

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

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**GOVERNOR KAINE ANNOUNCES ARRA FUNDING FOR
EXPANSION OF EARLY HEAD START**

*~ Up to 800 additional participants possible through \$9.5 million in
recovery funding ~*

RICHMOND—Governor Timothy M. Kaine today announced that Virginia will receive \$9.5 million in Early Head Start expansion funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Early Head Start serves families with children under age three and pregnant women through a unique home visitation program which provides families and teachers with an important avenue for insights and information. Home visitations center on parent education and parent-child activities, comprehensive health and mental health services, and access to high quality child care.

“Virginia has made great strides in our early childhood learning programs, including pre-kindergarten Head Start,” said Governor Kaine. “Creating the healthy habits and nurturing environments that support learning and development start very early, so access to prenatal care and parent education can’t begin soon enough. It’s excellent news that more families will be helped through an increase in Early Head Start funding.”

“Information shared in a home visit can address a family’s immediate needs – nutrition assistance, for example,” said Secretary of Health and Human Resources Marilyn B. Tavenner. “In addition, family service staff reinforce the parenting skills that help moms and dads create and maintain an environment that supports early learning and healthy development.”

Currently, 1,641 children and 160 pregnant women are enrolled in Early Head Start. Participation is based on income. Potentially, 800 slots will be added through the ARRA funds. It is expected that additional teachers and family service staff will be hired due to the increase in enrollment.

The entities receiving funding are:

Higher Horizons Day Care Center, Inc.	Falls Church	\$1,023,146
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Rooftop of Virginia CAP	Galax	\$510,513
Clinch Valley Community Action, Inc.	North Tazewell	\$409,636
Support to Eliminate Poverty, Inc.	Rocky Mount	\$1,198,456
Stafford County School District	Stafford	\$462,860

The Recovery Act also is providing relief to state budgets for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). TANF Emergency Contingency Funds are available to states that have increased expenditures in federal fiscal years 2009 and 2010 in three categories: basic assistance, short-term non-recurrent benefits, or employment subsidies. Funds are available to reimburse states for 80 percent of their increased expenditures. For the first three-quarters of federal fiscal year 2009, Virginia received \$5.8 million dollars. Since January 2008, the commonwealth's TANF caseload has increased by nearly 20 percent.

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