



## For Immediate Release

March 21, 2011

Contact: Julie Wexler

Phone: (631) 585-2020

[info@cpclongisland.org](mailto:info@cpclongisland.org)

### **ARRA Funded Children's Community Head Start and Early Head Start Score 100% on Program Review**

(Ronkonkoma...) The Children's Community Early Head Start, a federally funded comprehensive early childhood program for income eligible pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers, recently received a perfect score for an on-site monitoring review by the US Department of Health and Human Services. The Children's Community Early Head Start was funded last year by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The review determined the ARRA-funded Early Head Start program was in compliance with all applicable Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

The review report highlighted areas of strength which included partnerships to bring high quality health services to children, socialization opportunities, and intergenerational activities.

In addition to income eligibility requirements, families must live in CCHS' catchment area of 13 school districts in central Suffolk County. Children with disabilities, as well as children living in foster homes, or shelter housing are also eligible. The program offers high-quality and structured home-based and classroom-based experiences, and children benefit from health and nutrition services, family advocacy and parent training.

The Children's Community Early Head Start is funded to serve 82 families and is currently at full enrollment, although applications are accepted on an on-going basis.

According to the *2009 Long Island Index* research report prepared by the Rauch Foundation, early childhood education "prepares children for school, and when provided in a high quality program it can reduce grade repetition, drop out rates, and juvenile delinquency." The report further explains that high quality programs can lower future costs that the public school would otherwise assume.

"There has been a lot of talk about federal stimulus money and the impact it will have on the country. Here is an example of how children and families right here in our community benefit with a high quality early childhood education. Plus, we were able to hire additional staff. It is a win-win for everyone," states Denice Karotseris, the Director of The Children's Community Head Start.

For information on eligibility and enrollment or to volunteer, call Denice Karotseris at (631) 476-9698.

The Children's Community Head Start  
A program of The Community Programs Center of Long Island  
2210 Smithtown Avenue, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779  
(631) 585-2020 [www.cpclongisland.org](http://www.cpclongisland.org)  
###