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Center for Transforming Lives receives national, \$22 million grant *Head Start services launched at local childcare provider*

TARRANT COUNTY, TX (July 10, 2020) — The [Office of Head Start](#) named the [Center for Transforming Lives](#) (CTL) as a new Head Start recipient, awarding the agency with a \$22 million grant paid over five years. The Head Start grant enables CTL to **expand its early childhood education and childcare services currently serving 6-weeks to 3-year-olds to now include 4- and 5-year-olds**, all of whom are living in poverty, homelessness and/or who have special needs.

With the new Head Start grant, CTL will provide full-day early childhood education and care to 342 more preschool children each year, doubling the number of children CTL currently serves to 772.

To accommodate the dramatic increase in children served, CTL will work in partnership with several Tarrant County school districts and host preschool programs at select local elementary schools.

With disparities between low and high-income children starting as early as 9-months of age, high-quality early learning programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers are key factors in closing the opportunity gap and making sure all children have the best odds at success.

“Becoming a Head Start grantee ensures that more children who are homeless and living in poverty in our community will get the comprehensive services they need,” said Carol Klocek, CEO. “We are committed to these children from birth through elementary school, preparing them for success in school and in life, while working alongside their parents.”

CTL (formerly the YWCA Fort Worth) has provided low-to-no cost childcare to working mothers since the 1930s, and in the last decade has expanded and improved childcare to include comprehensive early childhood education. While the children are in CTL’s care, the agency’s programming ensures parents have access to safe housing, career-readiness training, transportation and financial coaching to improve the family’s economic well-being. This comprehensive, dual-generation approach disrupts generational poverty.

The Head Start program will begin serving children in late summer 2020. To set up an interview or press questions, please contact acambora@transforminglives.org.

For additional information on Head Start or Early Head Start, please contact ksaffold@transforminglives.org or earlylearning@transforminglives.org.

DETAILS:

- Office of Head Start awards CTL \$22 mil. over four years
- Grant will expand CTL's current services for 6-week to 3-year-olds to include 4 and 5-year-olds, launching Head Start program throughout Tarrant County
- The expansion will double the number served, totaling 772 low-income and homeless children
- Grant will also increase current 'Early Head Start' programming (6-weeks to 3-years) by 56 children
- CTL will work with Tarrant County School Districts to integrate the program and provide access to their students
- Head Start will begin serving children late summer 2020

About the Center for Transforming Lives

For more than 100 years, the Center for Transforming Lives has served women and children experiencing poverty and homelessness in Tarrant County. In 1907, it was formed as the first YWCA in Texas. In 2015, the organization changed its name from the YWCA Fort Worth to the Center for Transforming Lives. Today, Center for Transforming Lives works side-by-side with women and their children to disrupt the cycle of poverty by providing comprehensive homeless services, early childhood education and financial strengthening services to address their most critical needs.

Last year, CTL directly served 1,969 unduplicated individuals, benefiting 3,300 individuals from 1,139 families. In 2018-2019, CTL's four Child Development Centers and two partner locations had a combined daily capacity to serve 374 children from infancy through pre-kindergarten and 67% of the children were from low-income families.

CTL's services are trauma-informed, two-generational and incorporate best practices rooted in nationally backed research to ensure women and children achieve long-term success.

For more information on CTL's Child Development Program or Head Start, please visit www.transforminglives.org/child-care, or call 817-332-6191.

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