

## MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 26, 2021

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### **District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund Receives \$3.5 M Early Head Start Funding Award**

**Philadelphia, PA** - District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund has received a five-year Early Head Start grant from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the amount of \$3.5 million to improve the quality of early childhood education for 146 infants and toddlers in some of Philadelphia's most challenged neighborhoods. Through the Training Fund's partnerships with center-based child-care providers and family child-care homes, the children and families will receive the building blocks for a successful life.

The Training Fund was one of the 62 agencies in 32 states and Puerto Rico to whom the ACF awarded a total of \$100 million in new Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnership and Early Head Start Expansion.

"I was proud to receive this funding. This announcement speaks to the hard work of our staff in advocating for Philadelphia's children and families," said Teresa Collins, Executive Director of the Training Fund. "We realize that early childhood education is critical to the growth and development of our community and that these children will be our next leaders. We want to equip them with all of the resources so that they are successful and become productive members of society."

Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) partnerships are collaborations with local childcare providers to enhance services for low-income working families. This is accomplished through comprehensive services, access to full-day/full-year care and preparing children for the transition into preschool. Early Head Start programs recruit families with the greatest need. Eligibility is generally based on family income being at or below the poverty level. Children in foster care, children experiencing homelessness, and children from families receiving public assistance such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are eligible regardless of income.

The District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund is a 46-year-old community serving agency created in 1974. The Training Fund's educational programs include adult basic education, Nursing, Health Information, Behavioral Health, Allied Health, Community Health, and Early Childhood Education programs. The Training Fund serves as the lead for 19 Family Childcare Partners providing Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) services in high poverty areas in Philadelphia through a locally funded Pre-K program. In addition, The Training Fund is the sponsor for all registered ECE apprenticeship programs in the state of Pennsylvania and is recognized for establishing a statewide Early Childhood Education Registered Apprenticeship Pathways Program, offering three levels of ECE Apprenticeship: Level I – Child Development Associate (CDA), Level II – Associate degree, and Level III – bachelor's degree.