to their children. We prevent the children from unnecessary exposure to the dangers of pesticides and other hazardous conditions of agriculture work. Our commitment is to provide high quality educational services to our children” Garza added.

During Valdosta community assessments, ECMHSP identified more than 70 children in urgent need of childcare services. Thanks to an expansion grant, East Coast Migrant Head Start Project will be able to work hand in hand with the local community to prepare the children for school readiness and success.

**What: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** Celebrates the Official Opening of East Coast Migrant Head Start Project’s Early Childhood Education Services in Valdosta, Georgia

**When: September 28th, from 11:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Where: 303 Barack Obama Blvd., Valdosta, GA 31601**

The new East Coast Migrant Head Start Project Educational Campus in Valdosta brings economic prosperity to the surrounding communities and secures our nation’s food supply. The local economic impact is approximately $850K.

[*East Coast Migrant Head Start Project*](https://www.ecmhsp.org), (ECMHSP) was established in 1974 through a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Currently, ECMHSP operates in 42 direct Educational Campuses and 6 delegates across ten states providing holistic, high-quality early childhood education services for approximately three thousand farmworker children between six weeks to six years old.

*Media contact ECMHSP: Berenice Malagon, Director of Communication,*[*bmalagon@ecmhsp.org*](mailto:bmalagon@ecmhsp.org)*or (984) 275 7577.*