

JOHN VY ISAKSON
GEORGIA

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FOREIGN RELATIONS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 15, 2015

PF 6 1015 010 11

Ms. Edna Foster
Executive Director
Community Action for Improvement, Inc.
Richard English, Jr. Building
1380 Lafayette Parkway
LaGrange, Georgia 30241

Dear Ms. Foster:

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter received in response to Senator Isakson's inquiry on your behalf. We did want to make available to you the answer provided to us from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in response to your concern.

If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact me in the Senator's Atlanta office.

Sincerely,

Michael Gay
Constituent Service Representative

*Copy to Mr. Hines
6-17-15
@*



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Office of the Assistant Secretary, Suite 600
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

May 26, 2015

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Isakson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Community Action for Improvement, Inc., and its concerns regarding the transition of Head Start services to the Child Care Network of Georgia. I understand the anxiety that a transition between grantees can cause for Head Start families, staff, and the community.

When the Head Start Act was reauthorized in 2007, Congress directed the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to convert continuous Head Start grants to 5-year grants and to establish a designation renewal system (DRS) for Head Start grantees that required grantees not meeting certain quality benchmarks to compete for renewed funding. The final rule on DRS for Head Start grantees (also known as re-competition) was published in December 2011.

On October 3, 2012, HHS' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) informed Community Action for Improvement, Inc., that during a review conducted on July 11, 2012, it was found to have a deficiency, which is one of the specified conditions requiring a grantee to compete for renewed funding. On February 3, 2014, ACF notified the grantee that it had been determined to be ineligible for automatic renewal and was designated for competition based on that deficiency.

ACF received multiple applications for the Head Start and Early Head Start funding opportunity to serve Carroll, Coweta, Harris, Heard, Meriwether, and Troup counties. All applications received were evaluated by a panel of trained, unbiased, non-federal reviewers. As a result of the competitive grant process for that service area, Child Care Network of Georgia was selected as the preliminary grantee.

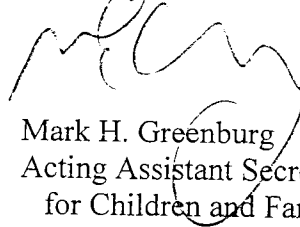
I assure you that this grant is not being awarded to an out-of-state organization. The Child Care Network of Georgia formed a partnership with Shine Early Learning, a training and technical assistance organization affiliated with Acelero Learning. Shine Early Learning will provide Child Care Network of Georgia with leadership and family services staff and support full implementation of its program.

The ACF Regional office is currently in negotiations with Child Care Network of Georgia to provide Head Start and Early Head Start services in Carroll, Coweta, Harris, Heard, Meriwether, and Troup counties. During the negotiation phase, ACF's Office of Head Start will discuss with the grantee its proposed enrollment, transfer of facilities, and

staff hiring plans, and more. As this negotiation phase continues, prior to June 30, the ACF Regional office will begin to engage both the current Head Start grantee and the new Head Start grantee in a transition meeting and a series of activities that will support a minimal disruption of services to staff, children, and families.

I hope this information is helpful to you. I look forward to continuing to work with you on our shared goal of providing high-quality services to all children and families. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Greenburg', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Mark H. Greenburg
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Children and Families