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OVEC INCREASES EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES, OPENS JEFFERSON COUNTY'S LARGEST HEAD START FACILITY

CEO Jason Adkins leads efforts to increase childcare opportunities for Jefferson County families

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (October 24, 2022) – The [Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative \(OVEC\)](#) is excited to announce the opening of their newest and largest Head Start facility. Today, newly installed OVEC CEO Jason Adkins, Head Start Director Kim Fithian, local elected officials and Head Start staff cut the ribbon to the more than 5,000 square foot facility.

“Today marks an important step in OVEC’s mission to provide families and children comprehensive services to advance early childhood education throughout our region,” said Jason Adkins. “This renovated space will provide much needed childcare opportunities to families in Jefferson County and allow parents to come back into the workforce.”

The facility, located at 7304 Dixie Highway in Pleasure Ridge Park (PRP), has a total capacity for 64 children and increases the number of children served in Jefferson County to 450. Program wide, Head Start and Early Head Start serve nearly 1,200 children annually. The \$1.8 million investment becomes the 19th Head Start facility working to close a serious childcare gap throughout the Head Start and Early Head Start ten-county region.

OVEC’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs serve infants, toddlers, preschool children and prenatal women by providing comprehensive services in education, health and family resources for some of the community’s most at-risk families. A two-person household qualifying for Head Start has a household income of \$18,310 or less. Children with diagnosed disabilities, in foster care, and those who are homeless also are eligible for Head Start programs.

“Opening this new facility has been a dream of mine for several years,” said Kim Fithian. “Head Start students face serious socioeconomic disadvantages and this facility shows our commitment to investing in childcare resources that many in our communities need.”

OVEC’s Head Start center in PRP is the fourth to open in Jefferson County in the past 16 months. In 2023, renovations will be complete on two more sites in Smoketown and Germantown neighborhoods. Once complete, OVEC will create 600 new childcare “slots” for children from birth to four-years-old in Jefferson County. This significant increase in childcare opportunities will provide early childhood education and care to communities lacking childcare options and enable parents to participate in the workforce with the support they need to strengthen their families.

The new facility has open availability for student enrollment and is actively hiring additional staff. Head Start employs 212 people throughout its 19 locations and is looking to add 120 jobs in Jefferson County. Available positions include teacher, full-time substitute, and family advocate. Head Start will pay full tuition and fees for any employee, in any position, to pursue a degree in education, social work and nursing. For more information about enrollment and employment, visit oveheadstart.org.

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About the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC)

The Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC) is a consortium of 15 school districts serving over 155,000 students in North Central Kentucky. Established in 1976, the cooperative provides a vehicle for conducting regional planning, development, and implementation of educational programs on a continuing basis. OVEC offers programs that serve member school districts, their student populations and families. For more information, visit oveheadstart.org.

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