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Contact: Carla Vigue, Office of the Governor, 608-261-2162

Erika Monroe-Kane, Department of Children and Families, 608-266-9000

Governor Doyle Announces \$9.7 Million for Head Start and Early Head Start

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced that more than 50 Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Wisconsin will receive \$9.7 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The funding will help Wisconsin Head Start programs work with more children, improve classrooms, expand hours of operation and upgrade transportation services.

"I am very excited about the opportunities these new resources will create. Head Start and Early Head Start are programs central to our work supporting families and helping children thrive," Governor Doyle said. "These programs unlock the potential in young children, giving them the opportunity to grow and shine."

Head Start and Early Start programs provide comprehensive early childhood education services to children across the state. The increased funding will encourage the health and development of hundreds of Wisconsin's youngest children.

All Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Wisconsin are eligible to apply for this funding. Guidance for applying for these funds will be issued in the coming weeks.

Head Start was established in 1965 to promote school readiness and to provide a comprehensive array of health, nutritional and social services to eligible 4 and 5 year olds and their families.

Early Head Start was established in 1995 for children from birth to three years of age and pregnant women in recognition of scientific evidence that a child's earliest years are extremely important to healthy development. Early Head Start promotes healthy prenatal outcomes, enhances the development of infants and toddlers and promotes healthy family functioning.

The Department of Children and Families works with Head Start programs as a part of its mission to protect children, strengthen families, and build communities. The Department will continue to coordinate with Head Start and Early Head Start providers as additional ARRA resources become available through future opportunities.