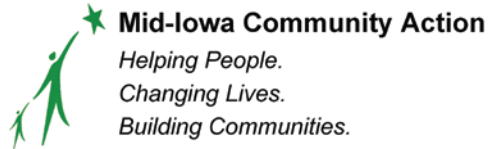


Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.

1001 S. 18th Ave. • Marshalltown, Iowa 50158



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Robert Stewart, Public Information Coordinator

Phone: 641-752-7162, ext. 121

Cell: 641-751-7264

Fax: 641-752-9724

E-mail: rob.stewart@micaonline.org

MICA Head Start & Early Head Start Named Center of Excellence

(Marshalltown, Iowa) – Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc. (MICA) is pleased to announce that the agency's Head Start and Early Head Start program is one of 10 programs nationwide to be named Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood this year by the Office of Head Start in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

According to the ACF, "The Centers of Excellence represent the Head Start and Early Head Start programs that have long standing and consistent records of implementing exemplary services and demonstrating positive outcomes for children and families. To be designated, these agencies are also active partners with other early care and education providers, and collaborate with schools, child care, and other community organizations to deliver comprehensive services in their respective communities. Centers for Excellence serve as models to other programs within their states and regions."

In addition to the aforementioned requirements, MICA also had to receive a letter of nomination from the governor as well as letters of support from community partners. MICA received these letters from LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Bureau Chief of the Early Childhood Services Bureau of the Iowa Department of Education; Carla Peterson, Iowa State University Human Development and Family Studies Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education College of Human Sciences; Penny Lingle, Iowa Head Start Association President; and Thomas Rendon, Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office Coordinator.

"We greatly appreciate this recognition and thank the communities we serve for making this possible," MICA Executive Director Arlene McAtee said.

MICA's Early Childhood Programs Director Kathie Readout said receiving this designation is a testament to MICA's ongoing commitment to finding the best ways to serve children, families, and communities.

“We’re excited about this designation and opportunity,” Readout said. “But we also view it as a responsibility to continue to aspire to be excellent and always strive to improve.”

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