

Press Release

Clinch Valley Community Action (North Tazewell, VA) is pleased to announce that through the competitive grant application process, it has been awarded federal funding to provide Head Start services for 170 three and four-year-old children in Bland, Smyth, and Wythe Counties in Virginia.

David Larimer, the Chairman of the Clinch Valley Community Action Board of Directors states, "This is an exciting opportunity for Clinch Valley Community Action to grow and expand its service area into Bland, Smyth, and Wythe Counties and to further its commitment to children and families."

Clinch Valley Community Action will operate one Head Start classroom in Bland County, four Head Start classrooms in Smyth County, and five Head Start classrooms in Wythe County. Over the next several weeks, various renovations and upgrades will be made to facilities that are currently utilized and new facilities will be prepared for classroom operations. Robin Boyd, Head Start/Early Head Start Director stated, "We are honored to have the opportunity to serve additional Head Start children and families."

Multiple job openings will be filled over the next months for both administrative and program Head Start staff. More information about available openings and job applications are available on the Clinch Valley Community Action website (www.clinchvalleycaa.org). More information can also be obtained by calling Chris Thompson, Human Resources/Compliance Director, at 276-988-5583, extension 310. All individuals who are interested in working with children are encouraged to review job descriptions and credentialing requirements; individuals with previous experience working for Head Start are encouraged to apply.

Information for families who currently participate in the Head Start program will also be available on the Clinch Valley Community Action website (www.clinchvalleycaa.org), with the information available on the website being updated on a regular basis. Doug Sheets, Clinch Valley Community Action Executive Director, states, "We want the transition process to be as seamless as possible for all of the children and families who are currently participating in the Head Start program in Bland, Smyth, and Wythe Counties. Our main goal is to provide the same high quality services to our participants in these three counties that our Head Start and Early Head Start children in Tazewell County already receive."

Head Start is a federally funded program that provides comprehensive education, health, and family services to children ages three and four and their families. The overarching goal of the program, administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, is for both children and families to be "school ready" and prepared for success once children enter kindergarten.

Clinch Valley Community Action currently provides Head Start services for 167 children and Early Head Start services for 42 children in Tazewell County, Virginia.

