

## **Media Advisory – May 14, 2010**

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### **Families can apply in June for Early Head Start**

Beginning in June, the North Snohomish County Early Head Start program will accept applications to fill 82 openings.

The program will provide child development and family support services to eligible families living in Sultan, Granite Falls, Arlington and Marysville.

Snohomish County is one of three Head Start programs in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska to be awarded an Early Head Start grant by the national Office of Head Start. The county will receive \$2.45 million in federal stimulus funds during the next two years.

“The inclusion of Early Head Start in our county services provides an opportunity to bring public health, early intervention, housing assistance and a comprehensive early childhood education program to eligible families,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “This furthers our commitment to the children of Snohomish County, who will become tomorrow’s workforce and leaders.”

The following year-round services are offered free to eligible families as part of the Early Head Start program:

- weekly home visits with play-and-learn group socializations;
- developmental screenings and assessments;
- health, nutrition and mental-health referrals;
- family goal-planning;
- parent education and leadership opportunities.

One benefit of the program is that it provides services to infants, toddlers and pregnant women prior to their likely enrollment in the county run Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), which serves about 1,000 preschool students.

Much like ECEAP, the Early Head Start program provides family-centered services for low-income families and is designed to promote the development of the children while helping parents fulfill their roles and move toward self-sufficiency.

For more information on the North Snohomish County Early Head Start or how to apply, contact Program Director Joe Varano at 425-388-7251 or [joe.varano@snoco.org](mailto:joe.varano@snoco.org).

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