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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Early Head Start Grant Awarded to City of Rockford Head Start

Rockford – February 3, 2010 – The City of Rockford Head Start program has been awarded an Early Head Start grant. Early Head Start services will provide home visiting and child care for children ages birth to three and will also provide services to pregnant women. Early Head Start programs enhance children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development; assist pregnant women to access comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care; support parents' efforts to fulfill their parental roles; and help parents move toward self-sufficiency.

The annual budget for the grant is \$1,122,400. Through the funding for this program, ten staff will serve 92 children and their families. Parents as Teachers is the research based curriculum that will be used in Early Head Start. Services are projected to begin in April.

Head Start services for ages three to five have been provided in the community since 1965. Pre-school services are provided at five locations, serving 591 children. Both Head Start and Early Head Start are funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and serve income eligible families in Winnebago County. Applications for both programs are currently being taken. Please contact City of Rockford Head Start, 815-987-5480, for information.

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