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DATE: 10/17/2025

Subject: Important update: Potential impact of federal shutdown on MARC Head Start operations

Dear MARC Head Start direct service provider,

As a follow up to my email earlier this week, I am sharing official notice that due to the ongoing federal government shutdown, Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Head Start centers may need to temporarily close beginning Nov. 1.

As you are aware, MARC serves as the grantee for Head Start in Clay, Platte and Jackson counties, supporting 17 partner sites, over 400 teachers and 2,300 children and families. Our current grant year ends on Oct. 31 and, unfortunately, we have not yet received the Notice of Award for the upcoming grant cycle beginning Nov. 1 due to the ongoing federal government shutdown.

Without this official notification, MARC is unable to incur any expenses for Head Start services after Oct. 31 unless there is certainty of reimbursement. We are facing the possibility of having to temporarily close facilities unless the situation is resolved quickly. We recognize the profound effect this would have on your staff, your agency, and the children and families you serve.

MARC staff are actively working with our congressional delegation and national, regional, and state Head Start associations, and will keep you informed as we learn more. In the meantime, we ask you to begin preparing contingency plans should the shutdown continue past Oct. 31. Please let me know what your plans are and if your program has alternative options for continuation of services.

I have also attached a sample letter you can tailor to notify your Head Start parents. We encourage you to notify your parents on Monday. MARC will be notifying the Head Start Policy Council following this email.

If you receive press inquiries, please feel free to refer them to marcinfo@marc.org, and MARC is launching a webpage to share the latest updates and information.

I will update you with any new information. **We will host an informational Head Start director's meeting next Monday, Oct. 20 at 10:00 a.m.** You will be receiving a Zoom link shortly. Thank you for your dedication and understanding during this challenging time.

Sincerely,
Kasey Lawson, MARC Head Start Director