

National Community Action Foundation

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Community Action Agencies Welcome Head Start Renewal

WASHINGTON (Nov. 14, 2007) – The nation’s Community Action Agencies applaud the work of Senate and House conferees on Head Start reauthorization and look forward to passage of this national child development legislation later this week.

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) administer 30 percent of Head Start grants and a third of all enrollments nationwide. Children and families participating in programs offered by CAAs also benefit from the comprehensive services offered by these organizations to help them secure housing, gain employment, and build assets to help them achieve economic security.

“Low-wage working families who turn to Community Action Agencies to prepare their children for school with Head Start leave with a variety of resources to help them improve the lives of the entire family,” said National Community Action Foundation Executive Director David Bradley.

The conference agreement expands access for more eligible children, increases classroom quality, enhances the Head Start workforce, strengthens governance and provides more tools for greater accountability.

“It is commendable that this Congress has focused so much of its agenda on domestic issues that are important to American voters, and, in this instance, has been able to do so with strong bipartisan cooperation to assist low-wage working families,” Bradley said.

“Once these important enhancements are adopted for the Head Start program, we hope that Congress will next turn its attention to the remaining Human Services initiatives: the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Community Services Block Grant,” he said. “These programs make key investments in the daily lives of low-wage working American families, and are long overdue for reauthorization. NCAF hopes its proposals to strengthen and modernize these programs will be considered soon.”