



COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION OF ERIE COUNTY, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAO Head Start Announces Comprehensive Restructuring Plan

Program will now offer early childhood services at 20 academies in Erie County

BUFFALO, NY - Since 1965, the Community Action Organization of Erie County (CAO) has been the provider of all Head Start services in Erie County. Recently, the CAO effected changes in its operation of certain subcontracted Head Start services. As a result, the CAO will directly operate Head Start services for an additional 349 slots, formerly provided through a subcontractor of the CAO Head Start program. Overall, CAO serves a total of 2,188 children ages 0-5 across Erie County, New York each school year.

All sites at which Head Start services were being provided over the past year will continue to be provided at those sites, and the CAO is giving first priority to staff employed under the former subcontract to continue in the same positions, now under the direct employment of the CAO.

Every effort is being made to make the transition as seamless as possible for the children and their families, and for the employees at the affected sites.

"The CAO is committed to providing exemplary comprehensive early childhood services to our children and families in cooperative, collaborative and nurturing environments with dedicated, competent and qualified staff and community partners that will empower our families as they become self-sufficient and strong advocates for their children," shared Phyllis A. McBride, Head Start Administrator.

Throughout this transition, the CAO is committed to providing continuity of care, maintaining its standards of excellence and its commitment to the communities we serve. In addition to the 14 Academies currently operated by the CAO, we will also provide services in the following locations:

- Buffalo Promise Neighborhoods (BPN), 3959 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14215
- EOC, 555 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, NY 14203
- Infant of Prague, 921 Cleveland Drive, Cheektowaga, NY 14225
- Langfield, 175 Oakmont Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14215
- St. James, 500 Terrace Boulevard, Depew, NY 14043
- UB, 3435 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14215

CAO is accepting applications for positions as may be needed, including: Teachers, Nutrition Associates, Family Partners, Education Specialists, Mental Health and Health Coordinators, Family and Community Coordinators, Disability Coordinator, Nutrition Supervisors, Center Directors, Secretaries, and Maintenance. Interested applicants can apply in person at 70 Harvard Place or visit www.caoec.org for complete job descriptions.

CAO Head Start/Early Head Start is accepting applications for children ages 0-5. Families seeking to enroll children should contact Elizabeth Minns at 881-5150, Ext. 4379 or Ben Toure, Ext. 4354.

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About Community Action Organization of Erie County, Inc.

For 49 years, the CAO has remained committed to its mission to promote opportunities for low-income individuals, families and communities to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency through advocacy, partnerships, access to services and low-to-moderate income housing development. Programs and services include, but are not limited to, the Head Start/Early Head Start program, Youth and Family Development, Drug Abuse, Research and Treatment Clinic (DART), Center Services, Emergency Services, Community Action Angels Initiative, Employment and Training Division, Sports PLUS (Partners in Learning and Urban Sports), the CAO Masten Resource Center - Better Schools Better Neighborhoods Initiative, New Venture Housing, Green Entrepreneurial Center and Capacity-Building and Media division.