

U.S. Rep. Kind: Announces Head Start Grants to Wood County Head Start and Ho-Chunk Nation

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La Crosse, WI – Today, **Rep. Ron Kind** announced that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is awarding Head Start Emergency Supplemental grants of \$89,087 to Wood County Head Start, Inc. and \$33,107 to the Ho-Chunk Nation.

“The early childhood services provided through Head Start are critical to helping our students reach their full potential,” said **Rep. Ron Kind**. “I’m thrilled to see this investment in our children’s futures. As we emerge from the COVID-19 crisis, this funding is critical to ensuring our children can continue to grow in a positive learning environment.”

“The Ho-Chunk Nation is constantly working to ensure that our children have a safe and healthy environment to learn and grow. This funding will keep our children safe, hopefully through the end of this pandemic,” said **Ho-Chunk Nation Vice President Karena Thundercloud**.

“We’re glad to receive this grant so we can continue our work of helping children arrive at school ready to learn and succeed. Our highest priority is ensuring a safe, healthy learning environment for all children. This funding will help us take steps towards our goal of being fully operational in the safest way possible,” said **Wood County Head Start, Inc. Director John Martin**.

Head Start is a highly successful early education program for infants, toddlers, preschool-aged children as well as their families. Head Start programs aim to

support children's growth through a variety of services including early learning and development, health, and family well-being. Research finds that children who attend Head Start enter school better prepared than those who do not attend the program.

This funding was made available by Congress through multiple COVID-19 relief packages, including the *CARES Act* and the American Rescue Plan, to help Head Start programs respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to provide critical services to children.