



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Community Action Project of Tulsa receives national recognition for early childhood programs

TULSA, Okla. – The national Office of Head Start of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families recently designated Community Action Project of Tulsa (CAP) a “Center of Excellence in Early Childhood.” It is one of only 10 newly designated programs nationwide to receive this honor and will carry the designation for five years.

“To have Head Start recognize us with this honored distinction is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our teachers and staff who support our early childhood programs every day,” said Steven Dow, executive director. “We encourage income-qualified parents in the Tulsa area to explore CAP as an opportunity to give their children the education and skills they need for future success.”

CAP was chosen from more than 100 nationwide applications, which had to include a gubernatorial nomination and were ultimately selected by an independent panel review.

CAP serves 2,078 children in 133 classrooms in 13 early childhood education sites in Tulsa County. In addition to its early childhood programs, CAP provides financial services to help low-income families increase their economic independence. The group accepts applications year-round for children from birth through age 5 and currently has a specific need for 3-year-olds at some sites. Early childhood education programs are offered free through CAP’s services.

In its announcement identifying the 10 designees, Health and Human Services said, “[CAP] continues to be engaged in a significant number of partnerships to increase the number of children served. Highlights of their exemplary work include the ability to leverage other funds and to contribute targeted program efforts toward enhancing the school readiness of young children – including attention to parent and family factors such as maternal health and the formation of strong parent-child relationships.”

“[CAP’s] innovations and best practices can help inspire and guide other Head Start programs and the early education community at large as we continue to raise the level of quality for the children and families we serve,” said Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, director for the Office of Head Start.

“The CAP partnership in Sand Springs is giving our youngest children and their families a sensational start to our early childhood education school experience. The foundation for learning has exponentially been improved,” said Lloyd Snow, superintendent of Sand Springs Public Schools.

“The professional partnership we have with CAP benefits hundreds of students in Union Public Schools,” said Dr. Cathy Burden, superintendent of Union Public Schools. “CAP works with Union to provide the highest quality standards, facilities and staff to prepare young children for school and life success by incorporating a comprehensive approach that focuses on meeting the needs of the whole child, while engaging and supporting the family. We are pleased to see this outstanding model of educational excellence in our community honored nationally.”

“I love CAP and what they do for my family,” said Marianne Bateman, Policy Council treasurer and parent of two children at the CAP Early Childhood Education Center at Skelly. “CAP’s program enriches my children. I know my kids are advanced in their learning and are literally getting a ‘head start’ in their education.”

“We work consistently for high-quality results and being recognized as a Center of Excellence is a rewarding illustration of our core value of excellence,” Dow said. “We are among great company considering the extraordinary organizations that also were chosen by Head Start.”

Families who would like more information on qualifying or applying for CAP’s early childhood education program can call 918-585-3227.

About Community Action Project of Tulsa County

Community Action Project (CAP) of Tulsa County is the largest anti-poverty nonprofit in Oklahoma and a nationally recognized provider of research-based, high quality early childhood programs for low-income children from birth through age 5. CAP combines early childhood education of the highest caliber with innovative family financial and health services and targeted community improvement efforts, with a strategic vision to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty by improving the prospects of long-term economic success for very young, low-income children, their families, and the communities in which they live. More information is available at www.captc.org.

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