



West Ohio Community Action Partnership
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www.wocap.org

Subject: Urgent Notice: Potential Closure of Head Start & Early Head Start Programs

Dear Community Partner,

I am writing to inform you of a critical situation that may soon impact the children and families we collectively serve through the West Ohio Community Action Partnership's (WOCAP) Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

As you may know, Head Start and Early Head Start are federal programs funded directly by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. There are thousands of such programs nationwide, each funded on specific grant cycles. WOCAP is a November 1st grantee, meaning our annual funding renewal begins on that date.

Due to the ongoing federal government shutdown, WOCAP will not receive our renewal funding unless the government reopens by November 1, 2025. Without these federal dollars, we will not have the resources necessary to operate. If the shutdown continues past Friday, October 31, 2025, we will be forced to temporarily close both Head Start and Early Head Start programs beginning Monday, November 3, 2025.

We are actively advocating for a swift resolution and exploring every possible option to minimize disruption, but the timing and outcome of the shutdown are beyond our control. We know this potential closure will have a significant impact on local families, employers, and community systems that depend on these programs for early education and childcare support.

This closure will also affect our workforce, resulting in temporary layoffs for our dedicated staff. We are working diligently to identify resources and supports for affected employees, including access to unemployment services, community assistance programs, and mental health supports.

We are committed to transparent communication with both families and community partners and will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available. In the meantime, we welcome your partnership in identifying interim supports for families and staff who may be impacted.

We deeply appreciate your ongoing collaboration, understanding, and support during this uncertain time. If you have questions or would like to connect about coordinated efforts to assist affected families, please don't hesitate to reach out.

With much appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Bruns".

Kim Bruns
CEO, West Ohio Community Action Partnership