

Extended Government Shutdown Puts 140 Local Head Start Children and Families at Risk

Coshocton County Head Start, Inc. calls for urgent action to restore federal funding

Mission: "Coshocton County Head Start, Inc strives to create and maintain a safe, supportive, and nurturing learning environment for all children, family and staff"

Coshocton, Ohio – October 16, 2025 – Coshocton County Head Start, Inc., which serves 140 children and families in Coshocton, Ohio, warns that the ongoing federal government shutdown threatens to disrupt services that local families have relied on for education, nutrition, and stability since 1972. This includes the 57 dedicated employees that show up everyday to make our program's mission work.

Like programs across the country, Coshocton County Head Start, Inc. will not be able to operate without receiving federal funding by November 1, 2025. This is caused by the timing of the government shutdown, the beginning of our new fiscal year and the beginning of our next five-year grant cycle.

Coshocton County families, employers, and small businesses will feel the effects within days. Head Start is one of the few early education providers in many rural areas—closure risks creating a lasting service gap and permanent loss of staff capacity. If the shutdown continues, our program may be forced to close temporarily/or source other funds in and around our community.

"For six decades, Head Start has helped millions of children and families build a foundation for success," said Yasmina S. Vinci, Executive Director of the National Head Start Association (NHSA). "That mission shouldn't be collateral damage in Washington's political stalemate. Children cannot wait."

Locally, Susan Craddock, Executive Director of Coshocton County Head Start, Inc, said the uncertainty is taking a toll:

"We are doing everything we can to keep our classrooms open because our families depend on us," she said. "Parents need to work and go to school knowing their children are safe, learning, and cared for. But we can't sustain this without federal and local support."

We are reaching out to our community trying to secure funds to support our program during this government shutdown. We would need \$220,000.00 to maintain our services through the month of November.