

Board of Supervisors
Health, Housing and Human Services Committee
December 10, 2019
Fairfax County Head Start Update



- **Focus Area One Federal Review**

- The Office of Head Start (OHS) measures the performance and accountability of Head Start programs across the country by assessing grantee compliance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards, the Head Start Act, and other regulations. It also provides grantees with opportunities for continuous improvement. The assessment consists of either an off-site (Focus Area One) or an on-site (Focus Area Two) review. The County is due for the Focus Area One review and will receive a 30-day advance notice that it has been scheduled.
- The Focus Area One Review consists of the following:
 - A document review using data and reports to learn about the grantee's program design and the needs of the children and families that the grantee serves.
 - A series of off-site telephone interviews with the grantee that occur during a one-week period. These discussions are with selected individuals, including members of the governing body and Policy Council, managers, and direct service staff and will provide an understanding of the program's design and plans for implementing and ensuring comprehensive, high-quality services in areas of staffing structure and program governance; education, health and family services; and program design and fiscal infrastructure.

- **National Head Start MOU Signing**

- The federal Office of Head Start, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) will sign memoranda of understanding (MOUs) to formalize their commitment to collaboration at a media event held on December 17, 2019 from 10:00-11:00am at Higher Horizon's Head Start/Early Head Start program. The event will be attended by Dr. Deborah Bergeron, Office of Head Start Director, and will publicize these collaborative relationships and programs' important role in promoting effective transitions for children leaving Head Start programs and entering kindergarten. The Board of Supervisors are invited to attend this event.

- **Enrollment**

- All programs are fully enrolled with a waiting list of 378 Head Start/Early Head Start children (Head Start 260 and Early Head Start 118).

- **Program Governance Training**

- Federal regulations require that the Board of Supervisors, as the Head Start grantee governing body, receive training to support their oversight of the federal Head Start/Early Head Start program (Head Start Act of 2007, 642(d)(3)). At an upcoming HHHS meeting, the required training will be provided.