



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Celebrates the Beginning of East Coast Migrant Head Start Project's Head Start Services in Saluda, South Carolina

Raleigh, North Carolina, June 21, 2021 – East Coast Migrant Head Start Project (ECMHSP) is ready to bring its successful proven model of Head Start services to the hard-working farmworker families of Saluda, South Carolina. During the week of June 21, the children of agricultural workers living in the surrounding areas of Saluda will begin to receive high-quality early childhood education services.

These services will be at no cost for families working with peaches, broccoli, peppers, and other crops. In addition, families can qualify if they do dairy work, poultry industry jobs, and plant nursery work. "Based on our community assessments, we know families in Saluda have limited access to child care and are not being served by the local Head Start agency since services are not designed for this working population. ECMHSP will continue to collaborate with community partners to enroll as many children as possible," said Maria C. Garza, ECMHSP Chief Executive Officer.

Bruce Wright, Bilingual Community Health Worker with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, will be present during our ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, June 22. Wright has been an ally for the South Carolina farmworker community for more than 20 years. Other valuable community partners will also come together to witness this memorable day for ECMHSP. The town of Saluda has much to celebrate. Our Migrant and Seasonal Head Start location will help secure our nation's food supply.

East Coast Migrant Head Start Project was established in 1974 through a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Under the leadership of Sister Geraldine O'Brien, Head Start centers were opened along the east coast of the United States to ensure continuity of services, as families migrated to work in agriculture. Currently, ECMHSP operates 49 Head Start Centers in 10 states.

Additional information about ECMHSP can be found by visiting www.ecmhsp.org.

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