

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Head Start/Early Head Start Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act

Response to COVID -19

Board Item FF - 1, 7/21/20 RSBM

This is a revision from the 5/19/2020 Board Meeting item for CARES Act Funding. On May 25, 2020, The Office of Head Start revised the funding formula per child slot for the CARES Act for Response to COVID-19. This is the revised proposal based on the new funding formula.

Through the CARES Act Funding of a one-time activities supplement, the Head Start /Early Head Start Program would reduce the strain on the technology infrastructure by purchasing iPads for children and staff, provide Personal Protective Equipment for staff and provide staff and resources to ensure children are prepared for the next school year.

The CARES Act funding will be used as a one-time activities supplement for the following:

- To purchase iPads with protective covers for Head Start children, Head Start Teacher Assistants and Early Head Start Teachers within the School Board of Broward County Head Start/ Early Head Start Program. Locking storage/charging stations will also be purchased to house and charge the iPads. This purchase would provide the needed resources and allow equal opportunity to all families and staff within the Head Start/ Early Head Start Program to access virtual comprehensive services.
- Personal protective equipment including masks, gloves, face shields for children, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and no contact thermometers will be purchased for every Head Start and Early Head Start classroom.
- ReadyRosie, a family engagement virtual tool will also be purchased to assist teachers in providing educational learning videos for parents, to provide parenting workshops and includes a Summer Soar program to be used by families to ensure children continue learning every summer.
- Summer Soar Family backpacks will be purchased for every Head Start four-year old child transitioning to kindergarten. The backpack includes: 10 weeks of activities, an interactive game board, non-fiction books and conversation cards linked to the 'modeled-moment' videos available on ReadyRosie.
- Finally, funds will be used to employ Head Start staff over the summer to work with families to ensure children are prepared for the next school year and to assist parents with Head Start and Early Head Start applications and registration for school. Instructional staff will prepare curriculum and classroom plans to assist teachers for the new school year.