

**Board of Supervisors**  
**Health and Human Services Committee**  
**March 2, 2021**  
**Fairfax County Head Start Updates**



- **Grant Application Update**

The Head Start/Early Head Start grant renewal and the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grant renewal applications will be submitted to the Office of Head Start by April 1, 2021. The HS/EHS renewal is for the first year of the five-year grant and the EHS Child Care Partnership grant will be for the third year of a five-year grant cycle.

The Head Start/Early Head Start grant will continue to fund 434 HS slots and 224 EHS slots (\$8,810,147 federal funding). The EHS Child Care Partnership grant will continue to fund 56 slots (\$894,148 federal funding).

- **COLA/COVID-19 Funding Increase**

The Federal Government has confirmed a 1.22 percent Cost of Living Adjustment increase for all programs and will also be providing additional COVID-19 funding (amount to be determined). Program staff will prepare a grant amendment for Board of Supervisors approval as soon as the grant details are made available.

- **Annual Self-Assessment**

Fairfax County Head Start and Early Head Start conducted the program wide PY 2021 annual self-assessment during January and February 2021. The self-assessment protocol was adapted from the Office of Head Start's FY 2021 Focus Area One Monitoring protocol and the COVID-19 Addendum. Program service area teams coordinated a review of monitoring systems and services to children and families. A summary report of the self-assessment will be developed and presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval in the coming months.

- **Head Start/Early Head Start Hybrid Model**

Greater Mount Vernon Head Start and Early Head Start will be expanding its hybrid model from two to three days in-person per week beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) began providing a hybrid model of two days per week in-person on February 23<sup>rd</sup>; Higher Horizons continues to provide virtual programming.

- **Head Start/Early Head Start Enrollment and Recruitment**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, center-based and home-based programs are still working to enroll children in Head Start and Early Head Start. Currently, 382 of 434 federally-funded Head Start slots are filled (52 under-enrolled); 203 of 224 federally-funded Early Head Start slots are filled (21 under-enrolled); and 56 of 56 federally-funded EHS-CCP slots are filled. The Office of Head Start recognizes this is an issue nationwide and is exercising leniency regarding enrollment.