

Memorandum



Date: September 13, 2013

To: Honorable Rebeca Sosa, Chairperson
And Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Funding for Head Start and Early Head Start

In response to your memo, dated September 13th, regarding Head Start Funding, I have just been made aware that a petition drive has been initiated on Change.org to ensure funding to address potential funding reductions for Head Start and Early Head Start as a result of federal sequestration. The message reads:

"Head Start programs in Miami Dade County are facing significant cuts that can lead to the loss of Head Start Services to some children and families in Miami Dade County. We need advocates for Early Childhood Education who understand the importance of supporting Head Start programs throughout the county. The Board of County Commissioners will be holding a budget hearing next week (September 19th) to discuss the County's 2013-2014 budget. There is a possibility that the County will implement Sequestration budget cuts for all Head Start programs. As a result of the sequestration for the 2013-2014 budget year, Head Start programs throughout Miami Dade county is facing a \$2.9 million cut in funding. The Mayor's office originally promised to support the county's Head Start program by subsidizing the sequestration cuts using funds from the County's budget. This can only happen if the Board of County Commissioners vote to use general funds to subsidize the Head Start Program. We need everyone to advocate for all children in this county.

I want to assure you that the funding to address the federal sequestration impact to Head Start and Early Head Start is in the budget for next year.

As you are aware, the FY 2013-14 Proposed Budget included \$2.9 million as a reserve for Head Start and Early Head Start. At the first budget hearing, I reported that we had received updated information regarding potential impacts and were able to reduce that reserve by \$449,000 and still ensure the continuation of services at the current levels. This funding remains allocated in the FY 2013-14 Budget, upon which the Board will take final action on September 19, 2013.

Please contact Deputy Mayor Edward Marquez at (305) 375-1451 if you require more information.

attachment

c: R.A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney
Jennifer Moon, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Lucia Davis-Raiford, Director, Community Action and Human Services
Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor