

April 8, 2009

Ms. Diane Oyler, Coordinator
Child Care Planning Council
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
400 Encinal St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Diane,

I am writing to request a formal letter of support from the Child Care Planning Council to be included in our Early Head Start expansion grant. We believe that the Request for Proposal will be issued in the near future and would like to be prepared for a very short turn around.

The letter will accompany a grant that will request additional Early Head Start slots for Santa Cruz County. Partnerships will include local child care providers, Cabrillo College, PVUSD, First 5 and Santa Cruz County. We are delighted to not only expand Early Head Start services, but to develop close working relationships with other agencies involved in the early childhood community.

At the current time there are only 40 Early Head Start children served in the entire County. The Head Start Community Assessment clearly demonstrates that the care of young children and infants in our community is at a premium. It is our belief that Santa Cruz County would greatly benefit from health, education, parent involvement and social services focused on the needs of pregnant women and infants and toddlers. Early Head Start would provide early childhood home based services, child care contracts, parent education, health services and resources coordinated to meet the needs of Santa Cruz County families and their children.

Your support for the EHS expansion grant would be greatly appreciated. The letter should be addressed to Patricia E. Brown, Acting Director, Office of Head Start, Washington D.C., but send to our local address at 408 East Lake, Watsonville, CA. 95076 to be included with our grant submission. Please contact me if you would like further information

Sincerely,

Cynthia M. Wells, Director
Child and Family Development Programs
Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center
Santa Cruz, California