



West Ohio Community Action Partnership
540 South Central Avenue, Lima, Ohio 45804
Phone: (419) 227-2586 | Fax: (419) 227-7626
www.wocap.org

Subject: Head Start & Early Head Start Remain Open – Emergency Support Still Urgently Needed

Dear Community Partner,

I'm writing to share a hopeful update—and a heartfelt request—regarding the West Ohio Community Action Partnership's (WOCAP) Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the **Health Partners of Western Ohio Foundation**, our programs **will remain open beginning Monday, November 3, 2025**, despite the ongoing federal government shutdown. Their emergency financial support of **\$220,000** has made it possible for WOCAP to continue serving over 300 children and families across our region without interruption.

This funding has also **prevented the temporary layoff of 79 WOCAP staff members**, preserving continuity of care, education, and stability for both families and employees.

However, this support only covers **two weeks of operations**. Head Start and Early Head Start requires approximately **\$110,000 per week** to remain open. Without additional emergency funding, we face renewed risk of closure after mid-November.

With the **holiday season approaching**, the impact of a shutdown would be even more devastating for families already facing economic hardship and reduced access to food and childcare. We are urgently seeking additional community support to sustain services for another week or two while we await federal funding resolution.

If your organization is in a position to help Head Start and Early Head Start programs with some **emergency financial assistance**, we would be deeply grateful. Support could take many forms, including **short-term grants or no-interest loans**, and we welcome private conversations to explore what might be possible.

Every contribution helps ensure that children continue receiving early education, nutritious meals, and a safe, nurturing environment during this critical time.

We remain committed to transparent communication and will continue to provide updates. If you would like to explore ways to support our efforts or collaborate on interim solutions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Thank you for your continued partnership, compassion, and commitment to the children and families we serve.

With deep appreciation,

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

Kimberly Bruns
CEO, West Ohio Community Action Partnership
419-227-2586 ex 138

