



The Y in Central Maryland • It's deeper here®

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**The Y in Central Maryland Awarded \$15 Million Grant to Provide Head Start Services in Anne Arundel County**

*Y will now serve 1,694 young children and families at 37 Head Start sites throughout Maryland*

(Baltimore, MD) – The [Y in Central Maryland](#), the largest provider of Head Start services in Maryland, announced today its receipt of a \$15 million, five year grant from the [Federal Office of Head Start](#) to operate and expand Early Head Start and Head Start programming in Anne Arundel County. Effective July 1st, the Y will become the sole provider of Head Start programming in Anne Arundel County, serving 356 children and their families, expanding upon its already significant reach in the County.

With this addition, the Y will now serve 1,694 Head Start children at 37 sites across Central Maryland. Other Y Head Start sites are located in Baltimore City, where the Y is one of three grantees, and Baltimore County, where it is the sole Head Start grantee. The Y also operates six preschools in Central Maryland, serving another 570 young children and their families.

With this new grant, the Y will launch a home-based Early Head Start program for 40 infants and toddlers and pregnant women, increase full-day Head Start programming for 196 three and four year-olds, and provide full-day Head Start/Pre-K programming for 120 children in partnership with Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).

This announcement comes on the heels of the Y's purchase of the former Big Vanilla in Pasadena, converting it to a full service Y family center, its second Y in Anne Arundel County (the first being the Greater Annapolis Y in Arnold).

The Y's Anne Arundel County Head Start programming, its two Family Center Ys, five Y camps and 13 Y Before and After School Enrichment sites serve over 30,000 children and adults throughout the County.

“We are enormously proud of our leadership in early childhood development throughout the region,” said John Hoey, president and CEO of the Y in Central Maryland. “There is probably no greater impact we can have on a child’s healthy development and opportunity for success in life than to send her to school well-prepared to succeed. There is absolutely no question about the impact this has on children, particularly those living at or below the poverty line. Our leadership in early childhood development is owed to many things, but largely to our proven ability to help Y Head Start and preschool children achieve consistently strong school readiness scores, regardless of family income. This is really quite a remarkable and important accomplishment.”

Early Head Start is a year-round, 48-week program in which families receive home visits on a weekly basis and participate in a socialization event at least once every two weeks. Head Start sites will operate from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and the Pre-K Head Start program will follow the operational schedule of AACPS.

Children participating in the program will receive comprehensive services, including medical, vision and hearing screening; as well as dental, nutrition, mental health and social services. Parents/guardians will receive family support, leadership opportunities and goal setting. Head Start families will also receive a free Y membership while enrolled in the program.

The Y’s Head Start programming in Anne Arundel County will begin in September. Those interested in enrolling their children in the program should contact a Family and Community Engagement Coordinator at 410.812.3663.

**Our Mission:**

The Y in Central Maryland is a charitable organization dedicated to developing the full potential of every individual through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

**Our Commitment:**

At the Y, we are committed to providing family-oriented, affordable, high quality programs.

A cause driven organization with three areas of vital focus:

- *For Youth Development:* nurturing the potential of every child and teen
- *For Healthy Living:* improving our community’s health & well-being
- *For Social Responsibility:* giving back and providing support for our neighbors

The Y is a place for everyone. People of all races, ages, faiths, gender, abilities, backgrounds and incomes are welcome and financial assistance on a sliding scale is available to those who would otherwise be unable to participate.

**Our Values:**

Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility

More information can be found at [www.ymaryland.org](http://www.ymaryland.org).

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