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Funds To Provide Services At Facilities In Bergenfield,
Fort Lee, Hackensack, Lodi, River Edge, & Rutherford

Hackensack, NJ – Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today announced that the Bergen County Community Action Program's Head Start initiative has been awarded a \$2,554,890 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Bergen County Community Action Program is based in Hackensack, but also has facilities in Bergenfield, Fort Lee, Lodi, River Edge, and Rutherford.

“These funds will allow hundreds of children and families across Bergen County to receive the critical educational, health, nutrition and social services that Head Start provides,” Rothman said. “The ability of children to learn and grow into healthy and productive adults is directly related to how they are nurtured and educated as children. Every child deserves to be given a nutritional, social, and educational Head Start in life and that is exactly what this grant accomplishes for the children of Bergen County.”

Rothman is the only New Jersey Democrat who serves on the powerful House Appropriations Committee. This committee makes the detailed decisions about how federal government money is spent each year. Rothman's position on this committee gives New Jersey a seat at the table when funds like these are allocated.

The Bergen County Community Action Head Start Program provides services to nearly 400 low-income, pre-school children and their families in seven facilities throughout Bergen County. Most Head Start classrooms run from 8:45 am to 3:45 pm, September through June. However, Bergen County Head Start now offers some full-year/full-day classrooms to meet the needs of working parents. These limited spaces are available on a first-come basis to families that need the extended coverage. The Head Start program is free, and each family must demonstrate financial eligibility before being admitted. Parent involvement is highly stressed.

Head Start is a national program which provides comprehensive developmental services for America's low-income, pre-school children between the ages of three to five. Since 1965, Head Start has served more than 18 million children and their families. It is one of the few federal early childhood programs to incorporate all aspects of child

wellness, including health, nutrition, literacy, education and physical well-being into an early learning child develop program.

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